

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 27, 2005/Sravana 5, 1927(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 1

MEMBER SWORN

Shri S. Bangarappa (Shimoga)

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You speak one by one. Do not stand up without my permission.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, yesterday when the Home Minister made a statement about the Gurgaon incident, he had stated that he would come back to the House again and make a complete statement.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to raise it after the Question Hour. Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, please raise it after Question Hour. Yesterday we did not have the Question Hour.

[Translation]

You all please sit down.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, half of Maharashtra is facing catastrophe due to heavy rains. It has caused loss of several lives and property worth crores of rupees in Mumbai, Thane, Konkan, Goa and Marathwada ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very serious matter. Please listen. What's the matter? I will allow you.

I will call you first in the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Thank you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I know that. I know everything.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have got so many advisors to the Speaker.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, people from all over the country live in Mumbai. Lakhs of people of eastern part of Uttar Pradesh live in the Kurla area of Mumbai. They are not getting any help... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to join. I will allow you to raise.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV : They are drawing. The apprehension is that hundreds of people could die as a result thereof. You please give the directions to the Government to make some arrangements immediately to improve the situation there. Arrangements should be made to meet their food and water requirements and they should be rescued to safer places.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Prime Minister is here. You have made your statement. At the moment, I will not allow anybody please. I have promised to give you an opportunity, even then you are talking now.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, epidemics have broken out in Andhra Pradesh due to malaria and dengue. Hundreds of people have died. I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : If you raise it one hour later. will everything be complicated? What are you talking?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not interrupt, then I may consider. Otherwise, I would not consider.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.02 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am clubbing Question No.57 which relates to the same Question, with this Question.

[Translation]

Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan

*41. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has been completed by the Government;

(b) if so, the sectors where fixed targets are likely to be achieved by the end of the plan;

(c) the sectors where fixed targets are unlikely to be achieved;

(d) whether there is a need to take up special measures to achieve those targets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) :

[English]

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan was agreed to by the National Dev-

elopment Council in its meeting held on 27th-28th June 2005.

(b) and (c) As against the Tenth Plan target of growth rate of 4%, the Agriculture Sector is likely to achieve 2.2% growth during the Plan. For Industry Sector the growth rate during the Tenth Plan is likely to be 7.6% against the target of 8.9%, while for the Services Sector the likely growth rate during the Tenth Plan is 8.3% as against the target of 9.3%.

(d) and (e) The Mid-Term Appraisal to the Tenth Plan has suggested a number of measures to raise the growth rate of the economy. Some of these include raising public investment in different sectors particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, viz. power, roads, greater focus on health and education, improving governance, etc. The details of the measures taken are listed in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), which has been placed in the Parliament library.

[Translation]

Reducing Capital Investment

*57. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to reduce the capital investment in certain areas during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan after mid-term appraisal of the plan;

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

(c) the areas in which reduction in the capital investment is proposed to be done; and

(d) the percentage of reduction to be affected in each area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : *[English]*

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) As against the targeted requirement of investment of Rs.4081.5 thousand crore for the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Mid-Term Appraisal estimates such investment to be of the order of Rs.3582.2 thousand crore. The sectoral break-up and percentage reduction in the investment is given in Annexure.

Annexure**Sectoral investment requirements for Tenth Plan**

(Rs. '000 crore at 2001-02 prices)

Sector	Tenth Plan Document	Mid Term Appraisal	Percentage change
Agriculture & Allied	219.6	175.7	-20.0
Mining & quarrying	89.4	98.2	9.8
Manufacturing	1476.9	1196.6	-19.0
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	412.5	316.1	-23.4
Construction	61.0	53.5	-12.3
Trade, hotels etc.	136.6	115.1	-15.7
Rail Transport	81.9	77.8	-5.0
Othr Transport	237.6	230.0	-3.2
Communications	296.4	431.4	45.5
Financial Services	151.2	129.4	-14.4
Public Administration & etc.	273.1	213.1	-22.0
Other Services	645.3	545.3	-15.5
Total	4081.5	3582.5	-12.2

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit that Prime Minister is present in the House, so it will be better if the Prime Minister himself gives the reply to this serious question.

Sir, I had asked the question as to which are the sectors identified in the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan by the Government where the targets fixed under this scheme are likely to be achieved and the extent to which the Government will achieve the targets fixed. The question actually raised by me was whether the gas have identified the sectors in initials it is likely/not likely to achieve its targets. The reply given to this question does not relate to my original question. The reply is very ambiguous and I can say that the Government does want to hide the truth. The contribution of agriculture in Gross Domestic Product was 58% in 1950-51. unfortunately it has today slumped to only 20%. This is the only sector which has the potential of generating maximum employment opportunities. My allegation is that this sector has been neglected continuously. Mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has been done. It identified three main areas of concern-Agriculture, Health and Education. The progress is very slow. Prime-Minister himself has said that the lapses committed in the agricultural sector will be corrected. The main point is that the target which has been announced by the Planning Commission is 4 percent and Government says that this rate is 2.2 percent at present, but it is 1.9 percent according to the press. In all, agriculture sector has been neglected. I would like to know from the Prime Minister as to what positive efforts are being made by the Government to strengthen the agricultural sector so that Agricultural sector makes progress and the targets are achieved? Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Prime Minister is present here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him. It is entirely for him. It is quite permitted.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : I would like to state, and I am sure that the hon. Member will appreciate...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Do you know Hindi?

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Would you please be patient enough to listen to me?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you like, you can speak in English. It is a permitted language.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : The steps proposed in the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan include raising public investment in irrigation, and water resources management, water-shed development, and reclamation of the waste land and rest of the other things.

As far as agriculture is concerned, emphasis has been given for the involvement of local communities and recognising agriculture as a prime mover of our development process. Now, in this direction, a lot of attention has been given by our Government to research and extension in addition to diversification of agriculture towards horticultural crops as well as various other components which would bring more income to our farming community through agriculture. In this context, we have also given more emphasis for the processing and the marketing of agricultural products. As the hon. Member is aware, unfortunately due to continuous drought for the last three years, agricultural production and agricultural growth has fallen down from 3.4 per cent to 1.9 per cent. This is one of the reasons. Now, as it has been pointed out, the agricultural sector has been given the utmost attention so that in the coming years, all the attention is given to increase the production.

MR. SPEAKER : Second supplementary please.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : The import of the hon'ble Minister's reply is that we depend upon vagaries of weather in Agriculture sector. Everything depends on nature. In the mid-term appraisal seven important sectors namely agriculture, water resources, education, health,

employment, urban development and infrastructure have been identified. I want to know what has been done by the Government to strengthen these sectors? I would like to submit through you that the Prime Minister have admitted that the target in this regard of 7% GDP growth rate has been achieved vis-a-vis the annual targetted. With a view to strengthening it, the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Shri Ahluwaliaji himself have listed 319 recommendations for making changes in the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan. In addition to it, 59 sectors have been identified.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I would like to know as to what initiatives are being taken in regard to the 59 sectors which have been identified? Which are those sectors and what efforts are being made by the Government to strengthen the growth rate?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot set out again on a Mid-Term Appraisal. You have to refer to it on any particular subject he has mentioned.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : As far as giving attention to irrigation, electricity and urban renewal plan is concerned, as the hon. Member is aware, recently, the hon. Prime Minister has announced the new initiative to give a new deal to rural India through Bharat Nirman. Bharat Nirman takes into account the need to improve our agricultural base, our irrigation, our infrastructure, particularly providing the needed support to regenerate the economy in the rural areas. This is one of the things which is getting the attention. As the hon. Member is also aware, the Government is going to spend in the coming four years, Rs.1,74,000 crore under this Programme. So, you would see that the needed attention is given to all the sectors.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, what has the Government been doing since the First Five Year Plan till date when we are faced with this situation even after so many years?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am sorry, I am not allowing you. Please co-operate. Yesterday, we did not have the Question Hour. Today, there are many hon. Members who want to raise questions. I have given you full opportunity. We have already taken 13 minutes for one Question.

Now, Dr. Chinta Mohan.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Sir, I would like to know what are the achievements in the health and education sectors. I would like to know the details. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He was not ready with the answer for Q No. 57. You cannot blame him.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, as I have already pointed out, as far as this particular, Question is concerned, a statement is already laid on the Table.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : He has not given any details. He has said that for 'other services' the Tenth Plan provides for an allocation of Rs.645 crore but as per the Mid-Term Appraisal the amount allocated is Rs.545 crore. Do we have to assume that the other sectors are health and education? If they are health and education, what are the details and how is he going to achieve the targets by 2007?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, as far as health and education are concerned, the hon. Member is aware that our Government has given the highest priority. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Member that the Health Mission is already being launched and through that extra allocation is going to be made now from the existing 0.9 per cent. As far as the roadmap for the health sector is concerned, if the hon. Member would give a separate notice, I would be most happy and the hon. Minister in charge of Health would be able to answer that.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one plain fact that the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has brought to focus is that this Government would not be able to achieve targeted national growth rate. The Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia has also said that we can not achieve the targetted growth rate if the growth rate of agriculture is not raised from 1.5 to 4 percent.

Sir, several measures have been suggested to accelerate the growth rate of economy which included increase in the investment in agriculture and infrastructure sector, but the Government has mentioned in reply to this question that 20% reduction in investment in Agriculture sector and 23.4% reduction in investment in power and other Infrastructure sectors has been made. This is clear from the reduction in the investment that we would not be able to achieve the targetted National growth rate. Hence, this Government is anti-farmer. So, through you, I would like to know from the Government whether Government would review the reductions made in the investment so that the target can be achieved?

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, as I have already pointed out, although agriculture is the priority area in the Plan and the Centre has been making all the efforts to improve investments, the State Government has not been able to do so due to the fiscal difficulties that they are facing. since agriculture is a State subject, the Centre can only play a supportive role and that is what the Centre has been doing.

The Central Government has to meet 90 per cent of the expenditure. However, the States and the private sector have not been able to provide their share and take interest in this respect.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lakshman Singh to ask the supplementary. Are you in your seat?

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Yes, sir. I am in my seat.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cleanliness programme of the Ganges river has been going on for the last twenty years but the level of pollution has not reduced to the expected level. Rs.471 crores have been spent thereon so far. programme, but it seems that this Government is not serious...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please put the question.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : The question is very straight.

[Translation]

If the Government is serious, then it should clarify whether it is going to give more funds for the cleaning of Ganga river and if so then how much and the time by when the work is likely to be completed so that the pollution in Ganga River could be checked?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am very sorry. How can a detail be given?

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Sir, it is a part of the mid-term appraisal report.

MR. SPEAKER : How can sectoral details be given?

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : He can give it to me in writing. My point is they are not serious about it.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, if the hon. Member puts separate question we will be happy to answer.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : It is part of the mid-term appraisal. This programme has been going on for nearly 20 years.

MR. SPEAKER : He asked for notice. He has not denied. You cannot blame him.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV : In his reply to the first supplementary Hon'ble Minister had talked of agriculture, Research and Processing. In this reference I would like to inform that the banks are not achieving the targets of credit flow set by the Government. More than 11,000 posts of scientists are lying vacant in ICAR due to which no research can be done. Besides, there is 2 percent processing in our country whereas it is 80 percent in Brazil and in England and America it is between 60 and 70 percent. According to the Government figures perishable fruits and vegetables worth about Rs.51 thousand crore have gone waste during the year 2004-2005. Will the Government tell us what action they are going to take in this regard? Unless the Government pay its attention towards this sector the agricultural growth rate can not increase and farmers as well as the country can not become prosperous. What steps are being taken by the Government for all these important things?

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, I can appreciate and understand the concern of the hon. Member. As far as the perishable fruits and vegetables are concerned, as the hon. Member is aware, the Government is considering to launch a Horticultural Mission. That is going to take care of all these problems. If he needs more information, I would request a notice.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important question. Through you, I would like to assure the House that our Government takes very seriously the augmentation of credit for agriculture and rural economy. We have laid down a target last year of doubling the flow of agricultural credit to the farm sector in three years and I am glad to report that the progress for the last year has been better than what we had anticipated. That is our commitment. India's farmers' interests come foremost and we will do all that we can to ensure that the supply of agricultural credit is adequate.

There are problems in the agricultural research and

extention system. Soon after our Government came into office, I appointed a Group with Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to take stock of what are the deficiencies in our agricultural research and extension system.

That report has been received. We will look into it. In the meanwhile, while I was in the US, this was one of the most important subjects which I raised with the US Administration that there should be an augmentation of knowledge flow. Our research labs, our agricultural universities today have reached a plateau with regard to technology. A major initiative will be taken in co-operation with the US land-grant colleges and agricultural universities, and our universities to ensure that there is, once again, a revitalisation of the agricultural research and extension system, including the processing of agricultural crops.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, this answer deals with the Question elaborately.

[Translation]

Eradication of Vector Born Diseases

*42. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing incidents of vector born diseases such as Malaria, Dengue, Cholera, Encephalitis, Kala-Azar etc. in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the number of patients, State-wise and disease-wise;

(c) the details of the persons died, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken so far to prevent and eradicate the vector born diseases?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) The incidence of vector borne diseases in several parts of the country is due to a complex interplay of various factors including those of poor sanitation, monsoon, developmental projects, migration of people from one endemic area to another area and lack of awareness about how to prevent the spread of the disease. The pattern of vector borne disease such as Malaria, Filaria, Dengue, Kala-azar, Encephalitis and other diseases such as Cholera can be summarized as follows.

Malaria

The incidence of malaria in the country has declined from 2.09 million in year 2001 to 1.82 million in year 2004. The total number of malaria cases and deaths due to malaria during last 4 years is indicated below:

Malaria situation in the country (2001-2004)

Year	Total Malaria Cases (in million)	API	P.falciparum cases (in million)	Deaths due to malaria
2001	2.09	2.06	1.01	1005
2002	1.84	1.80	0.89	973
2003	1.86	1.82	0.85	1006
2004*	1.82	1.74	0.87	940

* Provisional

Filaria

Lymphatic Filariasis is prevalent in 20 endemic States. Nearly 500 million population spread over 250 endemic districts in these States is at risk. The prevalence of Filaria is determined by the microfilaria rate which ranges from 1-5% in different States. The strategy of Lymphatic Filariasis elimination is through annual mass Drug Administration for 5 years or more to the eligible population to interrupt the transmission of the disease and capacity

building for home based management of Lymphoedema cases.

Kala_Azar

Kala-azar has been endemic in India for a long time. With the launching of insecticide spray under National Malaria Eradication Programme, Kala-azar declined to negligible proportions due to collateral benefit. However, withdrawal of insecticide spray resulted in resurgence of Kala-azar in Bihar, West Bengal and some pockets of Uttar Pradesh during seventies. In 1990, the number of cases increased to 57742 and while the number of deaths went up to 606. The Government of India launched a centrally sponsored Kala-azar Control Programme in 1990-1991 which resulted in a gradual decline in number of cases. Since 2001 onwards, the number of cases has ranged from 10,000 to 25,000 annually.

Japanese Encephalitis

As per reports received from state health authorities, JE cases and deaths in 2004 were lower as compared to those reported in the previous year. During 2003, 2568 cases and 707 deaths were reported from 12 states while during 2004, 1695 cases & 366 deaths due to suspected JE were reported in the country from 11 states.

Dengue

As per reports received from state health authorities, Dengue cases and deaths in 2004 were lower as compared to those reported in the previous year. During 2003, 12754 cases and 215 deaths were reported from 13 states while during 2004, 4153 cases & 45 deaths due to suspected Dengue were reported in the country from 15 states.

Cholera

Cholera has been present in India since antiquity. Currently, cholera is not a major public health problem. The Number of cases and deaths reported by the States/UTs during 2003, 2004 and 2005 are as below:

Year	Cases	Deaths
2002	3455	10
2003	2893	2
2004	4728	9
2005	802	Nil

The state wise cases and deaths due to Malaria, Kala-azar, dengue, JE and Cholera reported by State Health Authorities are given in the Annexure-I to V.

(d) Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Govts./UTs to combat the growing incidence of vector borne diseases. However, Government of India has been providing support to the States/UTs in the form of cash and commodity assistance, for supply of insecticides and for laboratory diagnostic support. Besides technical guidance along with the support for outbreak investigations and control and for training and Information, Education and Communication is also provided as the Central assistance to the States/UTs. All the vector borne diseases including Malaria, Filaria, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Dengue have been integrated under the umbrella programme renamed as National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme with an outlay of Rs.348 crores for the year 2005-06. The statement showing state wise allocation/expenditure for the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 is placed at Annexure-VI

Malaria

The National Malaria Control Programme was started by the Govt. of India in 1953. However, during late 1970's there was resurgence of malaria due to operational, technical and administrative factors. Subsequently, a Modified Plan of Operation was brought in place in the year 1977. The Number of malaria cases declined from 6.4 million in the year 1976 to below 2 million in the year 2002. Since then, the number of cases of malaria has remained below 2 million.

The Malaria Control Programme has following components.

- (a) Early diagnosis and prompt treatment of malaria cases by active and passive surveillance through health care workers, health institutions and community volunteers by establishing Drug Distribution Centres and Fever Treatment Depots.
- (b) Integrated Vector control including selective indoor residual insecticidal spraying, promotion of insecticide treated bed nets and introduction of larvivorous fish.
- (c) Information, Education & Communication for generating awareness about prevention and control of malaria.
- (d) Capacity building by training of health care workers, NGOs on prevention and control activities of malaria and strengthening of State and District Malaria Control Organizations.
- (e) Monitoring and evaluation of the programme through Management Information System.

Filaria

In pursuance of the National Health Policy Goal to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2015, Govt. of India in collaboration with the participating States has launched Mass Drug Administration with Diethylcarbamazine (DEC) Tablets as a single annual dose to the eligible population for 5 years or more. During 2004, Mass Drug Administration with DEC was implemented in 202 Filaria Endemic Districts covering a population of about 407 million in 20 States/Uts. During 2005, all the endemic districts will observe National Filaria Day on 11th November followed by mopping up operations on 12-13th November, 2005 for improving the drug compliance by the community.

Kala-Azar

Government of India launched a centrally sponsored Kala-azar Control Programme in 1990-91 comprising the following major activities:

- (a) Vector control through Indoor Residual Spraying with DDT upto 6 feet height from the ground twice annually.
- (b) Early case detection and complete treatment.
- (c) Communication for behaviour Impact for social mobilization and Inter-sectoral collaboration.
- (d) Capacity Building
- (e) Operational research.

The implementation of the strategy resulted in declining trend in case and deaths upto 1995. There has been a setback in 1996. However, since then the number of cases of Kala-azar have been ranging from 12,239 to 22,699 year after year.

A National Plan for Kala-azar elimination by 2010 has been prepared with goals to reduce incidence of disease to less than 1 per 10,000 at sub-district levels.

Dengue

While the preventive measures and control of outbreaks is the responsibility of the State Govts., technical support for investigation, prevention and control of dengue outbreak in different parts of the country is provided by the Govt. of India to the States. In addition to training programmes on prevention and control of dengue fever for State and District level healthy functionaries, insecticides, larvicides and other equipments and materials are also provided. The State Governments on their part undertake surveillance activities, IEC campaigns, fogging to control adult vector during outbreaks and management of Dengue cases in various hospitals and Health Centres.

Japanese Encephalitis

The preventive measures for Japanese Encephalitis are directed at reducing the vector density and in taking personal protection against mosquito bites. The reduction in mosquito breeding requires ecological management particularly water management and irrigation practices, as the role of insecticides is limited. JE vaccine is effective

for the control of JE but it has some limitations. Indigenous JE vaccine is produced in limited quantities at the Central Research Institute, Kasauli. The vaccine is procured directly by the State Health Authorities. Vaccination is not recommended as an outbreak control measure. Central

support is also provided as technical guidance, support for outbreak investigations and control, insecticide and laboratory diagnostic support. In addition, support is also provided for training and Information, Education and Communication.

Annexure-I

State wise Cases and Deaths due to Malaria (2002-2004)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2002		2003		2004*	
		Malaria Cases	Deaths	Malaria Cases	Deaths	Malaria Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38053	0	35995	3	35427	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	46431	0	34810	0	29849	0
3.	Assam	89601	72	76570	53	57401	52
4.	Bihar	3683	2	2652	1	1720	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	235434	3	194419	4	175579	6
6.	Goa	16818	15	11370	1	7839	7
7.	Gujarat	82966	17	130744	65	222759	89
8.	Haryana	936	0	4374	0	10008	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	176	0	133	0	126	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	455	0	320	0	250	0
11.	Jharkhand	126589	31	118902	13	73893	39
12.	Karnataka	132584	33	100220	22	80961	27
13.	Kerala	3360	8	2575	7	2790	12
14.	Madhya Pradesh	108818	30	99708	22	132094	36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Maharashtra	45568	43	62947	85	68988	61
16.	Manipur	1268	9	2589	17	2736	8
17.	Meghalaya	17918	41	18366	38	18082	29
18.	Mizoram	7859	35	7293	48	7830	72
19.	Nagaland	3945	0	3370	0	2486	1
20.	Orissa	473223	465	421323	333	416732	283
21.	Punjab	250	0	379	1	1643	0
22.	Rajasthan	68627	11	142738	66	105022	20
23.	Sikkim	53	0	278	0	180	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	34523	0	43604	0	41732	0
25.	Tripura	13319	5	13807	13	17453	16
26.	Uttaranchal	1659	0	2350	0	1255	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	90199	0	101411	0	85868	0
28.	West Bengal	194421	152	233802	214	220904	180
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	865	1	753	0	745	0
30.	Chandigarh	157	0	84	0	19	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	493	0	468	0	787	0
32.	Daman & Diu	173	0	141	0	118	0
33.	Delhi	1484	0	839	0	521	0
34.	Lakshadweep	8	0	6	0	2	0
35.	Pondicherry	103	0	63	0	43	0
Total		1842019	973	1869403	1006	1824002	940

*Provisional

Annexure-II**Statement of Kala-azar cases & Deaths during 2000 to 2005 (Prov.)**

Sl. No.	Affected District	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004(P)		2005(P)		Reported Upto
		C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Bihar														
1.	Patna	164	3	183	3	213	25	303	22	324	14	122	9	
2.	Nalanda	22	2	17	2	80	8	66	2	113	2	32	2	
3.	Jahanabad	3	0	2	1	7	0	72	2	17	0	7	0	
4.	Bhojpur	47	1	35	0	45	3	44	0	66	0	36	1	
5.	Saran	470	3	633	15	491	1	375	5	1029	3	353	0	
6.	Siwan	243	0	102	0	124	0	271	0	219	0	69	0	
7.	Gopalganj	8	0	21	0	49	0	102	0	423	0	260	0	
8.	East Champanan	944	17	749	11	640	16	919	7	1429	8	446	0	
9.	West Champanan	232	0	164	0	151	0	317	22	442	4	84	2	
10.	Muzaffarpur	1356	25	1161	54	1403	32	1270	32	1267	15	561	4	
11.	Sitamarhi	422	9	366	22	375	9	259	14	316	13	64	0	
12.	Vaishali	876	9	763	17	625	10	698	6	952	8	463	5	
13.	Darbhanga	889	23	412	12	485	7	496	7	457	5	118	0	
14.	Madhubani	1097	20	769	28	549	26	639	19	476	2	93	0	
15.	Samastipur	571	5	359	5	412	3	440	5	514	4	115	1	
16.	Bhagalpur	15	0	51	0	47	0	29	0	9	0	7	0	
17.	Munger	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	36	0	2	0	
18.	Khagaria	328	0	471	0	96	0	713	0	310	0	124	0	
19.	Bagusaria	256	1	242	11	114	3	261	8	452	14	206	6	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
20. Purnea		767	0	527	0	643	1	1367	3	1211	2	299	0	
21. Kathihar		809	3	502	0	419	0	869	25	845	3	217	0	
22. Saharsa		801	0	470	18	588	4	787	0	782	0	421	0	
23. Madhepura		1138	3	745	5	699	8	1427	7	2062	2	742	1	
24. Suppaul		285	0	367	0	397	0	329	0	393	0	52	0	
25. Kishanganj		202	0	198	0	177	1	59	1	47	0	26	0	
26. Ararea		713	1	679	0	644	0	1792	0	1390	0	361	0	
27. Buxar		14	1	11	0	6	0	7	0	1	0	2	0	
28. Sheohar		21	0	29	0	25	0	49	0	50	1	8	0	
29. Sekhpura		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
30. Lakhisarai		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	2	0	
31. Arwal		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	1	6	0	
32. Institutions		214	4	296	0	178	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total		12909	130	10327	204	9684	160	13960	187	15683	101	5339	31	March
Jharkhand														
1. Sahebganj		370	0	92	0	102	0	466	0	441	0	533	0	
2. Godda		99	0	445	0	458	0	1497	3	2298	6	574	2	
3. Pakur		0	0	52	0	198	0	644	2	652	1	164	0	
4. Dumka		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	636	7	528	0	
5. Hazaribagh		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Total		469	0	589	0	758	0	2607	5	4028	14	1799	2	March
West Bengal														
1. Malda		111	0	129	0	242	1	276	0	313	0	237	3	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2.	Mushidabad	373	2	393	0	457	0	480	2	934	11	408	1	
3.	Darjeeling	58	0	52	0	89	0	110	0	177	1	48	0	110
4.	24-Parganas (N)	249	5	180	0	175	2	76	0	139	0	66	0	
5.	24-Parganas (S)	116	0	151	1	176	0	145	2	749	2	224	2	
6.	Nadia	21	1	35	1	19	1	10	0	27	0	7	1	
7.	Hooghly	22	2	17	2	80	8	66	2	113	2	32	2	
8.	Burdwan	3	0	2	1	7	0	72	2	17	0	7	0	
9.	Dinajpur (N)	103	3	82	1	106	0	166	1	188	0	36	0	
10.	Dinajpur (S)	210	0	214	1	255	1	163	0	241	0	106	2	
11.	Birbhum	0	0	0	0	16	0	46	2	24	0	61	0	
Total		1244	11	1238	4	1592	5	1487	7	2876	24	1215	11	March

Uttar Pradesh

1.	Varanasi	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2.	Balia	2	0	0	0	2	0	14	0	21	1	0	0	
3.	Deoria	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4.	Gorakhpur	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5.	Ghazipur	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
6.	Kushi Nagar	40	0	19	19	30	1	19	0	2	0	1	0	
7.	Ram Pur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
8.	Gonda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1		0	
Total		47	0	22	22	32	1	34	1	34	2	1	0	March
1.	Delhi	84*	9*	62*	2*	74*	2*	126*	10*	78*	9*	22*	1*	March

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2.	Gujarat	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0					
	India	14753	150	12239	213	12140	168	18214	210	22699	150	8376	45	

Note: C=Cases D=Deaths P=Provisional *=Imported

Annexure-II

Dengue Cases and Deaths

Sl. No.	State	2002		2003		2004		2005 (Prov) 18 July	
		C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61	3	95	5	230	1	0	0
2.	Bihar	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Chandigarh	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Delhi	45	2	2882	35	606	3	6	1
5.	Goa	0	0	12	2	3	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	40	0	249	9	117	4	0	0
7.	Haryana	3	0	95	4	25	0	0	0
8.	Karnataka	428	1	1226	7	291	2	31	0
9.	Kerala	219	2	3546	68	686	8	324	5
10.	Maharashtra	370	18	772	45	856	22	16	0
11.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
12.	Punjab	27	2	848	13	52	0	1	0
13.	Rajasthan	325	5	685	11	207	5	7	0
14.	Tamil Nadu	392	0	1600	8	1027	0	140	0
15.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	738	8	8	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16. West Bengal	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0
17. Pondicherry	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	1926	33	12754	215	4153	45	525	6	

C=Cases

D=Deaths

Annexure-IV**State-Wise Cases and Deaths Due to Japanese Encephalitis**

Sl. No.	Affected States/UTs	2000		2001		2002		2003(P)		2004 (P)		2005 (P)*	
		C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	343	72	33	4	22	3	329**	183	7**	3		
2.	Assam	158	69	343	200	472	150	109	49	235	64	2	2
3.	Bihar	77	19	48	11	8	1	6	2	85	28		
4.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0		
5.	Delhi	0	0	0		1	0	12	5	17	0	1	0
6.	Goa	15	3	6	2	11	0	0	0	0	0		
7.	Haryana	74	43	47	22	59	40	104	67	37	27		
8.	Karnataka	438	45	206	14	152	15	226	10	181	6	9	0
9.	Kerala	164	2	128	5	0	0	17	2	9	1		
10.	Maharashtra	2#	0	126	1	119	16	475	115	22	10		
11.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0		
12.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	10	2	0	0	0	0		
13.	Tamil Nadu	4	0	0	0	0	0	163	36	69	9	4	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14.	Uttar Pradesh	1170	253	1005	199	604	133	1124	237	1030***	228		
15.	West Bengal	148	50	119	21	301	105	2	1	3	1	6	0
Total		2593	556	2061	479	1765	466	2568	707	1695	367	22	2

C=Cases D=Deaths

*Cases as reported by respective states up to 20.10.2004 provisionally

**Suspected viral encephalitis

Note # State reported additional 80 cases for 2000 as suspected JE

Annexure-V

All India Cases and Deaths due to Water Borne Diseases reported during 2002-04

S. No.	Diseases	2002		2003		2004	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Viral Hepatitis	135859	914	151287	1006	203939	1122
2.	ADD	9441456	3475	10510476	3433	9575112	2855
3.	Cholera	3455	10	2893	2	4728	9
4.	Enteric Fever	488033	542	596684	839	658301	805

Source: CBHI, MHW, FW

Annexure-VI

State-wise allocation/Expenditure for 2002-03 to 2004-2005

NVBDCP

Sl. No.	States/Uts	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1001.11	548.86	871.91	534.73	822.94	595.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	280.72	377.08	331.44	112.63	464.71	499.38
3.	Assam	1626.32	1935.83	2115.17	1364.15	2233.50	1988.29
4.	Bihar	1592.57	198.35	3025.40	2789.16	4379.28	3501.96
5.	Chhattisgarh	1917.27	3047.95	2035.47	1739.99	1848.70	1778.33
6.	Goa	8.85	7.97	11.75	18.55	16.15	9.65
7.	Gujrat	882.21	767.99	771.41	380.99	655.72	708.33
8.	Haryana	71.32	67.21	109.32	37.35	95.33	91.49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3.06	11.89	7.00	4.90	16.00	13.52
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11.94	62.44	45.63	72.30	70.23	27.63
11.	Jharkhand	1246.54	1671.15	1691.84	1296.86	1846.74	1172.71
12.	Karnataka	176.28	227.36	297.75	264.87	453.96	316.77
13.	Kerala	12.69	13.31	28.76	214.55	78.00	109.71
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2013.06	2408.15	1727.48	1333.71	1709.78	1063.81
15.	Maharashtra	1221.56	947.11	1207.98	463.30	1084.86	593.24
16.	Manipur	121.36	144.86	126.44	69.71	190.06	73.39
17.	Meghalaya	167.63	301.70	275.01	323.35	435.89	290.81
18.	Mizoram	118.51	190.50	175.01	275.68	280.57	153.17
19.	Nagaland	212.48	372.14	306.04	386.20	422.30	278.53
20.	Orissa	2588.63	3030.80	2907.85	2512.78	2671.61	2295.32
21.	Punjab	70.79	65.75	89.89	37.87	63.16	45.85
22.	Rajasthan	1170.62	925.90	1484.83	1415.59	1201.40	1015.97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Sikkim	4.37	4.32	5.15	2.42	16.30	10.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	237.68	187.39	320.03	279.06	270.23	310.20
25.	Tripura	302.79	389.93	401.05	428.63	519.42	390.03
26.	Uttar Pradesh	235.83	607.31	720.19	744.61	870.14	956.43
27.	Uttranchal	7.84	1.96	7.60	39.17	48.20	31.06
28.	West Bengal	521.98	518.97	790.36	616.94	858.65	607.85
29.	Delhi	97.39	58.47	88.88	80.67	55.62	144.07
30.	Pondicherry	22.61	13.18	23.12	11.12	31.38	19.70
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	217.85	230.07	237.75	203.33	225.71	224.11
32.	Chandigarh	36.00	38.29	36.25	25.36	49.78	31.67
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34.33	16.07	42.32	60.72	40.09	31.91
34.	Daman and Diu	11.72	7.99	16.15	19.29	14.17	11.42
35.	Lakshadweep	6.10	5.35	7.47	12.06	10.36	6.02
	Total	18252.01	19403.60	22339.7	18172.6	24050.91	19397.46
36.	Cash for states other	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37.	Commnd. Misc.	435.00	0.00	112.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38.	Estt./Res./ Pub.	4275.00	1278.00	1898.46	1928.31	2374.0	2268.62
39.	Delhi Hqrs./ Buffer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	339.85	0.00
40.	UTES (Fee)	138.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	135.00	0.00
	Total	5248.00	1278.00	2160.46	1928.31	2848.85	2268.62
	Grand Total	23500.01	20681.60	24500.16	20100.91	26900.00	21666.08

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, various diseases like malaria, dengue and cholera are spreading in our country. Surat in Gujarat is also in the grip of these diseases. I have read hon'ble Minister's reply. These diseases are caused by the contaminated water that we use. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he has got the samples of water tested? If samples have been tested then how many samples have been taken from the areas affected by these diseases for testing and how many of them have been found to be contaminated? What action has been taken against the water supplying agencies whose samples have been found contaminated? The Government should give details in this regard.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member about the diseases prevalent in certain areas. We have some endemic areas of Malaria. We have some endemic areas of Dengue also. Even though Cholera is not a vector borne disease, it is disease due to water infection. Cholera is caused due to uncleanliness, lack of sanitation or lack of hygiene and there has been a lot more awareness.

Regarding testing of polluted waters, we do not have figures as this is the State Government's responsibility. Since the hon. Member requires information about it, we will be asking the State Government how many samples have been tested in Gujarat, and give that information to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would also like to tell hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare that various diseases like Dengue, Malaria etc., are breaking out in the various parts of the country. These disease are caused by mosquito. What steps have been taken by the Government to control the mosquito breeding? Hon'ble Minister should give the details for last one year.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, let me go about these diseases one by one. Malaria has been decreasing over the last four to five years. From about 2.09 million cases in 2001, it has come down to 1.82 million cases last year, and the Government has been taking a lot of steps to prevent Malaria.

There are two things. One, we do for prevention and another one is curative which is done when we get Malaria. For prevention, first we are going for a lot of awareness campaigns. We are supplying mosquito nets free of cost. Last year, we supplied about 2,70,000 mosquito nets in Andhra Pradesh only. I will give the figure for the whole country. In fact, we are going in for long-lasting mosquito nets which are called pre-impregnated long-lasting mosquito nets where the synthetic pyrethroid is already impregnated in that.

We are also using Gambusia fish and Guppy fish, which are larvivorous in nature. It means that one has to simply leave it in a pond, and they will eat all the malarial larvae. It will also cleanup the whole pond. We are also using insecticide sprays like DDT and Malathion. We are supplying all of them to the State Governments. We have a National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme under which we are giving it to the State Governments free of cost.

As regards the curative part, we are giving costly tablets to the patients. In fact, we were earlier supplying Chloroquine and Primaquine tablets, etc. free of cost to the patients.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you have mentioned about these earlier also.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : In fact, we are giving some costly injections like Artemesini injections and Artesunate Sulphate tablets, which are all very expensive, and are used for resisting malaria. We are taking all these steps with regard to this issue.

We have categorised malaria control, and we have a

couple of different programmes like the Enhanced Malaria Control Programme, Intensified Malaria Control Project, etc. All these programmes are going on because the Government of India is very much concerned about the problem of malaria. We are fully concentrating on some of the endemic States or endemic areas prone to malaria.

As regards the mosquito nets, about 3.8 million mosquito nets were distributed in 2004-2005.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jual Oram - absent.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No more supplementaries on this particular question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The matter to be raised by you has already been covered.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with deep concern I would like to bring to the notice of the Government through you that the tribals in Andhra Pradesh are suffering with highly infectious diseases. So far, more than 900 tribals have died due to the outbreak of epidemics like diarrhoea, anthrax, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, etc. This is a fact. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is going on in the House?

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : As a result of this most of the children are being made to suffer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is for the hon. Minister to deal with the question being asked here. So long as I am allowing the supplementary, it is not for you to reply and it is for

the hon. Minister to do it. Let us all know at least this much of procedure.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, with agony I am raising this issue through you to bring it to the notice of the Union Government. If it is not true, then tomorrow you can send a team to look into all these issues and let it come back to the Lok Sabha with its findings on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Yerrannaidu, you do not have to respond to them.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sorry, Sir. Therefore, I am bringing it to the notice of the Government for the benefit of the tribal people. I am also raising this issue because most of them are children. The State Government has miserably failed to tackle this issue. Therefore, I am making a request through you to the Union Government to tell us about the steps so far being taken by the Government of India to tackle this issue.

Yesterday, we have also given a representation to the National Human Rights Commission. It is the responsibility of the State Government and the Union Government to preserve the health of the tribal people under the Directive Principles of the State, and under the fundamental rights.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : So far, the State Government has failed miserably to tackle this issue. What steps have been taken by the Union Government to tackle this issue? This issue was discussed in the Upper House yesterday, that is, in the Rajya Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right, but it is not necessary that we should also discuss it here.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : The hon. Minister has also given his reply on this issue. But this is the situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, with my folded hands, I am requesting this Government to please help the tribals in Andhra Pradesh, particularly, in Visakhapatnam district. If you do not believe all that I am

stating here, then you can send one team comprising of officers from the Government of India there. It should find out whether it is a fact or not, and then come back to the House with the facts found by it.

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right, and your suggestion is well taken.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : If it is found that it is not true, then you can come to the House and say that all that Mr. Yerrannaaidu had said here was not true. Thereafter I will agree to it, but all that I have stated here are the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Yerrannaaidu, there is nothing more to say on this issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Anybody interrupting will be taken serious note of, and will have to face the consequences.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The Government is very much concerned about this issue, and in fact, it is more concerned than the hon. Member himself that there should not be even a single death due to any disease.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is also equally concerned about it. Therefore, you do not have to say it comparatively.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The hon. Member had also asked about the issue of Paderu agency area, and Visakhapatnam district. There are about seven agency areas in Andhra Pradesh. Agency is a tribal area, and mostly, they are hilly areas. We have got our Enhanced Malaria Control Project going on there for the last few years. This issue was also brought up in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, and I had replied to it too. I will give some details about the steps being taken by the State Government, the steps taken by the Central Government, and the steps that are going to do done in the future with regard to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : If they are lengthy statements, then you can send the details to the hon. Member directly. There is no need to read out the entire lengthy statement.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : No, Sir, I will just read out a few points mentioned in it. There are a number of steps, which the State Government has taken, namely, nearly 11 Programme Officers have been going there, about 195 medical camps have been conducted, regular surveillance activities are being done.

Door-to-door visits from June 1st have been done. Initially, seven medical teams have been positioned in seven school complexes. Now, about 55 medical teams in 55 school complexes are functioning there with medical officers, lab technicians, microscope for testing, and so on. Then, 300 additional medical and para-medical staff from the plain areas have gone to this hilly area. Fifty-five vehicles have been deployed in Paderu alone covering 11 *mandals*. In fact, the Chief Minister had taken a meeting last month. It was a high-level meeting. Then, his second meeting was with the District Collectors. Today, four Ministers are having a meeting with all the officials on this issue. We are very concerned about this issue. We heard about so-called 1,000 deaths from the hon. Member. The Government of India has today sent a team headed by the Regional Director of that area to verify the facts as to whether there were any deaths and what is the cause of deaths. All along, we have been very actively propagating, and preventive steps are being taken for malaria and other related diseases. In fact, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is planning to visit that area shortly. We are taking action, and certainly we are monitoring it very closely. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I will not raise this issue again during 'Zero Hour'. Since the time the new Government in Andhra Pradesh came to power, there is no Health Minister there. Only one week back, the Chief Minister entrusted this portfolio to somebody. This is the state of affairs in Andhra Pradesh, and this is what is worrying me.

MR. SPEAKER : For once, I will allow you to give information instead of putting a question.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : I am requesting through you ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not fair, Mr. Yerrannaïdu. You are a senior Member. You have put a question. This is not fair.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : The Union Government is requested to send ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry to say that it will not be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, you can put your question. Only his question will be recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have made a very valid point. The Minister has fairly and exhaustively answered your question. There cannot be a question-answer session like this. You go to him. Why do you not invite him and talk to him, Mr. Minister? You go to his office. He will give you a good cup of tea and all the information that you need.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply Hon'ble Minister has given state-wise details of various disease like Filariasis, Malaria, Dengue, Kala-Azar, Cholera, encephalitis etc. The Minister has discussed about Bihar in detail. He has told how many districts are affected by Kala-Azar and Malaria over there and how many people have died so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please ask question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has accepted two things in his reply that cholera is spreading due to the water and filth. Bihar is a poor state. Even today there are many areas and villages where people do not get pure drinking water. I would like to know from the Minister as to what kind of arrangements have been made to protect the people from various diseases, especially from kala-azar, since people are dying

*Not recorded.

of this disease even today over there. Hon'ble Minister has given district wise details, I do not want to read that out but it is a serious issue that kala-Azar disease is spreading in all the districts of Bihar on a large scale. I would like to ask the Government as to what action they are taking to check diseases like kala-Azar and Malaria? Will the Government provide funds under special component to save the poor people from kala-Azar in Bihar?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not repeat it. Mr. Minister, if you have the information, please answer him. The Minister cannot give information district-wise.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Kala Azar is now prevalent in only four States, that is, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal, in our country. Only 53 districts in the country have been affected by this, and we are concentrating more on these districts. In fact, we have signed an agreement with Bangladesh and Nepal early this year to eliminate Kala Azar. We have a schedule that we should eliminate it by 2015. The Government of India is going to eliminate Kala Azar in India by 2008 or 2009. In fact, I have convened a high-level meeting two weeks ago where all the Health Ministers of the affected States had participated. We have charted out a special programme on how we are going to eliminate Kala Azar.

Today we are going in for a little more costly drugs. oral drugs. The first time ever, oral drugs regime for Kala Azar is going to be implemented in all the districts that are affected. We are taking this very seriously.

With regard to the second part of the question, I would like to inform the House that the hon. Prime Minister has launched the National Rural Health Mission in the country. That is an integrated programme with components of not only health but also sanitation, drinking water, hygiene, etc. All these components are put into the National Rural Health Mission. Bihar is one of the States in which the Mission is going to be implemented at the root level, the village level, in order to provide all these facilities.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked a very specific question from the Hon'ble Minister as to what special arrangements the Government are going to make for Bihar. He has given a general reply that they are looking into that matter. I would like to know what kind of arrangements the Government are making for Bihar?

MR. SPEAKER : What else he will say here?

[English]

Will every action to be taken be repeated here?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are dying on a large scale due to kala Azar. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only Shri Prabhunath Singh will be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say that as hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply, there are two parts of it—firstly, to prevent the disease so that it does not spread further and secondly, to cure the disease. Hon'ble Minister has also said that these disease are caused by drinking contaminated water. Whether it is a fact that the various chemical fertilizers and pesticides that are used for food production are also responsible for such diseases. Whether the Government have got any survey done in this regard? If a survey has been conducted then how are the Government going to deal with this situation? Is it possible to make any alternative arrangement in place of chemical fertilizers used for food production? Thirdly, wherever proper medical facilities are not available, patients come to the National capital of Delhi but they do not get bed over here. Whether the Government will make any separate arrangements for

the proper treatment of patients coming from outside Delhi so that they do not die for want of treatment?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : These are two different questions. Only answer the first part.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The hon. Member has asked a valid question as to whether the Government is going about it in a preventive mode or a curative mode. After the UPA Government has taken over, most of our concentration in the health sector has been on the prevention part. All the while there has not been much emphasis on that. We are going more on to preventive campaign. After that, we are going in for curative campaign. On the preventive campaign side, in respect of many diseases including malaria and water borne disease, we are taking a lot of steps for prevention rather than the curative part. In the case of malaria, as already mentioned, we are taking up promotion of use of mosquito nets, spray of insecticides and fish larvivarous and all that. In respect of waterborne disease, there are some areas in which the water has been not only polluted but contains fluoride and arsenic. This is prevalent in West Bengal and parts of Bihar. We are going out creating awareness amongst people on how to remove this fluoride from the water. There are some cost-effective methods also. The Indian Council of Medical Research has been mapping the areas which are water polluted. There was the issue of endosulphan also.

MR. SPEAKER : We have taken about 40 minutes for two questions.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : We are creating awareness among the public on how we should prevent these diseases.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Senthil, if you have any new question you may ask. Please do not repeat.

DR. R. SENTHIL : The hon. Minister mentioned in his reply use of medicine-impregnated mosquito nets for prevention for mosquito bites. This is as per the WHO

recommendation. The only problem is that these nets are mainly imported and not manufactured in large quantities locally. Through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister, to help indigenous manufacturers and to promote widespread usage of these nets whether he would consider relaxing the rules so that the nets without impregnation of pyrethrin are used in our country.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : This concept of pre-impregnated nets is that the mosquito nets are pre-impregnated with synthetic pyrethroid so that the mosquito cannot go inside the net. The Mosquito can just go near the net and get repelled. It is very safe for human handling also. If anybody touches it, there is no problem about that. The only issue is that this is a World Bank funded programme and the criteria is that it should be on the WHO approved list. Today we are talking with the WHO and asking them to be a little more flexible on this issue because these long lasting mosquito nets are the need of the hour.

MR. SPEAKER : Take it up with them.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : And also, this has to be approved by the Pesticides Board of India. The process is going on. Soon we are going to have a lot of long lasting mosquito nets in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Just put a question.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Thank you, Sir.

Thousands of people die every year due to Malaria. These are official figures. Actually, today it is much more. Two million people in a year are really affected by Malaria. Orissa has the misfortune of having the highest number of cases. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Kamataka have cases in lakhs. My specific question is this. Does the Government have any proposal or any scheme to empower the respective District medicals, hospitals or CDMOs to eradicate and control Malaria? Do the Ministry have any scheme to identify those districts, and to empower those district level hospitals, community health centres and primary health centres?

This is related to the Japanese Encephalitis, which is in larger proportion and there is a greater difficulty. We have indigenous JE vaccines which is produced in Kasauli. But that is not sufficient, which can be distributed to all the 14 to 15 States. Does the Ministry have any proposal to increase the quantity of this vaccine?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Regarding the first part of the hon. Member's question, I wish to state that we have a National Vector Disease Control Programme for the eradication of Malaria, Kala-Azar, Dengue, Encephalitis and Cholera. For Malaria, we have an enhanced Malaria Control Programme, which is concentrated on 100 districts. Most of them are agency districts, and most of them are in tribal areas. We have intensified the Malaria Control project in 10 States, including Orissa, Jharkhand, West Bengal and North-East. We are intensifying our programmes on these specific States. Orissa is the highest Malaria endemic State in the country. We are mobilising all our resources in the States of Orissa, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and North-East. In fact, under the Rural Health Mission, which has also been launched, we are decentralising all our societies. We have Societies of Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Malaria and the District Collector or the District Medical Officer is going to be the in-charge of that. They are going to have plans and schemes and work out according to the district-related and village-related issues for the future.

Regarding the JE vaccine, we have an indigenously manufactured vaccine in CSI, Kasauli. That is, the rat brain vaccine. We need to upgrade our facilities. There are two vaccines - one from China and the other from Korea. It is a tissue culture vaccine which is looked as a potential vaccine to be imported to India. But we have not decided yet on this. We are thinking on this. Once it is decided, we would have more vaccine available. We have asked CSI to produce more of these JE vaccines.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we can have a Half-an-Hour discussion on this very important matter. You can give notice on this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is the last supplementary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We took 45 minutes for just two questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please sit down. Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, you are a responsible Member. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Sir, with your permission I would like to tell hon'ble Minister that there has not been decline in the number of Malaria cases between the year 2002 to 2004.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Same questions are repeated.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Sir, The Minister has said that the arrangement has been made for supplying DDT and also spraying insecticides. I would like to request through you that DDT has not been sprayed for last ten years in our State Jammu-Kashmir. I have also been a Minister of this Department but we never received DDT supply from the Central Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Ask your question please. Otherwise, I will go to the next question *[Translation]* Please ask your question.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : I just have to say to the Hon'ble Minister that he may kindly tell whether the

Government propose to provide the same medicines to Jammu-Kashmir, which is being supplied to other states of the country and if so, by when?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Regarding the use of DDT, we are using it very rationally all over the country.

MR. SPEAKER : You can refer to the Jammu and Kashmir State.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : We are using it very rationally because DDT can cause pollution in the country. There are some States to which even though we had supplied DDT, they have not looked at it.

Coming to Jammu and Kashmir, I would get the details and will send it to the hon. Member. In fact, it is not only DDT but there are other insecticides also like Malathion and Fenthion. We are using DDT very sparingly and very rationally because of environmental pollution. It is only for certain areas that we are using it.

MR. SPEAKER : The question should be specific and the answer should be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Malaria and Brain Malaria (Encephalitis) has assumed epidemic proportions in Jharkhand. The treatment of Brain Malaria is very costly. The people there are selling their land and cattle for the treatment of this disease. The number of mosquito nets distributed by the Government is almost negligible. I would request the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to provide a special package to Jharkhand for the treatment of this disease since the people of Jharkhand are dependent upon West Bengal and Orissa for the treatment of Brain Malaria. Therefore, special attention should be paid to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : We have told that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have agreed to allow Half an Hour discussion. Somebody should give a notice to that effect.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : We will definitely look into it.

MR. SPEAKER : Please look into the matter of Jharkhand.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : He will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO : All right.

[English]

Irrational Combinations In Drugs

*43. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
MOHD. MUKEEM :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that various irrational combinations in drugs/pharmaceuticals are available and marketed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has expressed its inability to ban the irrational combinations;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the names of the irrational combinations and the companies which are marketing them under scrutiny by the DCGI; and

(f) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

Statement

Drugs in various dosage forms may consist of more than one active ingredient for various reasons like better patient compliance, synergistic or corrective action, to reduce the toxic or ill effect of a particular drug etc. and are generally marketed as Proprietary Medicines. Under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules made thereunder, the State Drug Licensing Authorities are empowered to grant licence for manufacture of drugs including combination formulations. The applicants at the time of applying for a licence for manufacture of such formulations are required to furnish to the Licensing Authority, the evidence and data justifying that the formulations contain the constituent ingredients in therapeutic/prophylactic quantities as determined in relation to the claims or conditions for which the medicines are recommended for use and the ingredients are stable and are in such quantities for which there is therapeutic justification.

In order to weed out irrational or harmful drugs, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act was amended in 1982, to empower Central Government to prohibit manufacture, sale and distribution of a drug if it is likely to involve any risk to human beings or animals or if any drug does not have therapeutic value claimed or contained ingredients in such quantities for which there is no therapeutic justification. In order to ensure adequate evaluation or rationality of such new drug formulations, the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules were amended in 2002 to make it mandatory for the State Licensing Authorities to ensure that the applicants for such new proprietary formulations, have the written approval from the Drugs Controller General (India) before granting the licence.

Drugs for which harmful effects are reported or for which therapeutic justification is considered inadequate in the context of current medical evidence, are examined by the Expert Committee under Drugs Technical Advisory

Board (DTAB). It is a continuous process. So far, 76 drugs including various combination formulations have been prohibited for marketing in the country.

Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has not expressed inability to ban the irrational combinations. Applications for grant of NOC for manufacture such combination products received by the office of DCG(I) are examined as per prescribed norms in consultation with medical experts. Since, December 2004, 255 applications for NOC for manufacture of fixed dose combinations were received and out of which 38 have been rejected as these were considered irrational or having ingredients which have since been prohibited for manufacture and sale in the country.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : The hon. Minister has not mentioned anything about the irrational combinations which have been banned or called 'off the shelf' by the Drugs Controller General of India after 2002. There are a host of irrational combinations available in the market 'off the shelf' and 'on the shelf' and that are detrimental to the health of the people who are not generally aware about the detrimental impacts of these combinations. There are reports of vascular troubles and risks of these combinations are generally of pain killers like aspirin, Analgin, Brufane etc. There has been a Committee in position, set up by the Drugs Controller General of India in 2003 about the surveillance of ADR (Adverse Drug Reaction) of these drugs. But no mention has been made of them by the hon. Minister. Will the hon. Minister apprise the House that what are the combinations which have been banned so far? How has it been implemented? It is reported that there is no adequate mechanism in position with the Drugs Controller General of India.

MR. SPEAKER : One sentence would have been sufficient. We could also put questions specifically.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Till date, the Government has banned about 76 drugs including various combinations and formulations. I could give the list to the hon. Member if he requires. If he has more information

about any of the drugs or combinations which have been banned elsewhere, he could give it to us and then our Scientific Committee under Drugs Technical Advisory Board could go into the merits and demerits of it.

MR. SPEAKER : He will send you the list. If you find something missing, you can ask him.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister why such combinations are still available in the market. For instance, SPASMO Proxivon and other combinations are also available in the market. Doctors have also complained about it. What has been done in this regard? What is the possible action you are going to take?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Out of 76 drugs, combinations and formulations which have been banned, nothing could be marketed and nothing could be sold in the country. If there are specific instances, definitely we will take very stringent action against those manufacturers and those people who are marketing these products.

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised a very good question.

[Translation]

MOHD. MUKEEM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask hon'ble Minister that these days a few companies and the drug-mafia's are manufacturing and selling spurious medicines in the market on a large scale. Whether the Government have identified these companies? If so, what are the names of such companies and what action is being taken by the Government against such companies and including the cancellation of their licenses?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, this Question does not relate to fake drugs. It relates to irrational combinations in drugs.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Yes, Sir, the original Question is about the combinations in drugs.

About the spurious and fake drugs, we have gone through a lot of processes.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, it does not arise from this Question. It has already been dealt with very elaborately on earlier occasions.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, about these spurious and unsafe drugs, we are taking steps. In fact, we are going in for capacity building. We are improving our both the State and the Central drug testing labs. We are also imparting training to the drug inspectors. In fact, we have introduced amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to the Parliament wherein it provides for strict penal provisions to deal with all such problems.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already dealt with it though the Question is about the irrational combinations.

DR. P.P. KOYA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether both the Question and Answer cover Allopathy only or also. Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Siddha and other like systems. There are medicines available with combination of Allopathy, which are identified. But there are drugs belonging to other systems also, which are available and I do not think that there is any list of original medicines and also the combinations, which are identified and banned.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please put your Supplementary.

DR. P.P. KOYA : Will the hon. Minister make a sincere effort to identify the drugs belonging to other systems including Ayur systems, and take appropriate decision to ban the injurious drugs now coming into the market?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the list of 76 formulations, which have been banned includes some of the Ayurvedic formulations also. But there is a little issue in this. When Allopathic and Ayurvedic combinations are used, there we have some problems. But I have asked the Drug Controller General of India, the Department of Indian Systems of Medicines and the Drug Technical Advisory Board to go into this issue. Deliberations have already started, and within a next few months, they are going to

go deep into the subject about which all the hon. Members are saying. So, we are looking into this issue very deeply.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Sir, in spite of the action taken on the part of the Government, still there are irrational combinations available in the market. The price of these drug combinations is more than the price of the individual ingredient being taken.

Sir, one of the reasons for the production of these combinations is to increase the price of the drugs. That is why companies are bringing out more and more combinations.

Therefore, what I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. Do we have any mechanism or any authority to control the prices of drugs? If not, will the hon. Minister consider setting up of an authority to monitor and control the prices of not only the combination of drugs but also individual drugs?

MR. SPEAKER : No; it does not arise from this Question.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Sir, one of the reasons for bringing out the combinations in drugs is to increase the price of the drugs.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, control of drug prices does not come under my Ministry. My colleague, Mr. Paswan is more eligible to answer this question.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, it does not apply to this.

Now, Mr. Ramdas Athawale. The Supplementary should relate to the main Question and the concerned Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, irrational combinations in drugs is a very serious matter. My only question to Hon'ble Minister is that whether the Government propose to charge the companies indulging in irrational combination of drugs, of treason?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already assured that. Mr. Minister you need not answer this.

Now, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty. Your Supplementary should be related to the main Question.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY : Definitely, Sir.

In fact the clinical pharmacy is now a specific subject used the world over. It deals with the irrationality of drugs, wrong combinations and the contra-indications of drugs.

In fact, in our country also, probably three colleges are having specific courses in clinical pharmacy. Clinical pharmacy, if employed properly, can be used for prescription or generalisation of drugs and it can also be better checked and tackled.

So, through you, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether, in our case, the Government intends to or is interested in augmenting the clinical pharmacy or clinical pharmacology for better application of drugs and the best use of its rationality.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the suggestion made by the hon. Member is well taken. The Government will consider this clinical pharmacology or pharmacy of these drugs for bringing in more rationality into the system.

Sethusamudram Project

*44. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

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

(a) whether certain environmental organisations have expressed concern regarding the Sethusamudram Project undertaken by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has made any ecological study regarding the far-reaching consequences of this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The concerns expressed by environmentalists etc. *inter-alia* include damage to marine ecology, marine flora and fauna, coral reefs, adverse effects on fish breeding and fish catching. While formulating the project, adequate care has been taken to ensure that adverse impact on environment is minimal. Two rounds of public hearing were also conducted as a part of the process for obtaining environmental clearance for this project where concerns raised by fishermen representatives and Non-Governmental Organisations were noted. These concerns along with the response of project authorities were considered by the Ministry of Environment & Forests while granting environmental clearance to the project. The conditions attached with the environmental clearance *inter-alia* enjoin upon project authority to monitor marine environment quality periodically and take all necessary measures to protect the bio-diversity including endangered species of mangroves, corals, mammals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Study has been undertaken by the National Environment Engineering & Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur. The NEERI studied all the environment issues including ecological study, in depth, over a period of two years. The dredged area proposed is minimal when compared to vast Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay areas. To that extent, the alignment chosen presents no ecological concerns on destruction of micro-organisms/bottom flora and fauna of seabed.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, by not going into any elaboration, I am coming straightway to the question.

Sir, the Government have made a very serious study about this Sethusamudram Project from ecological and environmental aspects. While giving environmental clearance for that Project, a condition was also mentioned in it. There was to be close monitoring to protect bio-diversity, including the endangered species of the mangroves, corals, mammals and also such micro organisms. May I know from the Minister as to what kind of monitoring system is contained in the Project authority for fulfilling this condition?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Sethusamudram Project is a matter of pride for India. In fact, I have to thank Dr. Manmohan Singh, as well as Mrs. Gandhi, who have addressed the real problem of Peninsular Indians. The 145 years' old dream has come true because of them as well as the UPA Government.

As far as this question is concerned, we have constituted a Committee of 11 members under the Presidentship of Dr. Kannaiyan, who is the Chairman of the National Biodiversity Authority of India. Everyday, people from Alagappa University just go and collect samples from dredging as well as disposal areas. Not only that, the most sensitive areas of Muthupet, as well as Point Calimere which is known for the rich bio-diversity, the samples are collected at 2-metre level and also at five-metre level everyday. From dredging and disposal areas, every 4 hours, they are collecting samples and close monitoring is done by this particular Karaikudi Alagappa University. So far, no damage has occurred as far as environmental and other issues are concerned.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I have read that the concerned Chief Minister was not present during the inaugural ceremony of the Sethusamudram Project. Our hon. Prime Minister, UPA Chairperson and all the concerned Ministers were there but the concerned Chief

Minister was not there. May I know from the Minister as to what was the reason of the Chief Minister not being present there?

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Was there any environmental problem?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is a matter to be raised outside this Chamber.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Let him explain this.

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow him to explain.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : There is an apprehension that the Project will damage or destroy the coral reefs in Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay. Is this apprehension valid?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : As far as the Particular site is concerned, there is absolutely no coral reefs. The alignment has been changed. The alignment is now 20 kilometres away from the biosphere Gulf of Mannar.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. With great difficulty, we have completed 4 questions.

Thank you for your questions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Ban on production and distribution of Non-Iodised Salt

*45. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to ban the production and distribution of non-iodised salt;

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

(c) whether a large number of people have been failling victims to goiter and other diseases due to consumption of non-iodised salt in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete measures-being taken by the Government to make available iodised salt at affordable price to the common man in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) The Government of India has taken a decision to restrict the sale of common salt for direct human consumption unless it is iodised. Non-iodised salt may continue to be sold for iodization, iron fortification, animal use, preservation, manufacturing medicines and industrial use under proper label declaration.

The Government has issued a draft notification GSR 340 (E) dated 27.5.2005 under PFA Rules, 1955, and invited objections/suggestions to the proposal to restrict the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption unless the same is iodized.

The restrictions proposed vide above mentioned notification are for the following reasons:-

- (i) availability of iodized salt is essential to control iodine deficiency diseases.
- (ii) the consumption of iodized salt in India is lowest in comparision to other countries of the region as both iodized salt and non-iodized salt are available side by side in the country and there is no provision as on date to restrict the sale of non-iodised common salt.
- (iii) the State Governments cannot, as in the past,

ban or restrict the sale of common salt under the PFA Act, 1954, because of the Supreme Court Judgement dated 2.8.2004 in Godawat Pan Masala Products (P) Ltd. Vs Union of India and Others vide which the Hon'ble Supreme Court has clarified that the powers of the State Governments under PFA Rules, 1955, to ban the manufacture, sale or distribution of any food article under Section 7(iv) are only transitory in nature and intended to deal with local emergencies and can last only for short period while such emergency lasts.

As per surveys conducted by Directorate General of Health Services, State Health Directorates, Indian Council of Medical Research and other health institutes, in 321 districts covering all States/UTs, 260 districts are endemic for Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) i.e. where the prevalence of IDD is more than 10%. Thus, no State/UT in the country is free from IDD. As per estimates in 2003, 20 crore people are at risk of IDD while the number of persons suffering from various disorders in the country is about 7 crores. Women of reproductive age group and children are the most vulnerable groups for the nutritional iodine deficiency disorders.

In order to prevent and control IDD, Government is implementing the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) in the entire country. The main components of the programme are conducting IDD surveys, supply of iodated salt in place of common salt, laboratory monitoring of salt and urine and health education and publicity. 13 States have included iodated salt under Public Distribution System (PDS) to ensure supply of iodated salt at affordable prices to families below poverty line.

Strengthening of Indo-Bangladesh Relations

*46. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :**
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether differences have surfaced between India and Bangladesh over border fencing as reported in the 'Statesman' dated June 23, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government has decided to make efforts to sort out the differences and ensure that border fencing work is completed without any hurdles;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction; and

(e) the measures undertaken to strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (e) The differences between India and Bangladesh on the fencing of the border lie in the interpretation of the 1975 Joint India-Bangladesh Border Guidelines. Clause 8(e) of the guidelines states that "*if defensive works of any nature, including trenches, exist in the stretch of 300 yards (150 yards on each side of the boundary) these must be destroyed or filled up.*" It is our view that the boundary fence is not a defensive structure but an instrument of border management meant to control illegal cross border movements, smuggling infiltration, etc. For the most part, the fence is located at or beyond 150 yards of the border. However, in certain stretches due to habitations or necessitated by terrain conditions, the fence would fall within 150 yards from the zero line. However Bangladesh has objected to the construction of the fence within 150 yards of the zero line on the basis that this is in violation of the jointly agreed 1975 Border Guidelines.

The Governments of India and Bangladesh have established several mechanisms to discuss border-related issues. The issue of fencing was discussed during the Home Secretary-level talks held in September 2004 and in the Foreign Office Consultations between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Bangladesh in New Delhi in June 2005. This issue is regularly discussed during the Director

General-level meetings of Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR). It would be taken up again during the forthcoming Home Secretary-level talks as well as the BSF-BDR talks. We have also conveyed to the Government of Bangladesh the need for us to build the fence within and upto the zero line on the International border necessitated by terrain and habitations and that we would carry out the necessary, repair and developmental works on the Indian side of the International Boundary. In this regard, details of the villages, houses and population within 150 yards of the India-Bangladesh border and a list of works taken up and kept suspended due to objections by BDR has also been sent to the Government of Bangladesh. The same was also reiterated during the Foreign Office Consultations held in June 2005.

India's commitment to strengthen bilateral relations with Bangladesh was expressed at the highest level by the Prime Minister during his meeting with the Bangladesh Prime Minister on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in July 2004. Bangladesh Foreign Minister has visited India twice in May-June 2004 and November 2004. Other Ministerial visits from Bangladesh include those of Minister of Commerce in November 2004, Minister of Finance in December 2004 and Bangladesh Health Minister in April 2005. Official level meetings included those of the Home Secretaries, and Water Resources Secretaries in September 2004 and Foreign Office Consultations in June 2005. During these meetings, both sides reaffirmed the importance that they attach to bilateral relations and expressed their desire to further expand, deepen and strengthen cooperation. Meetings between the border guarding forces are held regularly. Bilateral trade and commercial relations continue to show healthy growth. Bilateral discussions have been held under the Joint Working Groups on Trade and Tariffs issues and the Joint Customs Group to address and initiate various measures for facilitating the flow of trade. The next Joint Working Groups on Trade and Tariff issues are scheduled to meet in August 2005 in Dhaka where issues pertaining to bilateral trade, Free Trade Agreement and elimination of para-tariff and non-tariff barriers would be discussed further.

[Translation]

**Computer facility in Post Offices
in Rural Areas**

*47. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices having E-mail, Internet and computer facilities in rural and tribal areas of the country at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide the said facilities in all the important post offices in rural and tribal areas within a stipulated time-limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

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

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) 922 Post Offices are having computer facilities in rural and tribal areas of the country as on date. Out of these, 58 Post Offices are having e-mail facilities in the form of 'e-post service' of the Department.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts is currently implementing the Tenth Plan Scheme to computerize 7700 important Departmental Post Offices (having more than two public counters) in the country. All such important Post Offices having more than two public counters, located in rural and tribal areas, will be thus computerized by the end of the Tenth Plan.

(d) and (e) Out of total 26,165 Departmental Post Offices, the Department has a time-bound programme to provide computer facilities to 7700 important Departmental Post Offices in the Tenth Plan period. Till

date, computers have been supplied to 5232 such Post Offices. Another 2468 Post Offices are to be computerized during the remaining period of the Tenth Plan. Computerization of Post Offices is an on going process. More Post Offices may be taken up for computerization may subject to availability of funds and required approvals.

(f) As explained at (d) & (e) above.

Improving Mobile Phone Lines Connectivity

*48. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve the mobile phone lines connectivity in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has set any target for increasing mobile phone lines in the country during the current year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the position of mobile phone lines connectivity until June, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Telecom sector has been liberalized. There are no restrictions on the number of operators in any service area. Presently, on an average four to six operators are providing mobile services in each service area. As per the Licence Agreement for each Metro Service area, they are required to cover 90% of the service area in one year and for each Telecom Circle Service Area, they are to provide mobile service in at least 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) in the first year and 50% of the

District Headquarters within three years of effective date of Licence. The choice of District Headquarters/Towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/Towns lies with the Licensee depending on their business decision.

(d) and (e) The Government has set a target of 250 Million telephone lines (Fixed and Mobile) by 2007.

(f) As on 30.06.2005, the total number of mobile subscribers in the country are 5,67,26,605 [GSM-4,49,20,004 and CDMA-1,18,06,601].

[English]

Unified Telephone System

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

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

- (a) whether the Government has finalised the policy on unified telephone system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this unified system will have an impact on mobile as well as land line phones; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has submitted its recommendations for Unified Licensing regime to the Government. The recommendations are under consideration and no final decision has been taken so far. The recommendations envisage change in the present licensing structure, reduction in annual licence fee and opening of Internet telephony by access Providers etc. Mobile as well as Land Line phones can be provided by one operator under Unified Licence regime.

Progress of Golden Quadrilateral Project

*50. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the works on the Golden Quadrilateral Project have almost come to a grinding halt;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the project;
- (d) the progress made and the amount spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (e) the revised target date by when the project is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) By the end of March, 2004, only 2612 km. (45%) of the 5846 km. Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) had been 4/6 laned, while by the end of June, 2005, 4912 km (84%) was completed.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The steps taken to expedite the project are given in the Statement-I.
- (d) The progress made during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise and the amount spent thereon is given in Statement-II and III respectively.

(e) 92% length of the GQ is likely to be completed by the end of December, 2005. Except 157 km. length involving 4 terminated contracts and 84 km. length involving Allahabad Bypass which was awarded only in 2004, rest of GQ (96%) is likely to be completed by June, 2006.

Statement-I

Steps taken by the Government to expedite the completion of the Golden Quadrilateral.

- (a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/ Independent Engineers, Project Directors, National Highways Authority of India officials at Headquarters.
- (b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/ environment clearances etc.
- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road over Bridges etc.
- (d) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with the Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited.

Statement-II

State-wise details Length completed on Golden Quadrilateral Project during the last three years

(In Kilometer)

State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	83.66	305.41	438.74
Bihar	—	12.00	92.00

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	43.40	139.80	105.79
Jharkhand	—	—	66.30
Karnataka	5.80	96.92	227.52
Maharashtra	10.00	155.65	137.53
Orissa	27.80	92.16	87.09
Rajasthan	—	314.10	235.46
Tamil Nadu	16.00	120.40	185.26
Uttar Pradesh	—	15.35	255.00
West Bengal	—	35.00	254.71
Total	186.66	1286.79	2085.40

Statement-III

Amount spent on Civil Construction Contracts Under Golden Quadrilateral Project during the last 3 years

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1326.43	1240.86	759.29
2.	Bihar	147.62	174.65	326.34
3.	Gujarat	399.42	539.42	206.93
4.	Jharkhand	107.19	124.32	169.68
5.	Karnataka	540.51	937.42	542.91
6.	Maharashtra	363.19	512.84	294.12
7.	Orissa	358.15	315.64	240.47

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Rajasthan	469.65	1074.46	521.60
9.	Tamil Nadu	331.66	468.00	315.74
10.	Uttar Pradesh	433.07	608.77	794.52
11.	West Bengal	556.14	677.32	953.99
Total		5035.03	6673.70	5125.59

[Translation]

Leakage of Information

*51. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ) :
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that some Indian web-marketing organisations are involved in the leakage of personal information of customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the adverse impact of the same on the software business of the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide for stringent penalties in order to check such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether a meeting of IT officials and representatives of National Association of Software Companies (NASSCOM) was held recently; and

(g) if so, the main issues discussed in this meeting and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Web-marketing or BPO in IT sector is a de-licensed

activity. Such operations are governed by a legal contract between the parties. Government does not directly regulate such activities.

A report had appeared on June 23, 2005 in The Sun (UK), resulting from an investigation by their reporter, about the alleged sale of customer data by an employee of a call center near Delhi. In April, 2005 it was alleged that three former employees of a Pune based company did some illegal transaction of funds of customers. It was found that the accused have committed fraud in their individual capacity and the BPO organization has not been involved. This will not have an adverse impact on software business of the country.

(c) and (d) Section 66 of the Information Tecnology Act 2000 provides for stringent penalties for infringement of such incidents including breaching of confidentiality, privacy and hacking of a computer system.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) A high level meeting involving government officials, NASSCOM etc. was held to discuss this issue. It was suggested the Department of IT and NASSCOM to consult all stake holders and come forward with suggestions for changes in existing laws. if found necessary, to ensure that any form of cyber crime or breach of secrecy is made a punishable offence. The following steps are being taken:

- Revisiting the IT Act 2000 and Introduction of amendments, if any, to the IT Act 2000 that will provide stringent measures against the Criminals. An expert committee has been set up for this purpose.
- Training and supporting Indian Law enforcement agencies to ensure that they are well equipped to tackle cyber crimes.
- Establishment of a register of IT professionals by NASSCOM to ensure that only suitable staff is employed in the Industry.

Assistance to Kailash Mansarovar Pilgrims

*52. SHRI KIREN RIJU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of assistance being provided by the Government for the pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar;

(b) whether the Governments of China and India have jointly formulated or propose to formulate any scheme to facilitate the visit of Kailash Mansarovar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present status of the scheme;

(e) whether the travelling expenses of pilgrims will decrease after the above scheme comes into operation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is presently organised by the Government under a bilateral arrangement with the Chinese Government through the Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh, Uttaranchal. Government pay Rupees three thousand two hundred and fifty (Rs. 3,250/-) for each pilgrim to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) for arrangements made by KMVN for the Yatra. In addition, during the course of the Yatra, facilities provided by the Government to the pilgrims include free medical assistance, security and escort cover by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) till the Lipulekh Pass on the Indian side, communication links with China, and provision of satellite phone to the Liaison Officer for each batch of pilgrims for use during emergency throughout the Yatra. A Liaison Officer is attached by the Government with each batch of pilgrims, who is responsible for their general welfare.

(b) to (d) It is Government's endeavour to improve and upgrade facilities for the pilgrims going on the Yatra on a continuing basis. In this spirit, Government have, from time to time, also raised with the Chinese Government issues

regarding the improvement of facilities on their side for the pilgrims. There has been progressive improvement over the years. In addition, Government have proposed to the Chinese side on several occasions in recent years opening of an alternative route to Kailash-Mansarovar through Demchok in Jammu and Kashmir, or Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh, which would be shorter and more convenient. The Chinese side has cited difficulty in opening these routes on the ground that it would involve travel over longer distances on their side through difficult terrain, with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications.

(e) and (f) The issue of costing of the Yatra through the proposed alternative routes will arise only after an agreement could be reached with the Chinese side on these routes and specific arrangements put in place.

[English]

Nutritional Deficiency In Children

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

(a) the details of nutritional status of pre-adolescence children in the country;

(b) whether the Government has any programme to address nutritional deficiency among pre-adolescence children, especially among SC/ST and remote rural population;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any in-built mechanism to get a feedback regarding the level of improvement after implementing the programme; and

(e) if so, the remedial action taken or being contemplated by the Government if feedback is not satisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) As per the

survey conducted by National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NINB) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 2001, prevalence of undernutrition among school age group children (6-9 years) is given as below:-

Gender	Nutritional Grade		
	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Boys	31.8	55.2	7.6
Girls	32.1	52.8	9.6
Pooled	31.9	54.0	8.6

The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, commonly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in August, 1995, is being implemented in the entire country. The main focus of the scheme is to boost universalisation of primary education and improve the nutritional status of all children in primary classes, including SC/ST.

Till September, 2004, central assistance was confined to supply of free foodgrains and giving of subsidy for their transport. The scheme was revised with effect from September, 2004, with the introduction of central assistance to States to meet cooking cost also at the rate of Rs.1/per child/school day. During 2005-06, about 11.92 crore children are expected to be covered under the programme for which 22.43 lakhs MTs of foodgrains have been allocated.

As per information available, all States and UTs except 5 States namely, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Punjab and West Bengal have universalized the cooked Mid-Day Meal programme. As the cooked meal programme has begun less than a year ago, it is too early to assess its impact in terms of improvement in the nutritional status of children.

Further, the Government is implementing the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP)

covering all population including the pre-adolescent group in order to prevent and control nutritional Iodine Deficiency Disorders as a 100% centrally assisted programme. The main components of the programme are:

- (i) IDD Survey;
- (ii) Supply of iodated salt instead of common salt;
- (iii) Monitoring of Iodine content of salt and urine;
- (iv) Health Education and publicity.

Reactivation of Terrorist Camps in Pakistan

*54. SHRI MADHU GOUD YAKSHI :
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a number of terrorist camps have been reactivated in Pakistan as reported in the *Statesman* dated May 24, 2005;
- (b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with Pakistan;
- (c) if so, the details of talks held and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the said issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (d) A number of terrorist camps have been reactivated in Pakistan. The Government has, in its interaction with Pakistan at all levels, continuously stressed the fact that Pakistan has so far not taken any significant action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism, such as communications, launching pads, training camps, funding, etc.

Government is monitoring the situation very closely, and has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on

which the present dialogue process based is the commitment of January 6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. In the Joint Statement made during the visit of President Musharraf on April 18, 2005, both countries reaffirmed the commitments made in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004.

[Translation]

**Review of Developmental Works Under
Bharat Nirman Yojana**

*55. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is reviewing the developmental works being undertaken under the 'Bharat Nirman Yojana' as reported in the Hindi daily Rashtriya Sahara dated July 1, 2005;

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

(c) whether this Yojana is likely to be completed by 2009;

(d) whether the amount spent so far on the Yojana has been estimated;

(e) if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise;

(f) the percentage of the works done by the concerned ministries under the Yojana;

(g) whether the Government has also approved an investment plan of Rs. 1,74,000 crore for the renewal of rural infrastructure under the Bharat Nirman Yojana;

(h) if so, the details of the projects likely to be undertaken thereunder alongwith the plans worked out for implementation of the projects; and

(i) the role of the State/Central Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The formulation of 'Bharat Nirman' which was announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech in the Union Budget 2005-06, is being guided by the Committee on Rural Infrastructure.

(c) Bharat Nirman is a 4 year programme which is scheduled to be completed by 2008-09. However, while the rural roads programme would need one more year, the programme, of rural electrification would extend till the end of the Eleventh Plan. Rural telephone connection is proposed to be completed in 3 years.

(d) to (f) 'Bharat Nirman' as a time-bound plan has been launched only in the current year (2005-06) and therefore at this point of time no estimates can be made of the amounts spent or the percentage of works completed.

(g) to (i) Yes, Sir. The total investment requirement for the various components of Bharat Nirman has been estimated to be about Rs. 1,74,000 crore. The physical targets sought to be achieved are as follows:

Irrigation : To create one crore ha. additional irrigation.

Rural drinking water : To provide potable drinking to 55067 uncovered habitations (as per revised assessment), slipped back habitations, quality affected habitations and rural schools.

Rural roads : To connect all villages that have a population of 1000 (or 500 in hilly tribal areas) with road.

Rural Housing : To construct 60 lakh additional houses for the poor.

Rural electrification : To reach electricity to remain-

ing 1,25,000 villages and offer electricity connection to 2.3 cr. households.

Rural telephone connectivity : To give telephone connectivity to remaining 66822 villages.

The additional fund requirements will be met through an appropriate mix of budgetary support, external aid, market borrowing and beneficiary contribution (in some cases).

The State Governments will be required to provide counterpart funding in the state budget for the budget support from the Centre and also fully involve Panchayat Raj Institutions in the planning and implementation of the programme.

[English]

Shortage of Prepaid Cards

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

(a) whether there is shortage of prepaid cards for the cellone BSNL mobile service;

(b) if so, the reasons for this shortfall;

(c) the State-wise waiting list of BSNL prepaid cards in the country;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the fact that prepaid cards are sold at a higher rate by the employees of BSNL in various parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In spite of available of pre-paid SIM cards in sufficient numbers, release of pre-paid cellular

connections is temporarily controlled due to capacity constraints.

(c) The waiting list for the Circles/States wherever being maintained is enclosed as statement.

(d) There have been some complaints received regarding sale of SIM cards at higher rates. These complaints were examined but allegations could not be established.

(e) BSNL has taken following steps in this regard:

- Augmenting the network aggressively to make sufficient capacities available.
- Appointing more franchisees for easy accessibility and availability of SIM cards.
- Authorizing STD PCO's for distribution of SIM cards.
- Expanding the distribution outlets of SIM cards through post offices.
- Maintaining waiting list specifically in those Circles/States from where complaints have been received.
- Keeping strict vigil on the distribution of SIM cards.

Statement

State-wise Waiting List as on 30.6.2005

S.No.	Name of State	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	Not Maintained
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Not Maintained
3.	Assam	Not Maintained
4.	Bihar	163527

1	2	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	118867
6.	Gujarat	Not Maintained
7.	Haryana	Not Maintained
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Not Maintained
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Not Maintained
10.	Jharkhand	192932
11.	Karnataka	Not Maintained
12.	Kerala	Not Maintained
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Not Maintained
14.	Maharashtra including Goa	100000
15.	North East-I (Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram)	Not Maintained
16.	North East-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur)	Not Maintained
17.	Orissa	Not Maintained
18.	Punjab	Not Maintained
19.	Rajasthan	Not Maintained
20.	Tamil Nadu	Not Maintained
21.	Uttar Pradesh	744369
22.	Uttaranchal	3275
23.	West Bengal including Sikkim	Not Maintained

[Translation]

Nuclear Power Generation in the Country

*58. SHRI RAKESH SINGH :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of power generated from nuclear plants as compared to the total power generation in the country;

(b) the percentage of the power so generated in the country as compared to the power generated in the developed countries like USA, Germany, Japan and U.K.;

(c) the details of the targets fixed for current five year plan;

(d) the details of the targets achieved so far;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up some more nuclear power stations in the country; and

(f) if so, by when these stations are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) In the year 2004-05, electricity generated from nuclear power was about 2.9% of the total generation in the country.

(b) The percentage of electricity from nuclear power in the developed countries is USA-20%, Germany-32%, Japan-29% and UK-19%.

(c) The generation target for the tenth five-year plan is 82,495 Million Units (MUs).

(d) The generation (upto June 2005) is 58659 MUs, thereby achieving 71% of the target in 39 months (65%) of the plan period.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) One reactor Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP-4, 540 MWe) at Tarapur, Maharashtra has been synchronised to grid on 4.6.2005. Construction work is in progress on eight more nuclear power reactors. The total capacity addition in X Plan and XI Plan by completion of these project is 1300 and 3160 MWe respectively.

[English]

Registration of Medical Practitioners

*59. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI GANESH SINGH :

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

(a) the norms laid by the Government for registration of medical practitioners with the Indian Medical Council (IMC);

(b) the details of the total number of practicing doctors registered with the IMC as on June 30, 2005, State-wise;

(c) whether this number tallies with the Indian Medical Association in relation to the total number of medical graduates who pass out from various universities across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued some guidelines in regard to registration of medical practitioners;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether it is a fact that IMC is violating the directions of Supreme Court and registering such medical students who have obtained their medical degrees from Russia and other foreign universities;

(h) if so, the action taken by the Government against such officials of IMC who have violated the directions of Supreme Court; and

(i) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to undo the wrongs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (i) As per the provisions of IMC Act, 1956, for registration of medical practitioners, the Medical Council of India (MCI) considers

the candidature of persons who are Indian nationals and possess basic recognized medical qualification from the medical colleges/institutions in India. Indian nationals having basic medical qualifications granted by institutions out side India included in the part II of the third schedule of the Act are also eligible for permanent registration with the MCI.

The details of the total number of practicing doctors registered with Medical Council of India as on 30.6.2005 are enclosed as statement.

The Indian Medical Association is not a statutory body for registration of medical practitioners hence may not be able to provide the details of all the registered medical practitioners in the country.

The Section 13(4)(A) was included in the IMC Act, 1956, through an amendment by Government of India in the year 2000 to streamline the system and to provide opportunities to the professionals with foreign degrees willing to practice in India. On the basis of the same, the MCI notified screening test regulations, which came into effect from 15.3.2002. In the context of the same, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 8.3.2002 directed that all the medical practitioners with foreign degree who may apply for permanent or provisional registration on or after 15.3.2002 will have to pass the Screening test as per MCI Regulation except in the following cases:—

1. Indian citizens possessing foreign primary medical qualification who have applied to MCI for permanent registration before 15.3.2002.
2. The students not having minimum admission norms for joining under graduate medical courses in India as per MCI, provided, they were admitted to foreign institutions recognized by MCI before 15.3.2002.
3. All persons who had studied in foreign institutions with less than 6 years of medical course or a part of their studies has been in an unrecognized institution provided the period of

shortfall is covered by them by way of additional internship over and above the regular internship of one year.

As per MCI, it considers the cases for registration of medical professionals possessing foreign degrees as per the provisions of IMC Act 1956, as amended in 2001; the screening test regulations 2002 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directives mentioned above.

Statement

Total Number of Doctors in India

S. No.	State	Total Number of Doctors (2005)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33800
2.	Assam	15927
3.	Bhopal	29049
4.	Chhattisgarh	318
5.	Bihar	35111
6.	Goa	2434
7.	Gujarat	37561
8.	Haryana	1360
9.	Hyderabad	14027
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8284
11.	Jharkhand	321
12.	Karnataka	66574
13.	Travencore-Cochin	33418
14.	Maharashtra	92327
15.	Orissa	14982

1	2	3
16.	Punjab	34104
17.	Rajasthan	22666
18.	Tamil Nadu	72474
19.	Uttar Pradesh	46251
20.	West Bengal	53129
21.	MCI Delhi	26803
22.	Delhi	2600
Total		643520

National Development Council Meeting

*60. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Development Council met in New Delhi in June;

(b) If so, the main issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) The future road map chalked out at the meeting to gain targeted growth rate;

(d) whether the Government has decided to constitute two NDC sub-committees on farming and State debts to devise ways to give a fillip to the overall economic growth;

(e) if so, whether these two sub-committees were constituted under the Chairmanship of Agriculture and Finance Minister; and

(f) If so, by when these two are likely to submit their report?

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

National Development Council met under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 27th & 28th June, 2005.

(b) The main issue discussed during the meeting was the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The NDC expressed broad agreement with the goals and policies suggested in the Mid-Term Appraisal which could act as a blue print for further action on development matters in the Tenth Plan and as the starting point for initiating work on the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) The road map for achieving the targeted growth rate of 7 – 8% during the last two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan is indicated in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, copies of which have already been placed in the parliament library.

(d) The NDC agreed to form a Sub-Committee for drawing up implementable action plans in agriculture and related issues. It was also decided to set up a committee separately under the Finance Minister to examine relevant issues relating to the debt burden of States and debt relief with reference to their debt outstanding against the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF).

(e) The sub-committee on agriculture is to be headed by the Agriculture Minister, whereas the committee to examine relevant issues relating to the debt burden of States and debt relief with reference to their debt outstanding against the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF), would be headed by the Finance Minister.

(f) The committees will be requested to submit their reports in time for the next meeting of the NDC.

Pending Applications for Telephone Connections

408. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications pending for new

telephone connections in Holakere, Jagalur, Harihar, Honnali, Channagiri, Chitradurga and Davangere Taluks of Karnataka;

(b) whether nearly 4000 applications are pending from 1999 onwards;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken to provide telephone connections to all the applicants; and

(e) the time by when all the applications for telephone connections are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The number of applications pending for new telephone connections as on 30.06.2005 is as follows:

Holakere	380
Jagalur	276
Harihar	219
Honnali	680
Channagiri	1191
Chitradurga	237
Davangere	446
Total	3429

(b) No Sir.

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

(d) Since most of the waiting list is in far flung, remote areas which cannot be covered economically on wireline, it is planned to clear the waiting list by extensive deployment of WLL technology. WLL equipment is planned in the Chitradurga and Devangere (including Harihar) SDCAs and the equipment is likely to be commissioned in Nov, 2005. At other places the WLL systems are working

and FWTs (Fixed Wireless Terminals) are being made available for providing the connections.

(e) The waiting list is planned to be cleared progressively by March, 2007.

[Translation]

Uniform STD Call Rate

409. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to have a uniform STD call rate on basic telephone line throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) While Government is working towards One India Call Rate, the proposed measure is at initial stage. No time-frame can be fixed for the same for its introduction.

[English]

Amount Sanctioned and Spent by Gujarat

410. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned/allocated/released for Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount spent/utilised in the Ninth Five Year Plan by the Gujarat Government;

(c) the amount refunded by the Gujarat Government;

(d) the main reasons for refunding the amount;

(e) the amount sanctioned/allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan, till now, to Gujarat; and

(f) the projects on which this amount has been utilised by the Gujarat Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) The total revised outlay and actual expenditure in respect of Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan are Rs.30019.62 crore and Rs.24657.98 crore respectively at current prices.

(c) and (d) The Annual Plan outlays of the states consist of State's Own Resources and Central Assistance. The entire amount of Central Assistance released was utilized by the state government.

(e) The projected outlay for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) of Gujarat is Rs.47,000 crore at current prices. The revised outlays of the Annual Plans 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05 add up to Rs.22949.79 crore. The approved outlay of Annual Plan 2005-06 of Gujarat is Rs.11,000 crore. The actual expenditure/revised outlays of the first three Annual Plans of the Tenth Plan add up to Rs.21597.68 crore.

(f) The plan allocation has been utilized by the state government for various projects/schemes in sectors such as agriculture, rural development, irrigation, energy, industry, transport and social services such as education, health, social welfare, nutrition etc.

Discretionary Fund of Chief Minister

411. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Ministers have a 'Discretionary Fund' for which funds are provided for or cleared by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, whether there is any criteria for allocation and usage;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government has any proposal in this regard for consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) Planning Commission does not give clearance or provide funds for "Discretionary Fund" of Chief Ministers.

(d) and (e) The Government does not have any proposal for creation of Discretionary Fund of Chief Minister.

Air Travel for LTC/Home Town

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

(a) whether the Central Government employees are entitled to All India Travel once in 4 years block and home town visit in 2 years block while in service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the lowest concessional air fare given now-a-days by various private airlines is almost same or a little higher than Rajdhani AC-3 Tier and AC-2 Tier fare;

(d) if so, whether the Government will consider to permit the employees to travel by air in concessional fare for home town/all India LTC travel according to their entitlement (AC3/2 Tier);

(e) if so, by when the Government proposes to issue orders in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government servants are entitled to Leave Travel Concession (LTC) to visit (i) home town once in a block of two calendar years; and (ii) any place

in India once in a block of four calendar years. However, LTC to any place in India shall be in lieu of and adjusted against home town LTC available to him at the commencement of the journey.

(c) Certain private airlines have introduced concessional fare schemes.

(d) No sir.

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

(f) The Central Civil Services (LTC) Rules, 1988 do not permit travel by private mode of transport.

[Translation]

Opening of Post Offices and Branch Post Offices in Jharkhand

413. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

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

(a) whether any target had been fixed to open new post offices and branch post offices in Jharkhand during the last two years;

(b) if so, the district-wise details of achievements in this regard;

(c) whether the target has been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (e) In 2003-04 target was given for opening of 6 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and one Departmental Sub Post, which were fully achieved.

In 2004-05 no targets were given under Plan. However where proposals were found to be justified, post offices

were to be opened by relocation of post offices which are located at a lesser distance than the prescribed norm. Accordingly, one non-delivery Sub Post Office has been opened at Ranchi High Court by relocation process during the year 2004-05. This approach is in consonance with the policy directives in the 10th Plan.

The details of district-wise achievements made in this regard are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

District-wise details of Post Offices opened in Jharkhand during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05

2003-2004

Sl. No.	Name of District	Type of Post offices opened	Number of post offices opened
1.	Hazaribagh	EDBO	01
2.	B. Deoghar	EDBO	01
3.	West Singhbhum	EDBOs	02
4.	Saraikela-kharsawan	EDBO	01
5.	Latehar	EDBO	01
6.	Ranchi	DSO	01

2004-05

1.	Ranchi	NDSO	01
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EDBO : Extra Departmental Branch Post Office.

DSO : Departmental Sub Post Office.

NDSO : Non-delivery Sub Post Office.

Sports Activities in Himachal Pradesh

414. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals received from Himachal Pradesh for sports activities during the current financial year alongwith the amount of money needed for establishing new infrastructural facilities;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal for modifying the system of financing the States for renovation and maintenance of sports facilities;

(c) if so, the impact of such modifications on the financial position of the State Governments particularly its effect on the performance of sports persons; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken up by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The Government had decided to transfer the Sports Infrastructure Schemes to state sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, no funds have been allocated during 2005-2006 for Sports Infrastructure Schemes. As such, the sports infrastructure project has to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. All Chief Secretaries of States including Himachal Pradesh were informed accordingly on 28.2.2005. In view thereof fresh proposals have not been entertained from Himachal Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No such evaluation is available.

(d) Does not arise.

Appointment of Private Secretaries

415. SHRI TUKARAM GANAPATRAO RENGE PATIL :
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the practice of posting of officers of the Indian Administrative Service as Private Secretaries of Central Ministers has been reviewed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action if any, taken to discontinue this practice; and

(d) the norms for appointing Private Secretaries to the Central Ministers?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) The norms for appointment of Private Secretary to a Central Minister, inter-alia, are : Willingness of the Officer; availability from his Cadre/Ministry/Department, as the case may be; vigilance clearance; Pre-enrolment verification for Non-Govt. official; should not be a Joint Secretary level officer.

Non-Commissioning of Mining Activities

416. SHRI SITARAM SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that even after having procured the coal mining licenses, certain firms are not starting their mining operations;

(b) if so, the names of such companies; and

(c) the reasons for non-commissioning of mining activities by such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) Mining leases in respect of allocated coal blocks are granted by the concerned State Government after obtaining the previous approval of the Central Government under the Mines & Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act. So far, the following companies have obtained mining leases and started production of coal in respect of blocks allocated to them.

1. Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation Sarishatoli Corporation

2. Indian aluminum Company Talabira-I Ltd.

3. West Bengal Power Development Corporation Tara (East) & Tara (West)

4. BLA Industries Ltd. Goititoria (East) Goititoria (West)

5. Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. Gare Palma IV/1

6. Monnet Ispat Ltd. Gare Palma IV/5

7. Central Collieries Company Ltd. Takli-Jena-Bellora (South) mining lease has been held void by the Revisional Authority in the Ministry of Coal.

[English]

Construction of N.H. between Vijayawada and Ranchi

417. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for the construction of National Highway between Vijayawada and Ranchi via Naxal affected areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the above National Highway is being constructed during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the allocation of fund made for the construction of the National Highway; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) A proposal, to declare the road from Vijayawada to Ranchi as National Highway, was received from the Government of Orissa. In February 2004 the Ministry had declared 7457 kms of State Roads as National Highways. At present, emphasis is being given

for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Opencast Expansion Projects of SECL

418. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved opencast expansion project of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of investment in each of these projects;

(c) the estimated production of coal in these mines per year; and

(d) the areas/industries which are likely to be benefited?

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

(b) and (c) The details of the projects alongwith the capital investment are given below:

S. No.	Detail	Gevra Expansion OC	Dipka Expansion OC
1.	Target Output	25 Mty	20 Mty
2.	Manpower (Nos.)	2725	2200
3.	O/S (Tonnes)	34.75	34.44
4.	Total Capital Investment	Rs.1667.55 crores	Rs.1268.53 crores

(d) Power, Captive Power Plants, Sponge Iron, Cement and other industries are likely to be benefited.

National Umpire Academy

419. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of National Umpires, discipline-wise, at present in the country;

(b) whether the Government has not paid adequate attention to establish a National Umpire Academy for various disciplines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme to improve the level of umpiring in the country; and

(e) if so, the salient features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The National Umpires are certified by concerned National Sports Federation, which is an autonomous organization registered under Societies Registration Act 1860. As such Government of India does not maintain record of the number of Umpires in the Country.

(b) There is no proposal to establish a National Umpire Academy by Government of India.

(c) 'Sports' is a State subject. Moreover, the responsibility for development of individual sports disciplines is with the concerned National and State level Sports Federations. However, Government of India supports and facilitates the efforts of State Governments and National Sports Federations through various schemes with the twin objectives of 'Broadbasing of Sports Policy 2001.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport is already implementing a scheme entitled "Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training", under which, inter-alia, sports specialists, coaches, umpires and sports scientists are supported for undergoing advanced training course to enable them to update knowledge in their respective fields.

[Translation]

Non-Filling of Sand in Mine Pit

420. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether adequate quantity of sand was not filled while closing the underground Majri Mine No.2 under WCL leading to cracks resulting in subsidence of land at Nagar Basti;

(b) If so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by WCL to save the nearby Nagar Basti from a major disaster in future due to the appearance of cracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir. As reported by Coal India Ltd., working beneath Nagar Basti is fully sand stowed and there is unlikely chance of cracks or subsidence due to mining operations. Adequate quantity of sand was filled in underground working wherever depillaring was done. Crack in question have occurred at a distance of more than 500 Metres outskirts of Nagar Basti in an area below which only development has been done and no sand stowing is required in such underground development area. No dwellings are situated over the subsided area and as such there is no danger due to subsidence to Nagar Basti.

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

[English]

Re-opening of Stilwel Road

421. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether China and India have recently started working on plans to reopen the Stilwel road between the two countries through Myanmar which would reduce the detour between the two nations from over 6,000 kms. to just 1,300 kms;

(b) if so, the status of the matter at present and the respective stand of India, Myanmar and China in this regard; and

(c) the details of benefits likely to be accrued to these countries as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Government of India has discussed the possibility of improving road connectivity with Myanmar and China. However, the question of reopening of Stilwell road has not been discussed.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Committee on Infrastructure

422. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has constituted a committee on infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details regarding minimum investment required in the field of infrastructure;

(c) the details regarding the priority sectors of the said committee;

(d) whether there is any proposal to promote Government's participation in all the infrastructure related projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Committee on Infrastructure, to begin with, has taken up Roads, Ports, Airports and Railways sectors. The investment envisaged, according to initial estimates, are Rs.1,72,000 crores in Highways sector by 2012, Rs. 40,000 crores in the Airports sectors by 2010 and Rs.50,000 crores in the Ports sectors by 2012.

(d) and (e) In airports, roads and ports sectors, Model Concession Agreements are being developed to maximize Public Private Partnerships. At the same time, public

investments are being stepped up coupled with revamping of AAI, NHAI and Ports Trusts.

[English]

Information Technology Policy

423. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any information technology policy;

(b) if so, whether the Government has included villages in the Strategy of expanding Information technology under the above policy;

(c) if so, the main objectives of the above Information technology policy; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the above mentioned policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Payment of Dues to WCL

424. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Western Coal Fields Limited is not getting payment from the Maharashtra State Electricity Board regularly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount due to MSED against sale of coal; and

(d) the steps proposed by the WCL for early realisation of dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) is receiving payments from Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) against current supplies. In order to ensure timely and regular payments of coal bills, MSEB has opened an "Irrevocable Revolving Letter of Credit" in favour of WCL in terms of provision of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA).

(c) Total outstanding dues of sale of coal from WCL against MSEB stands at Rs.66.53 crores as on 30.6.2005.

(d) Bilateral meetings are held between WCL and MSEB to resolve the payment issue in terms of provisions of FSA and understanding reached from time to time. In the last meeting held during April, 2005 it was agreed that the disputed dues shall be settled at the Director's level of MSEB and WCL.

New R and D Centres of ISRO

425. SHRI TAPIR GAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has any proposal to set up Research and Development Centres in the country particularly in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steps to Increase Software Exports

426. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether software exports from Karnataka jumped 52 percent during 2004-05 touching Rs.27,600 crores.

(b) if so, the main reasons for this increase and the extent to which it registered increase over the previous years;

(c) the target fixed for software exports from Karnataka during the current year;

(d) the total additional jobs created in IT sector during the said period; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union/State Governments to increase the software exports and jobs during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The value of software exports from Karnataka has increased from Rs.18,100 crore in 2003-04 to Rs.27600 crore in the year 2004-2005, registering a growth rate of 52% over the preceding year.

(b) The main reasons include:

- Global economy is in rising mode.
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is fast developing
- ICT friendly atmosphere in the state.

(c) The expected growth of software exports from Karnataka during the year 2005-06 is about 28-30% of the previous year.

(d) An additional 50,000 jobs are estimated to be created in Karnataka.

(e) The following steps are being taken by DIT, Govt. of India through its STPI (Software Technology Parks of India) and Government of Karnataka to increase software exports:

- Promoting the secondary cities at Mangalore, Mysore, Hubli, and Gulbarga in Karnataka.

— A Technology Park with state-of-the-art facilities has been set up at Hubli.

— Earth stations and incubation centers are being set up at Belgaum and Gulbarga cities.

Complaints Pending With CVC

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

(a) the number of complaints pending with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for more than four weeks concerning corruption;

(b) the reasons for delay in disposing off the complaints;

(c) the time by when these complaints will be disposed off;

(d) whether the Central Vigilance Commissioner has written to Government to take steps to tighten its vigilance over the Kendriya Bhandar; and

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

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

(a) to (c) As per the information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the number of complaints that were sent for investigation and report during the last one year and are pending with the Departments/Organizations is 458. The CVC sends the complaints to the CVOs of various organizations for investigation and report. The receipt of the reports are reviewed and monitored by the Commission to reduce the time taken in investigation of complaints.

(d) and (e) The CVC has written a letter stating that Kendriya Bhandar should follow the procedure prescribed by the CVC for maintaining the registers for handling of

complaints etc. CVC has also advised that Kendriya Bhandar should furnish quarterly progress reports of Stores/Purchase contracts; Price agreements etc. awarded to various suppliers. Kendriya Bhandar has informed that they have complied with both the instructions.

Infant Mortality Rate

428. SHRI M.APPADURAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) The details of the infant mortality rate, State-wise; and

(b) The budget allocated during the last three years to check/prevent the infant mortality, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Statewise details of Infant Mortality rate, as provided under the Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India for 2003 are given in statement-I. Data on Infant Mortality Rate subsequent to 2003 is not yet available.

(b) Child Health is an integral component of the ongoing Reproductive Child Health Programme (RCH) which aims at reducing Infant/maternal mortality and Total Fertility Rate. Funds for Child Health interventions are provided to the States as part of the overall RCH Budget. The releases made for this programme to various States/ Union Territories during the past three years are enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

S.No.	States	2003
1	2	3
	All India	60
1.	Andhra Pradesh	59

1	2	3
2.	Assam	67
3.	Bihar	60
4.	Chhatisgarh	70
5.	Gujarat	57
6.	Haryana	59
7.	Jharkhand	51
8.	Karnataka	52
9.	Kerala	11
10.	Madhya Pradesh	82
11.	Maharashtra	42
12.	Orissa	83
13.	Punjab	49
14.	Rajasthan	75
15.	Tamil Nadu	43
16.	Uttar Pradesh	76
17.	West Bengal	46
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	34
19.	Delhi	28
20.	Goa	16
21.	Himachal Pradesh	49
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	44
23.	Manipur	16
24.	Meghalaya	57
25.	Mizoram	16

1	2	3
26.	Nagaland	NA
27.	Sikkim	33
28.	Tripura	32
29.	Uttaranchal	41
30.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	18
31.	Chandigarh	19
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	54
33.	Daman and Diu	39
34.	Lakshadweep	26
35.	Pondicherry	24

Source : Sample Registration System, Registrar General, India

Statement-II

State-Wise Releases on RCH Programme for the Period 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/UT	2002-03 Releases	2003-04 Releases	2004-05* Releases
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1590.69	3344.30	3133.38
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	269.20	145.50	319.46
3.	Assam	745.28	1462.12	2810.76
4.	Bihar	3834.74	3731.31	3895.36
5.	Chhatisgarh	1190.93	1305.46	1137.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	15.47	16.67	16.37
7.	Gujarat	1399.12	1742.49	8718.02
8.	Haryana	1007.86	2177.80	1976.01
9.	Himachal Pradesh	411.41	665.90	497.32
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	426.53	206.20	264.31
11.	Jharkhand	781.05	1003.11	1341.65
12.	Karnataka	2883.78	827.02	1057.00
13.	Kerala	711.76	891.95	638.32
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1582.10	2517.87	4059.46
15.	Maharashtra	1528.13	3472.98	3486.68
16.	Manipur	402.44	434.24	258.46
17.	Meghalaya	70.80	78.79	111.33
18.	Mizoram	733.36	335.18	502.19
19.	Nagaland	173.62	253.43	246.51
20.	Orissa	690.55	954.70	1854.70
21.	Punjab	275.45	376.52	559.08
22.	Rajasthan	1610.99	4119.19	2797.98
23.	Sikkim	91.10	15.10	328.35
24.	Tamil Nadu	1688.91	1220.86	1447.41
25.	Tripura	154.22	78.61	119.38
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9569.69	12525.56	14577.83
27.	Uttaranchal	424.61	703.83	410.38
28.	West Bengal	1640.14	3278.19	3356.74
Total All States		35903.93	47884.88	59921.44

1	2	3	4	5
UTs with Legislature				
1. Delhi		354.06	770.61	1044.45
2. Pondicherry		25.85	25.78	82.13
UTs without Legislature				
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		13.53	26.43	25.76
2. Chandigarh		17.86	19.11	19.58
3. Dadar and Nagar Haveli		6.18	9.66	5.30
4. Daman and Diu		25.41	7.31	13.48
5. Lakshdweep		14.16	10.24	7.31
Total (UTs)		457.05	869.14	1198.01
Grand Total		36360.98	48754.02	61119.45

Condition of Pilibhit-Basti N.H.

429. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the condition of Pilibhit-Basti National Highway has deteriorated over the years;

(b) if so, whether the National Highways Authority of India has sought World bank assistance to repair the Pilibhit-Basti Highway;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to develop Pilibhit-Basti National Highway?

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

K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Pilibhit to Basti is not a National Highway. It is a State Highway. However Pilibhit is connected with Basti through three National Highways viz. NH-74 from Pilibhit to Bareilly, NH-24 from Bareilly to Lucknow and NH-28 from Lucknow to Basti. All these three National Highway sections are being kept in traffic worthy condition.

(b) to (d) Lucknow to Basti section of NH-28 is proposed to be 4-laned under National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-II through World Bank assistance and award of civil work is in advance stage. Bareilly to Lucknow section of NH-24 is proposed to be 4-laned under NHDP Phase-III on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis and bid for the portion 'Sitapur-Lucknow' has already been invited. Apart from normal Maintenance, development works amounting to Rs.311 lakhs have been sanctioned during the last three years in Pilibhit – Bareilly section of NH-74.

Condoms for Women

430. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to introduce condoms for women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has prepared a concept note to introduce condoms for women as part of targeted intervention strategy of NACO. Under the programme, the distribution of condoms for women as a pilot scheme with limited funds from NACO would be made through leading Social Marketing Organizations in metropolitan cities. The proposal is in its initial stages of consideration with regard to its cost, subsidy, procurement and distribution network on pilot basis.

pesticides in Human Blood

431. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of Center for Science and Environment about high levels of pesticides content in human blood in rural Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi has published the levels on residues of various pesticides in human blood in rural Punjab. According to their report out of 20 Blood samples collected randomly from 4 villages of Punjab are reported to contain organo-chlorine pesticides, organo-phosphate pesticides etc. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has stated that the CSE report itself states that the observed trend for DDT and HCH are comparatively lower than the earlier reports from India and nowhere in the report it is mentioned that the Punjab farmers are at higher risk.

According to information received from the Government of Punjab, they have instituted a study by the Chemical Examiner, Patiala who has tested 235 samples of Human Blood drawn at random from rural areas of Punjab for presence of pesticides like Organo Phosphorus Compounds, Chloro Compound, Aluminium Phosphide, Zinc Phosphide and Carbonate Group. But it was found that none of the samples contained the above mentioned pesticides.

Pachmarhi Ayurvedic Clinics

432. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the

Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pachmarhi Ayurvedic Clinics are facing a tough time because of the forest department's strict vigil on the unauthorized cultivation and collection of medicinal plants and herbs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government or proposed to be taken to provide Ayurvedic consultancy for diabetes, cardiac problems and impotency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As per the information given by Director, Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, Madhya Pradesh, there is only one Govt. Ayurvedic Dispensary running in Pachmarhi which is not facing any such problem. Supply of medicine to this dispensary is made by the State Government.

(c) Consultancy for diabetes, cardiac problems and impotency is generally available in Govt. Ayurvedic Hospitals/Dispensaries.

Implementation of Right to Information Act

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

(a) whether the Government has directed the member-States of the eastern Zonal Council to ensure proper implementation of the recently enacted Right to Information Bill in their respective States; and

(b) if so, the extent to which these States have been able to implement the same in their States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) A copy of 'The Right to Information Act, 2005' has been forwarded to all State Governments, including member-

States of Eastern Zonal Council, with request that they may take necessary action to set up the infrastructure by the time the Act comes into force.

(b) Since the Act has not yet become operational, no evaluation of the extent of its implementation by the States is possible at this stage.

Derogatory Depiction of Mahatma Gandhi

434. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government is aware that an Indian Fast food franchisee outlet in New South Wales, Australia is using an image of Mahatma Gandhi and his name in their Menu, on their food packs and on the web site to promote sale of their products.

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard, and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop such derogatory depiction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) It has come to the notice of the Government that a company in New South Wales, Australia is using the image of Mahatma Gandhi and his name, with a different spelling, in their commercial establishments.

(b) and (c) The matter was taken up by the Indian Consul General directly with the owner of the establishment and also through the concerned Australian agencies. Some non-governmental organizations and individuals have also taken up the matter with the company. As a result of these efforts, the company has changed the image of Mahatma Gandhi on their logo, but the name continues to be used. Efforts to stop them from using the name are still going on.

[Translation]

Indians in Pak Jails

435. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Indian prisoners are languishing in various Pakistani jails particularly in Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get them released at the earliest;

(d) whether Pakistan has released some Indian fishermen recently;

(e) if so the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is aware that their boats were not returned by Pakistan; and

(g) if so, the facts in this regard and the action taken by the Government to get the rest of the fishermen and their boats released from captivity.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Yes. According to available information, there are about 923 civilian prisoners, 371 fishermen and 54 Prisoners of War in Pakistani jails. However, Pakistan has acknowledged the presence of 182 civilian prisoners only and does not acknowledge presence of any Indian POWs in Pakistan.

(c) The Government has persistently taken up the matter of release of Indian prisoners through diplomatic channels and high level contacts from time to time.

During the Foreign Secretary level talks held on December 27-28, 2004 at Islamabad it was agreed that immediate notification would be provided to the respective High Commissions through the Foreign Ministries of the arrested Indian/Pakistani nationals, consular access would be given to all the civilian prisoners (including fishermen)

held in each other's country within three months from the date of their arrest and repatriation would be done immediately after completion of sentence and nationality verification.

During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan from February 15-17, 2005 and during the visit of President of Pakistan to India from April 16-18, 2005, the issue of early release and repatriation of all the Indian fishermen along with their boats was taken up.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Pakistan released 800 Indian fishermen between January and March 2005, viz 266 on January 06 and 534 on March 22, 2005.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. There are about 198 Indian fishing boats in Pakistan's custody which were detained between October 2003 and April 2005. The Government has repeatedly taken up the matter with Pakistan.

[English]

Allocation of Fund To Sports Schools

436. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the annual allocation of fund to various sports schools in the country during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether the allocated funds had been fully spent by the schools during the said period;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) There is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to fund sports schools in the country. As such, no annual allocation is made for this purpose. However, under the National Sports Talent Contest Scheme of Sports Authority of India (SAI) schools are adopted by SAI for scientific training of talented children in the age group of 8 to 14.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Polio Programmes

437. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by the Government for various programmes launched to eradicate polio during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the number of polio cases reported in different States during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The Government of India launched Pulse Polio Immunization Programme to eradicate Polio.

The amount spent during the last three years is as under:—

	(Rs. in crores)
2002-03	432.11
2003-04	659.94
2004-05	925.24

(b) A Statement in enclosed.

Statement

Polio Cases for 2003 to 2005

(upto 25th June, 2005)

S. No.	Name of the State/Ut	Wild Poliovirus		
		2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21	1	0
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
4. Assam		1	0	0
5. Bihar		18	39	8
6. Chandigarh		0	0	0
7. Chhattisgarh		0	0	0
8. Dadar and Nagar Haveli		0	0	0
9. Daman and Diu		0	0	0
10. Delhi		3	2	1
11. Goa		0	0	0
12. Gujarat		3	0	0
13. Haryana		3	2	0
14. Himachal Pradesh		0	0	0
15. Jammu and Kashmir		0	0	0
16. Jharkhand		1	0	1
17. Karnataka		36	1	0
18. Kerala		0	0	0
19. Lakshadweep		0	0	0
20. Madhya Pradesh		11	0	0
21. Maharashtra		3	3	0
22. Manipur		0	0	0
23. Meghalaya		0	0	0
24. Mizoram		0	0	0
25. Nagaland		0	0	0
26. Orissa		2	0	0
27. Pondicherry		0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
28. Punjab		1	0	0
29. Rajasthan		4	0	0
30. Sikkim		0	0	0
31. Tamil Nadu		2	1	0
32. Tripura		0	0	0
33. Uttaranchal		0	1	1
34. Uttar Pradesh		88	82	7
35. West Bengal		28	2	0
Total		225	134	18

Spurt in Diseases during Monsoon

438. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that during the monsoon there is a spurt in various diseases resulting in child deaths especially of infants due to pneumonia; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Seasonal rise of water and vector borne disease is normally observed with the start of the rainy season, however, the rise of pneumonia cases is seen in winter months only. Season and age-wise data in respect of various diseases is not centrally maintained. State-wise cases and deaths due to Penumonia reported during last few years is at Annexure.

For prevention and control of various such diseases,

National Programmes like National Anti-Malaria Programme; National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases, have been implemented in the country. An Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme has been launched to strengthen the mechanism of surveillance of

various diseases in the country. The preventive measures taken by local health authorities to prevent outbreak of water borne diseases include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, surveillance and monitoring etc.

Statement

State-wise cases and deaths due to pneumonia reported during 2000-2004

Sl No.	State/U.T.	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36525	92	38566	79	44386	60	65590	149	98890	192
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	1337	16	NR	NR
3.	Assam	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
4.	Bihar	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
6.	Goa	430	2	351	1	130	2	226	0	193	0
7.	Gujarat	6054	27	7680	26	5845	32	8332	48	18438	82
8.	Haryana	7416	35	10268	25	2395	14	7070	42	7644	45
9.	Himachal Pradesh	35893	110	33947	60	37578	83	31813	73	28083	62
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	13339	1	10177	0	35220	0	114414	1	79238	1
11.	Jharkhand	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
12.	Karnataka	69332	245	67002	335	8897	91	58971	292	53890	224

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13.	Kerala	23399	94	24630	53	18713	62	26665	50	18932	37
14.	Madhya Pradesh	21636	35	27142	31	27225	86	34559	71	43717	44
15.	Maharashtra	35985	497	21808	543	14779	434	23104	431	17783	324
16.	Manipur	10793	21	979	21	902	10	1150	7	913	0
17.	Meghalaya	4206	16	5277	25	6618	33	3815	32	12761	20
18.	Mizoram	3632	13	3102	33	3866	44	4093	46	3905	59
19.	Nagaland	902	3	583	0	254	0	718	0	585	0
20.	Orissa	35629	375	20340	221	22065	269	13503	177	10366	124
21.	Punjab	2318	9	4621	44	0	0	2146	42	5313	33
22.	Rajasthan	61172	216	90017	414	102197	379	95151	280	79560	300
23.	Sikkim	427	19	1389	7	2451	5	2159	14	2726	15
24.	Tamil Nadu	4783	7	4511	3	6084	1	—	—	5082	0
25.	Tripura	3218	20	3623	25	1702	9	191	8	4891	34
26.	Uttar Pradesh	36873	64	45973	44	8093	8	17244	35	2045	3
27.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR	NR
28.	West Bengal	70518	790	91730	985	76234	1315	70990	1192	48177	859
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69	3	129	3	22	1	233	10	345	6
30.	Chandigarh	2635	22	2714	25	1996	22	3220	58	1493	2
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	644	5	1067	24	721	13
32.	Daman and Diu	10	0	2	0	5	0	4	0	5	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
33.	Delhi	25046	854	22530	3167	34420	713	34562	950	32379	396
34.	Lakshadweep	250	1	163	1	103	1	232	4	168	1
35.	Pondicherry	7431	33	7499	19	20983	19	15647	31	12131	15
Total		519921	3604	546780	6190	483807	3698	638206	2083	593374	2891

Source : CBHI, Ministry of health & F.W.

Note: 1. *For the year 2000, separate figures are not available for the newly formed three states. Hence, cases and deaths, if any, in Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal are included in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

2. N.R. implies not received.

Unspent Fund under MPLADS

439. SHRI D.P. SAROJ : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any plan to release the unspent fund under the MPLAD Scheme through the existing Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, any time frame has been fixed in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the quantum of funds lying unspent under the MPLADS in the country, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) As per existing Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme, the unspent balance after meeting all committed liabilities in respect of Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) is automatically available for the works recommended by the successor MPs.

In respect of elected Members of Rajya Sabha, the

unspent balance left by predecessor Members of Rajya Sabha in a particular State is equally distributed among the successor Rajya Sabha Members in that particular State or Union Territory.

The unspent balance left by the Nominated Members of Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha will be equally distributed amongst the successor Nominated Members of Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha respectively.

(b) No time frame has been fixed.

(c) Fixing of time frame for the distribution of unspent balance is not possible, as this is done after meeting the expenditures of all sanctioned works recommended by the predecessor MP.

(d) As per the reports received from the District Authorities, Rs.2060.65 crore are available as unspent balance as on 30.6.2005. This includes unspent balance on the account of former and current MPs. State-wise details in this regard are given in the statement Nodal District-wise details are available in the monthly report for the period ending 30.6.2005, a copy of which has been supplied to the Parliament Library and the same is also available on the website www.mplads.nic.in.

Statement**Statewise Release of Funds/Expenditure of Members of Parliament as on 30/06/2005**

Sl. No.	State	Released by G.O.I (Rs. Crore)	Amount available with Nodal District with Interest etc. (Rs. Crore)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Crore)	% Sanctioned over Release	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Crore)	% Utilisation over Release	Unspent Balance (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Nominated	192.05	194.22	169.43	88.22	148.01	77.07	46.21
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1115.95	1137.02	10.8729	97.43	966.00	86.56	171.02
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	57.15	57.84	53.65	93.88	53.63	93.84	4.22
4.	Assam	397.55	405.52	366.82	92.27	350.05	88.05	55.48
5.	Bihar	1005.35	1020.11	939.53	93.45	856.35	85.18	163.76
6.	Goa	51.15	53.66	55.88	109.24	46.47	90.84	7.20
7.	Gujarat	644.35	659.94	637.95	99.01	571.86	88.75	88.08
8.	Haryana	274.25	278.30	251.35	91.65	234.93	85.66	43.37
9.	Himachal Pradesh	125.30	127.46	117.19	93.53	112.03	89.41	15.44
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	142.50	145.31	136.95	96.10	112.59	79.01	32.72
11.	Karnataka	727.00	744.74	710.78	97.77	662.92	91.19	81.82
12.	Kerala	477.95	502.63	507.68	106.15	414.88	86.80	87.75
13.	Madhya Pradesh	752.60	765.68	706.51	93.88	664.40	88.28	101.28
14.	Maharashtra	1182.75	1224.54	1194.70	101.01	1042.65	88.15	181.89
15.	Manipur	57.15	57.58	53.81	94.16	48.64	85.12	8.93
16.	Meghalaya	53.15	53.69	49.47	93.08	49.47	93.08	4.22
17.	Mizoram	38.10	38.30	36.06	94.64	36.11	94.77	2.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18.	Nagaland	38.10	38.18	33.10	86.88	33.10	86.88	5.08
19.	Orissa	565.00	573.33	521.43	92.29	471.52	83.45	101.81
20.	Punjab	357.55	363.69	339.12	94.85	299.71	83.82	63.98
21.	Rajasthan	646.25	654.55	610.27	94.43	566.38	87.64	88.18
22.	Sikkim	38.10	38.63	36.12	94.80	32.37	84.96	6.26
23.	Tamil Nadu	1067.35	1090.65	1029.52	96.46	998.55	93.55	92.10
24.	Tripura	56.15	56.37	53.17	94.69	47.99	85.47	8.38
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2067.70	2091.35	1890.87	91.45	1794.28	86.78	297.06
26.	West Bengal	933.35	955.76	923.40	98.93	805.71	86.32	150.05
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19.05	19.50	17.12	89.88	17.42	91.46	2.08
28.	Chandigarh	19.05	19.54	17.50	91.84	17.30	90.82	2.24
29.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	17.05	17.61	16.38	96.05	15.76	92.43	1.85
30.	Daman and Diu	19.05	19.20	17.52	91.96	16.58	87.04	2.62
31.	Delhi	157.95	162.19	155.19	98.25	134.51	85.16	27.68
32.	Lakshdweep	15.05	16.37	12.47	82.83	11.26	74.84	5.11
33.	Pondicherry	33.10	35.71	36.12	109.12	27.76	83.87	7.95
34.	Chhattisgarh	280.65	284.29	261.53	93.19	250.20	89.15	34.09
35.	Uttaranchal	131.25	132.90	117.78	89.74	108.19	82.43	24.71
36.	Jharkhand	302.75	307.53	283.64	93.69	263.66	87.09	43.86
Total		14058.80	14343.91	13446.99	95.65	12283.26	87.37	2060.65

High Cost of Medical Treatment

321. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the high cost of medical treatment is one of the causes of indebtedness among the rural people as reported in The Hindu dated March 27, 2005;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of treatment in order to make it affordable to the rural people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) High cost of private medical treatment, may have been one of the causes of indebtedness, in rural people. The National Sample Survey report, 1995-96, has estimated that the rural population spent, on an average, Rs.2,080 for a hospitalised treatment in a public sector hospital and Rs.4,300 for that in a private sector hospital.

(e) A Community Based Universal Health Insurance Scheme (CBUHIS) is under implementation in selected parts of the country which provides hospitalisation cover upto Rs.30,000 on payment of a premium of Rs.365 per annum. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 states, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. By introducing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), it is proposed to standardise CHCs. It aims at integration of all vertical programmes and through Rogi Kalyan Samities, the health centres/hospitals are proposed to be monitored by the community and made accountable. Sub-centres would be strengthened by supply of essential drugs, both Allopathic and AYUSH. PHCs are proposed to be strengthened by adequate and regular supply of essential drugs. Mobile Medical Units with requisite specialised facilities, wherever required are proposed to be made available to under served areas in the country. In addition, other provision such as untied fund per Sub-centre for local action, provision of additional ANMs wherever needed, provision of a female Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), provision of second doctor at PHC

level and creation of new Community Health Centres to meet the population norms as per 2001 census and bearing their recurring cost for the Mission period would be considered. In effect, health care delivery will be made accessible and affordable to the people.

[Translation]

Agreement between India and Atomic Institute of Europe

441. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD :
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of India has signed an agreement with an atomic institute of Europe;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the basis of the agreement; and
- (d) the progress made so far after the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of India represented by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) had signed an agreement of Co-operation with "The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)" in 1991. Subsequently a protocol was signed in 1996 whereby India joined in the construction and utilisation of the largest particle accelerator in the world viz. Large Hadron Collider (LHC). This has enabled Scientists and engineers from various National Laboratories and Universities to participate in frontline research in Physics.

(c) The agreement was the result of long standing co-operation between the Indian Scientists and CERN for over two decades and the agreement laid down the foundation for future co-operation in the development and utilisation of largest particle accelerator of the world.

(d) India has contributed a number of LHC

components and is also participating in the construction of two detectors, namely, Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) and A Large Ion Collider Experiment (ALICE). All the activities have made commendable progress and Indian contribution has won appreciation from all quarters.

[English]

Shortage of Mobile Connection

442. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is an acute shortage of Mobile connection in the country, particularly in Basirhat, in North 24 Pargana district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the remedial steps taken up by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by when the shortage of Mobile connection is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, there are Private Mobile Operators besides Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) providing mobile service throughout the country. No acute shortage of mobile connections has been reported from any of the Private Mobile Service Providers. However, mobile connections of BSNL are not being released presently in some areas in the country due to network capacity constraints.

(b) and (c) BSNL is augmenting its mobile network by around 14 million lines during the current financial year. In regard to Basirhat, the mobile capacity has been augmented from 4200 lines to 5200 lines by BSNL and new connections are being released there since June 2005. Further, BSNL has taken action for the augmentation of its mobile network at Basirhat by 4000 lines by December 2005.

Introduction of New National Telecom Policy

443. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN :
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to evolve a new National Telecom Policy 2005; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal and the present status of the proposal?

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

(b) The proposed policy is intended to be a comprehensive policy encompassing various aspects of the Telecom sector inter-alia, Access, Spectrum Allocation, Technology, Telecom Equipment Manufacturing, R&D, Deregulation/further Simplification, Value Added Services and Quality of Service etc. Comments have been invited from various major stakeholders for preparation of Draft Policy.

Medical Facilities to Diabetic Patients

444. SHRI HITEN BARMAN :
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the number of diabetic patients in the country is increasing day by day particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the total number of diabetic patients in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb the steep rise in diabetic patients;

(f) the total amount earmarked in the Budget to fight the disease in each State; and

(g) the details of hospitals in which the diabetic patients can get free treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (g) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) there is epidemiological evidence showing increase in prevalence of diabetes particularly in urban areas of the country. According to the revised estimates of the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are 32 million diabetics in the country. WHO has projected 80 million diabetics in India by 2030.

The epidemiological evidence showing increase in prevalence of diabetes particularly in urban areas of the country is probably because of ageing, unhealthy diet, obesity, sedentary life style and better detection facilities.

Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. Since diabetes is a life style related disease, it is very important to adopt preventive life style intervention for control of diabetes among children and adults in the country. These interventions are emphasised through information, education & communication activities of the Government including through Central Health Education Bureau. This component has been incorporated in the National Programme for Control of Diabetes & Cardio Vascular Diseases (CVD) for which this Ministry has sought in principle approval from the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Roads taken over by NHAI in Bihar

445. SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN : Will the Minister

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

(a) the number of roads taken over by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in the country particularly in Bihar from 2000 to 2004-05 alongwith their names and their length in Kms, district-wise;

(b) whether the roads taken over have not been repaired so far;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to repair such roads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The details are enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The roads are maintained in traffic worthy condition prior to commencement of 4/6 laning through State PWDs. During the period of construction, roads are maintained through civil work contractors. After completion of work, the roads are maintained through Operation and Maintenance contracts.

Statement

Sl. No.	NH No.	District	Length (In Kms.)
1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu			
1.	7	Krishnagiri	19.2
2.	7	Dharmapuri	50.2
3.	7	Salem	54.2
4.	7	Namakkal	61
5.	7	Karur	66.4

1	2	3	4
6.	7	Dindigul	64.0
7.	7	Madurai	55.2
8.	7	Virudhunagar	50.80
9.	7	Thoothukodi	39.80
10.	7	Tirunelveli	96.20
11.	7	Kanniakumari	7.20
12.	7A	Tirunelvelli	10.88
13.	7A	Thoothukudi	40.22
14.	45B	Trichurapalli, Sivagangai, Madurai	125
15.	47	Salem	45.0
16.	47	Namakkal	12.0
17.	47	Erode	43.0
18.	47	Coimbatore	82.0
19.	45	Chennai	11.7
Rajasthan			
1.	76	Udaipur	154.275
2.	76	Chittorgarh	131
3.	76	Bhilwara	43
4.	76	Bundi	40
5.	76	Kota	60
6.	76	Baran	141
7.	76	Sirohai	21.4
8.	14	Sirohai	60

1	2	3	4
9.	8	Jaipur	97.3
10.	8	Ajmer	27.88
11.	79A	Ajmer	35
12.	79	Ajmer	55
13.	79	Bhilwara	50
14.	79	Chittorgarh	63
Assam			
1.	31C	Kokajhar, Bongaigaon	93
2.	31	Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup	163
3.	37	Kamrup, Morigaon, Nangaon	120.605
4.	36	Nagaon	38
5.	54	Nagaon, NC Hills, Cachar	309
West Bengal			
1.	2	Howrah District	0.273
2.	2	North 24 Paragnas	2
3.	41	Purba Midnapore	52.7
4.	31	Uttar Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri	134
5.	31C	Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar	149.5
Maharashtra			
1.	7	Nagpur	117
2.	7	Wardha	64.5
3.	7	Yavatmal	65.6
4.	4B	Raigad	26.427

1	2	3	4
5.	4	Raigad	3.5
Madhya Pradesh			
1.	3	Morena	43.00
2.	75	Gwalior	85
3.	26	Sagar	155.30
4.	26	Narsingpur	90
5.	7	Seoni	133.5
6.	76	Shivpuri	31
7.	25	Shivpuri	83.3
8.	25	Datia	3.3
Delhi			
1.	1	Delhi North	8
2.	1	Delhi North West	13.10
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	7	Adilabad	109.4
2.	7	Nizamabad	113.2
3.	7	Medak	48.8
4.	7	Mahbubnagar	168.2
5.	7	Kurnool	90.0
6.	7	Anantpur	170.60
Goa			
1.	17B	South Goa	20.5
Karnataka			
1.	7	Kolar	53.40
2.	7	Bangalore Rural	4.5

1	2	3	4
3.	7	Bangalore Urban	13
4.	17	Dakshin Kannada	17.3
5.	48	Dakshin Kannada	17
6.	13	Dakshin Kannada	1.1
7.	4	Bangalore Rural	21.5
Orissa			
1.	5A	Jajpur	21
2.	5A	Kendrapara	45
3.	5A	Jagatsinghpur	11
Kerala			
1.	47	Palakkad	66.675
2.	47	Thrissur	63.525
3.	47	Ernakulam	39.85
Bihar			
1.	28	Gopalganj	63
2.	28	East Champaran	64
3.	28	Muzaffarpur	33
4.	57	Muzaffarpur	43.80
5.	57	Darbhanga	38.20
6.	57	Madhubani	57
7.	57	Supual	81
8.	57	Araria	68
9.	57	Purnea	22
10.	57A	Araria	10

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
11.	28A	East Champaran	66.70	22.	25	Lucknow	27.930
12.	31	Purnea, Katihar	28	23.	3	Agra	31
Uttar Pradesh				24.	75	Jhansi	18
1.	28	Lucknow	16.7	25.	26	Jhansi	38.40
2.	28	Barabanki	75.3	26.	26	Lalitpur	93.30
3.	28	Faizabad	46	Haryana			
4.	28	Gonda	5.4	1.	1	Sonepat	36.7
5.	28	Basti	68.6	2.	1	Panipat	35
6.	28	Santkabir Nagar	28.6	3.	1	Kamal	51
7.	28	Gorakhpur	46.8	4.	1	Kurukshetra	36
8.	28	Kushinagar	70.53	5.	1	Ambala	23
9.	28	Deoria	2.64	Punjab			
10.	28C	Barabanki	92	1.	1A	Jalandhar	29.57
11.	28C	Bahraich	58.80	2.	1A	Hoshiyarpur	51
12.	29	Gorakhpur	49.40	3.	1A	Gurudaspur	18.885
13.	29	Maharajganj	55	4.	1	Patiala	33
14.	24	Ghaziabad	34.5	5.	1	Fategarh	23
15.	24	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	52.5	6.	1	Ludhiana	59
16.	24	Moradabad	4.25	7.	1	Jalandhar	26
17.	25	Jhansi	90	8.	1	Kapurthala	16
18.	25	Jalaun	75	Himachal Pradesh			
19.	25	Kanpur Rural	10	1.	1A	Kangara	11.075
20.	25	Kanpur City	3.720	Gujarat			
21.	25	Unnao	49	1.	14	Banaskntha	140.6

1	2	3	4
2.	14	Patan	11
3.	15	Patan	67.350
4.	15	Kutch	73.950
5.	8A	Kutch	82.070
6.	8A	Rajkot	97.490
7.	8B	Porbandar	60
8.	8B	Rajkot	123.00

[English]

Growth Rate of Tenth Plan

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

(a) the present pace of growth rate in the country as per the mid-term appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government has a proposal to increase the production of various sectors so that growth rate of at least 6.1% can be achieved;

(c) if so, the specific plans being formulated in this regard;

(d) the reasons for declining trend of growth rate; and

(e) the sectors responsible for the declining trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) As per the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the growth rate for the first three years of the Plan is estimated to be 6.5%.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, the Mid-Term Appraisal proposes an average growth rate of about 7.5% in the last two years

of the Plan. The measures proposed have been discussed in the Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), which has been placed in the Parliament library.

(d) and (e) There has been no decline in the trend growth rate of the economy. However, the rate of growth fluctuates from one year to another mainly due to fluctuation in the growth rate in the agriculture sector.

Cheaper Landline Call and Roaming Charges

447. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce cheaper local landline call charges and mobile roaming charges;

(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) and (b) The tariff for Telecom Services is now regulated by the TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India). As per the TRAI guidelines the tariffs are under forbearance, except for monthly rentals, number of free calls and call charges for telephone services including WLL (F), in rural areas and roaming charges for mobile services. Accordingly all the service providers including the BSNL and MTNL are fixing their own tariff from time to time.

At present there is no such proposal in the above two Public Sector Companies to introduce the cheaper land line call charges and mobile roaming charges.

(c) The local land line call charges and the mobile roaming charges are already low in these two companies.

Restructure of Postal Network

448. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to engage global consultants KPMG to prepare a report on restructuring the postal network across the country;

(b) if so, details of the mandate given to KPMG;

(c) whether following the restructuring the prices of postal products are likely to go up; and

(d) if so, the extent to which this restructuring of postal network will be beneficial to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) A System Study of Department of Posts is being undertaken by engaging M/s KPMG, to identify the options available for the postal system to compete in a commercial environment while continuing to fulfill its Universal Service Obligation (USO) of providing greater access to basic Postal Services to the citizens of the country. The study is undertaken in consonance with the policy directives in the Tenth Plan, which, inter-alia, require that the Department of Posts should attain financial self sufficiency by the end of Plan period, and prices of non USO services which should be fixed on commercial basis. The study is in progress.

[Translation]

Growth Rate Target for Tenth Five Year Plan

449. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the growth rate as per mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the growth rate targeted for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of occasions when the targeted growth rate was reduced or increased during 2004-05;

(d) the growth rate targeted for the remaining years of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) the reasons for the declining growth rate;

(f) whether any specific schemes have been formulated to check the declining growth rate and to achieve the targeted growth rate; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) The growth rate for the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan is estimated to be 6.5% as per the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) The targeted growth rate for the Tenth Plan was 8.1%.

(c) The targeted growth rate is revised, if necessary, only in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Plan.

(d) The growth rate of GDP in the last two years of the Plan (2005-2007) can potentially be about 7.5%, giving an overall growth rate of 7% for the Plan as a whole.

(e) The main reason for the decline in the growth rate (as compared to the target) has been the inability of the agriculture sector to achieve the targeted growth rate. As against the targeted growth rate of 4%, the agriculture and allied sector is likely to achieve 2.2% growth rate for the Tenth Plan.

(f) and (g) The Schemes/Programmes formulated for raising the rate of growth rate have been listed in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), which has been placed in the Parliament library.

[English]

Setting up of Post Offices

450. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over 5000 Gram Panchayat villages, many urban agglomerations and officially developed areas in the country are without Post Offices;

(b) if so, the steps taken to extend the postal facilities to such place;

(c) the number of new Post Offices planned and actually opened during each of the last three years, State/ UT and category-wise; and

(d) the time by which all the villages and extension areas of the existing cities will be provided with Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Post Offices are provided only subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms. This is because post offices in rural

areas are provided subsidy to the extent of 66 2/3% in the case of normal rural areas and 85% in hill tribal, desert and inaccessible areas while all urban post offices have to be financially self-sufficient.

In locations which fulfill the norms post offices are being provided through redeployment of manpower and rationalization of the existing network, keeping in view the distance norm. Cost-effective means of providing post office facilities are also underway. These measures are in line with the policy directives contained in the 10th Plan.

(c) State/Union Territory-wise details of post offices targeted, and actually opened in the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Opening of post offices are subject to fulfillment of norms, so no me frame can be fixed for this purpose.

Statement

Circle-wise achievement and targets of Opening of Post Offices during last three years

S. No.	Circle	2002-2003 Details of Post Offices opened under Plan				2003-2004 Details of Post Offices opened under Plan				2004-2005 No. of justified DSOs opened through relocation/ redeployment
		EDBOs		DSOs		EDBOs		DSOs		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	3	Nil	Nil	2	2	1	1	Nil
2.	Assam	15	15	1	1	14	14	1	1	Nil
3.	Bihar	15	15	Nil	Nil	15	15	1	Nil	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	20	20	1	1	16	16	1	1	Nil
5.	Delhi	1	1	1	1	1	1	Nil	Nil	1
6.	Gujarat	15	15	Nil	Nil	10	9	1	1	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	1	1	2	2	1	1	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	Nil	Nil	2	2	1	1	Nil
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	5	Nil	Nil	7	7	1	1	Nil
10.	Jharkhand	10	8	Nil	Nil	6	6	1	1	Nil
11.	Karntaka	9	8	1	1	4	4	1	1	4
12.	Kerala	2	2	1	1	6	6	1	1	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14	16	1	1	15	15	1	1	Nil
14.	Maharashtra	30	30	8	8	25	25	1	2	6
15.	North East	9	9	1	1	10	10	1	1	3
16.	Orissa	10	10	1	1	6	6	1	1	3
17.	Punjab	5	5	1	1	5	5	Nil	Nil	21
18.	Rajasthan	18	18	2	2	15	15	1	1	2
19.	Tamil Nadu	5	5	1	1	6	6	1	1	Nil
20.	Uttar Pradesh	18	18	1	1	20	20	1	1	Nil
21.	Uttaranchal	4	4	Nil	Nil	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	West Bengal	39	32	2	2	6	6	Nil	Nil	1
23.	Sikkim	1	Nil	1	1	2	2	1	1	Nil
Total		250	241	25	25	200	199	20	19	41

T	—	Target
A	—	Achievement
EDBOs	—	Extra Department Branch Post Offices
DSOs	—	Departmental Sub post Offices

Agreement on Bus-Service with Pakistan

451. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA :

SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA :

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement was reached between India and Pakistan during recent months to start early bus-service between Amritsar and Lahore and to religious places like Nankana Sahib;

(b) if so, the current status of the said agreement;

(c) the various other issues discussed during the same period including the gains and progress made so far in each of them;

(d) whether the Government has made efforts to open the Kargil-Skardu and Kailash-Mansarovar roads for the benefit of pilgrims;

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

(f) Whether Pakistan has offered for talks on bilateral issues including Kashmir as reported in the *Times of India* dated June 14, 2005; and

(g) if so, the details alongwith the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) During the first technical talks in May 2005 between India and Pakistan on the Amritsar-Lahore/Nankana Sahib bus service, the two countries discussed the modalities for operationalization of the Amritsar-Lahore bus, and agreed in principle to start the Amritsar-Nankana Sahib Bus Service.

(c) During recent months, various other issues have been discussed with Pakistan, which, *inter alia*, include enhancing interaction and cooperation across the LoC; re-establishing the Khokhrapar-Munnabao route by 1st January 2006; opening the Consulates General of the two countries in Mumbai and Karachi respectively before the end of the current year; alleviating the situation of prisoners; taking forward the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline projects; reactivating the Joint Commission as early as possible and an early convening of the Joint Business Council.

(d) and (e) India has proposed starting a Kargil-Skardu to Pakistan during President Musharraf's visit to India in April 2005. Pakistan's response is awaited. India has also proposed to China on several occasions the opening of an alternative route to Kailash-Mansarovar. Government is continuing efforts with both the countries to open the above-mentioned routes.

(f) and (g) Government is committed to continuing the present process of confidence-building, and discussing any outstanding bilateral issue with Pakistan, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence.

[Translation]

Construction of N.Hs

452. DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :

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

(a) the State-wise length of National Highways under construction, its present status and the target date by which the same will be completed, the length of routes under construction with dates, by which the construction work will be started and completed;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the

Government to ensure that the construction of N.Hs are completed with the fixed time frame;

(c) the corridor-wise, time frame fixed to start the construction work of the rest of the routes;

(d) whether the above said construction work will be completed within the fixed target period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The development of National Highways is a continuous process and is taken up depending on the condition of the road, traffic level, inter-se priority and availability of funds. The State-wise details of length of National Highways where the development works are in different stages of progress and their target date of completion are enclosed given in statement-I. The State-wise details of the lengths of National Highways and their likely date of start and completion in respect of works which are yet to be started are given in statement-II.

(b) The Government closely monitor the progress of the construction works of National Highway at various level through quarterly critical reviews and also has taken steps like appointing senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems, constituting a Committee of Secretaries to address inter-ministerial and central-state issues and has taken action against defaulting contractors in order to ensure completion of National Highways works as per stipulated time frame.

(c) to (e) The works on the balanced length of improvement of National Highways included in the North-South and East-West corridors of the National Highway Development Project are targeted to be awarded by 2005-06 and substantially completed by March 2008.

Statement-I

Ongoing Works

S. No.	State	Length Under Construction (km)	Target date of Completion
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	380.40	September 2005 to March 2007
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	64.00	January 2006 to February 2007
3.	Assam	996.00	September 2005 to Sept. 2007
4.	Bihar	496.94	March 2007
5.	Chandigarh	5.00	September 2005 to March 2006
6.	Chhatisgarh	712.88	August 2005 to January 2008
7.	Delhi	31.00	December 2005 to March 2007
8.	Goa	44.00	August 2005
9.	Gujarat	776.30	March 2007 to November 2007
10.	Haryana	251.00	September 2005 to March 2007
11.	Himachal Pradesh	229.00	September 2005 to March 2007
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	213.00	December 2007
13.	Jharkhand	274.93	March 2006

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
14.	Karnataka	572.58	September 2005 to December 2007	22.	Orissa	694.39	September, 2005 to June 2006
15.	Kerala	335.00	September 2005 to March 2007	23.	Pondicherry	9.00	July 2005-march 2007
16.	Madhya Pradesh	730.51	August 2005 to January 2006	24.	Punjab	202.00	September 2005 to March 2007
17.	Maharashtra	335.18	Nov./Dec. 2005 to October 2007	25.	Rajasthan	802.52	March 2007 to September 2007
18.	Manipur	326.49	September 2005 to March 2009	26.	Tamil Nadu	626.90	May 2005 to October 2007
19.	Meghalaya	265.62	June 2005 to March 2007	27.	Tripura	191.00	March 2008
20.	Mizoram	254.50	June 2005 to March 2007	28.	Uttaranchal	356.44	March 2009
21.	Nagaland	134.00	September 2005 to March 2007	29.	Uttar Pradesh	1696.01	April 2005 to May 2007
				30.	West Bengal	393.00	July 2005 to September 2007

Statement-II**Works yet to Start**

S. No.	State	Length Under Construction (Km)	Likely date of Start	Likely date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	896.00	December 2005 to January 2006	March, 2006 to March, 2008
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	March 2006	March, 2009
3.	Assam	338.00	August/December 2005	August 2006 to March, 2009
4.	Bihar	489.24	September 2005	March, 2007
5.	Chhattisgarh	61.70	October/November 2005	March, 2007
6.	Delhi	2.30	August 2005 to Dec. 2005	March, 2007 to June, 2007

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Goa	7.00	November 2005	March 2006
8.	Gujarat	121.70	September 2005 to Dec. 2005	March 2007
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	329.70	November 2005	December 2007
10.	Jharkhand	35.43	September 2005	March 2007
11.	Haryana	91.55	September 2005 to Dec. 2005	March 2006 to March 2007
12.	Himachal Pradesh	77.37	September 2005 to Dec. 2005	March 2006 to March 2007
13.	Karnataka	290.00	December 2005 to January 2006	March 2006 to March 2008
14.	Kerala	281.40	December 2005 to January 2006	March 2006 to March 2008
15.	Madhya Pradesh	507.60	March 2006	March 2008
16.	Maharashtra	573.70	August-December, 2005	March 2006
17.	Manipur	48.00	October 2005 to March 2006	December 2006 to March 2008
18.	Mizoram	35.00	March, 2006	March 2009
19.	Meghalaya	18.62	August 2005 to March, 2006	June 2007 to March 2008
20.	Nagaland	23.00	August 2005 to March, 2006	September 2006 to March 2008
21.	Orissa	139.40	August, 2005 to October 2005	March 2006 to October 2007
22.	Punjab	100.73	September 2005 to Dec. 2005	March 2006 to March 2007
23.	Rajasthan	134.00	October 2005	March 2006
24.	Tamil Nadu	413.30	March 2006	March 2008
25.	Tripura	50.00	March 2006	March 2009
26.	Uttar Pradesh	631.40	July 2005 to September 2005	Dec. 2005 to Dec. 2006
27.	Uttaranchal	45.00	October 2005	March 2008
28.	West Bengal	226.85	March 2006	March 2008

Opening of New Ports

453. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to determine the feasibility of opening new ports to meet the increasing demands of ports' facilities;

(b) the findings of the said study and the time by which the new ports are likely to be opened; and

(c) the names of the new ports likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No such study has been conducted in the recent past in respect of major ports. Responsibility for development of ports other than major ports vests in the respective State Governments.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Anti-Retroviral Therapy

454. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced a plan on November 30, 2003 to place 1,00,000 HIV/AIDS cases on structured anti-retroviral therapy by 2005 and 15-20% additional cases thereafter for five years;

(b) if so, the details and the target achieved thereof;

(c) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a WHO-UNAIDS report on global access to HIV

Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) stating that in India, ART coverage is a nearly 4-9%.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by the Government to fight the deadly disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Government had announced a plan for introduction of antiretroviral therapy. Accordingly from 1st April 2004 ART was started in 8 government medical colleges in the first phase and by the end of financial year 2004-05, 25 ART centre as per target. The target of 1,00,000 patients was for December 2007 and not for 2005.

(b) The target for the year 2004-05 was to start ART at 25 hospitals and the same has been achieved. Till now, 10,255 patients are put on ART at 25 hospitals. Additional about 9000 patients are taking ART from other government centres like Defence, Railways, ESIC etc.

(c) to (e) News item in the Times of India dated 1st July, 2005 on WAIT for AIDS THERAPY has been published indicating WHO-UNAIDS Report. The figure of 7.35 lakhs AIDS cases waiting for ART Therapy is not correct. The ART therapy available only in 6 states is also not correct. ART therapy is currently available in 13 States through 25 centers. There are a total of 1,03,857 AIDS cases reported by the States.

(f) The following remedial measures have been taken:

- GFATM Round four ART project has been approved by the Govt. for implementation of the ART services to 1,80,000 patients through 188 centers in 6 high prevalence States and Delhi in a phased manner over a period of next 5 years.

ART services are being extended in other states as well. Besides existing 25 ART centers, additional 14 centers have been sanctioned for ART and it is planned to extend ART services through a total of 100 centers by the end of current year.

- Publicity is being carried out about availability of free ART services
- Training of doctors, nurses and other categories of staff is being conducted so that all the centers implement ART effectively.
- Laboratory facilities are being strengthened by providing facility of CD4 testing.

Establishment of New Medical Colleges

455. SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI M. SHIVANNA :

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

(a) the details of proposals for establishing of new medical colleges pending before the Government during the last two years i.e., 2003-04 and 2004-05 till date, State-wise;

(b) whether these proposals are being considered by the Medical Council of India.

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

(d) whether the proposal for establishment of Government Medical Colleges in Karnataka has been rejected;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government for review of decision in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (g) The details of proposals for establishment of new medical colleges pending before Government for the last two years, year-wise and state-wise is given in the statement. All these proposals, fulfilling qualifying criteria, including those received from the Government of Karnataka were forwarded by the Central Government to Medical Council of India (MCI) for their evaluation. The Medical Council of India after scrutiny/inspection of the concerned colleges including those from Karnataka, has given its recommendations. The MCI has recommended not to start new colleges in several cases including five government colleges from Karnataka on account of certain deficiencies. Response of the State government on the observations/deficiencies were sent to Medical Council of India who has in their letter dated 11.7.05 informed that compliance report submitted by the college authorities needs verification by way of inspection. Since the time schedule for inspection as well as grant of permission by the Central government is already over for the current year, as per the Supreme Court the matter regarding extension of the same is now before the Supreme Court.

Statement

State-wise Pending New Proposals for Opening Medical Colleges received in the Year

Sl.No.	Proposal from
1	2
2003-04	
Tamil Nadu	
1.	New Medical College at Cheran Nagar, Tamilnadu by Sri Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust, Kanchipuram, Tamilnadu- The proposal is pending with MCI

1	2
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2004-05

Andhra Pradesh

1. New Medical College at Arogyavaram by CSI Arogyavaram Medical Centre, Chhittoor Dist. Andhra Pradesh.
2. New Medical College at Vikarabad, A.P. by Bhagwan Mahavir Memorial Trust, Andhra Pradesh

Assam

3. New Medical College at Panikhati, Kamrup by Down Town Charity Trust, Guwahati, panikhati, Assam
4. New Medical College at Dhamtari by Mannonite Medical Board Trust, Chhattisgarh.

Karnataka

5. New Medical College at Davangere, Karnataka by Bapuji Educational Association, Karnataka
6. New Medical College at Raichur by Govt. of Karnataka, Karnataka
7. New Medical College at Hassan by Govt. of Karnataka, Karnataka
8. New Medical College at Mandya by Govt. of Karnataka, Karnataka
9. New Medical College at Belgaum by Govt. of Karnataka, Karnataka
10. New Medical College at Bidar by Govt. of Karnataka, Karnataka

Kerala

11. New Medical College at Dr. K.N. Pai Heart Foundation, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
-

1	2
---	---

12. New Medical College at Palakkad, Kerala by Safe Development Aims Trust, Kerala

13. New Medical College at Venjaramoodu, Trivandrum by Sree Gokulam Medical College & Research Foundation, Trivandrum, Kerala

Manipur

14. New Medical College at Bishanpur Distt. By College of Medical Sciences Society, Manipur.

New Delhi

15. Army College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi by Army Welfare Education Society, New Delhi

Orissa

16. New Medical College at Bhubaneswar by Siksha-O-Anusandhan, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
17. New Medical College at Bhubaneswar by Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar, Orissa

Pondicherry

18. New Medical College at Kalitheerthalkuppam, Pondicherry by Sri Manakula Venayaka Educational Trust
19. New Medical College at Pondicherry by Sri Lakshmi Ammal Educational Trust, Chennai.

Tamil Nadu

20. New Medical College, Theni by Govt. of Tamilnadu, Tamilnadu

Tripura

21. New Medical College at Agartala by Global Educational Net., Tripura.
-

1 2

Uttaranchal

22. New Medical College at Dehradun by Shri Guru Ram Rai Education Mission, Dehradun, Uttaranchal

Uttar Pradesh

23. New Medical College at Azamgarh, U.P. by All India Children Care and Educational Development Society, Uttar Pradesh
24. New Medical College at Sitapur, Lucknow, UP by Career Convent Educational and Charitable Trust, Uttar Pradesh
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Facilities to Sports Persons

456. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided certain facilities to sports persons participating in national and international level events during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of schemes to encourage youths in sports activities; and

(d) the details of sports personalities who were conferred national awards during the last five years alongwith the categories of those awards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India supplements the efforts of recognized National Sports Federations in providing the following facilities to sports persons participating in National and International events:

- (i) Financial assistance to concerned federations is provided for holding National/International sports events, for participation of sportspersons in international tournaments abroad towards pas-

sage cost, board/lodging, entry fee, hiring/transportation of equipment etc. and for providing equipment & scientific support to sportspersons for training. For this purpose, during the last three years, assistance to various recognized NSFs have been provided, as per details given below:

Year	Amount released (In Crore Rupees)
2002-03	26.56
2003-04	36.43
2004-05	41.64

- (ii) Assistance to sportspersons for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad is also provided under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'. Under the scheme relating to Talent Search & Training 68 sportspersons and under NSDF 21 sportspersons have been assisted during the last three financial years.
- (iii) Assistance is also extended towards out of pocket allowance, ceremonial dress, competition kit etc. for participation in major international events such as Olympics, Asian, Commonwealth Games etc.
- (iv) Scholarships to outstanding boys and girls are provided for nutritious diet, sports equipment support and for pursuing sports as a career. Scholarships are also given to women for undertaken research in sports related subjects.
- (v) Awards such as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna; Arjuna; Dronacharya; Dhyan Chand and Special Awards to winners in international sports events are also given.

(vi) Pension for life time to meritorious sportsperson, after they attain the age of 30 years.

(vii) The Sports Authority of India (SAI), at present, is implementing the following sports promotional schemes in the entire country through its Regional Centres and Sub-Centres to identify talent in various sports disciplines in the age group of 8-25 years so as to train them to excel at National and International level:

- National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
- Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
- Special Area Games (SAG)
- SAI Training Centre (STC)
- Centre of Excellence (COX)

(c) The above schemes are also meant to encourage youth in sports activities. During 2004, 34 sportspersons participated in Commonwealth Youth games held in Australia. Indian sportspersons bagged 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 5 Bronze Medals.

(d) The details of sports personalities who have been conferred national awards during last five years is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

List of sports personalities who were conferred National Awards during the last five years.

Year	Name	Discipline
1	2	3
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardees		
1999	Shri Dhanraj Pillay	Hockey
2000	Shri Pullela Gopichand	Badminton
2001	Shri Abhinav Bindra	Shooting

1	2	3
2002	Ms. K.M. Beenamol & Smt. Anjali V. Bhagwat (Joint Winners)	Athletics Shooting
2003	Mrs. Anju Bobby George	Athletics

Dronacharya Awardees

Year 1999

1.	Shri Kenneth Owen Bosen	Athletics
2.	Late Capt. Hawa Singh	Boxing
3.	Shri Ajay Kumar Sirohi	Weightlifting

Year 2000

1.	Shri S.M. Arif	Badminton
2.	Shri Gurdial Singh Bhangu	Hockey
3.	Shri Phadke Gopal Purshottma	Kho-Kho
4.	Shri bhupender Dhawan	Powerlifting
5.	Smt. Hansa Sharma	Weightlifting

Year 2001

1.	Prof. Sunny Thomas	Shooting
2.	Shri Michael Joseph Ferreira	Billiards & Snooker

Year 2002

1.	Ms. Renu Kohli	Athletics
2.	Shri Jeswant Singh	Athletics
3.	Shri M.K. Kaushik	Hockey
4.	Shri E. Prasad Rao	Kabaddi
5.	Cdr. H.D. Motivala	Yachting

1	2	3
Year 2003		
1.	Shri Robert Bobby George	Athletics
2.	Shri Anoop Kumar	Boxing
3.	Shri Rajinder Singh	Hockey
4.	Shri Sukhchain Singh Cheema	Wrestling

Arjuna Awardees

Year 1999

Sl. No.	Name of Sportsperson	Discipline
1	2	3
1.	Shri Gulab Chand	Athletics
2.	Smt. Gurmeet Kaur	Athletics
3.	Capt. Ris. Maj. (Ret.) Praduman Singh	Athletics
4.	Ms. Sunita Rani	Athletics
5.	Shri Pallela Gopi Chand	Badminton
6.	Shri Sajjan Singh Cheema	Basketball
7.	Shri Gurcharan Singh	Boxing
8.	Shri Jitender Kumar	Boxing
9.	Shri Chiranjeev Milkha Singh	Golf
10.	Shri Balbir Singh Khullar	Hockey
11.	Lt. Col. (Retd.) Haripal Kaushik	Hockey
12.	Shri Ramandeep Singh	Hockey
13.	Shri V.J. Phillips	Hockey

1	2	3
14.	Shri Balwinder Singh	Kabaddi
15.	Shri Tirath Raj	Kabaddi
16.	Shri Jagjit Singh	Rowing
17.	Shri Vivek Singh	Shooting
18.	Ms. Nisha Millet	Swimming
19.	Shri Sukhpal Singh	Volleyball
20.	Shri Dalbir Singh	Weightlifting
21.	Shri Ashok Kumar	Wrestling
22.	Shri Aashim Mongia	Yachting
23.	Shri G. Venkataravanappa (Phy. Handicapped)	Paraplegic-Game

Year 2000

1.	Ms. K.M. Beenamol	Athletics
2.	Shri B.K. Venkatesh Prasad	Cricket
3.	Shri Baljeet Singh Saini	Hockey
4.	Ms. Tingonleima Chanu	Hockey
5.	Smt. Anjali Vedpathak Bhagwat	Shooting
6.	Shri Abhinav Bindra	Shooting
7.	Shri Sebastian Xavier	Swimming
8.	Shri J. Abhijith	Swimming
9.	Shri Randhir Singh	Wrestling
10.	Shri Kripa Shanker Patel	Wrestling
11.	Shri George Thomas	Badminton
12.	Shri C. Honappa	Kabaddi

1	2	3
13.	Ms. S. Vijayalakshmi	Chess
14.	Ms. Sanmacha Chanu Thingbaijam	Weightlifting
15.	Shri Yadendra Vishishta	Athletics
16.	Shri Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar	Athletics Powerlifting
17.	Dr.(Ms.) Kalpana Debnath	Gymnastics
18.	Gp. Capt. R.S. Bhola	Hockey (Men)
19.	Shri Balkishan Singh	Hockey (Men)
20.	Shri Jalaluddin Rizvi	Hockey (Men)
21.	Ms. Madhu Yadav	Hockey (Women)
22.	Shri Gurbir singh Sandhu	Shooting
23.	Late Shri K.D. Jadhav	Wrestling
24.	Shri Naresh Kumar	Wrestling
25.	Shri Milkha Singh	Athletics
26.	Smt. Rachna Govil	Athletics
27.	Smt. Vijayamala Bhanot	Athletics
28.	Shri Akhtar Ali	Tennis
29.	Shri P.V. Ramana	Volleyball
30.	Shri Surender Singh Kanwasi	Rowing
31.	Shri Joginder Singh Bedi	Athletics
Year 2001		
1.	Shri Parminder Singh	Basketball

1	2	3
2.	Shri Devendra Shreekant Joshi	Billiards & Snooker
3.	Shri V.V.S. Laxman	Cricket
4.	Shri bruno Coutinho	Football
5.	Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey	Hockey
6.	Ms. Sita Gusain	Hockey
7.	Shri B.C. Ramesh	Kabaddi
8.	Shri Kasam Khan	Rowing
9.	Shri Samaresh Jung	Shooting
10.	Shri Sandeep Kirtane	Tennis
11.	Shri Amir Singh	Volleyball
12.	Shri Ramesh Kumar	Wrestling
13.	Lt. Cdr. R. Mahesh	Yachting
14.	Shri K.R. Shankar Iyer	Athletics (PH)
Year 2002		
1.	Smt. Anju Bobby George	Athletics
2.	Smt. Saraswati Saha	Athletics
3.	Shri Alok Kumar	Billiards & Snooker
4.	Md. all Qamar	Boxing
5.	Shri K. Sasikiran	Chess
6.	Shri Virender Sehwag	Cricket
7.	Shri Inivalappi Mani Vijayan	Football
8.	Shri Shiv Kapur	Golf

1	2	3	1	2	3
9.	Shri Gagan Ajit Singh	Hockey (Men)	7.	Km. Mithali Raj	Cricket
10.	Smt. Mamta Kharab	Hockey (Women)	8.	Capt. Rajesh Pattu (SJRP)	Equestrian
11.	Shri Ram Mehar Singh	Kabaddi	9.	Shri Devesh Chauhan	Hockey
12.	Shri Inder Pal Singh	Rowing	10.	Km. Suraj Lata Devi	Hockey
13.	Shri Anwer Sultan	Shooting	11.	Shri Akram Shah	Judo
14.	Ms. Suma Sidharth Shirur	Shooting	12.	Shri Sanjeev Kumar	Kabaddi
15.	Ms. mantu Ghosh	Table Tennis	13.	Major Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore	Shooting
16.	Shri Ravikatr Reddy	Volleyball	14.	Shri Shokinder Tomar	Wrestling
17.	Shri Thandava Murthy Muthu	Weightlifting	15.	Shri Madasu Srinivas Rao (Phy. Handicapped)	Badminton
18.	Shri Palwinder Singh Cheema	Wrestling	Dhyan Chand Awardees Instituted in 2002		
19.	Shri Sujeet Mann	Wrestling	Year 2002		
20.	Shri Nitin Mongia	Yachting	1.	Ms. Apama Ghosh	Basketball
21.	Shri Ramesh Tikaram	Badminton and Athletics (Handicapped Cat.)	2.	Shri Shahuraj V. Birajdar	Boxing
			3.	Shri Ashok Diwan	Hockey
Year 2003			Year 2003		
1.	Km. Soma Biswas	Athletics	1.	Shri Ram Kumar	Basketball
2.	Smt. Madhuri Saxena	Athletics	2.	Shri Dharma Singh Mann	Hockey
3.	Shri Pankaj Advani	Billiards and Snooker	3.	Shri Charles Cornelius	Hockey
4.	Km. Mangte Chungneijang Marykom	Boxing	4.	Shri Om Prakash	Volleyball
5.	Km. Koneru Humpy	Chess	5.	Ms. Smita Shirole Yadav	Rowing
6.	Shri Harbhajan Singh	Cricket	Year 2004		
			1.	Brig (Retd.) Labh Singh	Athletics

1	2	3
2.	Shri Hardayal Singh	Hockey
3.	Shri Digambar P. Mehendale (Phy. Handicapped)	Athletics

[Translation]

Performance of Indian Sportsmen

457. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for poor performance of Indian Sportsmen in International Sports events particularly in Olympic games;

(b) the amount of expenditure incurred in Olympic games by the Government of India and Sports Federations;

(c) the number of players participated in Olympics 2004;

(d) the average expenditure per player and coach in Olympics 2004;

(e) whether the Government of India will consider the proposal not to send any Indian sportsmen in any of the Olympic games for participation for the next 10 years unless they are trained intensively and fit for the competition;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the details of the action plan of the Government to improve the performance of Indian Sportsmen in International events?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The performance of Indian sportspersons in major international events is steadily improving. In 1996 and 2000 Olympics,

India won only a bronze medal. No medal could be won in 1984 and 1988 Olympics. In the last Olympic Games held at Athens in 2004, Indian sportsperson Major (Now Lt. Col.) R.V.S. Rathore won a silver medal in shooting. This is the first silver medal won by an individual sportsperson since India's independence. Again in the disciplines of Archery, Shooting and Weightlifting Indian sportspersons were close to medals. In the disciplines of Athletics, sportspersons created new national records.

(b) Government had sanctioned a total amount of Rs.6698 lakhs to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) towards participation of Indian Consigent in Olympic Games, 2004 cleared at Government cost and approved the following items of expenditure:—

- (i) Out of Pocket Allowance @ USD50 per person/day to players and their coaches and Out of Pocket Allowance @ USD40 per person/day to supporting personnel
- (ii) Ceremonial Dress @ Rs.10,000 per person for Indian Contingent and Rs.7,500 per person for 2 youth campers.
- (iii) Competition Kit @ Rs.2,500 per player
- (iv) Hiring of Rowing Boat – USD 10,000/-
- (v) Hiring & allied expenses for Yachting Boat - USD 18,700/-
- (vi) Practice Ammunition for Shooter – USD5,000/-
- (vii) Boarding and Lodging @ Euro 150 per person/day and Air Passage cost for 2 personal coaches/training partners. Subject to conditions that these persons are not being paid assistance for coaching fee, etc. from any of the other Government Schemes.

In addition, assistance for excess baggage for sportsperson of Archery, Hockey, Shooting @ 20 kg for both ways and for the remaining sportspersons @ 10 kg for both ways of the Indian Contingent was also sanctioned.

Government of India incurred expenditure on the above items required for the Olympic Games. As such National Sports Federations were not required to incur expenditure on the above items in Olympic Games. In cases, they incurred any other expenditure from their own sources for the Games, the detail of such expenditure are not available with Government.

(c) Government had approved participation of 75 players in 14 disciplines.

(d) The average expenditure of about Rs.57,000/- is incurred by Government for participation in Olympic Games on 75 players, 31 coaches and 6 supporting personnel.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Government of India supports and supplement the efforts of National Sports Federations. Government of India, in addition to providing sports infrastructure and is taking following steps to improve the performance of sportspersons in the international events:

- (i) Finalization & implementation of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, former International sportspersons and sports/scientist experts.
- (ii) Provision of equipment and scientific support to sportspersons.
- (iii) Intensive coaching of the players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.
- (iv) Intensive training abroad to the teams as well Indian Coaches.
- (v) Financial assistance to concerned Federations for participation of sportspersons in International tournaments.
- (vi) Scholarships to outstanding boys and girls are provided for nutritious diet, sports equipment support and to pursue sports as a career.

Scholarships are also given for research in sports.

- (vii) Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad is proved under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.
- (viii) Launching of Champion Promotion Initiative to encourage, motivate and support young talents.

[English]

Setting Up of Special Education Zones

458. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in India doctor-patient ratio is 1:1800;

(b) if so, whether in its mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan, the Planning Commission has recommended setting up of special education zones to meet the growing demand of doctors-engineers as reported in the Times of India dated May 19, 2005;

(c) if so, whether the Government has approved the proposal of Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the detailed strategy chalked out by the Government to solve the problem of shortage of doctors, engineers and other professionals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) The doctor population ratio in India is 1:1722 if only allopathic doctors are taken into account.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of Tenth Five Year Plan on the health sector recognizes that distribution of medical colleges in the country is skewed and has recommended that the shortage of trained manpower in under served states can be fully addressed only through

setting up of medical colleges in these states. The MTA also points out that some medical colleges have poor utilization of services, on account of sub-optimal location vis-a-vis demand for services and recommends that the requirement of an essential certificate from a joint representative Committee comprising of the professional medical association, and government be made mandatory, prior to setting up new medical colleges, so as to plan for appropriate and optimal outreach. The Mid-Term Appraisal emphasises the need for better dispersion of medical colleges across needy states and more rigorous regulation of standards in medical education. Further, the public and the private sectors need to jointly set up stringent entry norms for registration of medical practitioners every five years, with renewal being contingent upon attendance and completion of the requisite courses in Continuing Medical Education Programmes.

The MTA recognizes that given the competing claims for inadequate financial resources at both central and state levels, it is unlikely that the Government alone can take care of the needs of medical education to serve a population of 1.6 billion in 2050. There would be a need to leverage significant private investment in medical education to create high capacity across the medical, nursing and para-medical professions. India is rapidly becoming a destination for students from across the world, seeking low cost medical education. The MTA recommends that the Knowledge Commission should examine some methods of enabling non-resident and foreign students to compete for seats in government and private medical colleges through competitive examinations. The incoming revenues from these students should be deployed towards a cross-subsidy for Indian students from economically weaker sections (EWS) to pursue medical education, and towards providing additional beds in teaching hospitals to support the minimal requirements for teaching. This will also enhance capacities for in patient hospital care to keep pace with increasing demand.

The Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan, notes the significant increase in the number of technical educational institutions and total intake of students, and urges a continued focus on increased intake capacity; improving

quality and faculty development which are some of the key issues relating to technical and management education during the Tenth Plan. The MTA recommends expansion of institutions like IITs and IIMs in order that these set standards for technical and management institutions. It also suggests that the accreditation process for higher and technical institutions be made transparent and effective.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Mental Hospitals

459. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for upgradation of mental hospitals in Indore, Gwalior, Bhopal, Jabalpur and Rewa under National Mental Health Programme of tenth Five year Plan;

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

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Proposal for modernization of mental hospitals at Indore and Gwalior had been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. There are no mental hospitals at Bhopal, Jabalpur and Rewa. However, proposals for strengthening of Psychiatric Wards in medical colleges at Indore, Gwalior, Bhopal, Jabalpur and Rewa were also received.

(b) and (c) The Steering Committee has approved the proposal of funding the mental hospital at Gwalior and that of the medical colleges at Indore, Gwalior, Bhopal, Jabalpur and Rewa, subject to technical appraisal. They are likely to be finalized shortly.

Regarding mental hospital at Indore, the State Government has been requested to send a revised proposal.

[English]

Upgradation of Services in Hospitals

460. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new hospitals or upgrade the various services in the existing hospitals for providing better medical treatment to foreigners who come to India for treatment;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the urological services at RML Hospital, New Delhi, and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No proposal for setting up new hospital or upgrading existing hospital for providing better medical treatment to foreigners is under consideration.

(c) and (d) While strengthening of any department is a continuous process as per the need and available resources, there is no specific proposal to upgrade the urological services at Dr. R.M.L. Hospital.

Amending Citizenship Act, 1955

461. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the

Citizenship Act, 1955 to enable all persons of Indian origin who migrated to other countries after January 26, 1950 to receive Overseas Citizenship of India.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also amended the allocation of business rules and allowed Overseas Indian Affairs Ministry to issue notifications under Section 7b (1) of the Citizenship Act;

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

(e) whether any time frame has been fixed for granting dual Citizenship to Overseas Indians;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of criteria laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance was promulgated on 28.06.2005 amending the Citizenship Act, 1955 extending the facility of Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) of all countries except Pakistan and Bangladesh as long as their countries allow dual citizenship in form or the other under their local laws.

(c) and (d) It is under process.

(e) to (g) A foreign national, who was eligible to become citizen of India on 26.01.1950 or was a citizen of India on or at anytime after 26.01.1950 or belonged to a territory that became part of India citizenship allows after 15.08.1947 and his/her children and grand children, provided his/her country of dual citizenship in some form or other under the local laws, is eligible for registration as Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI). Minor children of such person are also eligible for OCI. However, if the applicant had ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, he/she will not be eligible for OCI.

If there is no adverse information available against the applicant, the Indian Mission/Post shall grant registration as OCI within 15 days from the date of application and

thereafter refer the case to MHA for post verification of the antecedents of the applicant. If any adverse information is available against the applicant, prior approval of MHA shall be required before granting registration as OCI. MHA shall decide the case within 3 months of the application.

[Translation]

Reservation for Sports Persons

462. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the category-wise number of posts reserved for sports persons in the various ministries of the Union Government;

(b) whether the number of posts reserved for such persons is adequate;

(c) if not, the steps taken to create adequate reservation for sports persons;

(d) whether the Government proposes to appoint Judo Karate experts on such reserved posts;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the schemes formulated by the Government to encourage sports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :
(a) to (f) A Scheme Exists in Central Government for appointment of meritorious sportspersons to Group 'C' and 'D' categories in Civil Posts/Services. Under this Scheme, the Ministries/Departments can appoint meritorious sportspersons including those in Judo and Karate-DO to

the extent of 5% of the direct recruitment vacancies to be filled in a year.

(g) The various schemes formulated by the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports to encourage sports are indicated in the Statement laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Various Schemes formulated by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports to encourage Sports.

1. Special Awards to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and Their Coaches.
2. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award
3. Dhyanchand Award for Lifetime Achievements in Sports and Games
4. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy
5. Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons
6. Rural Sports Programme
7. Sports Scholarship Scheme
8. National Sports Development Fund
9. National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons
10. National Sports Championship for Women
11. National Sports Talent Contest
12. Army Boys Sports Company
13. SAI Training Centre
14. Special Area Games
15. Centre of Excellence
16. Scheme for Dope Test
17. Assistant to National Sports Federations.

[English]

**National Policy on Smuggling and
Pilferage of Coal**

463. SHRI RANEN BARMAN :
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy or criteria to allocate coal mines and linkages of coal sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a country-wise policy on smuggling and pilferage of coal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended in 1976 and in 1993 to allow captive coal mining for certain sectors. companies engaged in iron and steel production, power generation and such other end uses as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time were allowed to do coal mining for captive consumption. Under the powers conferred by the 1993 amendment, production of cement has been notified as an end use for captive mining. In pursuance of the same, a Screening Committee headed by Secretary (Coal) has been formed in the Ministry of Coal in which the representatives of the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion), Ministry of Railways, Chief Secretary of the concerned State Government, Director (Technical) CIL, CMD, CMPDIL and the CMD of the concerned coal company are members. The Screening Committee considers requests of the applicant companies and decides allocation of coal blocks on merits.

This selection process for allocation of coal block is proposed to be substituted by the competitive bidding process of selection. As for coal linkage to core sector consumers such as the power plant, cement plant and sponge iron plants, the following three linkage committees are functioning in the Ministry of Coal:

(a) Standing Committee (Long Term) : Grants coal linkage on long term basis to power and cement plants.

(b) Standing Linkage Committee (Short Term) Grants coal linkage on quarterly basis to power plants and cement plants.

(c) Standing Linkage Committee for Sponge Iron Units and Ferro Alloys Units: This Committee considers the applications for grant of coal linkage on long term basis to sponge iron units. This Committee was constituted by Ministry of Steel which has now been transferred to Ministry of Coal.

(d) to (f) Law and order is a State subject and hence the coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities. In addition, the following steps are being taken by subsidiary companies of CIL to prevent theft/pilferage of coal:—

(i) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action;

(ii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents;

(iii) Construction of watch-towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area;

(iv) Erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pithead depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours;

- (v) Escorting of loaded rakes up to railway weighbridges by armed guards and joint patrolling with Railway Protection Force (RPF) in the long railway tracks which are prone to wagon looting;
- (vi) Sealing of illegal mining spots;
- (vii) Stringent action against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage;
- (viii) Engagement of lady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.
- (ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.

**Progress of Vallarpadam International
Transshipment Container at Cochin**

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

(a) whether the progress of construction of Vallarpadam International Transshipment Container Terminal at Cochin is as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details of progress of work made so far and works remaining to be done including the time period thereof; and

(c) the action taken to attract international domestic container traffic to this terminal?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) In terms of the Licence Agreement (Agreement) signed by Cochin

Port Trust (Licensor) with M/s. India Gateway Terminal Private Limited (Licensee), a subsidiary of M/s. Dubai Ports International, Dubai, UAE (DPI) on 31.1.2005, the Licensee has commenced commercial operations at the existing Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT) as per schedule on 1.4.2005. For Phase I of International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), the Agreement, in essence, envisages commencement of construction works within 2 years, commercial operations within 4 years from the date on which commercial operations were commenced by the Licensee in RGCT, i.e. by 31.3.2007 and 31.3.2009 respectively.

However, commencement of construction works for Phase I of ICTT by the Licensee is contingent on fulfillment by the Licensor of 'Conditions Precedent' set out in the Agreement which also lay down their inter-se linkages. The 'Conditions Precedent' set out are namely, to obtain environmental clearance in respect of construction works for Phase I of ICTT, having the Project Site at Vallarpadam/Puthuvyppeen declared as part of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and having the construction of Rail Connectivity and National Highway Connectivity commenced by the appropriate authority. Commencement of commercial operations for Phase I of ICTT by the Licensee is contingent on provision of Rail Connectivity and Road Connectivity at the ICTT site. In terms of the time-frames envisaged for completion of these activities under the Agreement, commercial operations are planned to commence by 1.4.2009.

As per the Agreement, the Licensee, inter-alia, is required to provide project facilities capable of handling main line vessels and endeavour to handle them from the second year onwards of the Date of Commercial Operation in respect of RGCT, i.e. from 1.4.2006. The Licensee has already installed two mobile harbour cranes and four yard gantry cranes for handling containers at RGCT. The Licensor has awarded a contract for deepening the channels leading to RGCT to enable 12.5 metre draft vessels to call at the port. These steps, coupled with the planned enhancement of the draft in the common user

approach channel and basins for the ICTT will help in attracting international/domestic container traffic.

(Rs. Crore)

Funds for National Rural Health Mission

465. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN :

	B.E. for 2004-05	B.E. for 2005-06
Plan	7442.30	9650.77
Non-Plan	995.82	9650.77
Total	8438.12	10687.11

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

(a) whether the Government has increased the budget allocations for health during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details of the comparative figures of the corresponding year;

(c) the details of the funds allocated to launch a comprehensive National Rural Health Mission Programme, State-wise; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government during the year for the implementation of the same?

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) The Plan of Action for National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005-06 includes constitution of State and District Health Missions; integration of multiple Societies at State and District; registration of Hospital, Management Society at District /Sub District Hospital and CHCs; and greater intersectoral convergence at all levels. The NRHM provides the overarching framework for the existing programmes of RCH, National Disease Control Programme and Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme. Other activities envisaged under NRHM include selection and training of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs); United Fund at Sub Centre level; mainstreaming AYUSH; upgrading CHCs to Indian Public Health Standards; supply of generic drugs to SCs/PHSc/CHCs; organization of Health Melas and preparation of District Action Plan.

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

(b) Comparative figures are as under:

Statement

Detailed State-wise Allocation of Grants-in-Aid during 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Total FW Schemes (RCH)	Schemes of Department of Health						Total Health Schemes	Grand Total for NRHM
			TB	Leprosy	IDSP	IDD	Blindness	NVBDCP		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
18 High Focus States										
1.	Bihar	33207.01	1270.28	320.00		3.50	284.52	4736.19	6614.49	39821.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2.	Chhatisgarh	8213.75	740.21	151.00	305.00	3.50	271.78	2114.72	3586.21	11799.96
3.	Jharkhand	12160.81	957.30	285.00		3.50	183.74	2179.13	3608.67	15769.48
4.	Madhya Pradesh	23507.59	925.51	292.50	900.00	3.50	549.50	1897.77	4568.78	28076.37
5.	Orissa	14372.84	300.00	213.00	425.00	7.00	326.64	4027.67	5299.31	19672.15
6.	Rajasthan	22783.64	865.75	55.00	500.00	5.50	554.79	1661.86	3642.90	28426.54
7.	Uttar Pradesh	69580.10	2545.16	357.00		5.00	1061.06	1121.00	5089.22	74669.32
8.	Uttaranchal	4279.98	302.49	73.50	300.00	6.75	164.77	58.44	905.95	5185.93
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3711.35	93.47	35.00	360.00	4.50	122.18	31.72	646.87	4358.22
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4710.87	154.76	43.90		3.50	216.35	50.96	469.47	5180.34
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	1434.99	55.31	50.00		13.00	21.00	1063.66	1202.97	2637.96
12.	Assam	20249.11	1337.50	47.50		13.00	115.00	3035.10	4548.10	24797.21
13.	Manipur	2465.26	120.68	31.50	172.00	12.00	30.00	531.37	897.55	3362.81
14.	Meghalaya	2147.32	115.65	32.00	164.00	12.00	15.50	729.00	1068.15	3215.47
15.	Mizoram	2177.51	45.25	35.00	149.00	13.00	23.50	677.82	943.57	3121.08
16.	Nagaland	1934.23	100.56	78.00	164.00	12.00	20.50	732.23	1107.29	3041.52
17.	Sikkim	692.69	25.14	23.00		13.00	13.50	24.65	99.29	791.98
18.	Tripura	3036.33	160.90	21.00	151.00	12.00	61.00	1616.65	2022.35	5058.88
Total for 18 States		230665.38	10115.92	2143.90	3590.00	146.25	4035.33	26289.94	46321.34	276986.72
Other States										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24572.36	1100.00	92.50	610.00	4.50	528.76	852.37	3188.13	27760.49
2.	Goa	447.10	19.92	15.50	59.00	4.00	68.44	21.13	187.99	635.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Gujarat	27990.67	775.35	111.00	440.00	5.00	521.44	838.84	2691.63	30682.30
4.	Haryana	6106.80	200.00	30.10	283.00	6.00	184.52	122.76	826.38	6933.18
5.	Karnataka	16427.04	807.30	45.00	620.00	9.00	462.08	385.99	2329.37	18756.41
6.	Kerala	10535.53	487.27	18.50	330.00	5.00	270.19	91.53	1202.49	11738.02
7.	Maharashtra	27501.20	1483.27	74.50	890.00	3.50	351.07	768.09	3570.43	31071.63
8.	Punjab	6741.59	372.35	46.50	55.00	4.75	148.39	140.70	767.69	7509.28
9.	Tamil Nadu	17843.30	951.56	61.00	760.00	4.50	1294.39	358.60	3430.05	21273.35
10.	West Bengal	24402.41	1228.91	182.50	290.00	3.50	390.41	1231.17	3326.49	27728.90
Total-other States		162568.00	7425.93	677.10	4337.00	49.75	4219.69	4811.18	21520.65	184088.65
Total - All States		393233.38	17541.85	2821.00	7927.00	196.00	8255.02	31101.12	67841.99	461075.37
1.	Delhi	2554.64	232.42	61.00	177.00	5.50	63.00	42.51	581.43	3136.07
2.	Pondicherry	181.35	16.84	11.00		2.50	24.00	31.77	86.11	267.46
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	286.56	5.05	11.00		6.00	17.50	236.96	276.51	563.07
2.	Chandigarh	152.42	15.16	10.40	46.00	6.00	29.00	69.62	176.18	328.60
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	131.25	3.37	8.70		5.00	4.50	50.09	71.66	202.91
4.	Daman and Diu	104.56	3.37	10.00		6.00	11.00	11.66	42.03	146.59
5.	Lakshadweep	94.23	1.68	6.50		5.00	6.00	8.27	27.45	121.68
Total-UTs		3505.01	277.89	118.60	223.00	36.00	155.00	450.88	1261.37	4766.38
Grand Total		396738.39	17819.74	2939.60	8150.00	232.00	8410.02	31552.00	69103.36	465841.75

IDSP — Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme.

IDD — Iodine Deficiency Disorder.

NVBDCP — National Vector Borne Disease Central Programme.

**Financial Assistance for Stadium
and Coaching Centres**

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

(a) whether financial assistance is being granted for the construction of stadiums and coaching centers exclusively for the physically impaired persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the year 2004-05, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether all such stadiums/coaching centers are under the control of respective State Governments;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the number of such centers, State-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) 'Sports' is a state subject. Details of stadia and coaching centers meant exclusively for physically impaired persons are not maintained by this Ministry.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The information regarding the availability of such centers is not maintained with this Ministry in view of (c) & (d) above.

Special Development Package for Amritsar

467. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India has received representation/ suggestion regarding grant of special package for the development of Amritsar District of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) Government of India has not received any representation/ suggestion regarding grant of special package for development of Amritsar district of Punjab.

1. Prime Minister had made announcements regarding a package for Amritsar in his visit to the city in September, 2004. Details of the announcement are given in the enclosed statement.

2. Since then Government has been receiving request for expediting implementation of announcements already made.

Statement

Sr. No.	Announcement	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Steps will be taken for securing UNESCO status for the Golden Temple.	Siromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) have written that they are withdrawing the UNESCO folder. Ministry of Culture has deferred the action plan until a fresh consensus emerges.

1	2	3
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2. Government of India will give financial help of Rs.70 crore for completing Galiara Project around Shri Harmandir Sahib to protect it from pollution.

Ministry of Home Affairs has sanctioned Rs.72 crore for completing phase IV and V of Galiara Project around Shri Harmandir Sahib. Ministry of Finance, Government of India has released the first instalment amounting to Rs.13.75 crore vide an order dated 31.3.2005.

Works such as construction of VVIP parking and development of area around newly constructed toilet block have been completed. Construction of cement concrete road and shoe room near Ghantaghar is in progress.

3. Government of India will extend all possible help to set up a Centre of Research on Shri Guru Granth Sahib Studies for which President of India has laid a foundation stone in the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

Ministry of Human Resource Development has conveyed approval to the scheme and released Rs.1.00 crore during 2004-05. A Meeting of the Governing Body of the 'National Institute of Studies in Guru Granth Sahib' has been held on 2nd July, 2005 to resolve the remaining issues. Steps have been initiated to make the Institute functional in a month's time.

4. Government of India will examine the project report of Punjab Govt. on Guru Ramdas Slum Development Project of Amritsar and provide necessary financial assistance.

Detailed Project Report with estimated cost of Rs.255 crore submitted to Ministry of Urban Development (MUD) is being modified to make the project feasible.

In anticipation, the MUD has forwarded the project to the Deptt. of Economic Affairs for seeking JBIC funding

5. A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will be set up at Amritsar to create additional employment opportunities around the city. Government of India will extend necessary help of Punjab Govt.

Ministry of Commerce has decided to grant in principle approval for sector specific SEZ and advised Punjab Govt. to notify SEZ. Punjab Govt. is finalizing the notification

6. Regarding certain articles that were removed from the Golden Temple Complex in 1984 during Operation Blue Star, efforts will be made to restore these to Shri Harmandir Sahib or SGPC.

Central Bureau of Investigation, Ministry of Home Affairs has registered a preliminary enquiry to locate the missing books/ manuscripts. Government of Punjab has provided the list of such documents for further action by CBI.

7. For completing the Khalsa Heritage Project at Anandpur Sahib, Government of India will provide necessary financial assistance.

Ministry of Culture, Government of India has released Rs.2.00 crore during 2004-05.

1	2	3
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The implementation schedule and other related issues for the project are being finalized by the Executive Committee of the Khalsa Heritage Complex Foundation.

8. Issue of opening a corridor to visit the historical Gurudwara in Kartarpur in Pakistan will be emphatically raised during the next round of talks with Government of Pakistan.

Chief Minister, Punjab has requested in June, 2005 the Union Minister for External Affairs to ensure an early decision in the matter.

9. Institution of Guru Granth Sahib International Award for Inter faith understanding and harmony.

Government of Punjab would be pursuing the matter with the Prime Minister.

10. Establishment of Guru Ramdas National of Bio-technology.

Chief Minister, Punjab has written to the Prime Minister in June, 2005 with a request to advise the Ministry of Human Resource Development to grant in-principle approval to establish the Institute.

[Translation]

**Construction of Buildings for
Various Dispensaries**

468. SHRI KISHAN MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any schemes to construct buildings for Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic/Unani dispensary in various States;

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

(c) since when the said schemes are under operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no provision for construction of buildings for Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic/Unani dispensaries. However, one time financial assistance is being extended to Allopathy Hospitals for

building repair, renovation and alteration etc. for establishment of AYUSH facilities under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

[English]

Road Linkages to Minor Ports

469. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade Road Linkages to Minor Ports Viz., Alang-Trapaj Road, Jamnagar (Bedi) Joining Rajkot-Dwarka State highway, Rozi-Bedi Approach Road, Porbandar, Okha, Pipavav-Jafrabad, Mundra, Navlakhi, Bhavnagar and Hazira of Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Upgradation of road linkages to Minor Ports is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. How-

ever, it has been decided to take up preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for up-gradation of National Highways in respect of stretches of Kandla-Mundra Port (73 Kms. of NH-8A Extension) and Surat-Hazira Port (29 Kms. of NH-6) in Gujarat. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been advised to carry out the DPR for the above stretches immediately.

Charter Mark Scheme

470. SHRI KISANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has tested a Charter Mark Scheme for recognizing excellence in implementation of Citizen's Charters and for developing a rating system for grievance redressal mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :
(a) to (c) A prototype of a model for Conceptualizing and implementing a Charter Mark Scheme for recognizing and evaluating excellence in the implementation of Citizens' Charter and to develop a rating system for grievance redress mechanism and service delivery has been developed. The three components of this scheme are :—
(i) Assessment and recognition of excellence in the implementation of Citizens' Charter; (ii) Public Grievance Redress Mechanism Rating Model and (iii) Assessment of Institutions' for Excellence in Public Service Delivery. The prototype is presently, under testing in identified Ministries/ Departments and Organisations. On introduction, the scheme is expected to help in augmenting outcomes/ performances to meet Citizen's Needs.

[Translation]

Non Supply of Medicines to CGHS Beneficiaries

471. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of C.G.H.S. had been on strike in the month of June, 2005;

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

(c) whether the beneficiaries of C.G.H.S. were not supplied indented medicines by the chemists during June 2005;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) During the month of June, 2005, the Group 'C' and 'D' employees of CGHS had gone on strike for one day on 7.6.2005, to press for their 24-point charter of demands relating to service matters, etc.

(c) and (d) No incident has been reported during June, 2005 regarding non-supply of indented medicines by the CGHS Authorised Local Chemists.

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

[English]

Cruise Terminals in Coastal Areas

472. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish cruise terminals in coastal areas of Karnataka between Mangalore and Karwar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Workshop on Genomics and Biotechnology

473. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

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

(a) whether an EU-India Workshop on Genomics and Biotechnology for Health was co-organised during April in New Delhi;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The India-EU Workshop, attended by 90 Indian and 10 European scientists, deliberated on mutually agreed topics namely, (a) Functional Genomics including proteomics and systems biology; (b) Biotechnology for health including plant biotechnology and nutrigenomics' and (c) Major disease - Complex disorders including cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes and neuropsychiatric disorders; & Infectious Diseases including HIV, TB, Malaria, Entamoeba histolytic & Leishmania.

The Workshop allowed Networking of European & Indian Research community across industry, national laboratories and academe, helping them to have an overview of research going on in India & Europe on selected topics. It facilitated dissemination of European Commission Expected Call for Proposals in Life Sciences, Genomics & Biotechnology for Health, allowing submission of collaborative research projects, as well as to identify on-

going European research projects in which lateral entry of Indian scientists/research institution will be beneficial.

(c) The Government fulfilled its promotional and facilitating role of connecting research scientists from India and Europe as well as encouraging collaborative research projects on topics of national importance.

Opening of CGHS Dispensaries

474. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present number of CGHS dispensaries are not adequate for Central Government Employees working in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to open more CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu particularly in Villupuram district; and

(c) if so, the time by when these dispensaries are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) In Tamil Nadu State, Chennai is the only city where CGHS facilities are available. Adequate number of CGHS dispensaries, etc. is available under CGHS Chennai as per details given below:—

Allopathic dispensaries	Fourteen
Polyclinic	Two
Laboratories	Two
Dental Unit	One
Ayurvedic Unit	One
Homoeopathic Unit	One
Siddha Unit	One

The Central Govt. employees living in non-CGHS areas (which includes non-CGHS areas in Tamil Nadu)

automatically get medical facilities as per provisions under the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

There is no proposal at present to open a CGHS dispensary in Villupuram. Due to constraints of resources and manpower, it will not be possible to extend CGHS facilities to all the other Districts in Tamil Nadu.

**Indian Nationals Going abroad
for Treatment**

475. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of Indians who went to foreign countries for medical treatment during the previous year and till date, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Foreign diplomatic missions which may have granted visas to Indian nationals for medical treatment do not share visa related information with the Government. However, as per records maintained by Central Foreigners' Bureau, 4940244, 5349896 and 5212809 Indians visited foreign countries during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively.

[Translation]

Four-Laning of N.H. No.2

476. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT, AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a plan to convert the National highway No.2 into a four-lane road by widening it;

(b) if so, whether compensation has been granted to the farmers for the land acquired by the Government for the said purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the compensation will be given to the farmers;

(d) the action being taken by the Government to ensure that they get their compensation expeditiously;

(e) whether the work relating to four-laning of the section from Ferozabad to Etawah of NH-2 scheduled to be completed in 2004 was left unfinished by the company doing it; and

(f) if so, the action being taken by the Government to complete this unfinished work immediately?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Compensation has been paid as per provisions of National Highways Act, 1956.

(e) Yes Sir, the contract for four laning work between Shikohabad - Etawah section of NH-2 in the state of Uttar Pradesh was terminated on 9.6.2004 due to non-performance of the contractor (M/s China Coal Construction Group Corporation, China).

(f) Action for award of contract for balance work has already been taken by NHA and the same is likely to be finalized by August, 2005.

Bridges Over Various NHs

477. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT, AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the bridges constructed over various National Highways during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of bridges proposed to be constructed, State-wise during the current financial year; and

(c) the total amount earmarked for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) One thousand one hundred and sixty one bridges were constructed on various National Highways in the country during the last three years. State-wise details are given in statement-I

(b) One hundred ninety five bridges are proposed to be taken up for construction on National Highways other than National Highway Development Project (NHDP) stretches during the current financial year subject to the availability of funds. Nine hundred and ninety seven bridges constructed / under-construction / proposed to be constructed during the current financial year under NHDP, which is being implemented by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). The State-wise details are given in statement-II.

(c) The estimated cost of bridges mentioned at (b) above is Rs.319.74 Crores, excluding the cost of bridges constructed / under-construction / proposed to be constructed under NHDP stretches, the bridges form part of road packages. However, the allocation to executing agencies including State Public Works departments is made as lump sum and not for bridges separately.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State/UT	Bridges constructed during 2002-03 to 2004-05
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	313
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7
3.	Assam	9
4.	Bihar	67
5.	Chhattisgarh	8
6.	Gujarat	67
7.	Haryana	3

1	2	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
10.	Jharkhand	26
11.	Karnataka	137
12.	Kerala	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15
14.	Maharashtra	164
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Meghalaya	9
17.	Mizoram	1
18.	Orissa	20
19.	Punjab	7
20.	Rajasthan	148
21.	Tamil Nadu	42
22.	Uttaranchal	14
23.	Uttar Pradesh	44
24.	West Bengal	50
Total		1161

Statement-II

Sl. No.	State/Ut	Bridges proposed to be taken up on non NHDP for construction during current financial year 2005-06	Bridges constructed/under construction/proposed to be constructed 2005-06 under NHDP
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27	Nil

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	Nil
3.	Assam	6	Nil
4.	Bihar	22	234
5.	Chandigarh	1	7
6.	Chhattisgarh	9	Nil
7.	Delhi	1	1
8.	Gujarat	12	39
9.	Haryana	5	4
10.	Himachal Pradesh	7	Nil
11.	Jharkhand	6	21
12.	Karnataka	16	54
13.	Kerala	10	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8	10
15.	Maharashtra	2	53
16.	Meghalaya	3	Nil
17.	Mizoram	2	Nil
18.	Orissa	8	115
19.	Pondicherry	1	Nil
20.	Punjab	6	23
21.	Rajasthan	4	92
22.	Tamil Nadu	12	143
23.	Tripura	1	Nil
24.	Uttaranchal	11	Nil

1	2	3	4
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4	150
26.	West Bengal	7	50
Total		195	997
Grand Total		1192	

[English]

Sale of Banned Medicines

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

(a) whether medicines containing phenylpropanolamine (PPA) have been banned in Western Countries more than four years ago but they are still being sold in India;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that some medicines, like Vicks Action 500, are sold in India with PPA while their similar products in Britain are sold without PPA; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The PPA (Phenylpropanolamine) has been used in cough & cold preparations in many countries. The PPA containing products were withdrawn in USA in November 2000, where these were marketed in higher strengths for weight loss in addition to its use in cough & cold preparations. The Committee on Safety of Medicines in UK also examined the matter of safety of PPA and concluded that the evidence of link between Hemorrhagic Stroke and PPA is weak and the formulations for cough and cold in low doses may continue to be sold in UK.

(c) The matter was also simultaneously examined in India in 2000-2001 in consultation with the Experts and

it was felt that in view of the similarity of use of PFA formulations in India to that of UK, the drug should be permitted to be marketed in cough & cold preparation with daily dose not more than 50mg for children and 100mg for adults.

Increasing Number of Haj Pilgrims

479. SHRI SURESH ANGADI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to increase the number of Haj pilgrims;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many States have requested for an increase of their Haj quota;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) The Government of India and the Government of Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed an agreement under which 137,000 Indian pilgrims would perform Haj in 2006 in comparison to the agreement signed for Haj in 2005 for 127,000 Indian pilgrims.

(c) and (d) The following States have requested for increase of their Haj quota fixed for the State by the Haj Committee of India;

State	Quota fixed by Haj Committee of India for Haj 2006	Quota requested by the State
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	6047	6385
Chhattisgarh	354	595

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	5880	9000
Kerala	6806	13002
Maharashtra	8889	11452
Orissa	432	470
Tamil Nadu	3004	3900
Uttaranchal	876	1404

(e) The Government of India has noted these requests.

Upgradation of Hospitals in Rural Areas

480. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) The details of the financial assistance provided by the World Health Organization and the World Bank during the last three years and till date for upgradation of hospitals in rural areas of the country; and
- (b) The amount actually released so far for upgradation of rural hospitals of the country alongwith the amount utilized so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As World Health Organisation is not a funding agency and its role is to provide technical assistance and advise in the health sector to the Government, they have not provided financial assistance for the up-gradation of hospitals in different rural areas in the country. However the World Bank assisted Health System Projects, pertaining to strengthening & upgradation of secondary health care system in the states have been completed in the states of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Kamataka, and Punjab, while those in Orissa, Maharashtra,

Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are under implementation. The details of financial assistance

by World Bank for the projects are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Status Note on State Health System Development Projects with World Bank Assistance

State Health System Development Projects with the World Bank assistance aimed at improving/upgrading secondary level health facilities are under implementation in the following States:—

State	Project Period	Project outlay (Rs. in Crores)	Status
Andhra Pradesh	w.e.f. 1.3.95 for 6½ years'	608.00	completed on 30.6.2002
West Bengal	w.e.f. 26.6.96 for 5½ years'	751.76 (Revised)	Completed on 31.3.2004
Karnataka	w.e.f. 27.6.96 for 5½ years'	652.15 (Revised)	Completed on 31.3.2004
Punjab	w.e.f. 27.6.96 for 5½ years	425.00	Completed on 31.3.2004
Orissa	w.e.f. Sept., 98 for 5 years	415.57	Has been extended upto 31.3.2005
Maharashtra	w.e.f. 14.2.99 for 5½ years	747.58	
Uttar Pradesh	w.e.f. 1.7.2000 for 5½ years	478.07	
Uttaranchal	w.e.f. 1.7.2000 for 5½ years	07.77	
Rajasthan	w.e.f. 21.7.04 for (5 years)	472.58 (US\$89m.)	
Tamil Nadu	w.e.f. 27.1.05 for (5 years)	597.1554 (\$ 110,8)	

E-Auction of Coal

481. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to sell 20 per cent of total coal produced by CIL through e-auction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether captive power producers have objected to this proposal;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken into account the concerns of a large number of small coal consumers before implementing the proposal;

(f) if so, whether the Government proposes to stop e-auction of coal in view of steep resentment of the consumers especially in Orissa;

(g) if so, whether any direction has been given to Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. (MCL) in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Government is considering different options of bringing about market determined price of Coal instead of current system of notification by Coal India Limited. No final decision has been taken as yet.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

(f) The concept of e-auction has been implemented on a trial basis after taking into account the concerns of small Coal consumers who were not getting adequate coal or did not have Coal linkage, from official channel of Coal supply. These consumers can now participate in the bidding process, through e-auction to draw Coal from the preferred sources. A final decision on continuation or otherwise will be taken after independent evaluation by a reputed institution.

(g) and (h) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (f) above.

Illegal Entry to Foreign Countries

482. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of cases are being reported by various Embassies regarding defrauding of people by agents who promise to facilitate their illegal entry in USA, UK, Canada and other countries;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received from various Embassies during the last two years;

(c) whether some top musicians/singers/fake sports clubs are involved in this illegal trade; and

(d) if so, the details of cases reported so far and the action taken by the Government to prevent such illegal migration to foreign countries?

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

(b) A statement giving the details prepared on the basis of information received from various Missions/Posts abroad is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Some cases of such alleged involvement have been reported. The action taken by Government to prevent illegal migration to foreign countries include investigation by the police authorities concerned; action against the persons, including agents, who are involved in illegal migration; cooperation with other countries for repatriation of illegal migrants after confirming their Indian nationality; and restricting the facility of passport to illegal migrants.

Statement

During the past few years, a number of Indian Missions/Posts abroad have brought to Ministry's notice several incidents of Indian nationals - individually or in groups - making attempts to migrate to countries in Western Europe and North America through illegal and fraudulent means. Many of these illegal immigrants are also from Punjab. They try to migrate illegally mainly for economic reasons and are often assisted by unscrupulous agents and touts to whom they pay large sums of money. These illegal immigrants are taken to the developed countries in Western Europe and North America through Russia and other Eastern European countries which are used as transit countries for the purpose of illegal immigration. The general modus operandi for such activities is that after leaving India they intentionally lose or destroy their travel documents to prevent verification of their real identity/nationality status and their repatriation back to India. After reaching the country of their destination

they either apply for political asylum or refugee status on one ground or the other or even obtain fake / forged travel documents establishing their right of residence in the country of destination. They make use of loopholes in the local legal system, including by getting married to a local person for the purpose of obtaining citizenship, in order to prolong their stay in the country of destination with the ultimate aim of staying there permanently. However, many such illegal immigrants are apprehended.

2. Illegal immigration has largely been taking place from the developing and least developed countries to the developed countries in Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. However, in the post 9/11 scenario, European and North American countries which were favoured destinations for illegal immigration have made their rules more stringent. The result is that not only the number of persons going to these countries as illegal immigrants has come down but these countries have also started repatriating illegal immigrants to their home countries.

3. The illegal immigration from India continues unabated and various countries of the world, particularly Western Europe and North America as also transit countries in Eastern Europe, are swamped by fresh illegal immigrants from India almost on a daily basis. The number of agents and touts also seems to be increasing as illegal immigrants try to use all means including illegal means, to reach their destinations.

4. Both the Central and State Governments have been working to identify agents and touts involved in illegal immigration and to take all necessary measures against them. The Government is also cooperating with the foreign countries for the speedy repatriation of Indian illegal immigrants.

Norms for Clinical Trials

483. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large

number of applications for clinical trial for GEAC approval are pending for want of DCGI's comments;

(b) if so, the details of clinical trial applications pending with the GEAC; and

(c) the norms for granting approval for such clinical trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No applications for clinical trials are pending with GEAC for approval for want of DCGI's comments.

(b) and (c) The GEAC takes a view on the request for clinical trials of recombinant Pharma products based on the pre-clinical study data and recommendation of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under the Department of Biotechnology. DCG(I) is also a member of the GEAC and specific comments of DCG(I) are communicated in the GEAC meetings. Approval for clinical trial under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules are accorded as per norms stipulated under Schedule Y. Before initiation of trial, Ethics Committee approval of concerned Medical Institution is necessary.

Rajasthan Atomic Power Project

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up a Transmission system to evacuate electricity from the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project;

(b) if so, the cost of the Transmission System;

(c) the target date set for its completion;

(d) the organisation/corporation entrusted with the task to install the transmission system; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approved cost of the transmission system is about Rs.500 crore.

(c) The approved completion schedule of the transmission system is March 2008.

(d) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) of Ministry of Power will install the transmission system.

(e) There are four nuclear power reactors in Rajasthan with a total capacity of 740 MWe and the transmission system is already in place. In addition, two nuclear power reactors of 220 MWe each (RAPP-5&6) are presently under construction. The transmission system being implemented by PGCIL is for evacuation of power from RAPP-5&6.

[Translation]

**Review of Implementation of
Tenth Five Year Plan**

485. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any review on the implementation of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the sectors in which the progress has been found tardy;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to increase investment in agriculture sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the schemes which have been completed within the scheduled time;

(f) the details of the schemes which are behind the schedule and having cost escalation;

(g) whether any review has been made of the schemes undertaken in various States; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The rate of growth in the Agriculture sector has been much lower than the target. For the industry and services sectors, the rate of growth, though lower than the target, has been quite satisfactory.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There are proposals to raise public investment in irrigation and water resources management; watershed development and reclamation of waste/degraded land; and provision of essential infrastructure such as roads, markets and electricity.

(e) and (f) Schemes of the Government are mostly of an on-going nature and the costs are revised from time to time to take account of price escalations.

(g) and (h) Schemes undertaken by the State Governments are normally not monitored by the Central Government.

[English]

Elimination of Kalaazar

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

(a) whether the Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh and Nepal to eliminate Kalaazar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate this disease by 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh & Nepal on elimination of Kala-azar from the South East Asia Region on 18th May, 2005.

(b) Health Ministers of the three countries, namely,

India, Bangladesh and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Elimination of Kala-azar from the South-East Asia Region on 18th May, 2005 considering that over 147 million people are at risk of contracting Kala-azar in South-East Asia Region particularly in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. MOU has a target to reduce annual incidence of Kala-azar to less than 1 per 10000 population at the district and sub-district levels by 2015. Strategies to achieve the target will include access to early diagnosis & treatment, strengthening treatment & vector surveillance, integrated vector management, social mobilization, research & networking. An Inter country Task Force will be established for mobilization of resources, exchange of information and strengthening inter-sectorial collaboration.

(c) Kala-azar is endemic in four States of India, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal. Government of India launched a centrally sponsored Kala-azar Control Programme in 1991.

The main strategy for kala-azar control consists of following major activities:

(a) Vector control through Indoor Residual Spraying with DDT up to 6 feet height from the ground twice annually.

(b) Early case detection and complete treatment.

(c) Communication for behaviour Impact for social mobilization and Inter-sectorial collaboration.

(d) Capacity Building.

(e) Operation research.

The implementation of the strategy resulted in declining trend in case and deaths upto 1995. However, there has been a set back in 1996. Since then, the number of cases of kala-azar are almost fluctuating year after year between 12,239 to 22,699. Since December, 2003, Government of India provides 100% cash assistance including freight charges for DDT transportation to endemic states for effective implementation of the programme.

A National plan for kala-azar elimination by 2010 has been prepared. Government of India has provided Rs.217 crores during Xth Five Year Plan. In year 2005-06 Rs.58.86 crores have been earmarked. Additional fund from WHO for strengthening the programme has been requested for. Endemic States have reaffirmed their commitment for kala-azar elimination by 2010 at a review meeting held on 12.7.2005 in New Delhi. Kala-azar elimination programme in India sets the target to reduce incidence of kala-azar to less than 1 per 10000 at sub-district levels by 2010.

[Translation]

Four Laning of N.H.-80

487. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT, AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has approved four-laning of NH-80 between Mokam and Munger;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose and the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the reasons for not extending four laning upto Bhagalpur city;

(d) whether the Government is also contemplating four laning of road between Munger and Bhagalpur; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The stretch from Mokamha to Munger of NH-80 in the State of Bihar has been identified for four-laning on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under National Highway Development Project Phase-III, to be implemented by National Highways Authority of India. The Detailed Project Report for this work is under preparation.

(c) to (e) The Government is not contemplating at present to extend the four-laning up to Bhagalpur City due to various constraints.

CRF Proposals Received from Rajasthan

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

(a) the total number of proposals received from Jodhpur district, Rajasthan regarding the Central Road Funds;

(b) the number of projects sanctioned; and

(c) the total number of projects under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) 19 proposals were received from the Government of Rajasthan under Central Road Fund (CRF) Scheme for the State roads in Jodhpur District since 2000-2001. Out of these, 17 proposals have been approved so far.

[English]

Coal Requirement of Orissa

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

(a) the monthly requirement of coal of Orissa during the last three years and the total quantum of coal released to the State;

(b) whether the State is not getting coal as per its requirements;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to enhance the allocation of coal to Orissa in view of the increase in the demand of coal following the establishment of new steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The demand is assessed sector-wise by the Planning Commission and

not state-wise. However, the total quantity of coal despatched to the State of Orissa during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Despatched (In million tonnes)
2002-03	21.14
2003-04	27.21
2004-05	31.51 (provisional)

(b) and (c) There is an overall gap between demand and indigenous supply of coal throughout the country. The rise in demand of coal is due to sudden spurt in the economic growth.

(d) During formulation of X Plan document, the coal production projection for Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) in 2005-06 and 2006-07 was 62.50 million tonnes and 68.0 million tonnes respectively. Subsequently in view of increase in coal demand on MCL the targets for 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been enhanced to 72 Million tonnes and 80 million tonnes respectively. This would enhance availability of coal.

Bringing Back Sword of Chhatrapati Shivaji

490. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made efforts to bring back the 350 years old sword of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji to India; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the current status of the efforts made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government of India is aware of the media reports claiming that the sword of Chhatrapati Shivaji is in the UK. However, the veracity of these reports is not immediately clear.

Health Care Facilities

491. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI M. SHIVANNA :

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

(a) whether the Government has identified the immediate health care facilities needed by the people in the country;

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

(c) whether any Centrally-sponsored or externally aided scheme is being implemented in West Bengal to provide adequate health care facilities to the people of that State;

(d) if so, since when such a scheme is in operation;

(e) the allocation of funds made for the scheme during the Ninth Plan, year-wise; and

(f) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Health is a State subject. The Government of India in its National Health Policy 2002 recognises the need to ensure a more equitable access to health services across the social expanse of the country and achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population. The Policy covers wide ranging issues relating to Health Sector such as financial resources, equity, delivery of national public health programmes, health infrastructure, role of private sector, local self-government institutions and NGOs, health research, disease surveillance etc.

(c) The major Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in the country including West Bengal, includes National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP); National Programme for Control of Blindness

(NPCB), Revised National T.B. Control Programme (RNTCP) and National AIDS Control Programme (NACO). In addition a World Bank supported State Health System Project was initiated in the Ninth Plan at a cost of Rs.751.76 crores. This was completed in March, 2004.

(d) These programmes were launched in the following years:

Schemes/Programme	Year
NAMP (merged with NVBDCP in Xth Plan)	1953
NTCP (Revised as RNTCP in 1992)	1962
NPCB	1976
NLEP	1955
NACO	1992

(e) and (f) A statement I & II are enclosed. There are no year-wise allocations for World Bank funded State Health System Project. Funds were released as reimbursement of expenditure to the State Government. The World Bank mission makes periodical review of disbursement and progress in respect of World Bank assisted project.

Statement-I

Funds allocated under the Major disease Control Programmes during Ninth Plan in West Bengal

(Rs. in Lakh)

Scheme/ Programme Year	Malaria	TB	Leprosy	Blind- ness	AIDS
1	2	3	4	5	6
1997-1998	465.28	817.01	640.66	56.75	100
1998-1999	460.63	1052.71	452.85	141.70	350.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
1999-2000	296.26	2063.34	841.53	194.10	425.00
2000-2001	354.86	1126.85	784.00	275.00	643.15
2001-2002	589.86	1109.92	574.66	180.76	1059.50
Total (Ninth Plan)	2166.89	6169.83	3293	848.31	2577.65

Statement-II

*Achievements of National Disease Control
Programmes during Ninth Plan*

(i) National Malaria Control Programme

Year	ABER	API
1997	4.37	2.81
1998	3.90	2.12
1999	3.51	2.77
2000	3.62	1.76
2001	3.51	1.53
2002	4.70	2.34

ABER : Annual Blood Examination Rate (%)

API : Annual Parasite Incidence per thousand population

(ii) National TB Control Programme

Year	Sputum Examination Targets	Sputum Positive Achievements	Sputum Positive Targets	Sputum Positive Achievements
1	2	3	4	5
1997-1998	1136520	72046	37884	8858

1	2	3	4	5
1998-1999	1136520	66048	37884	6964
1999-2000	389860	85068	38900	15595
2000-2001	395040	35820	39500	3721
2001-2002	401000	35494	40100	3688

(iii) National Leprosy Eradication Programme

Year	Detection Target	Achi- evement	Treatment Target	Achi- evement	Discharge Target	Achi- evement
1997-98	25000	38134	25000	38134	45000	60199
1998-99	40000	71728	40000	71728	70000	57138
1999-00	20000	52888	20000	52888	45000	64137
2000-01	18000	34619	18000	34619	30800	54689
2001-02	18000	46214	18000	46214	30800	35739

(iv) National Programme for Control of Blindness

Year	Cataract Operations Performed Target	Achievement
1997-98	168000	146405
1998-99	184800	169397
1999-00	200000	205790
2000-01	210000	176473
2001-02	220000	229665

(v) National AIDS Control Programme*

15 Major blood banks and 61 district blood

banks have been established. 36 STD clinics have been set up. 10 Voluntary Counselling and Testing centres have been established. 37 Targeted Intervention Projects for vulnerable and marginalized high-risk behaviour group have been initiated.

* for the year 2001-02

Damage to Religious Shrines in London

492. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH [MOHANLAL GANJ] :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any report from the Indian High Commissioner on the reported damage caused to certain religious shrines particularly Sikh Gurdwaras in London recently on account of the bomb blasts there;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the renovation of the same;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the UK Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the UK Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes. Following the 7th July 2005 terrorist bomb blasts in London, there have been reports of isolated incidents of minor attacks against Gurdwaras in South London, Kent and Leeds. No major damage has been reported.

(c) and (d) Government of India expressed deep shock at reports about attacks on the places of Sikh worship in the UK. It has asked the British Government to take all necessary steps to apprehend the perpetrators of these attacks and protect the Sikh community. The British authorities have assured that they would work with community leaders to ensure safety and security of all communities.

Shortage of SIM Cards in Chhattisgarh

493. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a acute shortage of SIM cards to meet the demands of BSNL mobile phones in Chhattisgarh;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to address the problem;

(d) the target fixed in this regard for the year 2004-2005, State-wise, particularly in Chhattisgarh; and

(e) the extent to which the target has been achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Due to overwhelming demand, additional capacity rolled out in Chhattisgarh state has subscribed to and as a result, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is facing cellular network capacity constraint in the state. Accordingly, in spite of availability of SIM cards, the release of connections is controlled temporarily. The district-wise demand registered for cellular connections is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) BSNL has already placed purchase order to expand its cellular network of the state by an additional 1.50 lakh lines capacity. The additional capacity is expected to be available progressively from December, 2005 onwards.

(d) BSNL has set a target of releasing 65 lakh cellular connections during current financial year including one lakh connections for the state of Chhattisgarh.

(e) BSNL has so far provided 50,956 cellular connections in the state of Chhattisgarh, during the current financial year.

Statement**District wise Registered demand for Cellular Connections in Chhattisgarh State**

District	Registered Demand
Dantewada	5266
Jagdalpur	10825
Kanker	5429
Bilaspur	9660
Janjgeer	5259
Korba	7780
Durg	18976
Kawardha	1206
Rajnandgaon	3785
Jashpurnagar	1576
Raigarh	5729
Dhamtari	3363
Mahasamund	5968
Raipur	19760
Ambikapur	3810
Korea	5979
Total	114371

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Health Institutes

494. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government for providing financial assistance for the construction of health institutes;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to provide any financial assistance for the betterment of infrastructure of health institutes of poor and backward States like Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) This Ministry received a project proposal from State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for Health System Development Project for World Bank assistance in May, 2001. The total cost of the project was Rs.6296.26 million. Out of which 42% was for civil works (renovation, extension and new construction). The project proposal was forwarded to Department of External Affairs DEA for considering it for World Bank assistance in March, 2003. DEA has sought certain clarifications from Govt. of Madhya Pradesh regarding their debt sustainability. The Central Government has also taken up a proposal for setting up AIIMS like Institution at Bhopal under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna.

[English]

Derogatory Depiction of Indian God

495. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a Beer has been named "Ganesh" in United States of America recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian God has been derogatorily depicted on the label of the bottle;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the matter has been taken up with the concerned authorities;
- (f) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such instances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d) As per some newspaper reports on May 18, 2005, the Lost Coast brewery, a small Northern California women-owned microbrewery in Humboldt, brought out Indica India Pale Ale beer, whose label depicted Ganesh holding a beer in one of his four hands and another in his trunk.

(e) to (g) An Indian law student filed a \$1 billion class action suit for emotional distress over the brewery's depiction of Ganesh on its beer brand. Newspapers reported the brewery as stating that it would take off the shelves its Indica India Pale Ale brand, in view of the resentment shown by some Indian-American Hindus. No Indian-American organisation has brought this matter to the notice of the Indian Embassy/Consulates in the US.

Eco-Informatics Centre

496. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI M. SHIVANNA :

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

(a) whether the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) has launched the country's first Eco-Informatics Centre at bangalore in Karnataka;

- (b) if so, the major objectives of this Centre; and
- (c) the extent to which it is helpful to public?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & Environment has launched first Eco-Information center in May, 2005 in Bangalore.

(b) Assemble, organize and disseminate ecological, remotely sensed and geo-physical data in the public domain for use by researchers, students, teachers, policy makers and wide range of other professionals interested in biological research, teaching, conservation and management of natural resources.

- Promote research on the organization, structure and dissemination of databases through modeling and development of tools and software.
- Train environmental professionals in handling large databases, modeling and dissemination of information.

(c) The Information Centre is of use to public in following ways:

- GIS bases and remote sensing data on conservation & environment of various hotspot ecological regions of India e.g. Western Ghats, Eastern Himalayas etc. is available in Public remain.
- Various workshops/New bulletins to increase public awareness have been initiated.
- Specialized training programs in ecology & environment have been scheduled.

Amending Visa Procedure for Foreign Students

497. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" :
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has amended the procedure for obtaining visa by foreign students who are

pursuing or intend to pursue higher studies for Universities and institutions in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Procedure for grant of student visa and subsequent extension on a student visa has been liberalized. All Indian Missions have been delegated powers to grant student visa for a period of five years, or for the duration of the course of study, whichever is less to a foreign student coming to India for pursuing regular and full time academic studies on production of proof of admission in a recognized/reputed institution in India. The duration of the provisional visa to a foreign student who does not possess a firm letter of admission from the University/Educational Institution, has been enhanced from three months to six months. All the State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers to grant

further extension of visa to the foreign students wherever required.

Prices of Imported Coal

498. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the price of imported coal per tonne and its sale price in the Indian market during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) whether the Government proposes to curtail import of coal in view of the much high prices than indigenous coal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) Details of the imports of coal for the last two years are as under:

Year	Grade of Coal	Quantity (MT)	Total Price of imported Coal (In Million Rupees)	Average Price of imported Coal (Rupees Per Tonne)
2003-2004	Coking Coal	12.99	36,072	2825.40
	Non-Coking Coal	8.69	13,385	1540.28
	Coke	1.89	14,741	7799.47
2004-2005 (Provisional)	Coking Coal	14.84	62,500	4211.59
	Non-Coking Coal	10.47	26,000	2483.28
	Coke	2.78	42,000	15107.91

Most of the coal consumers are importing coal for their requirement. As such it is not possible to ascertain the sale price of imported coal.

(b) and (c) The coal is presently imported under Open General Licence (OGL). Imports of coal are need based. Efforts are being made to increase the domestic production of coal to meet the increased demand.

[Translation]

**Disinvestment of Public Sector
Coal Companies**

499. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the public sector coal companies have been disinvested during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the year-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether the production has been affected due to disinvestment;
- (d) if so, the year-wise details thereof;
- (e) the workers engaged in coal industry affected due to disinvestment; and
- (f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

[English]

Delay in Supply of Medicines

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the medicines prescribed by specialists of Government hospitals are not supplied timely to the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries;
- (b) if so, whether there is any provision whereby the CGHS beneficiaries can buy medicines from the market without prior permission of CGHS and get the reimbursement for the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the lacunae from the existing system and to streamline the working of CGHS for the sake of beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Adequate quantity of medicines are supplied to the beneficiaries on the same day. However, the medicines not available in the dispensary are procured through authorized local chemists on individual prescription basis. By and large and medicines are supplied on the next working day by the authorized local chemist or at best on the third day. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorized local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioners) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

(b) and (c) There is no such provision of allowing the beneficiaries to procure the medicines directly from the market without prior permission of CGHS.

(d) The Govt. has already approved the Combined formulary for the MSO/CGHS in respect of 504 proprietary drugs. Action to procure medicines for the CGHS as per the formulary has been initiated. As a result, availability of drugs in CGHS dispensaries is expected to improve further.

There is an inbuilt mechanism to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspections, supervision and guidance by Senior Officers of CGHS.

Eight special inspection teams have also been constituted in Delhi to monitor the complete functioning of CGHS Dispensaries. Surprise visits are made by these teams from time to time and remedial action taken as and when required.

[Translation]

**Centrally Sponsored Scheme for
Sports Activities in U.P.**

501. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any Centrally sponsored scheme for sports activities in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated to the State under the said scheme during the last two years; and

(d) the funds proposed to be allocated to the State under the said scheme during the Tenth Five Year period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Till 31.3.2005, this Ministry was implementing the Centrally sponsored sports Infrastructure Schemes by rendering Central assistance to the State Governments, Non Government Organisations, Universities/Colleges and Schools in accordance with the approved pattern subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Government etc. However, the Government had decided to transfer the Sports Infrastructure Schemes to state sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, no funds have been allocated during 2005-2006 for Sports Infrastructure Schemes. As such, now proposals for new sports infrastructure have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. All Chief Secretaries of States including Uttar Pradesh have been informed on 28.2.2005. However, there is a centrally sponsored scheme on State Sports Academy, which is applicable to Uttar Pradesh.

(b) As stated in (a) above.

(c) There was no provision of State-wise allocation of funds under the Sports Infrastructure Schemes. Upon receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments

and other agencies indicated in part (a), admissible central assistance was being provided. During the period 2003-04 to 2004-05, Rs.467.09 lakhs was released by Govt. of India for Infrastructure schemes in Uttar Pradesh. There are no funds released to Uttar Pradesh under State Sports Academy scheme.

(d) In view of (a) & (c) above, does not arise.

[English]

Training Centres in J&K

502. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of training centres set up by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Jammu and Kashmir, location-wise;

(b) whether the SAI proposes to set up any new training centres to impart training to the sports persons belonging to the rural areas of the State during 2004-05; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Sports Authority of India (SAI) has set up training centre at Udhampur in addition, the following schools in Jammu & Kashmir have been adopted under National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme:—

1. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Shahkute, District Baramulla.
2. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Basohli, District Kathua.
3. Indigenous Games & Martial Art Centre at Kishtwarh, District Dhadha.

(b) and (c) Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Basohli, District Kathua mentioned above has been identified in 2004-05.

Higher Pay Scale for CS Stenographers

503. SHRI JAI PRAKASH [MOHANLAL GANJ]: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has issued orders with regard to allowing higher payscale of Rs.8000-13,500/- as a non-functional pay scale to Central Secretariat Stenographers Service Personnel holding Private Secretary (PS) post and those who have completed four years of regular service as P.S.;

(b) if so, whether these orders are also applicable to other services e.g. (Airforce Headquarters) AFHQ, Railway Board, External Affairs etc. stenographers services; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) Yes Sir. Government has issued orders granting non-functional pay scale of Rs.8000-275-13500/- to private secretaries (Steno. Grade 'A' & 'B' (Merged) of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (CSSS) on their completing 4 years of 'approved service' in that grade.

(b) No Sir.

(c) A group of officers constituted to suggest ways of relieving stagnation in promotion prospects in the CSSS, recommended institution of a non-functional pay scale for PS level posts of the CSSS, which was accepted by Government.

[Translation]

Performance of WLL Phones

+504.SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the service provided by the Government in communication sector is not satisfactory as compared to the service provided by the private companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the loss of revenue to the Government as a result thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that WLL phones provided by the BSNL are not working satisfactorily in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Etawah district;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No Sir, as per the Quality of Service Performance Monitoring Reports for the quarter ended March, 2005, like other private Cellular Mobile Operators. MTNL and BSNL are meeting most of the benchmarks of various parameters in large number of circles. Performance Monitoring Reports of Cellular Mobile Service Operators for quarter ended March, 2005 are given in the enclosed statements. It is also worthwhile to add that BSNL provide the best coverage in the country regarding cellular Mobile Service. In the case of basic service, both MTNL and BSNL are lagging behind the private operators in respect of some fault rate parameters. However, the quality of Basic Service has also shown remarkable improvement in recent years and the service is not unsatisfactory. The following table for BSNL indicate this:—

S. No.	Parameter	Year	
		2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	Fault rate %	8.4	7.6

1	2	3	4
2.	CCR (Local) %	57.85	59.85
3.	Fault repair by next day %	90.29	90.2
4.	Repeat faults %	0.87	0.58

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

(c) and (d) The WLL phones provided by BSNL in Uttar Pradesh including Etawah District are working Satisfactorily in general. However, problems are encountered in proper working of WLL system due to poor availability of A/C mains power supply in rural areas, the in-built battery of the subscriber end terminals (FWTs) does not get charged properly causing interruption of services to the customers and also due to mishandling of the FWTs by the customers leading to fault in FWTs. The action is already on to restore WLL telephone connections, which are becoming faulty due to problem in FWTs.

(e) The following steps are being taken to further improve the service.

- (i) Introduction of more RSUs (Remote Switching Units)/ DLCs (Digital Loop carrier) to reduce the cable length resulting in reduction of faults due to cable.
- (ii) Up-gradation of external plant including poleless activity to improve the performance of outdoor network.
- (iii) Replacement of fault prone paper core U/G cables.
- (iv) Addition of DLCs (Digital Loop Carriers) to reduce the last mile problems and to meet high speed data circuit requirements.
- (v) Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system to cover larger rural areas.

- (vi) Provision of interactive Voice Response Systems (IVRS) based centralized fault booking at SDCCs (Short Distance Charging Centre) LDCC (long Distance Charging Centre).
- (vii) Conversion of C-DOT 256 exchanges into AN RAXs (Access Network Rural Automatic Exchanges).
- (viii) Conversion of SBM (Single Base Module) Exchange into RSU Exchanges.
- (ix) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternator for back up power supplies.
- (x) Entering into annual maintenance contact for new technology switches and for WLL switches including FWTs (Fixed Wireless Terminals.)
- (xi) Provision of high capacity external maintenance free batteries with FWT for longer talk time and standby time.
- (xii) Addition of mobile switching capacity in the towns wherever needed.
- (xiii) Extending/improving the coverage of existing mobile services in terms of higher indoor/ in-car/ signal levels.
- (xiv) Improvement of the mobile network of highways to provide rural coverage to the en-route towns/ villages.
- (xv) Dos and Don'ts have issued to customers to increase their awareness on proper use of FWTs so as to minimize FWT related faults.
- (xvi) Augmentation of mobile network capacity is being done continuously and the mobile network is being optimized for its performance.

Statement

Details QoS Parameters for Cellular Services as reported by CMSPs for the quarter ending 31st March, 2004

S. Name of the No. Service Providers	Fault Incidence & Repair			Network Performance				Billing Complaints			
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	
	No. of faults (per 100 subscribers)	Faults cleared within 24 hrs.	Accom- ulated time of community isolation	Call Success Rate (within licences own network)	Service Access Delay	Call Drop Rate	% of connection with good voice quality	Complaints per 100 bills issued	% of complaints resolved within 4 weeks	1 of all refunds/pay- ment customers the date solution complaints (ii) above	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Benchmarks											
	<1%	100%	<24 hrs	>99%	9 to 20 sec	<3%	>95%	<.1%	100%	<4 weeks	
'A' Circle Maharashtra											
1. BPL Cellular	1.17%	98.00%	58.6	98.69%	11.21	1.32%	98.09%	0.100%	100.00%	30 Days	
2. IDEA Cellular	0.01%	100.00%	45.38	96.40%	13.45	1.40%	98.39%	0.405%	100.00%	30 Days	
3. BSNL	0.20%	90.00%	98	88.00%	2.00	120%	96.00%	1.200%	100.00%	30 Days	
4. Bharti Cellular	0.39%	100.00%	22.23	99.01%	9.35	0.92%	96.50%	0.100%	100.00%	30 Days	
5. Reliance-CDMA											
6. Tata, MH-CDMA	0.16%	98.00%	13.56	99.58%	12.00	0.55%	97.17%	0.003%	100.00%	NA	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Gujarat										
7.	Hutch	0.01%	100.00%	10.5	98.66%	14.14	1.38%	97.52%	0.080%	100.00%	30 Days
8.	IDEA Cellular										
9.	BSNL	0.10%	99.00%	Nil	99.00%	2.00	1.00%	NA	0.100%	100.00%	7 Days
10.	Bharti Cellular	0.10%	100.00%	17.57	99.75%	12.80	0.25%	96.94%	0.050%	100.00%	14 Days
11.	Reliance - CDMA										
12.	Tata - CDMA	0.87%	99.00%	4.18	99.77%	8.60	0.49%	96.77%	0.010%	100.00%	30 Days
	Andhra Pradesh										
13.	IDEA cellular	0.32%	100.00%	26.44	99.98%	9.56	0.51%	98.53%	0.390%	100.00%	2 Days
14.	Bharti Mobile	0.02%	100.00%	139	98.80%	12.00	0.88%	98.10%	0.050%	100.00%	NA
15.	BSNL, AP	0.30%	95.00%	Nil	98.00%	6.00	1.60%	98.00%	0.000%	100.00%	Immediate
16.	Hutchison Essar	0.37%	100.00%	18	99.04%	5.00	1.04%	98.00%	0.090%	100.00%	30 Days
17.	Reliance - CDMA										
18.	Tata - CDMA	1.09%	64.00%	15.35	99.83%	5.53	0.51%	97.55%	0.310%	100.00%	30 Days
	Karnataka										
19.	Bharti Mobile	0.04%	100.00%	97.13	99.05%	7.00	1.50%	96.20%	0.005%	100.00%	30 Days
20.	Spice Comm.	0.15%	100.00%	1.2	99.72%	9.00	1.26%	99.71%	0.020%	100.00%	7 Days
21.	BSNL	0.50%	100.00%	12	94.00%	12.00	1.30%	98.00%	0.020%	100.00%	30 Days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Punjab										
37.	Spice Comm.	0.20%	100.00%	6.85	99.21%	4.20	1.55%	98.30%	0.035%	100.00%	30 Days
38.	Bharti Mobile	0.02%	100.00%	4.68	99.60%	9.00	1.63%	99.80%	0.080%	100.00%	1 Day
39.	Hutch	0.63%	100.00%	Nil	99.41%	10.00	1.22%	98.98%	0.082%	100.00%	1 Day
40.	BSNL										
41.	Tata - CDMA										
42.	Reliance - CDMA										
	Haryana										
43.	IDEA-Escotel Mobile	0.15%	100.00%	10.4	99.95%	14.27	0.77%	99.41%	0.080%	100.00%	35 Days
44.	Hutch-Aircel Digilink	0.95%	100.00%	3.15	99.75%	9.20	1.72%	98.50%	0.090%	100.00%	30 Days
45.	BSNL	0.30%	100.00%	20	97.00%	9.00	2.80%	97.00%	0.070%	100.00%	7 Days
46.	Bharti Cellular	0.09%	100.00%	2.2	99.70%	8.00	1.59%	99.80%	0.070%	100.00%	1 Day
47.	TATA - CDMA										
48.	Reliance - CDMA										
	UP - W										
	Hutch Essar	1.00%	100.00%	Nil	96.00%	10.00	1.40%	96.00%	0.024%	100.00%	3 Days
49.	IDEA	0.08%	100.00%	16.04	99.89%	11.50	1.92%	97.00%	0.390%	100.00%	30 Days
50.	BSNL	0.60%	98.00%	Nil	88.00%	9.00	1.10%	95.00%	0.000%	100.00%	immediate

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
51.	Bharti Cellular	0.76%	100.00%	16.08	99.63%	9.00	1.67%	95.94%	0.020%	100.00%	30 Days
52.	Tata - CDMA										
53.	Reliance - CDMA										
	UP - E										
54.	Bharti Cellular	3.00%	98.00%	0	95.00%	9.50	NA	96.00%	0.200%	99.00%	45 Days
55.	Hutch - AD	0.52%	100.00%	Nil	99.45%	9.00	1.61%	98.00%	0.020%	100.00%	21 Days
56.	BSNL	1.80%	100.00%	2	97.00%	13.00	2.80%	96.00%	0.100%	100.00%	30 Days
57.	Reliance - CDMA										
58.	Tata - CDMA										
	Rajasthan										
59.	Hutch-Aircel Diglink	0.14%	100.00%	1.05	100.00%	9.00	1.40%	95.99%	0.090%	100.00%	21 Days
60.	BSNL	0.40%	97.00%	38	95.00%	6.00	1.80%	92.00%	0.500%	93.00%	30 Days
61.	Bharti-Hexacom	0.70%	100.00%	7.5	99.80%	9.00	1.50%	99.00%	0.080%	100.00%	1 Day
62.	Reliance - CDMA										
63.	Tata - CDMA										
	Madhya Pradesh										
64.	IDEA Cellular	0.19%	100.00%	5.5	99.03%	12.33	1.23%	99.19%	0.260%	100.00%	30 Days
65.	Reliance	0.00%	100.00%	13.18	100.00%	8.06	2.84%	97.89%	0.040%	100.00%	1 Day
66.	BSNL	0.80%	97.00%	Nil	99.00%	3.00	1.30%	95.00%	0.040%	100.00%	30 Days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
67.	Bharti Cellular	0.08%	100.00%	16.06	99.51%	13.00	0.58%	98.00%	0.092%	100.00%	30 Days
68.	Reliance - CDMA										
69.	Tata - CDMA										
	West Bengal'										
70.	Bharti	0.01%	100.00%	1	98.29%	6.90	1.69%	97.00%	0.180%	100.00%	30 Days
71.	Reliance	0.08%	100.00%	57.54	99.00%	9.44	2.63%	99.79%	Nil	NA	NA
72.	BSNL	0.60%	100.00%	Nil	99.00%	6.00	1.70%	99.00%	0.000%	100.00%	immediate
73.	Tata - CDMA										
74.	Reliance - CDMA										
	C' Circle										
	Himechal Pradesh										
75.	Bharti Telenet	0.01%	100.00%	4.26	99.57%	9.00	1.93%	99.91%	0.060%	100.00%	1 Day
76.	Reliance	0.02%	100.00%	6.4	100.00%	6.61	2.33%	99.62%	0.000%	100.00%	10 Days
77.	BSNL	0.30%	97.00%	1	98.00%	6.00	2.50%	95.00%	0.090%	100.00%	immediate
78.	Reliance - CDMA										
79.	Tata - CDMA										
	Bihar										
80.	Reliance	0.11%	100.00%	19.32	99.00%	8.35	1.96%	98.88%	0.000%	100.00%	7 Days
81.	BSNL	0.40%	96.00%	87	99.00%	9.00	2.10%	92.00%	0.200%	90.00%	42 Days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	82. Reliance - CDMA										
	83. Tata - CDMA										
	Bharti Cellular	0.12%	100.00%	4	99.53%	5.33	1.03%	99.66%	0.200%	100.00%	Nil
	Orissa										
	84. Reliance	0.10%	100.00%	14.36	99.17%	7.27	2.47%	99.76%	0.050%	100.00%	NA
	85. BSNL	0.10%	88.00%	83	84.00%	9.00	1.90%	93.00%	0.100%	100.00%	immediate
	86. Bharti	0.43%	98.17%	Nil	100.00%	7.40	0.00%	98.82%	0.050%	100.00%	30 Days
	87. Reliance - CDMA										
	88. Tata - CDMA										
	Assam										
	89. BSNL, AS	0.30%	100.00%	3	99.00%	12.00	36.60%	95.00%	0.010%	100.00%	immediate
	90. Reliance, AS	0.02%	100.00%	13.4	99.00%	9.70	1.22%	98.18%	0.010%	100.00%	NA
	Jammu and Kashmir										
	91. BSNL	1.90%	100.00%	23	99.00%	12.00	2.00%	97.00%	0.100%	100.00%	21 Days
	92. Bharti	2.00%	99.70%	3.78	99.00%	9.00	2.80%	98.50%	0.050%	100.00%	1 Day
	93. Reliance - CDMA										
	NE										
	94. BSNL	1.40%	100.00%	12	99.00%	14.00	2.00%	98.00%	0.000%	100.00%	21 Days
	95. Reliance	Nil	Nil	Nil	99.00%	9.74	2.56%	95.07%	Nil	Nil	Nil

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Metro												
Delhi												
96.	Bharti Cellular	0.38%	100.00%	Nil	99.11%	10.00	1.58%	95.68%	0.059%	100.00%	30 Days	
97.	Hutchison Essar	0.63%	100.00%	Nil	99.41%	10.00	1.22%	98.98%	0.082%	100.00%	immediate	
98.	MTNL	1.99%	100.00%	0	99.50%	13.00	1.04%	56.80%	0.070%	100.00%	30 Days	
99.	IDEA Cellular	0.37%	100.00%	Nil	99.98%	7.00	0.63%	97.15%	0.090%	100.00%	30 Days	
100.	Reliance - CDMA											
101.	Tata - CDMA											
Mumbai												
102.	BPL Mobile	0.27%	100.00%	63.53	99.45%	11.34	1.83%	98.72%	0.100%	100.00%	40 Days	
103.	Hutchison Max											
104.	MTNL	0.00%	100.00%	Nil	99.20%	14.00	1.41%	95.30%	0.060%	100.00%	30 Days	
105.	Bharti Cellular	0.04%	100.00%	0	100.00%	9.00	1.21%	97.00%	0.020%	100.00%	7 Days	
106.	Reliance - CDMA											
107.	Tata - CDMA	0.16%	99.00%	3.08	99.82%	12.00	0.30%	97.39%	0.620%	94.53%		
Chennai												
108.	Aircel Cellular Ltd.	0.11%	99.20%	Nil	100.00%	12.00	0.84%	95.00%	0.200%	100.00%	30 Days	
109.	Bharti Mobinet	0.04%	98.26%	0	99.78%	12.67	0.51%	96.98%	0.090%	100.00%	30 Days	
110.	Hutchison Essar	0.07%	100.00%	Nil	99.60%	9.00	0.72%	98.78%	0.060%	100.00%	3 Days	

[English]

Setting up of Business Post Centres

505. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the post offices in the country have started functioning as "Business Post Centres".

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

(c) the main functions of such Centres and the volume of transactions being made by them;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up more such centers in various parts of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Selected Post Offices are working, as Business Post Centres also in addition to their traditional work and in some places there are independent Business Post Centres.

(b) The details of location of such Business Post Centres are given in the statement.

(c) The main function of such Business Post Centres is handling of bulk mails for corporate customers and providing solution to their mailing problems in terms of collection, insertion, franking, gumming and special handling of mails on payment of charges specified for the purpose. The volume of traffic handled in transactions by the Business Post Centres both independent and in Post Offices in 2004-05 is 7780.02 lakhs. The specific volume of transactions through Business Post Centres in Post Offices will be submitted.

(d) & (e) Opening of Business Post Centres is a continuous exercise. Establishment of these Centres is

examined on a case-to-case basis by the Heads of Circles, as the competent authorities in this regard.

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

Statement

Details of locations of Business Post Offices

S. No.	Name of State	Name of the Business Post Centre
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Attili
		2. Bhimavaram
		3. Palakole
		4. Tanuku
		5. Eluru National SPC
		6. Jangareddy gudem
		7. Gudivada
		8. Nuzvid
		9. Gudur
		10. Guntur National SPC
		11. Manglagiri
		12. Khammam National SPC
		13. Kothagudem Coll.
		14. Bhadrachalam
		15. Avanigadda
		16. Machilipatnam
		17. Narsaraopet

1	2	3
		18. Sattenapalli
		19. Chilakaluripeta
		20. Nellore
		21. Chirala
		22. Kandukuru
		23. Kanigiri
		24. Ongole
		25. Tadepalligudem
		26. Kovvuru
		27. Bapatia
		28. Repalle
		29. Tenali
		30. Buchighampeta
		31. Vijayawada
		32. Vijayawada National SPC
		33. Hanamokonda
		34. Karimnagar
		35. Mahabubnagar
		36. Nizambad
		37. Sangareddy
		38. Anakapalle
		39. Kakinada
		40. Rajahmundry

1	2	3
		41. Srikakulam
		42. Vizianagaram
		43. Visakhapatnam National SPC
		44. Kurnool National SPC
		45. Tirupati National SPC
		46. Chandragiri
		47. Srikalahasti
		48. Anantapur
		49. Chittoor
		50. Madanapalle
		51. Cuddapah
		52. Guntakal
		53. Dharmavaram
		54. Prasanti Nilayam
		55. Nandyal
		56. Markapur
		57. Allagadda
		58. Proddatur
		59. Pulivendia
		60. Tirupati RMS
		61. Nellore RMS
		62. Gudur RMS
		63. Kurnool RMS

1	2	3	1	2	3
		64. Guntakal RMS			4. IGNOU Post Office, New Delhi-68
		65. Secunderabad			5. Civil Lines, Delhi-54
		66. Hyderabad Business Post Centre-I			6. Railway Mail Service, RMS Bhawan, Delhi-6
		67. Hyderabad Business Post Centre-II			7. Delhi General Post Office, Delhi-6
		68. Hyderabad Business Post Centre-III			8. Naraina Industrial Estate Head Office, New Delhi
2.	Assam	1. Guwahati			9. New Delhi Head Office, New Delhi-1
		2. Silchar			10. Malviya Nagar Sub Office, New Delhi-17
		3. Tezpur			11. Krishna Nagar, Delhi
		4. Dibrugarh			12. Lodi Road, Head Office, New Delhi-3
		5. Jorhat			
		6. Tinsukia			
		7. Bongaigaon	7.	Gujarat	1. Ahmedabad
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Itanagar			2. Vadodara
4.	Bihar	1. Patna			3. Surat
		2. Bankipur			4. Rajkot
		3. Muzaffarpur			
5.	Chhattisgarh	1. Raipur	8.	Goa	1. Panjim
6.	Delhi	1. Foreign Post Complex, New Delhi-2			2. Vasco-d-gama
		2. Meghdoot Bhawan, New Delhi-23			3. Margo
		3. Safdarjung Sorting Office, New Delhi-23			4. Ponda
					5. Panaji Sorting Office
					6. Mapuca

1	2	3
9.	Haryana	1. Ambala 2. Gurgaon 3. Faridabad
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Shimla 2. Dharamshala 3. Hamirpur 4. Solan
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
12.	Jharkhand	1. Ranchi 2. Dhanbad 3. Jamshedpur
13.	Karnataka	1. Bagalkot 2. Belgaum 3. Bellary 4. Bidar 5. Bijapur 6. Gadag 7. Gulbarga 8. Haveri 9. Hubli-Dharwad 10. Raichur 11. Sirsi (Utar Kannada) 12. Chickmagalur 13. Davanagere

1	2	3
		14. Chitraduraga 15. Hassan 16. Madikeri (Kodagu) 17. Kolar 18. Mandya 19. Mangalore (Dakshin Kannada) 20. Mysore 21. Nanajugud, Mysore 22. Puttur (Dakshin Kannada) 23. Shimoga 24. Tumkur 25. Udupi 26. Business Post Centre-I, Bangalore 27. Business Post Centre-II, Bangalore 28. Business Post Centre-III, Bangalore
14.	Kerala	1. Trivandrum, 2. Kollam 3. Tiruvalla 4. Kottayam 5. Ernakulam 6. Aluvar

1	2	3	1	2	3
		7. Thrissur			11. Dadar
		8. Irinjalakuda			12. Shanti Sadan Kurla
		9. Changanacherry			13. UTI Belapur
		10. Mavelikara			14. T.S. Marketing Mailing Center
		11. Palakkad			15. Panvel
		12. Ottapalam			16. Hingoli
		13. Malappuram			17. Pandharpur
		14. Kasaragod			18. Satara
		15. Vadakara			19. Karad
		16. Thalassery			20. Paltan
		17. Kannur			21. Satara City
		18. Tirur			22. Koregaon
		19. Fozhikode			23. Pune
15. Maharashtra	1. Mumbai				24. Chinchwad (E)
	2. Yogakshema				25. Yerawada
	3. Jacob Circle				26. Shivaji Nagar
	4. Vile Parle (W)				27. Shrirampur
	5. Chakala MIDC				28. Ahmednagar
	6. Mandpeshwar				29. Solapur
	7. Mahim Bazar				30. Dapoli
	8. Thane				31. Dhule
	9. Vashi				32. Nandurbar
	10. Commerce House				33. Zero Mile

1	2	3
		34. Nagpur
		35. MIDC Nagpur
		36. Amravati
		37. Akola
		38. Chandrapur
		39. Gondia
		40. Bhandara
		41. Buldhana
		42. Yeotmal
		43. Wardha
		44. RMS P Division, Nagpur
		45. Kolhapur
		46. Tilak Memorial
		47. Osmanabad
		48. Manmad Railway Mail Service
		49. Nashik
		50. Malegaon
		51. Aurangabad
		52. Jalna
		53. Heed
		54. Nanded
		55. Nashik Road
		56. Chalisgaon

1	2	3
		57. Bhusawal
		58. Jalgaon
		59. Parbhani
		60. Sangli
		61. Ratnagiri
		62. Chiplun
		63. Latur
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Bhopal
		2. Ujjain
		3. Indore
		4. Jabalpur
		5. Gwallor
17.	Meghalaya	1. Shillong
18.	Manipur	1. Imphal
19.	Mizoram	1. Aizawl
20.	Nagaland	1. Dimapur
		2. Kohima
21.	Orissa	1. Bhubaneswar
		2. Cuttack
		3. Puri
		4. Balasore
		5. Bhadrak
		6. Baripada
		7. Chandnichowk

1	2	3
		8. Khurda
		9. Nayagarh
		10. Kendrapara
		11. Jagatsinghpur
		12. Jaipur
		13. Athgarh
		14. Jaleswar
		15. Rairangpur
		16. Berhampur
		17. Phulbani
		18. Bhawanipatna
		19. Aska
		20. Bhanjanagar
		21. Jeyore
		22. Koraput
		23. Rayagada
		24. Chhatrapur
		25. Parlakhamundi
		26. Jharsuguda
		27. Sambalpur
		28. Keonjhar
		29. Dhenkanal
		30. Angul
		31. Bolangir

1	2	3
		32. Sundargarh
		33. Rourkela
		34. Uditnagar
22. Punjab		1. Chandigarh
		2. Ludhiana
		3. Jalandhar
		4. Amritsar
23. Rajasthan		1. Business Post Office Sanganeri Gate, Jaipur
		2. Business Post Centre, City Sorting Office, Jaipur
		3. Mobile Business Mail Office, O/o CSO Gandhinagar, Jaipur
		4. Bharatpur RMS
		5. Gangapur Transit Mail Office
		6. Alwar
		7. Bhiwadi I.A.
		8. Khairthal
		9. Ajmer
		10. Udaipur
		11. Kota
		12. Jodhpur RMS
24. Tripura		1. Agartala Head Post Office

1	2	3
25.	Tamil Nadu	1. Ethiraj Salai
		2. Chennai GPO
		3. Nandanem
		4. Vadapalani
		5. Tiruvallikeni
		6. Greams Road
		7. Teynampet
		8. T.Nagar
		9. T.Nagar North
		10. Mylapore
		11. Tiruvallur
		12. Kanchipuram
		13. Chengalpattu
		14. Tiruvannamalai
		15. Vellore
		16. Tambaram
		17. Ambattur
		18. Avadi
		19. Tiruvottiyur
		20. Dindigul
		21. Palani
		22. Nilakottai
		23. Nagarcovil

1	2	3
		24. Thuckalay
		25. Karalkudi
		26. Kovilpatti
		27. Madurai
		28. Tallakulam
		29. Anasaradi
		30. Periyakulam
		31. Manamadurai
		32. Ramanathapura
		33. Paramakudi
		34. Tirunelveli
		35. Palayamkottai
		36. Ambassamudram
		37. Tuticorin
		38. Virduhunagar
		39. Sivakasi
		40. Rajapalayam
		41. Coimbatore
		42. Dharmapuri
		43. Erode
		44. Namakkai
		45. Nilgiris
		46. Pollachi

1	2	3
		47. Salem East
		48. Salem West
		49. Tirupur
		50. Tirupattur
		51. Trichy
		52. Pondicherry
26.	Uttaranchal	1. Dehradun
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Lucknow RMS
		2. Lucknow
		3. Mahanagar
		4. Faizabad
		5. Sitapur
		6. Barabanki
		7. Raibareilly
		8. Sultanpur
		9. Sanjay Palace Agra
		10. Etawah
		11. Mainpuri
		12. Aligarh
		13. Jhansi
		14. Mathura
		15. Etah
		16. Buland Shahar

1	2	3
		17. Khurja
		18. Kanpur
		19. Gorakhpur RMS
		20. Bareilly
		21. Ghaziabad
		22. Noida
		23. Kheri
		24. Meerut
		25. Shahjahanpur
		26. Allahabad
		27. Varanasi
28.	West Bengal	1. Kolkata General Post Office
		2. Barabazar, Kolkata
		3. Alipore, Kolkata
		4. New Market, Kolkata
		5. Belegkata, Kolkata
		6. ISI complex, Kolkata
		7. Brace Bridge, Kolkata
		8. Belgharia, Kolkata
		9. Barrackpore
		10. Baruipur
		11. Daimond Harbour
		12. Barasat

1	2	3
		13. Basirhal
		14. Kalyani
		15. Ranaghat
		16. Krishna Nagar
		17. Nabadwip
		18. Berhampur
		19. Kani
		20. Raghunagh Ganj
		21. Suri
		22. Rampurhat
		23. Kadamtala
		24. Arambagh
		25. Chinsurah
		26. Serampur
		27. Midnapur
		28. Jhargram
		29. Contai
		30. Tamluk
		31. Burdwan
		32. Katwa
		33. Asansole
		34. Durgapur
		35. Raniganj
		36. Port Blair

1	2	3
		37. Bankura
		38. Purulia
		39. Siliguri
		40. Darjeeling
		41. Jalpaiguri
		42. Mal
		43. Coochbehar
		44. Balurghat
29.	Sikkim	1. Gangtok

1*. The Union Territories are included in the postal Circles (States) within whose postal jurisdiction they are covered.

2. RMS stands for Railway Mail Service.

3. SPC stands for Speed Post Centre.

Restoration of Democracy in Myanmar

506. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government with the help of ASEAN to restore democracy in Myanmar;

(b) whether the steps have proved fruitful;

(c) if so, the extent to which the situation has improved; and

(d) the reaction of Myanmar thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (d) Government of India has consistently supported the process of dialogue, political reform and national recon-

ciliation in Myanmar. We have offered Myanmar assistance in building constitutional institutions and a democratic polity. We have not sought the assistance of any regional grouping in this regard. The Government of Myanmar has assured us of its commitment to building a modern, democratic state suited to Myanmar's needs and conditions.

Improving Working of Major Ports

507. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve the working of major ports in the country, port-wise; and

(b) the results achieved in each port during the last three years, port-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT

AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Improvement of the working of Major Ports in the country is an ongoing process. In order to improve efficiency of major ports, steps have been taken from time to time such as (i) Construction and equipping of new berths/terminals; (ii) Replacement of existing equipment with the state-of-the-art equipment on existing berths; (iii) Labour training and improvement in management practices for achieving higher efficiency output; (iv) Private sector involvement in the development and operation of port facilities to bring out additional investment and modern techniques for greater efficiency; (v) Computerisation of port working and partial induction of Electronic Data Interchange. A list of some important projects commissioned at various major ports during last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The port-wise achievement in terms of cargo handled and Turn Around Time during 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 is given below:—

Name of the Port	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
	Cargo handled (In million Tonnes)	Turn Round Time (In days)	Cargo handled (In million Tonnes)	Turn Round Time (in days)	Cargo handled (In million Tonnes)	Turn Round Time (in days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kolkata	35.80	7.49	41.26	7.16	46.15	7.16
Paradip	23.90	3.37	25.31	3.42	30.10	3.41
Visakhapatnam	46.01	3.72	47.74	3.33	50.15	3.20
Ennore	8.49	2.24	9.28	1.94	9.48	1.68
Chennai	33.69	3.70	36.71	4.60	43.81	4.00
Tuticorin	13.29	3.59	13.68	2.59	15.81	2.66
Cochin	13.02	2.19	13.57	2.21	14.10	2.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Mangalore	21.43	1.90	26.67	2.35	33.89	2.96
Mormugao	23.65	3.86	27.87	4.47	30.66	4.35
Jawaharlal Nehru	26.84	2.28	31.19	2.04	32.81	2.34
Mumbai	26.80	5.06	30.00	4.17	35.13	4.16
Kandla	40.63	5.94	41.52	5.06	41.54	4.62
Total/Over All	313.55	3.69	344.80	3.45	383.63	3.42

Statement

List of important projects commissioned in the major Ports during last three years

Name of the Port	Name of the Project	1	3
			(iv) Replacement of floating crane dredger
			(v) Procurement of 2 Nos. 32 T Bollard Pull Tugs
Kolkata	Construction of berth at Haldia Dock	Tuticorin	(i) Capacity augmented at PSA container berth (ii) Dredging of Dock Basin
Paradip	Construction of Oil Berth	Cochin	(i) Installation of Cargo handling gantry crane (ii) Installation of gantry crane replacement of RTG cranes for container handling
Visakhapatnam	(i) Procurement of 4 nos. of 20 T capacity cranes (ii) Replacement of Grab Hopper Dredger (GHD) "Durga"		
Ennore	Expansion of capacity for handling of iron ore (i) Further Extension of Container Terminal (ii) Modernisation of West Quay berth in Chennai Port (iii) Modernisation of South Quay	New Mangalore	(i) Additional Port facilities for Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Ltd. (ii) Construction of Multiuser Oil Berth
		Mormugao	(i) Replacement of Barge Unloaders and Procurement of Tugs

1	3
	(ii) Dredging & Deepening of Berth and approach channel
Jawaharlal Nehru	(i) Construction of shallow water berth
	(ii) Procurement of Post Panamax Rail Mounted Quay Cranes (RMQCs)
	(iii) Procurement and replacement of Rubber Tyre Gantry Cranes
Mumbai	(i) Modernisation of Marine Oil Terminal Berths
	(ii) Upgradation of railways track between Gate No.6, Wadala and Ballard Pier
	(iii) Replacement of Pir Pau-Sewree Wadala shore pipelines
Kandla	(i) Construction of 11th Cargo Berth
	(ii) Deepening and widening of Sogal Channel
	(iii) Procurement of Wharf cranes of 20/25 tonnes capacity

Rules for Trade with G-20 Countries

508. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries who are at present members of G-20;

(b) whether India is also one of the members of the G-20 countries;

(c) if so, the rules and regulations for initiating trade with these countries; and

(d) the benefits that are generally granted to the member-countries for trade activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) G-20 group of countries comprises Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) The G-20 functions mainly as a negotiating group of developing countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) holding similar interests and concerns in the ongoing negotiations on agriculture in the WTO. Rules and regulations for trade which are applicable to all the Members of the WTO are also applicable for trade among member countries of the G-20.

CGHS Dispensary in Dehradun

509. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the issue regarding creation of new posts for dispensary at Dehradun has been resolved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, whether the authorized staff is there and the dispensary is fully functional;

(d) if so, the time since when the said dispensary is functional;

(e) whether this dispensary will cater to areas outside Dehradun City;

(f) if so, whether the Government will consider making its services available for neighbouring district of Pauri Garhwal also; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The posts of doctors for the CGHS dispensary, Dehradun, have been filled up by redeployment. The posts of para-medical and other staff for the said dispensary have been filled up by outsourcing the support services.

(c) and (d) As the dispensary is having the required staff, it has started registering beneficiaries who are being provided Out-Patient-Department(OPD) services from July, 2005.

(e) to (g) In addition to the CGHS cardholders residing in Dehradun, the Central Govt. pensioners residing in the neighbouring districts of Dehradun are also eligible to register themselves at CGHS Dehradun but such pensioner cardholders would not be eligible for domiciliary visits by the CGHS doctors in the case of emergency.

Autonomy of JIPMER

510. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of the people's Action Committee consisting of various parties has protested the Government's move for the autonomy of JIPMER Pondicherry and demanded adequate funds to JIPMER for the development of the institute;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, there have been representations from various organizations including JIPMER Anti Autonomy People's Action Committee, Pondicherry on the reported move for grant of autonomy to JIPMER, Pondicherry. For the entire 10th Five Year Plan period, an allocation of Rs.150.00 crores has been provided for JIPMER, Pondicherry. The C.C.E.A. has also recently approved the setting up of Super Speciality Block

and Trauma Care Centre at JIPMER, Pondicherry at an approximate cost of Rs.118.00 crores. Budget provision of Rs.62.00 crores has been made under Plan for the current year.

Outstanding Amount against Government Offices

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

(a) the total amount outstanding against the Government offices pertaining to the Kendriya Bhandar, Ministry-wise;

(b) the main reasons for failure to realize the dues;

(c) whether there is any proposal to fix the responsibility and accountability of the officials of Kendriya Bhandar in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to realize the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) As on 31.3.2005, approximately an amount of Rs.337.50 lakhs of the Kendriya Bhandar remained outstanding against various Ministries/Departments etc.

(b) to (e) Realisation of dues is a continuous process and Kendriya Bhandar makes constant efforts to recover the outstanding amounts. These efforts are largely successful, since as on 31.3.2005, the outstanding amount was less than 1% of the total sales.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts in CBI

512. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that 32 percent posts are lying vacant in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as reported in the *Tribune* dated May 2, 2005;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts;

(d) whether the functioning of CBI is being affected due to these vacant posts; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to increase the efficiency of the CBI?

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

(a) and (b) No Sir, As against the sanctioned strength of 5891, there were 1143 posts lying vacant in CBI as on 1.5.2005. In terms of percentage, the vacancies were 19.4% approximately.

(c) Government has taken all necessary steps to fill up vacant posts as per the provisions of the relevant Recruitment Rules.

(d) and (e) In spite of the shortage effective use and deployment of existing personnel, has been made. To improve the efficiency of CBI Government has taken various measures, which inter alia include modernization, improvement in training infrastructure, housing and improving conditions of work and employment of the officers of the CBI.

[English]

Conference of Distt. Collectors

513. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had convened a

Conference of District Collectors of all the States in May, 2005 to streamline administration at the grass root level;

(b) if so, the directives issued by the Government to them to tone up the administration; and

(c) the mechanism that has been devised to monitor the progress of implementation of the massive rural programmes and fix the responsibilities of the officials who fail to meet the targets within the stipulated time frame?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National conference of District Collectors was convened in New Delhi on 19-20 May, 2005 focusing on governance issues and improvement of delivery systems at the district level. Prime Minister called upon the Collectors to discharge their duties with competence especially towards the poor, the weaker sections, minorities, women and scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes and all such disadvantaged people who need support of the State.

(c) Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of rural development schemes through regular field visits, reviewing periodic progress reports from the State Governments and Concurrent and Quick Evaluation of programmes. Vigilance & Monitoring Committees, with greater role for Members of Parliament, are also being reconstituted at State and District levels. A panel of National Level Monitors has been prepared to monitor implementation of the programmes at the grassroots level. A new initiative of District Level Monitoring in 126 districts in 25 States through locally based independent, external agencies has also been taken.

[Translation]

Increase in Per Capita Income

514. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the per capita income of the country has increased during the last few years;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase during 2004-05 vis-a-vis the year 2000-01, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for variation in per capita income of each State?

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

(b) The percentage increase in the national per capita income at constant (1993-94) prices is estimated at 4.8% per annum during 2000-01 to 2004-05. State wise estimates of per capita income for the year 2004-05 are not available. As per the latest available data, the State wise per capita income for the year 2000-01 and 2003-04 alongwith percentage increase in per capita income during this period are indicated in the statement enclosed.

(c) Variation in per capita income between States is attributed to uneven distribution of economic growth across States as well as variation in population growth.

Statement**Per Capita NSDP (State Income) at 1993-94 Prices**

Sl. No.	State/UT	2000-2001	2003-2004	Compound Annual Rate 2000-01 to 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10195	11333	3.6%

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9135	NA	-1.0%
3.	Assam	5943	6520	3.1%
4.	Bihar	3879	3707	-1.5%
5.	Jharkhand	7212	NA	4.1%
6.	Goa	26730	NA	2.5%
7.	Gujarat	12489	16779	10.3%
8.	Haryana	13822	15721	4.4%
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11029	NA	3.6%
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7385	NA	NA
11.	Karnataka	11900	NA	-0.4%
12.	Kerala	10510	12109	4.8%
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7195	8284	4.8%
14.	Chhattisgarh	6423	NA	4.7%
15.	Maharashtra	14211	18050	4.1%
16.	Manipur	6845	8751	8.5%
17.	Meghalaya	9427	NA	1.6%
18.	Mizoram	NA	NA	NA
19.	Nagaland	11473	NA	NA
20.	Orissa	5562	6427	4.9%
21.	Punjab	15048	15800	1.6%
22.	Rajasthan	8104	8571	1.9%
23.	Sikkim	10703	NA	NA
24.	Tamil Nadu	13017	13423	1.0%
25.	West Bengal	9397	NA	NA
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5570	NA	0.4%

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Uttaranchal	7720	NA	NA
28.	West Bengal	9796	NA	5.7%
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	15822	NA	NA
30.	Chandigarh	27764	31865	4.7%
31.	Delhi	26390	NA	2.8%
32.	Pondicherry	22252	23610	2.0%

Note: 1 Per capita income of States is measured at per capita Net State Domestic Product

2. Annual % increase in per capita income is measured by Compound annual growth rate Chhatisgarh, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi, the compound annual growth rate is estimated for the period 2000-01 to 2002-03

4. NA stands for Not Available

Cases of Meningitis

515. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the number of meningitis patients are on the rise in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The cases of meningitis is generally seen through out the year in the country. However, during the current year since last week of April 2005, there was an increase in the number of cases of meningococcal disease and this trend continued till the end of June 2005.

meningococcal disease is an epidemic prone communicable disease and it shows cyclic spurt/rise of cases every 15-20 years. State-wise cases & deaths due to meningococcal Meningitis during the period from 2000 to 2004 is given in the enclosed statement.

It was made mandatory to notify the disease. Efforts were made for early diagnosis and prompt treatment; Contact tracking of the patients and providing chemoprophylaxis. IEC activities were carried out with the participation of the communities. To strengthen surveillance activities, to promote early detection of outbreak and institute appropriate action for prevention and control of epidemic prone communicable diseases including Meningococemia, 'National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases (NSPCD)' was in implementation since 1997-98. An Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme has been launched to strengthen the mechanism of surveillance of various diseases in the country.

Statement

State-wise cases and deaths due to Meningococcal Meningitis reported during 2000-2004

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1392	89	1595	36	2741	49	2201	86	9996	54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	NR	NR
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR	NR
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR	NR
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
7.	Gujrat	16	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	18	4
8.	Haryana	69	3	109	2	36	1	40	2	57	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	83	0	9	0	33	0	208	4	26	1
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	0	0	—	—	NR	NR
12.	Karnataka	896	8	2077	21	805	3	1873	8	2731	33
13.	Kerala	111	6	22	3	147	4	203	1	73	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	189	2	352	4	333	11	317	8	317	18
15.	Maharashtra	337	103	393	137	307	96	218	70	218	50
16.	Manipur	70	19	19	4	109	13	68	8	55	7
17.	Meghalaya	83	4	100	14	88	18	191	17	90	123
18.	Mizoram	0	0	7	0	5	1	0	0	1	0
19.	Nagaland	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	74	2	182	15	20	2	82	13	18	3
21.	Punjab	42	0	32	1	43	5	10	1	8	0
22.	Rajasthan	244	24	442	37	280	39	273	35	156	30
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	418	0	95	0	218	0	—	—	3504	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
25. Tripura		79	1	12	4	3	1	2	0	5	0
26. Uttar Pradesh		251	32	212	5	22	0	285	4	12	1
27. Uttaranchal		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR	NR
28. West Bengal		2948	643	3360	620	2638	500	1408	292	1265	217
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		7	4	3	0	11	3	0	0	0	0
30. Chandigarh		25	14	28	14	53	9	26	6	10	6
31. Dadar and Nagar Haveli		—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Daman and Diu		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33. Delhi		415	38	404	32	397	50	325	48	249	20
34. Lakshadweep		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35. Pondicherry		84	18	97	20	96	12	83	16	62	3
Total		7857	991	9555	969	8387	817	7829	622	18875	467

Source : CBHI, Ministry of Health & F.W.

Notes: 1. *For the year 2000, separate figures are not available for the newly formed three states. Hence, cases and deaths, if any, in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal are included in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

2. N.R. implies 'not received'.

EAM's Official Visit to Russia

516. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister of External Affairs paid an official visit to Russia; recently;

(b) if so, whether the Congress President accompanied him in the above official tour;

(c) if so, the capacity in which the President of the

Congress Party accompanied the Minister of External Affairs on the official visit; and

(d) if not, the capacity in which the Minister of External Affairs accompanied the President of the Congress Party along with details thereof?

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

(b) Minister of External Affairs accompanied Smt. Sonia Gandhi during her visit to Russia.

(c) Smt. Sonia Gandhi made an official visit to Russia in her capacity as Chairperson of the UPA at the personal invitation of President Vladimir Putin.

(d) Smt. Sonia Gandhi's visit to Russia was part of high level exchanges between India and Russia. The Minister of External Affairs accompanied Chairperson UPA in his official capacity.

Waiting List of Cellone Mobile Service

517. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a long waiting list of those seeking connection under BSNL's mobile phone service "Cellone" in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra;

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

(c) the number of towers setup in Aurangabad district so far and the number of towers proposed to be setup, location-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the number of persons seeking basic phone connections has declined in Maharashtra;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Due to constraints in capacity, there is a waiting list of around 26000 numbers seeking BSNL's pre-paid cellular connections in Aurangabad district.

(c) At present 42 numbers of Base Station Towers are working in Aurangabad district for cellular services. The details of Mobile Base Stations planned to be set up

during this financial year is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Subscribers are presently inclined towards wireless services due to its advantage of mobility, flexibility and availability of number of Value Added Services. This phenomenon is universal and not particular to Indian telecom scenario including the state of Maharashtra. There has been a healthy trend in telecom growth with wireless services witnessing a higher growth compared to basic wire line services.

(f) Keeping in view the industry trend and choice of subscribers BSNL is expanding its mobile and WLL services. BSNL has planned to provide 7.52 lakh telephone connections both on wireless and wire line systems.

Statement

Details of Mobile Base Stations Existing/Planned in 2005-06 in Aurangabad

S. No.	Location Name	Mobile Base Station Existing	Mobile Base Station Existing
1	2	3	4
1.	Aurangabad	22	43
2.	Chitegaon	1	0
3.	Kultabad	1	0
4.	Ellora	1	0
5.	Ajanta	0	1
6.	Sillod	2	0
7.	Kannad	1	1
8.	Vaijapur	1	1
9.	Paithan	1	0
10.	Pachod	1	0

1	2	3	4
11. Adul		0	1
12. Ajantha (V)		0	1
13. Amthana		0	1
14. Bazarsavangi		0	1
15. Bhamarwadi		0	1
16. Chapaner		0	1
17. Daulatabad		0	1
18. Deogaon Rangari		0	1
19. Dhoregaon		0	1
20. Dhorkin		0	1
21. Galleborgaon		0	1
22. Garaj		0	1
23. Gondegaon		0	1
24. Jaikwadi		0	1
25. Kachner		0	1
26. Khandala		0	1
27. Ladgaon		0	1
28. Ladsawangi		0	1
29. Loni KH		0	1
30. Mahalgaon		0	1
31. palod		0	1
32. Parsoda		0	1
33. potul		0	1

1	2	3	4
34. Shivur		0	1
35. Vihmandwa		0	1
36. Dabharul		0	1
37. Kate-Pimpalgaon		0	1
38. Andhari		0	1
39. Ambhol		0	1
40. Maismal		0	1
41. Sawaldbara		0	1
42. Mitmiata (H/W)		0	1
43. Bhalgaon (H/W)		0	1
44. Paithan Nomina (H/W)	0		1
45. Hatnoor (H/W)	0		1
46. Fardapur	1		0
47. Golegaon	1		0
48. Pishor	1		0
49. Gangapur	1		0
50. Aland	1		0
51. Karmad	1		0
52. Lasur	1		0
53. Phulambari	1		0
54. Soygaon	1		0
55. Bidkin	1		0
56. Sultanpur	0		1

1	2	3	4
57.	Shendra Midc	0	1
58.	Chincholi Limbaji	0	1
59.	Chitte-Pimpal Gaon	0	1
60.	Turkabad	0	1
61.	Balanagar	0	1
Total		41	87

**Privatisation of Morarji Desai
Yoga Kendra**

518. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN :

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

(a) whether under the new rules of Morarji Desai Yoga Kendra

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this institute is on the verge of closure due to constant decline in the number of Yoga Learners;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken for the benefit of regular Yoga learners in this Institute;

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to privatise this institute; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The classes at the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) were being held free

of cost and there was no restriction on admission and the duration of training. As a result, some of the nearby residents were using facilities almost endlessly and as per their convenience. The Institute was turning out to be more of a health club in the neighborhood and deterrent for the seriously interested Yoga aspirants. There were problems of discipline also. After introduction of the nominal fee of Rs.100 and restriction on maximum duration of training in the programmes to 6 months by MDNIY, significant improvement in discipline, punctuality, attendance and seriousness has been noticed and those interested in understanding the finer aspects of Yoga, are appreciating the change.

(c) No, Sir. As a National Institute, the institute is not just meant for conducting Yoga classes for general public, but it has to conduct educational Diploma programmes, Reorientation Training, Research, Publication etc. which it is doing.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yoga learners who attended regular Yoga classes for six months, do not require any further training. They may continue doing Yoga on their own.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise..

[English]

'One India' Telephone Call Rate

519. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEV GAIKWAD :
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

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

(a) whether the rural areas have been covered under the subsidized telephone rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce 'One India' telephone call rate;

(d) if so, whether the rural areas subsidized telephone rate is likely to go up after the 'One India' telephone call rate plan; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by the Government to protect the interests of rural telephone subscribers?

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

(b) Monthly rental varies from Rs.50/- to Rs.210/- depending on the exchange capacity, whereas average cost based rental is Rs.361/-. Unit call charges for Metered Call Unit (MCU) between 76 to 300 is Rs.0.80 and whereas no charges are levied for MCU upto 75.

(c) to (e) While Government is working towards One India Call Rate, the proposed measure is at initial stage. Government will protect the interests of rural telephone subscribers.

Visit of Hurriyat Leaders to Pakistan

520. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
SHRI KIREN RIJJU :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has violated the provisions of the agreement pertaining to Muzaffarabad-Kashmir bus service with India in the context of the visits of the Hurriyat leaders to PoK;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue has been brought to the notice of Pakistan;

(d) if so, its response thereto;

(e) whether these leaders travelled to Islamabad on the said bus-service without carrying their Indian passports;

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

(g) the details of places visited by Hurriyat leaders in Pakistan; and

(h) the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (h) Some leaders of the Hurriyat visited PoK and Pakistan from 2-16 June 2005. Their visit to PoK using the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus was cleared on the basis of procedures agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The bilateral understanding on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service is that travel is limited to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and is on the basis of permits issued by the two sides.

Government has made its stand clear that Pakistan's decision to invite the Hurriyat leaders to visit Islamabad and other cities in Pakistan violated an understanding between the two countries, and that the onus for any Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus passenger travelling beyond PoK lay on the Pakistani authorities. Pakistan has denied violation of any understanding.

The Hurriyat leaders visited PoK and Pakistan in their individual capacities. Passports were issued to those Hurriyat leaders who did not possess Indian passports and made a request for the issue of such documents.

[Translation]

Unani Hospitals and Dispensaries

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

(a) the efforts made by the Union Government to popularise the Unani System of Medicine;

(b) the achievements made in the regard so far;

(c) the number of Unani hospitals/dispensaries in the country as on date, State-wise;

(d) whether any State Government has requested the Union Government to set up Unani Hospitals and dispensaries;

(e) if so, the names of the such States; and

(f) the decision taken by the Union Government on the requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Govt. of India have laid down a separate national policy for promotion of Indian systems of Medicine including the Unani system of Medicine and introduced a number of central sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to propagate Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy (AYUSH) systems of Medicine. Financial support under various Central Sector and Centrally sponsored Schemes is available for improvement of educational infrastructure, quality control facilities, supply of drugs etc. in accordance with the national policy under reference. Arogya fairs being organized since 2001 by the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, Govt. of India have generated awareness among population and on popular demand, this year it has been decided to organize the fair at four places viz., New Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata. The achievements include operationalisation of National Institute of Unani Medicine at Bangalore, opening of a new CGHS dispensary in Delhi, sanction of Rs.3 crores for Government Nizamia Tibbia College, Hyderabad for its development as a model college of Unani Medicine, financial support @ Rs.25000/- per dispensary per year to a large number of dispensaries in different States, opening of a Unani Medical Centre at Dr. Ram manohar Lohia Hospital etc.

(c) The state-wise details of Unani hospitals and dispensaries are as under:

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Hosp.	No. of Disp.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	193
2.	Assam	0	1
3.	Bihar	4	144
4.	Chhattisgarh	1	6
5.	Delhi	2	25
6.	Haryana	1	19
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	3
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	203
9.	Jharkhanu		30
10.	Karnataka	13	51
11.	Kerala	0	1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3	50
13.	Maharashtra	5	25
14.	Orissa	0	9
15.	Punjab	0	35
16.	Rajasthan	3	89
17.	Tamil Nadu	1	17
18.	Uttar Pradesh	17	231
19.	Uttaranchal	2	3
20.	West Bengal	1	3

(d) to (f) Public Health, hospitals and dispensaries being a State subject vide Entry No.6 of the Seventh

Schedule to the Constitution, it is for the State Govt. to establish hospitals and dispensaries of Unani medicine depending upon their resources and requirements. On its part, the Central Govt. operates a Centrally sponsored Scheme that provides for financial assistance to supply drugs @ Rs.25,000/- per annum, per dispensary and establishment of Ayurveda/Unani/Homoeopathic wing in allopathic hospital, if suitable proposals are received from the State Govts.

[English]

**Satellite Earth Stations/Mobile Towers
in Lakshadweep Islands**

522. DR. P.P. KOYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are sufficient satellite earth stations and mobile towers to cover the entire Lakshadweep Islands;

(b) if not, the action being taken by the Government to provide reliable Internet facilities and mobile services in the said islands;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a satellite earth station at Amini and mobile towers at Amini, Kadmath, Chetlath and Bithra; and

(d) if so, the time by when the above installations are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. Satellite earth stations are available at Agathi, Androth, Kalpeni, Kavarathy, Kitan and Minicoy Islands. Mobile towers are also available at these Islands. However, Amini, Bitra, Chetlet and Kadmath are connected through UHF media.

(b) (i) Reliable internet facilities are already available in all Islands.

(ii) Action is being taken to provide mobile services at Amini during the current financial year and at Bitra, Chetlet and Kadmath during next year.

(c) (i) Yes Sir, there is a proposal to set up satellite earth station at Amini along with mobile tower during 2005-06.

(ii) The satellite earth station and mobile towers in remaining three Islands viz Bitra, Chetlet, and Kadmath are proposed to be setup during 2006-07.

(d) (i) The installations proposed at Amini are likely to be made operational by March, 2006.

(ii) The installations in other three Islands viz Bitra, Chetlet, and Kadmath are expected to be made operational in the year 2006-07.

Funds for Anti-Retroviral Drugs

523. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has granted/released Rs.504 crores from the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria for providing anti-retroviral drugs for HIV/AIDS patients to various States; and

(b) if so, the names of the States which got such grants alongwith the amount granted to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, that is, GFATM, has approved the proposal submitted by the Government of India for grant of 122.668

million US dollars equivalent to Rs.564.27 crore for provision of free Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) to AIDS patients in the six High Prevalence States, that is, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamilnadu and NCT Delhi. This project is for total duration of five years, that is, to be operationalised with effect from 1st Aug 2005 till 31st July 2010. Release of funds for the first year is expected from GFATM shortly and as and when the funds are received the same will be disbursed to the concerned states. Funds approved for the project will be released to GOI by the Global Fund on yearly basis in installments as per the progress of project implementation.

[Translation]

Cellular Service in Rural Areas

524. PRO. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI MUNSHI RAM :
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN :
MOHD. SHAHID :

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

(a) whether the BSNL has formulated a scheme for expansion of cellular service in rural areas as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara, dated June 18, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether introduction of cellular tower service is also under consideration in those rural areas where landline phones are not working properly;

(d) if so, whether the rural areas have been identified for providing the service and for installing towers there; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said towers are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Having covered

towns upto District Headquarter, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has now planned to cover upto Sub-divisional Headquarters (SDHQs)/ Tehsil Headquarters (THQs) progressively in the expansions currently under execution. However, due to vast coverage of Highways, Railways routes and a number of important towns upto Tehsil Headquarters, many rural areas are getting incidental coverage of BSNL's cellular services. Further BSNL is planning to extend the cellular coverage up to Block Head Quarter level progressively in the year 2006, which also would provide coverage to vast areas of population with the mobile service. However, no specific plans have been drawn to cover areas below Block Headquarters, at present.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

[English]

High Cost of Heart Surgery

525. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to very high cost of heart surgery many poor patients are unable to avail it;

(b) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to bring down the cost of heart surgery;

(c) whether the Government is planning to standardize the rates of Angiography, Angioplasty and Bypass Surgery; and

(d) if so, the total number of Government hospitals in India which carry out heart surgery and the number of patients operated per day in these hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The cost of heart surgery is dependent on the nature of surgical interventions. The cost of surgery is high only for interventions such as valve

repair, angioplasty, bypass surgery; as these include costly consumables and drugs. The facility of heart surgery is available in many Government Medical Colleges Hospitals and apex institutes like AIIMS, PGIMER, Chandigarh, JIPMER and SGPGI, Lucknow, etc. and the operation cost at these Institutions are subsidized. Insofar as the poor and needy patients are concerned, financial support is provided through RAN National Illness Assistance Fund. The Ministry is not maintaining any centralized data on the total number of Government hospitals performing such surgeries and number of patients being operated every day.

Better Infrastructure in Government Hospitals

526. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that the Government employees and pensioners are facing difficulties in getting operated or undergoing tests specially in Cardio Department of the Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make patient friendly procedures in Government Hospitals like Safdarjung;

(d) the details of the number of the reimbursement claims of the employees/pensioners pending with DGHS in regard to the above, since when pending and the reasons for the delay in clearing such claims; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for providing better infrastructure and cleanliness in Government Hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) No difficulties being faced by the Government employees and pensioners for availing the facilities like investigation/treatment particularly in Cardiology department of the Safdarjung Hospital have come to

the notice of the Government. Patients' friendly facilities like computerization of registration services, better hygienic environment, display of patients related information, citizen charter and proper sitting arrangement for the patients are undertaken in the Central Government hospitals. Reimbursement of medical claim for serving employee has been delegated to concerned departments where they are working. The re-imburement of medical claim for the pensioners are handled in the offices of the concerned Zonal/Regional Addl. Director of CGHS and the same are processed on priority. Providing better infrastructure in the Central Government hospitals is an ongoing process depending upon availability of resources and requirements of the hospital. Besides, the existing set up in the hospitals for maintaining cleanliness, contract services have also been given to Sulabh International for maintaining cleanliness.

[Translation]

Building for Ayurvedic College, Jabalpur

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding assistance for construction of building for Ayurvedic College, Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Application from Govt. Ayurveda College, Jabalpur was received for financial assistance for construction of college - Rs.50.00 lakh, construction of hostel building - Rs.50.00 lakh. Government has released Central Assistance of Rs.12.50 lakh for construction of college building and Rs.12.50 lakh for construction of girls' hostel facilities in Phase I. The balance will be released on the utilization of the above funds and submission of

Utilisation Certificate by the State Government in prescribed format.

Increasing Tele-Density Rural Areas

528. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

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

- (a) the average telephone connections in rural areas of the country at present;
- (b) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to increase the tele-density in rural areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has consulted private sector companies in this regard;
- (e) whether any target has been fixed by the Government for increasing the number of telephone connections in rural areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) As on 31.05.2005, there are 1.74 telephones per 100 population in rural areas.

(b) and (c) The office of Administrator, Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund on the basis of a Tender, has entered in to agreement for provision of telephones on demand in 1,685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) which are loss making. Most of these SDCAs comprise of Rural areas.

Government is also considering provision of shared public infrastructure in these 1,685 SDCAs to boost penetration of mobile phones in these areas.

(d) Access Service Licence condition does not stipulate mandatory Rural Roll-out obligation.

(e) and (f) A target of tele-density of 4% by the year 2010 has been planned as per 10th Five Year Plan.

[English]

Assistance for Health Projects

529. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI AJIT JOGI :

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposals from Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for financial assistance for various health and family welfare projects and modernization of hospitals in the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes Sir. The following proposals have been received from the States of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh: 1. Composite proposals for the second phase of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH II); 2. A proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh for establishing facilities at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) with German assistance and another proposal for supply and implementation of medical equipment under the Indo French Financial Assistance Protocol and 3. The State Health Systems Development Project of Uttar Pradesh under the World Bank assistance. 4. A proposal from Chhattisgarh for strengthening First level Referral Units (FRUs) and initiating district level planning activities under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

(b) The basic objective of the RCH II proposals from both the States is to improve the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the respective States. The proposals of both the

States include interventions on safe motherhood, new born care, immunization and nutritional supplementation, diarrhoea control, acute respiratory infections, adolescent health, medical termination of pregnancy services, reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, reducing the unmet need for contraception, urban health, behavioural change communications as well as for construction, upgradation and strengthening of sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. 2. The proposal of SGPGIMS under the French Assistance Programme is for supply of medical equipment while the proposal under German Assistance is for a Trauma Centre, Oncology Centre, Centre for Maternal and Child Health, Centre for Organ Transplantation, Centre for Bio Medical Engineering and Tele Medicine at the SGPGIMS and 3. The State Health Systems Development project of Uttar Pradesh aims to provide quality health care services to the people in the rural areas especially the poor and the underserved by improving referral mechanisms and through policy reform and institutional developments. 4. The proposal on NRHM from Chhattisgarh aims to strengthen delivery of Reproductive and Child Health services as well as District level planning.

(c) 1. The RCH II proposal of Uttar Pradesh has been approved for funding of Rs.257.50 crores while the Chhattisgarh proposal has been approved for funding of Rs.32.50 crores for 2005-06 subject to fulfillment of applicable norms and guidelines of the RCH II Programme; 2. The proposal for supply of implementation of medical equipment for SGPGIMS under Indo French Financial Assistance Protocol has been approved for a total of French Francs 480 Million while the proposal for establishing different centres under German assistance has not been taken up by the German side. 3. The State Health Systems Development Project with the World Bank has been approved for Rs.478.07 Crores. 4. The approved expenditure on the NRHM proposal of Chhattisgarh for Rs.18.26 Crores will be met through the RCH II Flexible Pool itself.

Upgrading Facilities at Major Hospitals

530. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

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

(a) whether any proposal to upgrade the facilities at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, (JIPMER), Pondicherry and other major hospitals in the country is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the same during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The upgradation of the facilities in the hospitals is an ongoing process and action for this purpose is taken from time to time by the concerned institutions/hospitals like AIIMS, New Delhi, PGI, Chandigarh, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi etc. The Plan provision for activities of these institutions/hospitals for 2005-06 is as follows:—

1. AIIMS, New Delhi	—	Rs. 201.26 crores
2. JIPMER, Pondicherry	—	Rs. 62.00 crores
3. P.G.I. Chandigarh	—	Rs. 35.00 crores
4. Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi	—	Rs. 55.54 crores
5. Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi	—	Rs. 35.49 crores

Insofar as the upgradation of facilities at Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, (JIPMER), Pondicherry it is also stated that C.C.E.A. has recently approved the setting up of a Super Speciality Block and Trauma Care Centre at JIPMER, Pondicherry

involving a total cost of Rs.118 crores (approx.) The project is likely to be completed in the next 24 months.

Spurt in Skin Infections

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the recent floods have left people vulnerable to skin infections;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government will provide any assistance to combat the same in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) No spurt in skin infections has been reported in the wake of recent floods including in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

Central Public Health Team visited these States to assess the Public health requirements and to assist the State Governments in undertaking appropriate measures.

[Translation]

Prevention of AIDS

532. DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY :

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the rising number of AIDS patients amongst men, women, children defence and paramilitary forces in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and date, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether the Government had organized a media summit on HIV/AIDS, keeping in mind the increasing AIDS, patients in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any report has been received from the World Bank regarding the treatment and prevention of AIDS;

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

(g) the details of the amount provided during each of the last three years and for the current year for tackling the AIDS menace; and

(h) the action plan formulated by the Government for treatment and prevention of AIDS?

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

A state-wise and year-wise statement indicating number of AIDS cases reported to National AIDS control Organisation by calendar year is enclosed at statement I. The statement includes the number of cases among men, women & children. The information in regard to number of AIDS patients in defence and para-military forces during each of the last three years, is being collected and will be placed on Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

A Media Leaders Summit on HIV/AIDS was held in New Delhi in January, 2005. About 25 Executives from various media companies attended the Summit. The following steps and action points emerged from the summit.

— All 25 Executives from Media Companies who attended and signed a statement of support pledging to work together to raise public awareness about HIV/AIDS.

- To ensure synergy of media efforts and identify opportunities, share resources and coordinate the entire media effort with National AIDS Control Organisation.
- New commitments were made by several attending Media Leaders, including Dainik Jagaran, Hindustan Times, Times, MTV, NDTV, Prasar Bharati, SET India, STAR TV, SUN TV, Hindu and Zee TV.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir.

A report titled "HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention in India" was published by World Bank in June, 2004. The recommendations as contained in the report are given in enclosed statement-II.

(g) The details of the amount provided during each of last 3 years and for current year is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. In crore)
2002-03	242.00
2003-04	233.40
2004-05	426.00
2005-06	533.50

(h) An action plan formulated by Government for treatment and prevention of AIDS includes the following five strategic areas;

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC).
- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure and Free Antiretro-viral Therapy in identified centres in the country.
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical resource groups, operational research and Programme management.

Statement-I

Reported Number of Aids Cases (Male, Female Children) during the Last Three Years

S. No.	State/UT	2002				2003				2004			
		Male	Female	Children	Total	Male	Female	Children	Total	Male	Female	Children	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	2	0	6	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
24. Mizoram		6	5	3	14	8	6	4	18	25	20	9	54
25. Nagaland		48	29	10	87	48	28	8	84	140	93	36	269
26. Orissa		11	3	1	15	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
27. Pondicherry		92	46	2	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Punjab		30	29	0	59	20	18	0	38	26	9	2	37
29. Rajasthan		202	70	20	292	183	69	14	266	172	48	8	228
30. Sikkim		2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
31. Tamil Nadu		6474	2296	331	9101	5023	1858	249	7130	9054	5451	766	15271
32. Tripura		4	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33. Uttar Pradesh		308	51	0	359	287	52	0	339	84	23	2	109
34. Uttranchal		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35. West Bengal		684	148	137	969	487	76	48	611	0	0	0	0
Total		13387	5031	759	19077	14464	6110	1013	21587	16913	9100	1419	27432

Statement-II

Recommendations of World Bank report on "HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention in India"

1. Collect better statistics on the current prevalence and incidence of HIV infection in India in order to improve the accuracy of planning exercises like the present one.
2. Support improvements to the quality of unstructured antiretroviral therapy provided by the private sector in order to minimize its negative spillover effects at the lowest possible cost to the government. Under the assumptions made in this report, such a policy is the most cost-effective approach to antiretroviral therapy.
3. Evaluate both the costs and effects of prevention programmes. If the government finds that prevention programmes are stalled and can no longer be extended at a cost of \$10-\$20 per life-year saved, the case for antiretroviral therapy, especially transmission-minimising antiretroviral therapy, would be strengthened.
4. Evaluate the costs and effects of alternative antiretroviral therapy programmes. It would be useful to know what modes of treatment maximize patient adherence to a drug regimen in India.
5. Support measurement of the prevalence of resistant strains of the virus among people with HIV.

6. To ensure that condom use increases rather than declines, monitor the behavioural effects of awareness of improved access to antiretroviral treatment on risk behaviour of those not under treatment, especially high-risk groups.
7. In consultation with all state and national stakeholders, design and implement an institutional arrangement that rewards effective prevention programmes, thereby ensuring that the availability of treatment has beneficial (rather than perverse) spillover effects.

Anti Corruption Cell in PMO

533. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the officials working in the Anti Corruption Cell in PMO;
- (b) the details of the legal power vested with the officials/cells and their field of work;
- (c) whether any action has been taken against any officials by the cell during the last two years; and
- (d) if so, the details of the officials the Ministry to which they are related?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) The Anti Corruption Unit has been established in PMO by reorganizing the available staff.

(b) The Unit scrutinizes all complaints received in PMO from the general public in connection with corruption and sends these to the Ministries concerned in the Central Government and other Government agencies for inquiry/ investigation and suitable action. It also monitors disposal of all such complaints by the Central Ministries and other governmental agencies.

(c) and (d) This cell primarily monitors complaints

received by PMO on which action is initiated by concerned ministries and agencies of the government.

[English]

Indo-Nepal Ties

534. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the US Assistant Secretary of State visited India recently;
- (b) if so, whether the Nepal situation also came up for discussion;
- (c) whether the Union Government has agreed to provide assistance to Nepal to restore democracy and curb Maoists activities there;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a certain section of the army is coming under attack from Maoists in Nepal;
- (f) if so, the facts and the details thereof;
- (g) whether India is supporting seven mainstream parties in Nepal as reported in the Hindustan Times dated May 22, 2005; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (h) Us Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Christina Rocca transited through Delhi on May 9, 2005, on her way to Nepal. While in Delhi, Ms. Rocca met officials of Ministry External Affairs to exchange views and share assessments on the situation in Nepal.

Government is deeply concerned about the situation in Nepal following the dismissal of the multi-party Government and assumption of direct powers by King

Gyanendra on February 1, 2005. We are also concerned at the implications of the growth of Maoist activities in Nepal because of the open border and the links between Nepal's Maoists and Left Wing Extremists Groups and other insurgent groups in India.

It is our firm belief that the multi-dimensional and complex challenges being faced by Nepal can be addressed effectively only on the basis of a national consensus for an eventual political settlement. As a first step, a process of national reconciliation and dialogue should begin. In this context, we have welcomed the common programme announced by major Nepalese political parties to address the challenges facing Nepal. Government of India remains committed to support all efforts aimed at restoring political stability and economic prosperity in Nepal. India has also provided assistance to Nepali security forces and has established institutional mechanisms to strengthen cross-border cooperation on security and other issues.

Contrary to the reports in the media there has been no specific targeting of interests of serving soldiers or ex-servicemen of the Indian Army by the Maoists.

[Translation]

Cyber Crimes

535. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

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

- (a) whether cases of cyber crimes are on the rise due to the increasing impact of Information Technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that fraud of crores of rupees is committed every year in the country through cyber crimes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check cyber crimes;

(f) whether the Government is imparting any sort of training to the police to check cyber crimes;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government proposes to establish Cyber Regulation Appellate Tribunal to try cyber crimes; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The cases of Cyber Crimes registered under IT Act and IPC during 2002-2003 are as under:

Year	IT Act	IPC	Total
2002	70	738	808
2003	60	411	471

The available figures indicate decline in the cases of cyber crime in the year 2003 as compared to 2002.

(c) and (d) Central Bureau of Investigation has registered 6 cyber crime cases, viz., RC 3/2003, RC 4/2003, RC1/2004, RC2/2005, RC 3/2005 and RC 6/2005 during the last 2 years, in which frauds have been committed causing financial loss to the Government/private persons. Details of these cases are given in enclosed statement.

(e) to (g) The Government has taken several steps to check cyber crimes in the country. Major steps are:

- The Government has conducted several awareness and training programmes on cyber for Law Enforcement Agencies. This includes use of Cyber Forensics Software packages and the associated procedure with it to collect digital evidence from the scene of crime.

- Special training programmes have also been conducted for Judiciary to train them on the Techno-legal aspects of cyber crimes and on the analysis of digital evidence presented to them.
- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is functional at Department of Information Technology. CERT-In is involved in developing appropriate security guidelines and other best practices to advise the System Administrators to follow to secure the IT Infrastructure. CERT-In also helps the IT users by analyzing their incidents and advising them appropriate solution.
- Information Technology Act, 2000 provides legal framework for handling cyber crimes.
- Central Bureau of Investigation and other police organizations have setup Cyber Crime Cells.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) A Gazette Notification No.GSR No.717 (E) dated 22.10.2002 regarding "Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and other conditions of Service of the other Officers and Employees) Rules, 2002 and

Notification No. GSR No.221(E) dated 17.03.2003 relating to "Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal (Salary, Allowances and other terms and conditions of service of Presiding Officer) Rule, 2003 have been issued. Appointment of Presiding Officer for Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal has also been proceed.

Statement

The brief facts of the cases registered by CBI during the last two years

IRCTC Cases:

Till date CBI has registered 3 cases, viz., RC 4/2003 dt. 01.10.2003 (Debashish Chakravarty case), RC

1/2004 dt. 19.02.2004 (M. Raja Rao Case) & RC 2/2005 dt. 19.01.2005 (Roshan Mendonca Case) u/s 120B r/w 420 & 420 IPC, against the accused persons for the fraudulent use of stolen credit card details to purchase Indian Railways tickets from November 2002 to February 2004. Accused persons revealed that they had obtained the details of other person's credit cards by social engineering. A total loss to the tune of Rs.2,20,000/- was caused to the IRCTC (Indian Railways Catering & Tourism Corporation) by the accused persons in these 3 cases. Two of the 3 cases have been chargesheeted.

2. Auction Fraud

(i) The case RC 3/2003 was registered on 30.06.2003 u/s 420 IPC. It was alleged that during January - February, 2003, the accused was cheating people by alluring them to purchase various electronic items by auction on an auction site of www.indiatimes.com. The items purchased by the complainant were never delivered. On the basis of the bank account, in which the victims had deposited payments, a loss of Rs.20,250/- was caused to complainant. The accused was identified and arrested. In this case 3 chargesheets were filed for 7 proved instances of cheating.

(ii) The case RC 3/2005 was registered on 20.02.2005, on the allegation of cheating people by auctioning mobile phones on various auction sites including www.bazzee.com a loss to the tune of Rs.30,400/- was caused to the complainant. A chargesheet has been filed against the accused Siva Kumar r/o Bangalore.

3. Online Trading Fraud

The case RC 6/2005 was registered u/s 419 of IPC & Section 66 of IT Act against unknown person. It is alleged that some unknown person had hacked into the complainant's trading account and purchased

shares at very high price and subsequently those shares were sold at a low price from the same account. In this manner huge financial losses to the tune of Rs.5.00 Lakh have been caused to the complainant.

Patent Rights for Ayurvedic Medicines

536. SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware regarding the growing use and demand of Ayurvedic medicines in the country;

(b) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take steps to get patent rights for Ayurvedic medicines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Ayurvedic medicines made according to classical Ayurvedic texts cannot be patented as they are based on 'prior art' and knowledge already available in public domain. However, a formulation based on new research or process can be patented. In order to prevent misappropriation of traditional Ayurvedic knowledge relating to medicinal plants. Government is implementing a project called "Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)," under which, traditional knowledge about the medicinal plants as described in the ancient literature, is being transcribed in the five international languages, namely, English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish in digital format so that patents are not wrongfully granted for products based on the traditional medicinal knowledge.

CBI Raids

537. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the C.B.I. (Central Bureau of Investigation) conducted nation wide raids on May 6, 2005 and June 30, 2005 under its anti-corruption drive;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the officers and companies whose premises and houses had been raided;

(c) the departments to which these officers belonged to and their respective designations;

(d) the State-wise number of cases of unaccounted properties unearthed during the raids and the number of cases filed in the courts; and

(e) the details thereof?

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

(a) No nation wide raid was conducted by CBI on 6th May 2005. However, CBI has conducted nationwide Special drives on 6th April, 2005 and 30th June, 2005 as a part of Annual Programme of Vigilance and Anti corruption work.

(b) to (e) 99 cases have been registered during these drives details of which are given in the enclosed statement. Out of these 99 cases, investigation has been completed in only one case RS 3(S)/2005-SCB/DLI of cheating by a private person. Since CBI is having all India jurisdiction and most cases registered have inter-state ramifications, it is difficult to categorise these cases state-wise. Moreover it is not appropriate to disclose the details of unaccounted properties of the cases under investigation.

Statement*Details of Cases registered & Searches Conducted during Special Drive held on 30.06.2005*

S.No.	Case No. & Branch	Category	Name of Deptt./Org.	Accused name in FIR
1	2	3	4	5
1.	RC.32/2005-DLI	Possession of disproportionate assets	Electronics & Computer Software, Export, Promotion Council	1. Sh. D.P. Gupta, Additional Executive Director, (E.S.C.)
2.	RC. 33/2005-DLI	Possession of disproportionate assets	D.D.A.	1. Shri Vijay Singh, Assistant Director, DDA, Vikas Minar, New Delhi
3.	RC. 34/2005-DLI	Possession of disproportionate assets	Education (NCT Delhi)	1. Shri K.C. Agarwal, DANCIS Officers, Jt. Director, Education, NCT, Delhi
4.	RC. 35/2005-DLI	Possession of disproportionate assets	C.E. & Customs presently on deput. to Central. Economic Intelligence Bureau, M/o Finance	1. Shri Anand Kumar Singhal, Joint Commissioner, Central Excise & Customs,
5.	RC. 36/2005-DLI	Possession of disproportionate assets	Delhi Police	1. Sh. Udaivir Singh Rathl, ACP, Crime Branch, Delhi Police.
6.	RC. 7/2005-JDH	Possession of disproportionate assets	BSNL	1. Sh. Anil Dudhani, Divl. Engineer, BSNL, Udaipur
7.	RC. 10/2005-JPR	Possession of disproportionate assets	Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS).	1. Sh. P.S. Yadav, the then Director, BIS, Jaipur (now at Shahibad)
8.	RC. 11/2005-JPR	Possession of disproportionate assets	Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS).	1. Sh. D.P. Meena, the then Director, BIS, Jaipur (now transferred to Mumbai)
9.	RC. 3/2005-ACU-III	Cheating	TRIFED	4 1. Sh. R.K. Nayak (IAS Retired)

1	2	3	4	5
				2. Sh. K. Sridhar Rao, (IAS Retired)
				3. Sh. D.K., Manavalan. (IAS Rtd.)
				4. J.P. Lath and others
10.	RC. 3/2005-ACU-IV	Possession of disproportionate assets	E.P.F.O.	1. Sh. P.K. Sankhala, Regional Commr., Uttranchal
11.	RC. 27/2005-Mum	Possession of disproportionate assets	Railway	1. Sh. S.K. Jha, Sr. DCM Western Railway
12.	RC. 28/2005-Mum	Possession of disproportionate assets	Bank of India	1. Sh. D.H. Kiran, the then Br. Manager, Bank of India
13.	RC. 29/2005-Mum	Possession of disproportionate assets	Income Tax	1. Sh. Manish Nadkar, ITO
14.	RC. 11/2005-GNR	Possession of disproportionate assets	National Instt. of Design	1. Sh. P.S.V. Kurup, Secy. & Head of Administration
15.	RC. 12/2005-GNR	Possession of disproportionate assets	Central Excise & Customs	1. Sh. Fauza Singh Pandher, Supdt.
16.	RC. 13/2005-GNR	Possession of disproportionate assets	Railway	1. Sh. S.Y. Nitnavre, Sr. Section Engineer
17.	RC. 10/2005-NAG	Possession of disproportionate assets	Railway	1. Sh. S.K. Tiwari, the then Genl. Manager, RITES, Nagpur, Presently posting as Chief Project Manager, Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd., Raipur
18.	RC. 13/2005-BLR	Possession of disproportionate assets	Income Tax	1. Sh. B.R. Dhore @ Baburaya, ITO, Belgaum
19.	RC. 14/2005-VSP	Possession of disproportionate assets	Income Tax	1. Shri V. Appala Raju, IRS, Addl. CIT, Income Tax, Vishakhapatnam

1	2	3	4	5
20.	RC. 15/2005-KER	Possession of disproportionate assets	Hindustan Organic Chemical Ltd.	1. D. Rejith, Chief Manager, Hindustan Organic Chemical Ltd., Cochin.
21.	RC. 31/2005-CHN	Possession of disproportionate assets	Customs	1. Ajay Kumar Gupta, Appraiser, Customs,
22.	RC. 27/2005-BBSR	Possession of disproportionate assets	NALCO	1. Sh. Ram Chandra Pandhy, Chief Manager, Captive Power Plant NALCO, Angul.
23.	RC. 24/2005-KOL.	Cheating	BSNL	1. Shri D.S. Das, A.E., (Civil), BSNL, Kolkata 2. Sh. Parimal Bakshi, JTO (Civil), BSNL, Kolkata
24.	RC. 25/2005-KOL.	Possession of disproportionate assets	N.C.B.	1. Sh. Rathin Biswas, Intelligence Officer, Narcotics Control Bureau Kolkata.
25.	RC. 26/2005-KOL.	Trap	Central Excise	1. Sh. M.K. Bhattacharya, Supdt. Central Excise, Kolkata.
26.	RC. 27/2005-KOL.	Cheating	N.I.C. Ltd.	1. Sh. A.K. Mondal, AAO, NIC, Kol. 2. Smt. Saswati Roy, Development Officer, NIC, Kol.
27.	RC. 2/2005-SIL	Possession of disproportionate assets	M/o Water Resources	1. Shri R.U. Barlaekar,
28.	RC. 21/2005-CHG.	Possession of disproportionate assets	M/o Health	1. Sh., N.K. Munjal, Store Officer, PGI, Chandigarh 2. Smt. J.D. Munjal, Store Keeper, PGI, Chandigarh
29.	RC. 18/2005-DDN	Possession of disproportionate assets	CPWD	1. Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma, the then Superintending

1	2	3	4	5
				Engineer, CPWD, Dehradun (Now Valuation Officer, ITO, Chandigarh)
30.	RC. 14/2005-LKO	Possession of disproportionate assets	BSNL	1. Shri Parmata Rai, the then DGM, BSNL, Gorakhpur
31.	RC. 8/2005-BPL	Possession of disproportionate assets	SBI	1. Shri J.P. Singh, Asstt. G.M., SBI, LHO, Bhopal
32.	RC. 14/2005-Patna	Possession of disproportionate assets	BSNL	1. Shri S.K. Sharma, Executive Engineer (Civil), BSNL Patna
33.	RC. 16/2005-Ranchi	Possession of disproportionate assets	Central Excise	1. Shri Anil Sharan, Insp. r. Central Excise, Hazari Bagh, Jharkhand
34.	RC. 4/2005-EOU-VII	Crl. Conspiracy, Cheating & Crl. Misconduct	Private	—
35.	RC. 6/E/2005-EOU-IX	Cyber Crime (Cheating by Personation and Hacking)	Private	—
36.	RC. 6/2005-EOU-IV	Cheating forgery, Crl. Misconduct & Crl. Conspiracy	D.D.A.	1. Shri N.K. Gupta, the then Executive Engineer, Western Divn. 8, DDA, Dwarka, New Delhi
37.	RC. 6/2005-EOW-I/DLI	Crl. Misconduct., Cheating, forgery	Income Tax	Unknown Persons
38.	RC. 6/2005-EOW-CHN	Crl. Conspiracy, Cheating	Industrial Finance Corporation of India. (IFCI)	Unknown Persons
39.	RC. 4/2005-EOW-Mumbai	Crl. Conspiracy, forgery	Central Excise	Unknown Persons
40.	RC. 5/2005-EOW-Mumbai	Crl. Conspiracy, cheating, Crl. isconduct	Customs	1. Public Servants
41.	RC. 4/E/2005-BS&FC/BLR	Crl. Conspiracy, Crl. Breach of Trust, Cheating	Global Trust Bank	—

1	2	3	4	5
42.	RC. 4/2005-BSFC/DLI	Cri. Conspiracy., Cheating, Forgery	Punjab & Sind Bank	1. Sh. S.K. Raina, Manager,
43.	RC. 5/2005-BSFC/DLI	Cri. Conspiracy., Cheating, Forgery	Private	—
44.	RC. 5/2005-BSFC/Mumbai	Cri. Conspiracy., Cri. Breach of Trust, Cheating	Dena Bank	—
45.	RC. 14/(S)2005-SCU-I	Possession of disproportionate assets	E.P.F.O.	1. Sh. S.L. Srivastava, Regional Provident Fund Commr.
46.	RC. 5/2005-SCB-II/DLI	Cheating, Foregry	—	—
47.	RC. 12/2005-SCB/CHN.	Cri. Conspiracy., Cheating, forgery	Central Excise	1. Sh. Ramesh Babu, Supdt. Central Excise.
48.	RC. 7/2005-SCR-III	Cri. Conspiracy., Cheating, forgery & misappropriation	Private	—

Details of Cases registered and searches conducted during Special Drive held on 6.4.2005

S. No.	Case No. & Branch	Category	Name of Deptt./Org.	Accused name in FIR
1	2	3	4	5
1.	RC.17(A)/2005-Mum.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Income Tax	Sh. Vivek Batra, Jt. Commr., Income Tax (IRS:93)
2.	RC.18(A)/2005-Mum.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Air India	Sh. Praveen R.Barwe, DGM (Exports), Air India
3.	RC.19(A)/2005-Mum.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Union Territory Civil Services	Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Union Territory Civil servant (2000 batch)
4.	RC.20(A)/2005-Mum.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Union Bank of India	Sh. J.J. Daruwalia, Sr. Manager, Union Bank of India

1	2	3	4	5
5.	RC.5(A)/2005-GNR.	Possession of disproportionate assets	BSNL	Sh. Anand Swaroop, DE, BSNL, Deesa, Under GMTD, Palanpur
6.	RC.6(A)/2005-GNR.	Criminal misconduct in showing undue favour to the private party	Kandla Special Economic Zone	1. Sh. Yogendera Garg, Jt. Development Commr. 2. Sh. V.N. Jahagirdhar, Dy. Commr.
7.	RC.7(A)/2005-GNR.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Kandla Special Economic Zone	Sh. V.N. Jahagirdhar, Dy. Commr.
8.	RC.8(A)/2005-NGR.	Possession of disproportionate assets	TRIFED	Sh. Yashwant Ganvir, Regional Manager, TRIFED, Guwahati
9.	RC.18(A)/2005-DLI.	Possession of disproportionate assets	M/o Urban Development	Sh. Sanjay Kumar Sah, Director (Finance) M/o Urban Development (IRS:90)
10.	RC.19(A)/2005-DLI.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Delhi Police	Sh. Akhtar Ali Farooquee, DCP, Delhi Police, Delhi (DAN IPS:1978)
11.	RC.8(A)/2005-KER	Possession of disproportionate assets	Central Excise	Sh. I.P. Omkumar, Supdt. Central Excise, Custom
12.	RC.9(A)/2005-KER	Possession of disproportionate assets	Custom	Harrison Antony, Appraiser, Customs, Mangalore
13.	RC.9(A)/2005-Hyd.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Income Tax	Sh. C. Venkateswara Rao, DCIT, Tirupati
14.	RC.10(A)/2005-VSP	Criminal misconduct in the matter of recruitment and promotion	National Ship Design and Research Center	Sri P. Sambandan Former Director of NSFRC, Vishakhapatnam
15.	RC.18(A)/2005-CHN	Possession of disproportionate assets	Central Excise	Sh. L. Kumar, Central Excise, Salem

1	2	3	4	5
16.	RC.19(A)/2005-CHN	Possession of disproportionate assets	Food Coopn. of India	Sh. S.T.P.V.N. Acharyalu, Dy. Zonal Manager, Chennai
17.	RC.(A)8/2005-BLR	Possession of disproportionate assets	Deptt. of Company Affairs	Sh. B.M. Anand, Registrar of Companies, Bangalore
18.	RC.16(A)/2005-BBSR	Possession of disproportionate assets	Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd.	Shri Bisheswar Sahni, Clerk, Orient Colliery Mines, MCL, Brajranagar
19.	RC.17(A)/2005-BBSR	Possession of disproportionate assets	Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd.	Sh. Tarak Chandra Rout, Area Finance Manager, MCL, Talcher
20.	RC.18(A)/2005-BBSR	Possession of disproportionate assets	Income Tax	Sh. S.R. Senapati, Addl. Commr. Income Tax, Rourkela
21.	RC.5(A)/2005-GWH	Possession of disproportionate assets	NEEPCO	Sh. T.C. Borgohain, E.D. NEEPCO
22.	RC.10(A)/2005-Kol.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Deptt. of Social Welfare	Smt. Jantara Pant, CDPO, Ferrurganj, South Andaman, Port Blair
23.	RC.11(A)/2005-Kol.	Possession of disproportionate assets	BSNL	Sh. M.L. Kar, SDE, BSNL, Kolkata
24.	RC.12(A)/2005-Kol.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Custom	Sh. P.R. Chaoudhary, Appraiser, SIU, Customs House; Kolkata
25.	RC.13(A)/2005-Kol.	Possession of disproportionate assets	BSNL	Sh. Ashim Kumar Biswas, Sr. Accountant, BSNL, Kolkata
26.	RC.14(A)/2005-Kol.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Custom	Shri Pradyut Ray Choudhary, Supdt. Central Customs Excise.
27.	RC.2(A)/2005-ACU.III	Possession of disproportionate assets	MTNL	Sh. Ashok Kumar Dinkar, G.M. MTNL, Mum. (J.S. Level)

1	2	3	4	5
28.	RC.2(A)/2005-ACU.VII	Possession of disproportionate assets	Municipal Corporation of Delhi	Sh. R.B. Bansal, E.E., MCD, New Delhi.
29.	RC.10(A)/2005-CHG.	Possession of disproportionate assets	Food Coopn. of India	Sh. V.P. Subramaniam, Dy. Manager (Genl) & District Manager, FCI, Firojpur, Punjab
30.	RC.12(A)/2005-DDN	Possession of disproportionate assets	D/o Explosives	Shri Purushendra Kumar, Controller of Explosives, Allahabad.
31.	RC.13(A)/2005-DDN	Possession of disproportionate assets	CPWD	Sh. Naeem Ehsan Khan, A.E. CPWD, Rampur
32.	RC.8(A)/2005-Ranchi	Cri. Misconduct, Conspiracy and Cheating	Central Coal fields Ltd.	1. Sh. M.K. Thapar, the then Director (T)/CMD, CCL, Ranchi 2. Sh. S.K. Basu, the then Director (Finance), CCL, (Retd.)
33.	RC.7(A)/2005-Ranchi	Cri. Misconduct, Conspiracy and Cheating	BSNL	Sh. Sanjay Kumar Sharma, the then Executive Engineer (Civil), BSNL Ranchi.
34.	RC.5(A)/2005-Dhanbad	Possession of disproportionate assets	Bharat Cooking Coal Ltd.	Sh. B.C. Manjhi, Project Officers, Dhanbad.
35.	RC.8(A)/2005-Patna	Possession of disproportionate assets	Customs	Sh. R.K. Singh, Supdt. Customs, Raxaul.
36.	RC.9(A)/2005-Patna	Possession of disproportionate assets	BSNL	Sh. Satyendra Sahay, the then A.O. (Banking, BSNL, Patna
37.	RC.5(A)/2005-AHD Ranchi	Possession of disproportionate assets	BSNL	Sh. B.L. Gupta, Divl. Engineer, BSNL, Dumka

1	2	3	4	5
38. RC.1(A)/2005-AHD Patna	Crl. Misconduct, Conspiracy and misappropriation	Deptt. of Health Govt. of Bihar	1. Sh. N.C. Bhawan, the then ADGM, MSD, Mumbai. 2. Sh. M.V. Ramanna, the then Depot Manager, MSD, Mumbai. 3. Dr. S.N. Yadav (Rtd.), Civil Surgeon, Jharkhand.	
39. RC.7(A)/2005-Patna	Possession of disproportionate assets	Central Excise & Custom	Sh. R.K. Srivastava, Insp., Central Excise & Customs, Muzaffarpur	
40. RC.3(E)/2005-EOU-I	Crl. Misconduct, Conspiracy and Cheating	Central Excise & Custom	1. Sh. Prakash T. Kamble, the then Dy. Commr. Central Excise & Customs, Bhandara, Maharashtra 2. Sh. Anil S. Wasnik, the tthen Supdt. Central Ex- cise & Customs, Bhandara.	
41. RC.2(E)/2005-EOW.II/DLI	Crl. Misconduct, Conspiracy and Misappropriation	Deptt. of Posts	1. Sh. I.N. Singh, Sub. Post Master, Varansi. 2. Sh. S.S. Yadav, the then GDS Packer, Sub Post officer, Varansi 3. Sh. P.N. Ram, S.D. Insp. of Post Offices, Varansi. 4. Sh. Juit Ram, the then Post Master, Varansi. 5. Sh. R.M. Ram. Dy. Post Master, Varansi.	
42. RC.3(E)/2005-EOW-Kol.	Crl. Conspiracy forgery and Cheating	Private persons/Firms	Private	
43. RC.5(E)/2005-EOW- Chennai	Crl. Conspiracy Cheating and u/s of Indian Telegraph Act and Indian Wireless Act	Private persons/Firms	Private persons/firms and unknown officials of DOT & BSNL	

1	2	3	4	5
44.	RC.3(E)/2005-EOW-Mum.	Crl. Misconduct, Conspiracy and Cheating	Private persons/Firms	Private persons/firms and unknown officials of Deptt. of Posts.
45.	RC.3(E)/2005-BS&FC/ DLI	Crl. Misconduct, Conspiracy and misappropriation	Oriental Bank of Commerce (Previously Global Trust Bank)	Sh. B. Ram Gopal, the then Head of Branch erstwhile Global Trust Bank, New Delhi
46.	RC.3(E)/2005-BS&FC/ Mum.	Crl. Misconduct, Conspiracy and Crl. Breach of trust	Bank of Baroda	Unknown officials of Bank of Baroda
47.	RC.3(E)/2005-BS&FC/BLR	Crl. Misconduct, Conspiracy, forgery and Cheating	SBI	Unknown officials of SBI
48.	RC.2(E)/2005-BS&FC/BLR	Crl. Misconduct, Conspiracy, forgery and Cheating	SBI	Unknown officials of SBI
49.	RC.3(S)/2005-SCU-V	Crl. Conspiracy, forgery and Cheating	Airport Authority of India	1. Sh. P.P. Keim, G.M. (Kargo) 2. Sh. Dinesh Kumar, G.M. Kargo 3. Capt. (Retd.) R.K. Malik, D.G.M. (Security) 4. Capt. (Retd.) Sudhir Malik, D.G.M. (Security) 5. Brig. (Retd.) R.K. Kukreja 6. Col. (Retd.) B.K. Dhuper
50.	RC.3(S)/2005-SCB/DLI	Cheating	Private Person	Private person
51.	RC.2(S)/2005-SCB CHG.	Crl. Misconduct, Conspiracy, forgery and Cheating	United India Insurance Co. Ltd.	1. Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Divl. Manager. 2. Sh. T.B. Negi, Asstt. Manager

1	2	3	4	5
				3. Sh. V.S. Mehta, A.O.- all of United India Insurance Co. Ltd.

[English]

Opening of RPOs

538. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :
 DR. K. DHANARAJU :
 SHRI AJIT JOGI :
 SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH :
 SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
 SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of pending applications in various RPOs in the country, State wise;
- (b) whether the Government intends to open new RPOs in Chennai, Tiruchirapalli and Shimla;
- (c) if so, the time by where they are likely to be set up;
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to open RPOs in the State of Chhattisgarh;
- (e) if so, the location-wise details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to streamline the issuance of passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (e) Details are given in the enclosed statements.

- (f) There exists a Passport Office each in Chennai and Tiruchirapalli. Therefore, there is no proposal to open

additional Passport Offices in these cities. In Shimla, there exists a Passport Application Collection Centre (PACC). There is a Government decision to upgrade the PACC at Shimla to a full-fledged Passport office. There is also a decision to open a new Passport Office in Raipur. However, due to shortage of staff in the Central Passport Organisation, these offices have not been opened till date. It is not possible to give any time frame for opening of these offices.

(g) It is the constant endeavour of the Government of India to streamline the issuance of passports. In the recent months, special drives were launched in several Passport Offices to clear backlog of pending applications. As a result, the time taken to issue passports has come down considerably.

With a view to further facilitate passport services for the applicants, the Government of India has decentralised the process of submission of applications by setting up of the District Passport Cells (DPCs) in approximately 450 Districts. Applications can also be submitted at more than 200 Speed post centres across the country.

Statement

*The Pendency in RPO/POs State-wise
as on 15.07.2005*

S. No.	Name of RPO/PO	No. of Applications pending
1	2	3
Gujrat		
1.	Ahmedabad	1194

1	2	3
2.	Surat	2669
		3863
Karnataka		
3.	Bangalore	8637
Uttar Pradesh		
4.	Bareilly	1505
5.	Ghaziabad	
6.	Lucknow	7834
		9339
Madhya Pradesh		
7.	Bhopal	1927
Orissa		
8.	Bhubaneswar	1450
Tamil Nadu		
9.	Chennai	8495
10.	Trichy	14861
		23356
Kerala		
11.	Cochin	3265
12.	Kozhikode	7931
13.	Trivandrum	1336
		12532
Assam		
14.	Guwahati	1270

1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
15.	Hyderabad	90
16.	Vishakhapatnam	3215
		3305
Rajasthan		
17.	Jaipur	14255
Punjab		
18.	Jalandhar	2628
Jammu and Kashmir		
19.	Jammu	Nil
20.	Srinagar	—
West Bengal		
21.	Kolkata	376
Maharashtra		
22.	Mumbai	776
23.	Nagpur	964
24.	Pune	340
25.	Thane	658
		2738
Bihar		
26.	Patna	873
Jharkhand		
27.	Ranchi	181
28.	Chandigarh	14895

1	2	3
29.	Delhi	7444
30.	Panaji	281

Production of Thermal Coal

539. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the annual production of Thermal Coal in the country and particularly in Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government is also importing Thermal Coal;

(c) if so, the total quantum of Thermal Coal imported during the above period;

(d) whether the Government has a proposal to increase the import of Thermal Coal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) Production of Thermal Coal in the country and in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during each of the last three years is given below:—

(figures in million tonne)

Year	All India coal production	MCL
2002-03	311.077	52.229
2003-04	331.755	60.049
2004-05 (provisional)	352.794	66.080

(b) and (c) Ministry of Coal is not importing coal.

However, since import of coal is under Open General

Licence (OGL) any consumer can import coal as per their requirement. The total quantity of coal imported by the consumers during the last three years is given below:—

(figures in million tonne)

Year	Non coking coal
2002-03	10.313
2003-04	8.691
2004-05 (provisional)	10.465

(d) and (e) Due to gap in demand and supply, Ministry of Power has planned to import 13.45 million tonnes (provisional) during 2005-06 for building coal stocks at power stations and to meet power generation needs.

Utilisation of Plan Expenditure

540. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States which have not achieved the stipulated target in regard to plan expenditure for 2004-05;

(b) the reasons for non-utilisation of plan expenditure, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the defaulting States during 2004-05; and

(d) the cut in the plan outlay for 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Actual expenditure figures for Annual Plan 2004-05 have not been received from States. The estimated expenditure for 2004-05 fall short of the Approved Outlays for Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The main reasons for shortfall in expenditure are

inability of States to mobilise States' Own Resources as planned and also draw fully Central Assistance especially the Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects.

(c) and (d) Proportionate cut in Central Assistance is imposed for States for shortfall in expenditure vis-a-vis the Approved/Revised Outlays and also on account of shortfall in the earmarked outlays. This cut is imposed after actual audited expenditure is received by Ministry of Finance. Since the actual audited expenditure relating to 2004-05 and 2005-06 have not been received from States, cut on account of shortfall in 2004-05 and 2005-06 have not been imposed.

Collection of HIV/AIDS Data by Independent Agencies

541. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether irregularities have been noticed in the figures regarding HIV/AIDS by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to get the data collected through independent agencies;

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

(d) the time frame decided for obtaining these figures?

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

No irregularities have been noticed in the figures regarding HIV/AIDS by the Government and there is no proposal to get the data collected through an independent agency. However, Government intends to get the entire programme including approach for surveillance system evaluated by an independent agency. This includes review cum overall assessment of all the components of the programme, the correctness of the approaches used and

suggesting ways of improving the existing approaches. The timeframe for this exercise is proposed to be till the end of this year.

Shortage of IAS/IPS Officers

542. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR :
SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that there is shortage of IAS/IPS Officers in all the States in the country;

(b) if so, the details of sanctioned strength of IAS/IPS officers and their placement separately, State-wise;

(c) the number of IPS and IAS posts lying vacant in various States against the sanctioned strength and the date since when these posts are lying vacant;

(d) whether administrative work is suffering due to the shortage of officers in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to appoint officers as per sanctioned strength, State-wise?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e) The need for IAS/IPS Officers in various State cadres is periodically reviewed in consultation with the State Governments and the cadre strength is revised where necessary. Filling of vacancies is a continuous process and the gap is filled up by direct recruitment through Civil Services Examination and by promotion from the State feeder services.

Statement

S. No.	Cadre	IAS		IPS	
		Total Autho- rised Strength	Officers in position (As on 1.1.2005)	Total Autho- rised Strength	Officers in position (As on 1.1.2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	314	315	209	183
2.	AGMU	245	220	162	143
3.	Assam- Meghalaya	226	205	153	136
4.	Bihar	264	251	193	145
5.	Chhattisgarh	138	89	81	58
6.	Gujarat	248	221	161	132
7.	Haryana	212	208	125	114
8.	Himachal Pradesh	126	122	72	68
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	112	97	135	115
10.	Jharkhand	143	115	110	86
11.	Karnataka	259	241	156	135
12.	Kerala	178	172	139	116
13.	Madhya Pradesh	296	291	231	211
14.	Maharashtra	351	338	236	191
15.	Manipur- Tripura	198	174	121	100

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Nagaland	64	53	58	45
17.	Orissa	202	183	159	111
18.	Punjab	193	163	144	122
19.	Rajasthan	260	226	184	147
20.	Sikkim	50	44	32	30
21.	Tamilnadu	325	313	214	197
22.	Uttaranchal	94	71	60	41
23.	Uttar Pradesh	467	429	404	351
24.	West Bengal	296	247	278	221
Total		5261	4788	3817	3198

Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan

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

(a) whether a strategy has been evolved as a result of the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan to divert minority holding in profit making PSUs and open up the retail sector to FDI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) No Sir, a strategy has not been evolved to divert minority holding in profit making PSUs and open up the retail sector to FDI as the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan considered by National Development Council expressed broad agreement with goals and policies suggested in Appraisal in meeting only on 27th & 28th June, 2005.

**Public Investment in Tenth
Five Year Plan**

544. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether public investment has fallen short of targets in the first two years of the current five year plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of areas/sectors in which the shortfall is more significant;

(c) the reasons identified therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government has accordingly scaled down the investment targets for the current Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, total public investment in the first three years of the Plan has been estimated to be 37.6% of the Tenth Plan target.

(b) As per the latest National Accounts Statistics 2005 brought out by the Central Statistical Organisation, information for Public investment by sectors is available only for the first year of the Tenth Five Year Plan, i.e. 2002-03. It is not possible to assess the sectors in which the shortfall is more significant on the basis of only one year's data.

(c) The main reasons for shortfall from the target in public investment include inability to raise sufficient resources for investment and lower levels of internal and extra budgetary resources (IEBR) on the part of the public sector undertakings.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Statement giving the likely revised investment in the Tenth Plan as compared to the original target is given is enclosed.

Statement

Sectoral Investment Requirements for Tenth Plan

(Rs. '000 crore at 2001-02 prices)

Sector	Tenth Plan Document	Mid Term Appraisal	Percentage change
Agriculture & Allied	219.6	175.7	-20.0
Mining & quarrying	89.4	98.2	9.8
Manufacturing	1476.9	1196.6	-19.0
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	412.5	316.1	-23.4
Construction	61.0	53.5	-12.3
Trade, hotels etc.	136.6	115.1	-15.7
Rail Transport	81.9	77.8	-5.0
Other Transport	237.6	230.0	-3.2
Communications	296.4	431.4	45.5
Financial Services	151.2	129.4	-14.4
Public Administration & etc.	273.1	213.1	-22.0
Other Services	645.3	545.3	-15.5
Total	4081.5	3582.2	-12.2

Non-Utilization of CRF

545. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT, AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Road Fund amounting to Rs.1,465 crores lies unutilised;

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

(c) the steps being taken to utilise the fund for improvement and construction of roads in the country at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The total unutilized amount upto 31.03.2005 of the Central Road Fund (CRF) earmarked for the State Roads is Rs.1606.18 crores. However, as per provisions of Central Road Fund Act, 2000, funds accrued to CRF are non-lapsable in nature. The release of funds from CRF depends on the utilization of the released amount and the progress of works approved on the basis of the proposals submitted by the respective State Governments and implemented by them.

(c) This Department's guidelines to the States specify that such CRF works are to be completed within a period of 2 years. States Governments are regularly requested to increase the pace of the progress of CRF works and the progress of utilization of funds from CRF is monitored quarterly.

Establishment of Rural Internet Centres

546. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

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

(a) whether an international consortium including Indian and American companies and World Bank is planning to establish rural internet center in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of the proposal as on date;

(d) the time by which setting up of rural internet center is likely to be completed; and

(e) the criteria to be fixed for selection of sites for setting up of such center in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Reconstitution of State Haj Committees

547. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the States which have timely reconstituted State Haj Committees and also those which have not reconstituted it as on date;

(b) whether the Government has requested such States to reconstitute State Haj Committees at the earliest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time frame fixed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) In terms of Haj Committee Act 2002 which came into force on 5th December, 2002 and Government of India Gazette notification No. 110 dated 4th February, 2003, all the States/Union Territories were requested to constitute their State Haj Committees by 15th March, 2003. The following six States constituted their State Haj Committees by the stipulated date:

1. Assam*
2. Kerala
3. Maharashtra
4. Manipur
5. Rajasthan
6. Uttaranchal

Since then, the following 17 States/Union Territories have also constituted their State Haj Committees

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Bihar
4. Chattisgarh
5. Dadar and Nagar Haveli
6. Daman and Diu
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Madhya Pradesh
9. Meghalaya*
10. Mizoram*
11. Nagaland*
12. Orissa
13. Punjab
14. Tamil Nadu
15. Tripura
16. Uttar Pradesh
17. West Bengal

*(Assam had constituted its State Haj Committee on 13.3.2003; a Joint State Haj Committee of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram has also later been constituted on 4.6.2005)

The following 12 States/Union Territories have so far not constituted their respective Haj Committees:

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Chandigarh
3. Delhi
4. Goa
5. Gujarat

6. Haryana
 7. Jammu and Kashmir
 8. Jharkhand
 9. Karnataka
 10. Lakshadweep
 11. Pondicherry
 12. Sikkim
- (b) Yes.

(c) In its communications of 28.2.2003, 13.8.2003 and 7.6.2004, the Government has reminded various State/ Union Territories for early constitution of the State Haj Committees. In his address at the All India Conference for Haj 2005 held in New Delhi on 27th October, 2004 and at the All India Conference for Haj 2006 held in New Delhi on 6th June, 2005, the External Affairs Minister had also called upon those States/Union Territories which have not so far constituted their respective State Haj Committees to do so expeditiously.

[English]

Funds to the Voluntary Organizations

548. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provides funds to those voluntary organisations which are carrying out Family Welfare Programmes in the Country;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated to each of them, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any agency to monitor that the funds allocated to these voluntary organisations are being properly utilized by them;

(d) if so, the names of the defaulter organisations; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against them?

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

(b) List is given in the enclosed statement-I

(c) A panel of evaluation agencies have been approved by the Department of Family/Welfare to carry out the appraisal/evaluation of NGOs is given in the enclosed statement-II. The NGOs are evaluated on completion of 1st year and 3rd year of the project.

Under the Scheme for Support to Gender Issues (SGI) for which financial assistance was provided by UNFPA, the financial assistance was routed through an identified NGO (monitoring NGO) while the project was implemented through another NGO (implementing NGO). SGI Scheme is not in force now.

(d) and (e) The list of NGOs against whom complaints have recently been received and action taken in this regard is given in the enclosed statement-III. The NGOs black listed during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-IV.

Statement-I

Mother NGO Scheme-under World bank assisted RCH Programme

(Amount in Rupees)

S. No.	Name of MNGO	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ekālavya Memorial League, Prakasam	Andhra Pradesh		978,414.00	
2.	Rahul's Med. & Health Services Society, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	3,898,562.00	3,200,000.00	765,110.00
3.	Society for National Integration through Rural Development, Prakasam	Andhra Pradesh		1,936,708.00	
4.	St. Peter's Multipurpose Health Workers (Female), Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	900,000.00	850,000.00	129,984.00
5.	HEADS, Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	739,649.00	2,689,345.00	300,000.00
6.	Social Action for Social Dev. Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh		1,440,000.00	
7.	Arunachal Pradesh VHA	Arunachal Pradesh	2,987,396.00		
8.	Rural Women Upliftment Association of Assam	Assam	3,000,000.00	2,964,147.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Voluntary Health Association of Assam, Guwahati	Assam	2,613,000.00		
10.	Deshbhandu Club, Cachar	Assam		1,704,646.00	
11.	Scientific Education Prom, & Med. Aid Foundation, Patna	Bihar	2,360,000.00	2,324,240.00	100,000.00
12.	Millat Educational Society, Samastipur	Bihar	1,200,000.00	1,736,000.00	100,000.00
13.	Mahila bal Uttan Kendra, Samastipur	Bihar	1,760,000.00	1,800,000.00	100,000.00
14.	Adarsh Mahila Shilp Kala Kendra, Patna	Bihar	2,129,408.00	2,400,000.00	306,592.00
15.	ADITHI, Patna	Bihar		2,987,600.00	595,125.00
16.	Bhagwan Budha Vikas Seva Samiti, Patna	Bihar	596,355.00	600,000.00	
17.	Arthick Atma Nirbharta Samajik Vikas Abhikaran, Patna	Bihar	800,000.00	1,166,700.00	900,000.00
18.	Daudnagar Organization for Rural Development, Aurangabad	Bihar		1,983,397.00	485,654.00
19.	Shantidoot, Nalanda	Bihar	600,000.00	579,254.00	100,000.00
20.	Bihar Voluntry Health Association	Bihar			100,000.00
21.	Rajendra Institute of Education & Social Welfare	Bihar		1,189,100.00	100,000.00
22.	Gram Nirman Mandal, Nawada	Jharkhand/Bihar			1,272,665.99
23.	Centre for Labour Education & Social Research (Clear)	Chattisgarh			912,184.00
24.	Utthan - Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, Allahabad	Chattisgarh		1,200,000.00	
25.	INDCARE Charitable Trust	Delhi	1,500,000.00		

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	SOSVA, North	Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab		6,607,853.00	
27.	Gujarat Voluntary Health Association, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1,250,000.00		
28.	Centre for Health Education Training & Nutrition Awareness (Chetna)	Gujarat	676,317.00	1,345,849.00	
29.	Family Planning Association of India, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1,395,562.00		
30.	Samagra Vikas Trust, Amreli, Gujarat	Gujarat	2,426,389.00		
31.	HP VHA	Himachal Pradesh	2,271,377.00		
32.	Society for Social Uplift through Rural Action	Himachal Pradesh		1,277,980.00	
33.	Nischal Foundation (SNS), Gurgaon (MNGO in H.P.)	Himachal Pradesh	2,000,000.00		
34.	SWACH Foundation, Panchkula	Haryana	2,500,000.00	2,959,657.00	
35.	Haryana Navyuvak Kala Sangham	Haryana	474,418.00		
36.	J & K Ex-Services League, Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	1,352,544.00		
37.	Kalamakari Centre Ploura, Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir		997,770.00	
38.	Krishi Gam Vikas Kendra	Jharkhand	2,129,386.00		
39.	Gram Nirman Mandal, Nawada	Jharkhand/Bihar	2,289,963.00	1,200,000.00	
40.	Women in Social Action, Midnapore	Jharkhand	2,400,000.00	2,327,632.00	
41.	Phooleen Mahila Chetan Vikas Kendra, Deoghar	Jharkhand	576,645.00		
42.	Karnataka Voluntary Health Association	Karnataka	2,128,829.00		
43.	SOSVA, Karnataka	Karnataka	4,000,000.00	3,890,854.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
44.	St. Joh's Medical College, Bangalore	Karnataka	3,364,741.00		
45.	Family Planning Association of India, Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	1,390,591.00		
46.	Kerala Voluntary Health Services, Kottayam	Kerala			
47.	Mahila Utkarsha Sansthan, Indore	Madhya Pradesh	1,200,000.00		
48.	Tarun Sanskar, Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	1,200,000.00		
49.	Sambhav, Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	3,378,818.00	3,600,000.00	
50.	Sarvajanik Parivar Kalyan Evam Seva Samiti, Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	
51.	Sanskar Shiksha Samiti,	Madhya Pradesh	1,533,773.00	1,761,990.00	
52.	Madhya Pradesh V.H.A., Indore	Madhya Pradesh		692,888.00	
53.	FPAI, Mumbai (MNGO in M.P.)	Madhya Pradesh		3,288,868.00	
54.	Medical Council Centre, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh		1,762,450.00	338,922.00
55.	Shri Parshwanath Bal Mandir Samiti, Indore	Madhya Pradesh	960,000.00	1,183,876.00	232,670.00
56.	Utthan - Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, Allahabad	Madhya Pradesh		1,200,000.00	
57.	Sevadharm Trust, Pune	Maharashtra	7,739,521.00		
58.	SOSVA, (STAPI), Pune	Maharashtra		3,366,057.00	
59.	Pravara Medical Trust, Ahmednagar	Maharashtra		1,374,160.00	
60.	Godavari Foundation, Jalgaon	Maharashtra		2,467,773.00	
61.	Lamding Cherpur Homeopathic & Unani Association, Wangjing	Manipur	2,269,217.00		
62.	Family Planning Association of India, Imphal	Manipur	2,731,823.00		

1	2	3	4	5	6
63.	Nagaland VHA	Nagaland	2,128,829.00		
64.	Orissa V.H.A, Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	4,892,593.00	3,200,000.00	738,551.00
65.	My Heart, Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	6,000,000.00	2,962,049.00	
66.	Organisation for Social Change and Rural Development, (OSCARD), Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	1,800,000.00	1,800,000.00	
67.	Isvar	Orissa	584,000.00		
68.	Asra	Orissa	1,159,634.00	1,195,643.00	
69.	Animal Welfare Society of Orissa	Orissa	1,200,000.00	1,187,893.00	
70.	Neelanchal Seva Pratishthan	Orissa		600,000.00	
71.	Prakalpa	Orissa	600,000.00	478,800.00	
72.	Anchalika Kunjeswari Sanskrutika, Puri	Orissa	3,000,000.00	2,993,185.00	
73.	NIAHRD, Cuttack	Orissa		1,189,483.00	
74.	FPAI, Mohali	Punjab	1,500,000.00		
75.	VHA of Punjab, Chandigarh	Punjab			
76.	Bhoruka Charitable Trust, Jaipur	Rajasthan			2,985,853.00
77.	Bodhgram Society for Education Conscientisation awareness and training (ECAT)	Rajasthan	1,200,000.00		
78.	URMUL, Rural Health Research, Bikaner	Rajasthan	3,000,000.00		
79.	CHETNA	Rajasthan			
80.	Voluntary Health Association of Sikkim	Sikkim		2,371,294.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
81.	Rural Education & Development Society, Sivagangai	Tamil Nadu		1,795,902.00	
82.	Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association, Chennai	Tamil Nadu	2,598,151.00		
83.	Gandhigram Instt. Of Rural Health & Family Welfare Trust, Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	3,930,383.00		
84.	Deepam Educational Society for Health (DESH), Chennai	Tamil Nadu		887,264.00	
85.	FPAI, Madurai	Tamil Nadu		2,482,741.00	
86.	VHA of Tripura, Agartala	Tripura		1,780,034.00	
87.	CARTE, Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	2,400,000.00	1,834,645.00	432,408.00
88.	Indian Instt. For Development Studies & Research, Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh		3,534,000.00	
89.	New Public School Samiti, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	3,550,471.00	2,830,471.00	687,852.00
90.	Naujhi Integrated Rural Project for Health and Development	Uttar Pradesh	3,288,624.00	2,800,000.00	
91.	Utthan - Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh		3,558,000.00	
92.	World Welfare & Research Centre, Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	2,909,142.00	2,774,505.00	
93.	FPAI, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh		3,548,209.00	
94.	UP VHA	Uttar Pradesh		2,135,852.00	
95.	Himalayan Instt. Hospital Trust, Dehradun	Uttaranchal	3,392,695.00		
96.	CINI, Calcutta	West Bengal		3,883,404.00	
97.	Gana Unnayana Parishad, Kolkatta	West Bengal		1,500,000.00	
98.	W. Bengal V.H.A., Kolkatta	West Bengal	3,980,300.00	3,996,313.00	

Innovative Scheme

S. No.	Name of NGO	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Jan Swasthya Sahayog	Chattisgarh	2,207,100.00		
2.	Prayas	Delhi			714,600.00
3.	VHAI, New Delhi	Delhi		700,000.00	
4.	SNS Foundation, Gurgoan	Haryana	837,400.00		210,600.00
5.	Yuvak Pratisthan	Maharashtra	1,500,000.00		
6.	SOSVA, Pune	Maharashtra	1,975,000.00		
7.	VHAI, Delhi	MP		700,000.00	
8.	VHAI, New Delhi	Orissa			1,416,829.00
9.	Jan Chetna Parishad	Orissa	1,304,000.00		
10.	Tagore society for Rural Development, Kolkata	West Bengal	5,150,867.00		4,495,771.00
11.	Women in Social Action	West Bengal	421,000.00		

UNFPA assisted Projects on Gender issues

S. No.	Name of Implementing NGO	State/Ut	Funds released during 2002-2003	Funds released during 2003-2004	Funds released during 2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Voluntary Health Association of India, Delhi	Delhi		460,630.00	
2.	Mobile Creches, New Delhi	Delhi	195,262.00	252,582.00	
3.	Institute for Development & Communication, Chandigarh	Chandigarh	297,448.00		
4.	Centre Direct, Patna	Bihar	787,554.00		

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Organization for Socio Economi and Rural Development, (OSERD) Patna	Bihar	283,900.00	283,660.00	
6.	Daudnagar Development Sansthan, Daudnagar	Bihar	597,497.00	156,600.00	
7.	Visakha Zila Nav Nirman Samiti, Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	808,071.00		
8.	Rashtriya Seva Samiti, Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	709,753.00		
9.	Swa-Sehyog sanstha, Chaksu	Rajasthan	169,050.00		
10.	Indian Institute for Rural Development, Jaipur	Rajasthan			
11.	Lupin Human Welfare and Research Foundation	Rajasthan	773,928.00		447,908.00
12.	Concerned Citizen	Rajasthan	910,967.00		111,168.00
13.	Guild of Services (Central), Chennai	Tamil Nadu	19,318.00		
14.	Rural Development Society, Wangjing	Manipur	666,515.00		146,771.00
15.	Community Development Programme Centre, Thoubal	Manipur	54,810.00		
16.	Khurai Young Womens Socio Cultural Organization (KYWSCO)	Manipur	186,900.00		
17.	SEVANA. Trivandram	Kerala	32,328.00		
18.	Jananeethi	Kerala	68,643.00		
19.	Anweshi Women's counselling centre, Calicut	Kerala	867,384.00	176,835.00	
20.	Deepak Charitable Trust, Vadodara	Gujarat	149,957.00	219,396.00	121,223.00
21.	Parvatiya Paryavaran Sanrakshan Samiti, Pithoragarh	Uttar Pradesh	560,000.00		
22.	West Bengal Voluntary Health Association	West Bengal	912,900.00		
23.	Youth Association for Rural Reconstruction	Orissa	457,832.00		

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Kerala State Council for Child Welfare	Kerala	867,382.00		
25.	Community action for Social Transformation, Thiruviruthanpulli	Tamil Nadu	204,096.00	204,096.00	

Grant-in-aid released to NGOs during 2004-05 under RRC Project

S.No.	Name of NGO	State	Amount (Rs.)
1.	FPAI, Mumbai	Maharashtra	10,32,722
2.	CHETNA, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	12,75,666
3.	Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust, Kerala functioning in Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	12,75,666
4.	Mamta Health Institute for Mother & Child, New Delhi	Delhi	12,75,666
5.	Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health & Family Welfare Trust.	Tamil Nadu	25,70,958
6.	Voluntary Health association of Assam, Guwahati.	Assam	25,51,666
7.	CINI, Kolkata	West Bengal	26,82,522
8.	VHAI, New Delhi	Delhi	21,85,564
9.	State Innovations in Family Planning Services, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	12,75,666
10.	Population Foundation of India, New Delhi	Delhi	12,75,666

Grant-in-aid released to NGOs during 2004-05 under NCP Project

Sl.No.	Name of NGO	State	Amount (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Gramin Vikas Sanstha, West Bengal	West Bengal	2,36,361
2.	Jaipur Rural Health & Development Trust, Jaipur	Rajasthan	5,55,000
3.	SOSVA(N), New Delhi	Delhi	2,34,343
4.	Asia Pacific Socio-Economic Research Institute, New Delhi	Haryana	3,43,200
5.	Bapu Nature Cure Hospital & Yogashram, New Delhi	Bihar	2,31,000

1	2	3	4
6.	Bhartiya Parivardhan Sanstha, Nandnagari, Delhi (Project in Bihar)	Bihar	2,35,158
7.	DISHA, Janakpuri (project in Bihar)	Bihar	4,00,000
8.	Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Rural Management and Rural Development Patna	Bihar	80,000
9.	Dr. Deo Sevashram, Muzaffarpur	Bihar	2,40,400
10.	Vivek Deep Parivar Kalyan Sanstha, Muzaffarpur.	Bihar	2,40,400
11.	Tata Steel Rural Development Society, Hazaribag	Jharkhand	2,84,800
12.	Network of Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (NEED), Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	1,49,600
13.	Indian Foundation for Health & Social Upliftment, New Delhi through SCOVA Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	2,12,758
14.	Nilachal Seva Pratishthan, Puri	Orissa	1,56,643

IEC Activities:

(Amount in Rs.)

Organisation	State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population & Development	Delhi	(3) 30,00,000 (4) 9,00,000	47,87,000	11,96,950	
Press Institute of India	Delhi	15,00,000	30,49,000	7,62,000	
Programme for Ethical Academic and Cultural Enterprises (PEACE)	Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh	(3) 2,70,000 (4) 4,57,372			
Journal of India Medical Association 'JIMA'	Kolkata West Bengal	5,00,000	5,00,000		
Prayas, Chittorgarh				13,50,000	
Population Foundation of India, New Delhi	New Delhi		(1)38,34,000 (2)10,00,000	(1)9,58,650 (2)11,25,000	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sanskar Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh			13,88,000	
Mamta Health Instt. For Mother & Child, Saidula Job, New Delhi	New Delhi		20,000		
Indian Medical Association 'IMA'	New Delhi			8,00,000	

Statement-II**A Panel of Pre-appraisal/Evaluation/Field appraisal under the RCH Scheme**

- The Director,
Indian Institute for Health Management Research,
1, Prabhu Dayal Marg,
Sanganer Airport
Jaipur
- The Director,
Family Planning Association of India (FPAI),
Bajaj Bhavan Nariman Point,
Mumbai.
- The Director,
Nabakrishna Choudhury,
Centre for Dev. Studies,
Bhubaneswar-751 013.
- The Director,
NIHFW,
Munirka, New Delhi.
- The Chief Executive,
Voluntary health Association of India,
Tong Swasthya Bhavan,
40, Institutional Area, New Delhi
- The Director,
CINI, Village Daulatpur,
P.O. Pailan.
Via Joka, 24 Parganas,
West Bengal-743 512.

7. The Director,
Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health & F.W. Trust,
Amba Thurai R.S.,
Dindigul Distt., Tamil Nadu-624 302.

8. The Director,
Om Kailash Tower,
190-A, Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow.

Statement-III**Action taken report against the NGOs**

Sl. No.	Name of NGO	Action taken
1	2	3
1.	CHETNA, Rajasthan	As per utilization certificate for the year 2002-03, they have unspent balance of Rs.1,58,551. CHETNA, Rajasthan has not been separately registered entity. Further grant-in-aid has been stopped till they furnished the registration certificate in Rajasthan
3.	HEADS, Andhra Pradesh	A petition from an advocate on selection of FNGO under the RCH Programme was received. The comments of MNGO was called. The Comments of MNGO

1	2	3
		is sent to R.D. (Health & FW), A.P. to place the matter before the District NGO Committee.
4.	Development Action through self help Network (DARSHAN), Kerala	The NGO was released an amount of Rs.1,41,400/- for " Day Care Centre". The monitoring reports and visit by UNFPA revealed irregularities in maintenance of accounts and misutilization of funds. Further releases have been stopped and Audit Wing of MOHFW has been requested to audit the accounts of the NGO

Statement-IV

NOGs blacklisted during the last Three Years

S.No.	Name of Organization
1.	Gramin Vikas Sanstha, Bharatpur, Rajasthan
2.	Harijan Pichda Warg Kalyan Samiti, Madyepur, Madhubani, Bihar.
3.	Hast Kala Vikas Kendra, Madyepur, Madhubani, Bihar.
4.	Jaipur Harijan Sewa Samiti, Jaipur, Orissa

Congestion on NHs

549. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT, AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to heavy increase in traffic, the national highways particularly the road from Chennai to Pondicherry in Tamil Nadu have become congested; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Sir, the total length of National Highways in Tamil Nadu is 4183 kms. Out of these, 1630 kms are being four laned by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under NHDP Phase-I and II, comprising of the Golden Quadrilateral, North South corridor, Port Connectivity and other works. A number of Road Over Bridges (ROB), Grade separators, bypasses and service roads are being constructed, wherever necessary. In addition to this, National Highway stretches aggregating to a length of 1255 kms have been included for 4-laning on BOT basis by NHAI under NHDP Phase III. Preparation of Detailed Project Reports for these stretches are in various stages of progress. Further, to decongest traffic on National Highways in and around Chennai city, following works are under implementation by NHAI:—

- (i) A special project for providing smooth access to the Chennai traffic to the Golden Quadrilateral by construction of grade separators at Kathipara and Koyembedu Junctions, elevated rotary at Padi Junction flyover at International Airport, widening to four lanes from Maduravoyal to Ambedkar statue.
- (ii) Widening of the 19.17 kms of existing 2-lane of Chennai bypass (Phase I) to 4-lane from Tambaram to Maduravoyal Junction and construction of 13 kms of new 4-lane Chennai bypass (Phase II) from Maduravoyal to Madhavaram Junction.

The National Highways connecting Chennai to Pondicherry are the National Highways No.45 from Chennai to Tindivanam and NH 66 from Tindivanam to Pondicherry. NH 45 between Chennai and Tindivanam has been four laned by NHAI recently. NH 66 from Tindivanam to Pondicherry has been included for four laning under

NHDP IIIA and Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this stretch is in Progress.

[Translation]

Opening of Post Offices

550. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) the number of villages in the country where sub-post offices are functioning as on date;

(b) the number of villages in the country where sub-post offices are to be opened during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) the norms fixed for opening the post offices;

(d) where the norms for opening post offices in the rural areas differ from the norms for opening post offices in the urban areas;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether it is a fact that the work relating to opening of rural post offices is not satisfactory; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Details of the number of villages in the country having Sub Offices will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Targets for opening Sub Offices were fixed under the Tenth Plan only for the first two years. In the third year, requirements were met by relocating existing Sub Offices that do not fulfil distance norms. Details of the targets and achievements of the first two years and the number of Sub Offices opened in the third year through relocation are given below:

Year	Target Departmental Sub Offices	Achievement Departmental Sub Offices
2002-2003	25	25
2003-2004	20	20
2004-2005	41 Departmental Sub Offices opened by relocation/redeployment	

(c) Norms for opening Departmental Sub Offices and Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Post Offices in rural areas are heavily subsidised, as far as the income norm is concerned keeping in view their socio-economic conditions, with a larger subsidy for post offices in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas. Details are given in the Annexure. There is no such subsidy available for post offices in urban areas. Relaxation of distance and population norms is also available for post offices in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas taking into account local conditions, level of connectivity etc.

(f) and (g) No Sir, post office facilities - Extra Departmental Branch Post Office and Departmental Sub Offices - are available in 1,41,814 village in the country which fulfil the norms for opening a post office. India has the largest postal network in the world and 89% of it is in the rural areas.

The policy directives under the Tenth Plan require the Department to rationalise the existing network to optimise its resources and reduce the budgetary deficit since existing post offices are incurring more than permissible levels of loss, Post Offices are continuing to be provided wherever justified as per norms in consonance with these directions. Efforts are also under way to meet the demand for post office facilities through more cost-effective options.

Statement

Norms for Opening Post Offices

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population :

(a) 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 limits 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 1/3% of the cost.

(b) **In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

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.

It is further to be ensured that a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(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.

Amount Spent On Haj Pilgrims

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

- (a) the amount spent on Haj Pilgrims during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to enhance this amount;
- (c) if so, by when; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) The amount spent on Haj Pilgrims to subsidize airfare of Haj Pilgrims going through Haj Committee of India during the last three years is as follows—

Year	Amount (Rs. In Crores) (Appx.)
2003	172.00
2004	160.70
2005	179.66

The amount spent for various Haj arrangements in Jeddah, Makkah, Madinah, Mina & Arafat, including dispensaries, medicines, travel expenses, salaries and accommodation of doctors, para-medical staff & other deputationists and pitching of tents are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. In Crores)
2003	12.12
2004	12.59
2005	14.82

- (b) to (d) There is likely to be some increase

on account of inflation and increase in number of pilgrims.

[English]

Fish Medicine for Asthma

552. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to verify the claims of Bathini brothers of Hyderabad (A.P.) that their fish medicine can cure Asthma;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Government proposes to make investigation to find out the presence of medicinal property in the fish medicines in the public interest; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The Central Government has not conducted any study to verify the claim that the fish medicine can cure Asthma nor is there any proposal. It has been ascertained from the Government of Andhra Pradesh that on the direction of High Court of Andhra Pradesh, some samples have been drawn for laboratory testing. The results are awaited.

[Translation]

Reduction in Retirement Age in Public Sector Enterprises

553. MOHD. MUKEEM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Public Enterprises Bureau has recommended that the retirement age of public sector employees should be reduced to 58 years from the present age of 60 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the retirement age of employees working in various public sector enterprises under the Central Government would be reduced to 58 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Panel on Restructuring of
Coal Companies**

554. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the panel headed by T.L. Shankar has submitted its report on restructuring of coal companies;
- (b) if so, the recommendations of this panel; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.

Post Marketing Surveillance

555. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether condition of Post Marketing Surveillance (PMS) is put into all approvals for the new drug permissions;
- (b) if so, whether most of the drug companies are not doing the PMS; and

(c) if so, the names of the companies penalized by the DCGI for not conducting the PMS during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Post Marketing Surveillance (PMS) studies are required to be undertaken by pharmaceutical firms introducing New Drugs within 2 years of their approval. However, time for submission of PMS study report depends upon the time by which the product is actually marketed in the country.

PMS study reports are generally being submitted by the firms.

**Launching of Voice-Based
Information Services**

556. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the cities where the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has launched voice-based information services;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to introduce such information services in some other cities;
- (c) if so, the target set for providing such services in these cities till the end of 2005-06; and
- (d) the time by which all the major cities would be covered with voice-based information services by BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) (i) **Cellular Mobile Subscribers:—** The voice-based information services are provided to all the Cellular Mobile subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) through the

call centres. These call centres are at Gurgaon, Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad. These call centres handle all types of subscribers queries and complaints pertaining to the mobile services besides providing information regarding the tariffs, types of services, billing, etc. The queries pertaining to the broadband services are also handled through these call centres.

(ii) **Basic Telephony Subscribers:—** The Voice based information services are accessible to the Basic telephony subscribers on various numbers like 197(Directory Enquiry) in all cities. In addition, the call centres have been established at Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Goa, Pune, Bangalore, Gurgaon, Meerut, Bareilly, Dehradun, Jaipur and Raipur to provide information regarding Billing, details of the new schemes/services, tariffs, application forms, Phone plus services, status of the new telephone connections and shifting of telephones, etc.

(b) (i) **Cellular Mobile Subscribers:—** There is no plan to introduce additional call centres.

(ii) **Basic Telephony Subscribers:—** Circles have been advised to implement centralized call centres covering all the Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) of the Circles.

(c) and (d) Circles have been advised to implement centralized call centres for the Basic Telephony subscribers at the earliest.

Economic Growth Rate

557. PROF. M. RAMADASS :

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) country's over-all economic growth as measured by its Gross Domestic Product during 2004-05;

(b) whether it is true that the growth in the current

year is lower than last year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the National Development Council expressed dissatisfaction on the progress made in agricultural production and held this sector responsible for low rate of growth;

(e) if so, whether special programmes are envisaged to step up agricultural growth during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(f) if so, the details, thereof; and

(g) the likely average growth rate of the economy during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) The growth of Gross Domestic Product (at factor cost and constant prices) during 2004-05 has been estimated at 6.95% as against 8.5% during 2003-04. The lower growth during 2004-05 is primarily due to decline in growth of the agriculture sector to 1.1% in 2004-05 as against 9.6% in 2003-04.

(d) The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has identified agriculture to be one of the sectors leading to slower of the economy during the first three years of the Plan. The National Development Council has agreed with the observation.

(e) and (f) Some of the key suggestions on special programmes to step up agricultural growth during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan as indicated in the Mid-Term Appraisal are given in the enclosed statements.

(g) The likely average growth rate of Gross Domestic Product during the Tenth Plan has been indicated at 7% in the Mid Term Appraisal provided the economy grows at 7.7% during the last two years of the plan period.

Statement

Priority Areas for Action

The scope for correcting all these deficiencies within the Tenth Plan period is limited. However, it is necessary to define a corrective agenda now and initiate the process as quickly as possible. Each of the individual chapters of the MTA contains a concluding section on the way forward which enumerates detailed suggestions for corrective steps in each sector of the economy. These suggestions deserve careful consideration and should form the framework for policy formulation leading into the Eleventh Plan. Some of the important policy initiatives in major areas on which a credible start can be made in the rest of the Tenth Plan period and should therefore have high priority in defining the policy agenda for the next year are summarised below.

Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development

Policy initiatives needed for agriculture must recognise that there is a general deceleration in the sector and not only a distributional problem. The specific problems of small farmers and the landless must receive special attention, but the policy correctives necessary are broader and must look at factors affecting agriculture generally. It is necessary to increase investment, including especially public investment in agriculture related infrastructure and also take a number of policy initiatives.

1. Rejuvenating Support Systems

Agricultural growth cannot be revived without rejuvenating support systems in extension, credit and the delivery systems of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, veterinary services. Although institutional credit to agriculture has been stepped up substantially since last year, underlying problems of farm debt and of the cooperative sector remain. It is necessary to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Revival of Co-operative Credit Institutions under the

Chairmanship of Prof. A. Valdyanathan as soon as possible so that this sector with the largest rural credit reach is revived. Similarly recent Central efforts to deal with the near collapse of extension systems in most states need to be intensified and made more case sensitive. Delivery systems regarding seeds, fertilizers and pesticides require revamping by strengthening not only the existing public infrastructure but also facilitating the growth of private alternatives. The regulatory framework for these inputs also needs to be strengthened urgently to avoid the sale of spurious material without putting too great a constraint on enterprise. All this will need a large increase in expenditure in addition to the Central initiatives already on the anvil. However, since these systems essentially involve recurrent expenditure, the reforms above need to be put within a policy framework so that these reforms are owned by the States and transferred to them within a definite timeframe.

2. Investment In Irrigation/Water Management

Availability and management of water is the most important constraint on agricultural productivity and this area has been neglected because of paucity of resources especially with the State Governments and also a diffusion of responsibility over several different departments in the Central Government. Schemes which should have priority are:

- (i) rehabilitation of the existing irrigation systems;
- (ii) ground water development in areas where there is unutilised potential through back-ended subsidy schemes;
- (iii) artificial recharge of ground water in areas suffering from aquifer depletion; and
- (iv) inclusion of command area development works as part of major/medium projects.

The total cost of this effort is estimated at around Rs.110,000 crore and the Central Share up to the end of the 11th Plan period could be around Rs.23,000 crore.

If a start is to be made in implementing these schemes with effect from 2006-07, it will require an additional Rs.3000 crore in 2006-07 rising to Rs.5000 crores by 2011-12. Since it will be difficult to find additional resources of this order from the GBS given other existing commitments, a possible solution is to link the funds under the existing FFW & SGRY programmes and the new Backward Regions Grant Fund, to ensure that at least in the 150 or so districts covered by these programmes, projects related to irrigation and water management receive priority. FFW and SGRY have limits on the non-wage component which may limit the ability to undertake some of the works needed but the proposed Backward Regions Grant Fund provides united resources which could supplement the non wage component of FFW/SGRY.

In the districts covered by the Backward Regions Grant Fund the resources provided by the Fund should primarily be used in conjunction with the FFW/SGRY, for investments aimed at improving irrigation and water management. The guidelines of the Backward Regions Grant Fund will have to be devised with this objective in mind and those for FFW/SGRY and the proposed EGA re-examined to allow this. In the other districts, the AIBP and the RIDF schemes should be used to focus on irrigation and water management programmes and for this purpose AIBP should be further enhanced in 2006-07.

3. Pricing of Water

The Policy of severely under pricing water from canal systems has two well known adverse effects. It encourages excessive water use, especially in upstream areas, often leading to water logging and salinity, which damages soil productivity. It also seakens the finances of irrigation departments which are unable to maintain existing systems and to complete ongoing projects. Water pricing is a sensitive issue but to leave it unattended for this reason will only perpetuate present problems. The following policy corrective should be considered:

- (i) States should encouraged to set up Water Regulators for periodically revising water tariffs as is being done by Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- (ii) The States could also set up Water Users' Associations (WUAs) to manage distribution of water and also empower them to collect the tariff, and retain a part of it (say 50 per cent) for system maintenance. WUAs may also be empowered to set water tariffs at higher levels and retain all the additional collection.
- (iii) Water regulators could set differential water tariffs for high water consuming crops, linked with ground water status, and also recommend a lower scale of subsidy on power tariffs for agriculture in water depleted areas to discourage over-drawal of ground water.
- (iv) The Centre could link subsidy for micro irrigation (from Central and NABARD schemes) to ground water status to encourage adoption of micro-irrigation in critical and dark areas. Its use in areas with large ground water potential could be left to be determined by financial viability.

Items (i), (ii) and (iii) above, are in the domain of State Governments. State Governments could be incentivised to take action by making access to AIBP funding, and also the proposed funding of mega projects (see Item 4 below) conditional on (i)-(iii) being implemented, perhaps in a phased manner.

4. Mega Irrigation Projects

There are nine on-going approved mega projects with international ramifications/inter-State benefits, each having irrigation potential of more than 1 lakh ha. These are: Teesta barrage Stage-I, Phase-I (West Bengal), Indira Gandhi Nehar Stage-II (Rajasthan), Western Kosi (Bihar), Shahpur Kandi (Punjab), Sardar Sarovar (Gujarat), Indira Sagar (Madhya Pradesh), Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh), Upper Krishna Stage-II (Kamataka), Gosikhurd (Maharashtra). Completion of these projects will add a potential of 3.3 m.ha. at a cost of Rs.27,700 crore.

Given the resource constraint in the States, completion of these projects in a reasonable period is not likely unless some additional resources are provided. There is a case for considering Central support for a new mega irrigation scheme aimed at completing these projects. It is necessary to explore the scope for tapping new sources of funds for such investments, including the SPV for infrastructure financing announced in the Budget for 2005-06. Irrigation projects may not be financially viable on a stand alone basis in the conventional sense because of low water charges, but as long as their economic returns are high and the loans are guaranteed by the State Government, the financing problem can be resolved. Funding assistance for this purpose should be strictly linked to reforms in water tariff policy and greater reliance on participatory irrigation management through water user associations.

5. Watershed Development

More than half our cultivable area is rain-fed and much of it is under severe water stress. Programmes for the treatment of wastelands and degraded lands, including steps at water conservation are extremely important for these areas. At present, these programmes are being implemented by several departments, with similar objectives but different operational guidelines and, also different cost norms, which is not conducive to operational efficiency. Watershed development is a complex discipline requiring knowledge of soil, sub-soil structures, geo-hydrological data, and agricultural sciences. It also requires strong organisational support and community participation for it to be successful. The technological inputs in watershed projects are required both at the preparatory phase of the project, during project implementation and in the post-project phase. Therefore preparation of guidelines on technical inputs, social process and accounting and auditing manuals for watershed programmes is a must. Also, a framework for conjunctive use of surface and ground water in watershed development projects needs to be developed. The present system needs to

be reviewed so that all watershed projects in a particular agroclimatic zone are implemented by a single department/agency within a common framework.

6. Agricultural Research

The scientific input into agricultural development needs to be greatly strengthened. The Task Group on Revamping and Refocusing of National Agricultural Research appointed by the Planning Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has made a number of recommendations aimed at strengthening existing agricultural research institutions and giving them greater flexibility. These should be speedily considered for early implementation. The Government has already accepted one of the recommendations for establishing a National Fund for Strategic Agricultural Research and an initial provision of Rs.50 crores has been made for 2005-06. The administrative arrangements for establishing the Fund should be put in place so that the Fund can become operational by June 30, 2005. Efforts should also be made to tie up funding from multilateral agencies such as the World Bank and ADB so that the Fund can have an assured source of financing on which it can draw.

7. PDS Pricing

The present system of differential PDS pricing, with very low prices for BPL consumers, is a highly inefficient way of serving the equity objective. There are heavy leakages of as much as 55 per cent according to a recent Planning Commission study. The system also distorts incentives for grain producers in non-surplus areas where FCI procurement is poor or non-existent, because it depresses grain prices below the MSP. With the Food for Work Programme in place and the expansion of Mid-Day Meals and the universalisation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), there is a strong case for moving to uniform PDS pricing. In other words, the PDS, should not be viewed as a poverty reducing instrument as

much as an instrument for protecting the common man (including the poor) by stabilising issue prices at a level which may imply only a limited subsidy but which insulates the consumer from sudden increases in prices due to scarcity. The procurement side of the operation should continue to aim at stabilising MSP reasonably above costs of production. Procurement support should also be extended to cover the entire country.

PDS pricing is a sensitive issue, but the proposed change is a logical consequence of the adoption of other schemes aimed at poverty alleviation. It needs to be implemented in parallel with the expansion of other social safety net schemes. The resources saved by moving towards a unified issue price should be directed to expand other poverty reducing programmes, including especially the FFW.

The urban poor are not covered by the Food for work Programme and a case can be made that they need continued subsidy benefits through the PDS. This could be attempted through a system of smart cards. A smart card may be charged with the entitlement of the person who can buy ration commodities from any trader who is linked to the smart card system. The price difference can be automatically transferred to the traders' account when the holder makes a purchase.

8. Fertilizer Pricing

The N,P,K imbalance that peaked in the mid-1990s is much less now, but the subsidy on urea continues to be much higher than in the P&K fertilizers, promoting continued imbalance in fertilizer use. Excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizer leads to environmental pollution and unnecessarily erodes profit to the farmer. Fertiliser subsidies need to be comprehensively re-examined to improve balance and also to target the subsidy more to smaller holdings, for example, by limiting the subsidy to a fixed quantity to be given per farmer, with the rest of the market being decontrolled.

The present practice of fixing fertiliser prices separately for urea and other fertilisers, based on different considerations, needs to be ended and replaced by a policy which takes an integrated view. The issue has been examined by several expert groups. It should be referred to the National Commission of Farmers to make recommendations for restructuring on the clear understanding that the restructuring is aimed at (a) rationalizing the subsidy across different types of fertilizer to ensure balanced fertilizer use and (b) combining it with mechanisms that would ensure that all resources saved are ploughed back into agriculture through other schemes.

9. National Horticulture Mission

Agricultural diversification into horticultural crops is a natural outcome of the process of rising income levels and the associated change in consumption patterns, and the growing scope for exports. The National Horticulture Mission being launched in 2005-06 is therefore a timely initiative to support efforts by the States to promote horticulture. The level of funding provided for 2005-06 is sufficient to initiate the effort, but significant increase in funding of this scheme will be necessary if the momentum builds up and States evolve credible strategies in this area.

10. Agricultural Marketing and Contract Farming

Agricultural diversification needs to be supported by the evolution of market institutions which are different from those needed for non-perishable cereal crops. Marketing of perishable horticultural crops requires the development of a cold chain, with facilities for quick refrigeration shortly after harvesting and transportation to the market in refrigerated trucks. It also requires a much stronger linkage of the farmer (and therefore his production decisions) with the buyer who can reflect the specific needs of the market, which vary greatly depending on whether the product is destined for domestic retail or for exports or as an input into agro processing industry.

Contract farming will enable corporate buyers to organize groups of farmers to produce under contract, with the buyer organising the supply of seeds and related inputs, and also providing a measure of extension support. Contract farming needs to be supported by changes in the **Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Acts** in the States, which require that agricultural produce can only be bought in regulated markets. There is resistance to bringing about these changes because of entrenched interests that control existing *mandis* and their associated funds, but the changes must be made in the interest of the farmer. It is necessary to link central assistance in the proposed National Mission on Horticulture to agricultural marketing reforms, amendments in the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts. It should be recognised, however, that success in this area depends critically upon the development of essential infrastructure in rural areas including especially development of transport linkages, rural electrification and in the case of exports, suitable handling facilities at airports.

11. Amendment of the Essential Commodities Act.

Another important initiative for the development of trade in agricultural products is the amendment of the Essential Commodities Act. The present Act gives too much discretionary power to officials and discourages large investments by corporate traders. It is necessary to amend the Essential Commodities Act to remove those aspects of the Act which serve to discourage the development of modern private trades while strengthening the ability of the Act to intervene on occasion of genuine emergency or scarcity. All such interventions should be strictly time bound and limited to the period of scarcity, and should be carried out as transparently as possible.

12. Food Processing Law

One of the factors impeding the development of food processing has been the multiplicity of laws governing this industry which makes producers liable under a

wide variety of circumstances, with considerable vagueness on what would constitute a violation. A Group of Ministers has been considering a new consolidated Food Processing Act and a revised draft Act also has been prepared which is both acceptable to industry associations and also takes care of the concerns of NGOs, especially on the sensitive issue of infant foods. The draft Bill should be introduced in Parliament as soon as possible.

13. Promotion of Participatory Natural Resource Management

Participatory management practices seek to empower the rural communities who would decide the prioritise their requirements and accordingly prepare and implement micro plans appropriate to local conditions and needs. The building of community based organizations, flexibility in technical and financial norms, facilitation through a multi-disciplinary professional groups, independent reliable and on-going monitoring and evaluation are the basic premises and procedures of these participatory processes. There is need to revisit the guidelines and the content of all programmes in natural resource management in the light of this valuable experience and also strengthen the coverage and funding of these programmes. More specifically, vacant and under utilized land areas can be used for creation of forest resources. Currently, there are 2,34,676 village Panchayat institutions in 31 States and Union Territories in the country in addition to the traditional councils in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. If every Panchayat is entrusted to identify a reasonable area of land for afforestation through community participation, a substantial area can be covered under green canopy in total. The right of use of such resources should be left to the communities and opportunities for value addition and marketing provided.

14. Bio-diesel

With current and projected levels of crude oil prices, bio-fuel is a potentially viable alternative to fossil fuel.

Most of the developed countries have active programmes for use of bio-diesel from various sources like rapeseed and sunflower oil in Europe, soya in USA, and palm oil in South East Asian countries. India is unlikely to use edible oils for this purpose but non-edible oils such as Karanj, Jatropha Curcas, Neem, Mahua, etc. which require little care in terms of watering and maintenance, and can be cultivated in wastelands can offer a viable option for production of bio-diesel. Since the country has nearly 63 million hectare of waste land, a part of such land can be used for cultivation of these oil bearing crops. bio-diesel is cleaner than petroleum-diesel and will help the local environment and since it is renewable, there is no net emission of carbon and it can qualify for carbon trading. A blend of up to 20 per cent would require an estimated quantity of 13 million tonnes of bio-diesel production which would potentially need an area of 11 million hectare of waste land. Jatropha cultivation on this acreage could create 11 million jobs in the rural areas and the greening created will be entitled for emission trading under Kyoto Protocol.

To promote bio-fuel, it may be necessary to consider mandatory blending of 2 per cent bio-diesel initially, to be raised progressively to say 15 per cent subject to availability at an acceptable price. Commercial viability will activate the major oil refineries and oil marketing companies to make arrangements to procure the necessary oil for blending and would encourage private companies or joint venture companies to enter into contracts with the oil refineries and in parallel tie-up with farm communities and state government authorities to develop non-edible oil plantations of the desired type. Any subsidies/fiscal incentives necessary to achieve initial commercial viability should have a sunset clause so as to ensure long-term sustainability.

[Translation]

**Funds Allocated and Spent Under
Family Welfare Programmes**

558. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Will the Minister

of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to various States under the Health and Family Welfare Programmes;

(b) the details of the amount allocated and spent under these programmes by various States including Bihar, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has imposed any ban on allocation of such amount for Bihar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Union Government for the successful operation of the Family Welfare Programme in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Under Family Welfare Programme, allocation is done only for the schemes under infrastructure maintenance such as direction and administration, urban family welfare services, sub-centres, training institutes for ANMs/LHVs, MPWs, health & family welfare training centres, sterilization beds, POL and compensation. For other schemes such as RCH Programme, Area Projects, IEC, NMBS and EASG, no allocation is done and the releases are made on the basis of the requirement and the demand received from the States. The details of the allocation & releases made to States for infrastructure maintenance and releases & expenditure for other programmes of the states during 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) & (d) No Sir.

(e) Under F.W. Programme, increased releases were made to Bihar for infrastructure maintenance and other programmes during 2004-05 as compared to the previous year.

Statement

State-wise Allocation & Releases for Infrastructure Maintenance and Releases & Expenditure for other Programmes under Family Welfare Programme during 2004-05

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Infrastructure Maintenance		Other Programmes		
	Allocation	Releases	Allocation	Ex[dt]*	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16097.84	19780.35	4378.47	2444.89
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	421.68	421.68	335.98	350.37
3.	Assam	6679.20	5009.40	2917.23	1448.80
4.	Bihar	11434.64	15036.65	5970.06	370.51
5.	Chhatisgarh	4841.80	6172.21	3044.98	1439.30
6.	Goa	258.08	318.01	36.01	1.12
7.	Gujarat	10084.68	12619.36	9564.90	3098.38
8.	Haryana	3625.76	4426.87	2122.52	2363.34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2803.84	3524.80	535.50	124.73
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2509.68	3093.77	289.41	371.41
11.	Jharkhand	5247.48	6802.30	3817.53	2285.24
12.	Karnataka	11566.72	14404.21	1556.40	1862.95
13.	Kerala	6111.48	7886.53	1188.47	678.81
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11931.20	14763.82	8400.25	782.97
15.	Maharashtra	15580.96	18969.72	4549.62	1685.74
16.	Manipur@	986.08		335.93	2.09
17.	Meghalaya	647.68	647.68	136.47	205.23
18.	Mizoram	578.20	808.20	588.22	323.61
19.	Nagaland	568.40	568.40	322.58	66.82
20.	Orissa	6744.68	8809.99	4090.26	904.66
21.	Punjab	3983.92	4977.72	772.78	236.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Rajasthan	13060.52	16519.32	6795.11	2935.16
23.	Sikkim	284.80	299.80	362.22	167.82
24.	Tamil Nadu	11960.92	14986.23	2674.21	371.19
25.	Tripura	829.96	829.96	185.82	6.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	23821.28	30645.71	22407.30	10595.83
27.	Uttranchal	1909.52	2241.07	2779.16	535.03
28.	West Bengal	10412.00	13243.57	3537.66	1899.46
Total - All States		184983.00	227807.33	93695.05	37557.47

Releases in addition to allocation were made to States during 2004-05
Reported expenditure

@ No releases were made because of unspent balance lying with the State

Indians in Foreign Jails

559. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of prisoners of Indian origin in various countries, country-wise, indicating the duration they have completed so far in confinement; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Union Government to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) A statement giving country-wise details of Indian prisoners in the jails of various countries, prepared on the basis of information

received from Indian Missions and Posts abroad, is enclosed.

(b) Indian Missions/Posts abroad try to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released, if possible. Indian Missions/Posts abroad provide assistance which includes requesting speedy trials; seeking consular access to the detainees and prisoners; providing advice/ guidance in legal and other matters; interacting with the relatives in India; ensuring proper treatment in the prison; and facilitating repatriation to India on release. Specific country-wise efforts made by various Indian Missions may be seen in the enclosed statement.

Statement

S. No.	Mission	No. of Prisoners	Time completed in prison	Efforts by the Govt to secure their release
1	2	3	4	5
1.	ABU Dhabi (including Dubai & Al Ain)	1073 Indian prisoners in UAE jails	Details about the duration of jail terms not disclosed by the local authorities. However,	Mission officials pay periodic visits to the jails to enquire about the welfare of the Indian prisoners and discuss

1	2	3	4	5
			serious crimes such as murder, drug trafficking etc, carry long term sentences ranging from 4 years to 15 years	their problems with jail authorities for remedial action. While it is not possible to get the Indian prisoners released before the completion of their sentences, Mission makes the efforts to expedite their release on completion of their sentences, which as per local practice, is not automatic.
2.	Algiers	Nil	NA	NA
3.	Almaty	Nil	NA	NA
4.	Amman	Nil	NA	NA
5.	Ankara	Nil	NA	NA
6.	Ashgabat	Nil	NA	NA
7.	Baghdad	1	Serving a two-year sentence. Already completed 1 year and 8 months	The Mission has taken up his case with the Iraqi Govt for early release on humanitarian grounds.
8.	Beijing	11	8 arrested in January 2005; 1 each in Feb, Mar and May 2005	Consular assistance is provided in all cases of Indian prisoners. Cases are taken up with local authorities for securing their release and eventual repatriation
9.	Beirut	31	27 detained on charges of illegal entry while 4 are detailed on criminal charges	Mission is in regular contact with the local authorities to follow up on all the cases.
10.	Belgrade	4	Under detention since 03.06.2005 for immigration offences	After verification of their nationality status, travel documents are issued to the detained Indians to enable to be repatriated/deported to India.
11.	Birgunj	Nil	NA	NA
12.	Birmingham	Information not available	NA	NA
13.	Brussels	4 imprisoned on criminal charges. 20 other suspected	Details not available	Travel documents are issued after verification of nationality status and the individual is deported to India.

1	2	3	4	5
		Indians under detention for violation of immigration		
14. Bogota	Nil	NA	NA	
15. Brasilia	Nil	NA		
16. Buenos Aires	Nil	NA	NA	
17. Cairo	2	Both (one male and the other female) are serving life imprisonment. While male Indian has completed 12 years, the female Indian prisoner has served 6 years	As per rules, action to get them released can be initiated only after they have completed 20 years imprisonment.	
18. Canberra	35	Not available		
19. Caracas	Nil	NA	NA	
20. Copenhagen	2	One of them is serving life sentence for homicide and arson. No information is available about the other.	The Embassy strives to provide full consular support and assistance to Indian detainees in Danish prisons. However, according to Danish law, consular access to detained Indians is provided only if the request for such access emanates from detainees.	
21. Dakar	Nil	NA		
22. Damascus	Nil	NA		
23. Dhaka	871	Details not available	The Mission is in constant touch with Bangladesh authorities for consular access and their early release and repatriation.	
24. Dubai	See above in Abu Dhabi			
25. Durban	Nil	NA	NA	
26. Dushanbe	1	2 years completed out of 6 year jail term		

1	2	3	4	5
27. Frankfurt	Information Not available	NA		NA
28. Georgetown	Nil	NA		
29. Hanoi	Nil	NA		NA
30. Harare	Nil	NA		NA
31. Havana	2	While one of them has been sentenced to 16 years imprisonment on charges of human trafficking and possession of forged documents, the other has been awarded a 10 year jail term for corruption of minors.		In one case in which Indian national has been sentenced to 16 year Jail term, Ambassador wrote a letter to the Cuban Justice Minister for his early release on humanitarian grounds but the request was refused.
32. Islamabad	Indian fishermen-371 & Civilian prisoners-205	173 fishermen taken into custody during Sept 2004 to Feb 2005. 198 fishermen arrested during Feb 2005 to Apr. 2005. Details about civilian prisoners are: More than 25 years - 8 More than 20 years - 10 More than 15 years - 25 More than 10 years - 18 More than 5 years - 11 More than 2 years - 5 Details not available - 64		The Mission has been making concerted efforts to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian prisoners. 589 prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan during the current year.
33. Jalalabad	Nil	NA		NA
34. Kyiv	1	Convicted for some criminal offence since 19.02.2004		Not applicable since the Indian citizen has been convicted for committing criminal offence.
35. Lima	Nil	NA		NA
36. Hamburg	Nil	NA		NA
37. Ho Chi Minh City	Nil	NA		NA

1	2	3	4	5
38. Istanbul	Nil	NA	NA	
39. Jakarta	1 under trial	One Indian is being tried for possession of drugs. Lower court awarded death sentence which has been appealed against in the Supreme Court		
40. Kandy	Nil	NA	NA	
41. Khartoum	Nil	NA	NA	
42. Kingston	1	jailed for illegal trafficking in narcotics. His release on parole will be considered after completing one more year in imprisonment	Indian Mission was informed about this case late last year when his case was being reviewed for release on parole. The Mission extended consular assistance to him by paying a visit to the jail.	
43. Kuala Lumpur	460 (229 in Detention Centres imprisoned for violation of immigration laws & 232 in jails for other offences)	For immigration offences, punishment is 3 to 6 months jail terms. For other crimes, law of the land takes its own course	The Mission keeps in constant touch with Malaysian Foreign Office, Immigration Department and Detention Centres to provide them consular access and their repatriation to India after their release.	
44. Kyiv	1	Serving 15 year jail term for robbery and voluntary manslaughter		
45. Lusaka	Nil	NA		
46. Male	10	4 arrested in 2002; 1 in 2004 and 4 in 2005	Cases are regularly taken up with local authorities for release of Indian prisoners	
47. Malta	7	Detailed for illegal entry into Malta	The Mission obtained their travel documents from their employers and forwarded them to the local authorities so that the detained Indian nationals could be deported. Confirmation about their deportation still awaited from local authorities.	
48. Mazar-E-Sharif	Nil	NA	NA	

1	2	3	4	5
49. Mexico City	Nil		NA	NA
50. Milan	5		Serving jail terms of various lengths ranging from 4 years to 20 days	Since all of them have been imprisoned on criminal charges, they will be released only after the completion of their sentences.
51. Munich	Local authorities do not provide information citing Data Protection Laws		NA	
52. Muscat	72		While 48 prisoners have been under imprisonment for the last 1 years, others have completed various terms ranging from 2 years to 7 years	
53. Mombasa	Nil		NA	NA
54. Moscow	7		They have completed 7 years, 3 years and 2 years respectively.	As a result of the Mission's efforts, one convict is about to be released soon. Efforts are being made to secure the release of others also.
55. Nairobi	1		His relatives are reportedly arranging to make payment of the penalty imposed on him.	Once the penalty has been paid, Mission will assist in the issue of travel document to enable his repatriation to India.
56. New York	158		119 detained for violation of immigration laws; 29 detained for criminal charges	After verification of nationality status, travel documents are issued immediately to enable the local authorities to deport the Indian.
57. Ottawa	2		One of them has completed 19 years out of a 25-year Jail term for murdering his wife. Other is serving a life sentence.	From time to time, Canadian authorities are requested to facilitate the release of Indian prisoners. The consular visits to prisons are also undertaken. However, Canadian law does not allow interference with their judicial process.

1	2	3	4	5
58. Panama	2		10 years completed out of a 12 year sentence on a drug trafficking charge	NA
59. Phnom Penh	1		2 year completed out of a 5-year sentence	Indian national was arrested for possessing a fake Singaporean passport. Mission approached the local authorities for early release but the request was refused.
60. Port Moresby	Nil		NA	NA
61. Prague	Nil		NA	NA
62. Pyongyang	Nil		NA	NA
63. Rabat	Nil		NA	NA
64. Riyadh	1444		Information not usually provided to the Mission	As soon as Indian Mission is informed about the arrest of an Indian, Foreign Office is approached for consular access. During the holy month of Ramadan, Mission also sends formal requests for Royal pardon for release of Indian prisoners. Mission also submits mercy petitions for release of Indian prisoners
65.				
66. Sana'A	Nil		NA	NA
67. San Francisco	14		Most of them arrested for violation of immigration laws carrying short sentences	On receipt of information about the detention of Indian nationals, process of verifying their nationality is initiated through the State Govt or the concerned Passport Office. Further follow up action is taken to ensure that the nationality verification process is completed at the earliest.
68. Santiago	Nil		NA	NA
69. St. Petersburg	Nil		NA	NA
70. Stockholm	Nil		NA	NA

1	2	3	4	5
71. Suva	Nil	NA	NA	
72. Sydney	1	Under imprisonment since 1996 on charges of murder.	His case for parole will come up in 2009. The Mission has granted consular access to him. Under the Australian privacy laws, no details can be provided to the Mission unless such a request has been made by the detainee himself.	
73. Tashkent	Nil	NA	NA	
74. Tel Aviv	4	All of them are under detention for overstaying after expiry of their visas	The Mission provides consular facilities and necessary travel documents when required.	
75. Thimphu	48	Most of them facing theft and other minor charges carrying short term sentences (1-2 year). Some are facing longer sentences of 10 years and more	Mission regularly liaises with the local Government to obtain consular access.	
76. Tokyo	While one is imprisoned for drug offence, twenty others detained for overstay carrying short jail terms.	One facing drug charge carrying a longer jail term has been imprisoned since September 2004	Indians held for overstay are issued travel documents to facilitate their return. The Embassy does not interfere in the host country's judicial process.	
77. Tripoli	1	Serving life sentence since 1992 for murdering his employer	Mission officials have visited the convicted Indian national in jail and it is understood that he would be released in a few years' time when his sentence is completed.	
78. Tunis	Nil	NA	NA	
79. Vancouver	2	Serving long sentences of over 15 years on murder charges.	Consular was were undertaken by our Mission and it was informed that they would be released on completion of their sentences.	
80. Warsaw	No Indian national is	Case relating to Indian	As soon as information about the	

1	2	3	4	5
		presently in jail. However, 6 persons claiming to be Indian nationals, are detained in the Detention Centre	nationals detained in the Detention Centre is being investigated.	detention of Indian nationals is received, Mission seeks consular access and officials are deputed to Detention Centres to collect personal information for determining their Indian
		for illegal entry and and suspected murder of an Iranian national		nationality. After the verification of their nationality status, travel documents are issued to enable the host Government's authorities to deport them to India.
81. Yangon	26		Except for 45 who are under imprisonment for the last 8-9 years, the others have completed only one or two years.	The Myanmar Govt has proposed to release all Indian prisoners except the two who have been arrested only recently. The Mission is processing their cases.
82. Yeravan	1		Sentenced to 6-year imprisonment for murdering a fellow Indian in Dec 2001	Mission has been making efforts for his early release.
83. Zagreb	Local Govt does not provide information	NA	NA	NA
84. Zanzibar	Nil	NA	NA	NA

[English]

**Review of Growth Rate Target
In Various Sectors**

560. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made any review of the growth rate set for various sectors for the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the target set and achievement made till date, sector-wise;

(c) whether the growth rate in farm sector is satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has reviewed the growth rates set for the various sectors for the Tenth Plan. The targeted growth rate for the Tenth Five Year Plan and the achievement for the first three years, i.e., 2002-03 to 2004-05 with respect to different sectors are given below.

Sectors	Target growth rate	Achievement 2002-03 to 2004-05
Agriculture & Allied	4.0	1.0
Industry	8.9	7.0
Services	9.3	8.6

(c) The growth rate in agriculture, which includes the farm sector in the first three years of the Plan, is estimated to be 1% as against target of 4% set for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(d) The major reasons for less than satisfactory performance in agriculture has been a negative rate of growth of value added in agriculture sector in the year 2002-03 on account of poor monsoon and lower than targeted public investment in this sector.

Second Financial Upgradation

561. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1106 dated February 25, 2003 and state :

(a) whether second financial upgradation is not being implemented in any Government offices excepting the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all the departments/Ministries with the exception of Ministry of Home Affairs are requesting the employees to wait for 12 years after their first promotion;

(d) if so, whether an employee who has got his first promotion after 20 years of service will have to wait for his 32 years of service to get his second ACP;

(e) if so, the steps taken to rectify the wrong interpretation in this regard;

(f) whether any circular has been issued in this regard to all the departments/ministries;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :
(a) Assured Career Progression Scheme, including second financial upgradation, is being implemented in various Government offices.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of DoPT.

(d) No sir. Even where an employee has got his first promotion after 20 years, he would be eligible for consideration for grant of second financial upgradation on completion of 24 years' regular service, unless the first financial upgradation was delayed for lack of fitness or the officer initially refused promotion after grant of ACP for some years before accepting it.

(e) No specific case of misinterpretation has been reported to DoPT.

(f) No Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) No instance of Ministries/Departments insisting on grant of second financial upgradation after 12 years from date of first promotion has come to the notice of DoPT.

[Translation]

Foreign Partnership in 'Chandrayan-I' Mission

562. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohanlal Ganj) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is making efforts to make any other country as partner in the programme 'Chandrayan-I' mission to send pilotless space shuttle on moon in near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Indian space research effort does not have plans to send pilotless space shuttle to moon in the near future. However, the mission to moon 'Chandrayaan-1' is planned to have an unmanned Instrumental spacecraft orbiting around the moon to collect

specific data on the moon's surface. 'Chandrayaan-1' is a completely Indian effort. In the spirit of cooperation, India has offered an opportunity to the international community to fly a few of their scientific instruments on-board 'Chandrayaan-1'. Out of these six experiments have been selected to be accommodated as piggy-back in 'Chandrayaan-1'.

(b) Does not arise.

**Alleged Cases of Corruption in Sports
Authority of India**

563. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI UDAY SINGH :
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH :
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the audit agency has levelled charges of massive corruption prevailing in the Sports Authority of India as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 9, 2005;

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

(c) the amount reported to have been embezzled;

(d) the names of the persons belonging to the authority involved in the said charges alongwith the posts being held by them;

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

(f) whether the Government has any plan to revamp SAI in order to make the ensuing Commonwealth Games a successful event;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith other measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) M/s N.C. Mittal & Co., who have conducted statutory audit for Sports Authority of India (SAI) for 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, have written a letter to the Government which contains allegations of corruption in SAI and mentions having pointed-out 20 big frauds in their above mentioned audit reports. However, the Audit Reports of these years by the aforesaid company do not mention any fraud. The auditors have brought out SAI's financial and accounting shortcomings in their audit reports. They have stated that SAI and its Centres have not maintained proper books of accounts. The Audit Report for the year 2002-2003 was received by SAI on 2nd May, 2005.

(c) No embezzlement of funds has been reported in these Audit Reports.

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

(e) The Finance Committee of SAI in March, 2005 has taken a decision to seek external professional support for the proper compilation of Accounts of SAI and strengthening the accounting system. On-going process of reconciliation of accounts has been expedited.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Plan of Action of SAI has three distinct strategies in the context of Commonwealth year 2010 - (i) strengthening infrastructure of SAI Centres in various parts of the country; (ii) Providing equipment and scientific support to trainees in these Centres; (iii) Optimum utilization of existing facilities and human resources.

(h) Does not arise.

[English]

Dental OPD Services in RML Hospital

564. SHRI D.P. SAROJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Dental department of RML Hospital does not provide OPD services to the patients on Wednesday and Saturday;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Dental department of RML Hospital does not have even X-Ray chairs;

(d) whether the Government is also aware that the medicines being supplied by the RML Hospitals to the patients are sub-standard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the government to ensure quality medicines to the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The Dental Department of Dr. R.M.L. Hospital provides OPD services on Wednesday and Saturday also.

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

(c) Dental Chairs with X-Ray facility are available in the Dental Department of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

(d) & (e) It is not a fact that the drugs supplied to the patients are sub-standard at RML Hospital. The drugs are procured from approved sources and only standard quality drugs are issued to the patients.

However, if at all there is a complaint from the user, the matter is referred to the Drug Controller of the concerned state from where the drugs are manufactured and simultaneously the use of the same batch of drugs in the hospital is stopped till a report is received regarding its analysis.

Sale of Cornea

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that an employee of AIIMS was found selling cornea as reported in the Times of India dated 2.5.2005;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Hospital Authorities in the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the action taken against those found guilty; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) An inquiry was conducted by the Institute on the reported sale of corneas. One Laboratory Attendant who was found involved in the case dismissed from services with immediate effect. The Institute has been instructed to ensure regular stock verification and computerized record keeping to avoid recurrence of such cases in future.

[Translation]

Coal Linkage for Captive Power Plants

566. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has given linkage of 20-lakh tones coal to a single institution namely National Consumer Co-Operative Federation (NCCF);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited has been ignoring the demand of linkage of coal for captive power plants; and

(d) if not, the number of proposals received from Maharashtra seeking linkage of coal for captive power plants and the number of captive power plants given the linkage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes,

Sir. Government has allotted 2 million tonnes of coal per annum to M/s National Co-operative Consumers Federation of India Limited (NCCF), a Government body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, on the recommendations of that Ministry to cater to the needs of small and tiny consumers of the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A total number of 6 applications were received in the Ministry of Coal from the Captive Power plants located in Maharashtra for allocation of long-term coal linkage. In the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) meeting held on 2nd June, 2005 three captive power plants have been granted long-term coal linkage from Western Coalfields Limited.

[English]

Accident in Saunda Coal Mine

567. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :
SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of accidents taken place in various coal mines in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of the compensation paid to the dependents of victims;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the accident at the Central Coal Fields Limited's Saunda mine in Bansgarha, Jharkhand where 14 miners were trapped in the morning on June 16, 2005;

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

(e) whether safety measures in the mines are strictly observed;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of safety measures proposed to be undertaken to prevent such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The details of accidents taken place in various coal mines in the country during the last three years are as follows;

Year	No. of fatal accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured	No. of persons seriously injured	No. of persons seriously injured
2002	81	97	15	629	650
2003	83	113	12	563	578
2004	90	99	14	599	608

* Data for 2004 is provisional.

(b) Compensation paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act to dependents of victims in accidents of CIL and SCCL during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Compensation (Rs. in crores)		
	CIL	SCCL	Total
2002	1.54	0.81	2.35
2003	1.52	1.51	3.03
2004	1.91	0.48	2.39

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour, which is the statutory body for enforcement of safety statutes in mines in the country, is conducting enquiry into the accident at Central Saunda colliery of Central Coalfields Limited where 14 persons were trapped in the morning of 15th June, 2005. Besides, a Committee comprising CIL officers, constituted by this Ministry is also conducting inquiry into the accident at Central Saunda Colliery, which is in progress.

(e) and (f) Mining operations in coal mines are carried out in accordance with the relevant safety statutes of the country viz. the Mines Act 1952, Coal Mines Regulations 1957, Mines Rules 1955 etc. which are enforced by the DGMS.

(g) The following specific safety measures are proposed to be undertaken in the coal mines to prevent such accidents in future:—

- Inspections of mines from the safety angle by the line management and mine officials and the Internal Safety Organisation for monitoring implementation of safety practices and operation of safety devices and taking corrective action wherever required.
- Conducting of Safety Audits by external experts in mining/electrical/mechanical disciplines and implementation of recommendations thereof at an interval of two years and even earlier, if needed.
- Continuation of thrust on greater use of quick-setting-cement-grouted/resin grouted roof bolts/ steel wire ropes for supporting of roof in development workings as well as in mechanized depillaring districts.
- Regular monitoring of mine atmosphere by hand-held gas detectors/ alarms and flame safety lamps for detection of inflammable/noxious gases and computerized continuous mine environmental tele-monitoring in some mines.
- Check surveys by teams of surveyors from different mines/ external agencies (are in progress) in some mines to confirm partings between working areas and possible waterlogged areas or to confirm the accuracy of mine plans.
- Continuation with the effort at reduction of exposure of workers to mining hazard through mechanization of loading operations by the use of Side-Discharge Loaders/Load-Haul-Dumpers, Powered Support Longwall Faces, Continuous miner technology, etc.
- Promoting workers participation in safety through various committees from the mine level, area level, the company level to the holding company level.

[Translation]

Unethical Practices by Doctors

568. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
 SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :
 KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH :
 SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :
 SHRI SURESH ANGADI :

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that a doctor at RML Hospital is involved in unwarranted heart operations as reported in the Hindi Daily Rashtriya Sahara dated July 2, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details of the fact reported therein;
- (c) whether it is also a fact unwarranted angiography/angioplasty has been performed in Safdarjung Hospital by unscrupulous doctors;
- (d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the doctors involved in such activities;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to put a check on such activities by doctors in hospitals;
- (f) the number of complaints received in this regard and the action taken thereon;
- (g) whether private hospitals are also involved in such practices to earn illegal money and to harass patients;
- (h) whether the Government proposes to provide specialists for each dispensary for C.G.H.S. cardholders in future; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) and (f) Yes Sir. A cardiologist has been allegedly involved in at least in one unwarranted Angioplasty in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital. The CBI have registered a case against the said cardiologist for allegedly fraudulently and dishonestly deceiving a CGHS beneficiary by preparing a false angiography report and issuing an expense certificate requiring the beneficiary to make a cash deposit with the Hospital. Another complaint has been received by the Government in respect of a cardiologist working in Safdarjung Hospital for having Angioplasty, which as per the opinion of two other cardiologists of the same hospital, was unwarranted.

(e) Guidelines have been formulated and circulated by both the hospitals to check such irregular activities by doctors.

(g) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Government to regulate/monitor the functioning of its hospitals including private hospitals as well as to ensure that they comply with the norms/regulations prescribed by the respective State Governments as well as take punitive action against private hospitals/doctors in cases of proven unethical and unscrupulous conduct. The aggrieved party can also take recourse to legal remedies under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(h) and (i) Specialists are provided in the CGHS Polyclinics. Further, specialists also visit on specified days select dispensaries having heavy patient load.

Promoting Sports in Rural Areas

+569. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by the Government to promote various disciplines of sports in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh

(b) the steps taken to construct sports complexes in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any stadium has been constructed in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh during the past two year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Till 31.3.2005, this Ministry was implementing the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes by rendering central assistance to the State Governments, Non Government Organisations, Universities/Colleges, Schools etc. including rural areas in accordance with the approved pattern, subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments including Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. However, the Government has decided to transfer the Sports Infrastructure Schemes to state sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, no funds have been allocated during 2005-2006 for Sports Infrastructure Schemes. As such, the sports infrastructure projects have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. All Chief Secretaries of States including Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have been informed on 28.2.2005.

There is, however, a scheme of Government of India to promote Rural Sports. The scheme envisages holding of Rural Sports Tournaments in selected disciplines at Block, District, State and National level. The assistance of Government of India is available for State/UT level and National level Tournaments whereas the Rural Sports Tournaments at Block and District level are required to be organized by the State/UT Governments from their own resources.

(c) Financial assistance has been sanctioned for 8 Stadia in Uttar Pradesh and 12 Stadia in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years i.e. 2003-04 to 2004-05.

(d) The details of assistance released in respect of stadia in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State and Year	Indoor stadium/Outdoor stadium/Distt. Level Sports Complex/State Level Sports Complex	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
2003-2004		
1.	Indoor Stadium cat.III at Karamchedu Prakasam Distt. (Final instalment)	4.57

1	2	3
	2. Indoor Stadium at DSC, Warangal (1st instalment)	30.00
	3. Indoor Stadium cat.I at Fateh Maidan, Hyderabad (1 & final instalment)	60.00
	4. Indoor Stadium cat.I at Gachibowli (1st and final)	60.00
	5. Outdoor Stadium cat.I at Gachibowli (1st and final instalment)	18.00
	6. Indoor Stadium cat.I at Yousufguda, Hyderabad (1st and final instalment)	60.00
	7. Indoor Stadium Cat.I at Saroor Nagar, Hyderabad (1st and final instalment)	60.00
	8. Indoor Stadium cat.II at Chirala (Final instalment)	15.00
	9. Distt. Level Sports Complex at Adilabad (1st instalment)	20.00
2004-2005		
	10. Indoor Stadium cat.II at Sports Complex Srikakulam (1st instalment)	18.75
	11. Indoor Stadium cat.II at Anathapuram	22.50
	12. Indoor Stadium cat.II at Distt. Level Sports Complex, Karimnagar.	22.50
Uttar Pradesh		
2003-2004		
	1. Multipurpose Hall at Karchhana, Allahabad (1st instalment)	16.29
	2. Indoor Stadium cat.III at Village Dujana, G.B. Nagar. (1st instalment)	12.65
2004-2005		
	3. Indoor Stadium cat.III at Nihastha, Raibareilly (1st instalment)	9.70
	4. Indoor Stadium at Sarsena, Distt. Mau (1st instalment)	10.63
	5. Indoor Stadium cat.III at Village Pijokhera, Distt. Muzaffarnagar (1st instalment)	13.00
	6. State Level Sports Complex at Lucknow (1st instalment)	5.00
	7. Indoor Stadium cat.III at VII-Guda, Distt Lalitpur (1st instalment)	12.90
	8. Indoor Stadium cat.III at Pahargeon, Jalaun (1st instalment)	14.00

Economic Co-operation with Iraq

570. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA :
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to enhance economic co-operation with Iraq;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether talks have been held by Iraqi leaders with the special envoy of India regarding India's help in reconstruction of Iraq;

- (d) if so, the details of discussions held;
- (e) the areas where assistance have been offered by India; and
- (f) the response of Iraqi Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Yes. It is proposed to enhance economic cooperation with Iraq through utilization of institutional mechanisms and by promoting increased contacts between the two sides through visits of Iraqi business delegations and businessmen and dissemination of related information. India is also providing humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

(c) and (d) Yes. Shri C.R. Gharekhan, Special Envoy to West Asia, visited Baghdad from 22nd to 25th May 2005. He called on the Iraqi Prime Minister and other senior Ministers of the Government of Iraq and reiterated Government of India's commitment to assist Iraq in its economic reconstruction.

(e) The Government of India has offered assistance to Iraq in the reconstruction work through capacity-building and development of its human resources by providing training in India to Iraqi officials in wide ranging areas.

(f) The Iraqi Government appreciates the assistance being provided by the Government of India in Iraq's reconstruction efforts.

[English]

Medical Tourism

571. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the need for attracting medical tourists as reported in the Hindustan Times dated June 24, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has estimated the number of medical tourists to the country;

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

(e) the schemes proposed to be formulated by the Government for attracting medical tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) Yes sir, the Government of India is aware of the need for attracting medical tourist. A substantial number of foreigners are coming to India to avail of quality medical treatment at a cost much lower than that of other countries of the World, particularly in the field of cardiology, cardiac surgery, joint replacement, ophthalmology, pathology and Indian Systems of Medicins etc. The Government of India has constituted a Task Force to promote India as a health destination for persons across the globe so as to gainfully utilize the health care expertise and infrastructure available in the country.

However, no estimate of the likely number of medical tourists nor any specific scheme formulated in this regard.

[Translation]

Cochlear Implant Facility

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

(a) whether the newly developed nuclear cochlear implant facility has the potential to treat seriously disabled, deaf and dumb persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether AIIMS and all major hospitals have acquired this device in large numbers so as to provide this facility to the needy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi have intimated that cochlear implant has the potential to treat seriously disabled deaf and dumb persons with limited indications according to the age of the patient as well as age at onset of deafness. Cochlear implant was approved by FDA for adults in 1986 and for children in 1990. Nucleus cochlear implant is one of the implants available in the Indian market alongwith implants of other companies.

(c) and (d) The Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi have intimated that four versions (types) of nucleus cochlear implant are available in the market costing from approximately Rs.5.17 lakh to Rs.9.5 lakh each. Major hospitals are recommending it for patients with selected (clinically defined) conditions. The implant is procured by the patients themselves. At AIIMS also the cost of implant is borne by the patients.

[English]

National Healthcare Committee Recommendations

573. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry's National Health Care Committee has submitted its draft report on accreditation system for hospitals to the Quality Council of India (QCI);

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous organization of the Government of India, has constituted a technical committee for finalizing the standard based on which hospitals are to be evaluated. Confederation of Indian Industries National Healthcare Committee has submitted a draft of the Accreditation Standards Manual for Hospitals to QCI which is to form the base document to be utilized by the Technical Committee of the QCI for finalizing the proposed standard for certifying the Hospitals.

[Translation]

Agreements with Russia in Atomic Energy Sector

574. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI MUNSHI RAM :
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :
MOHD SHAHID :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has signed agreements with Russia in the field of atomic energy;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has also been reached for supply of fuel for the Tarapur plant and other atomic plants;

(c) if so, the total number of years for which Russia has agreed to supply the fuel;

(d) the total amount involved in these agreements and the number of years for which these agreements have been signed;

(e) the estimated total quantum of fuel required for atomic plants every year; and

(f) the details of countries supplying fuel for these plants so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The Government of India has signed agreements with Russian Federation for construction of two nuclear power reactors of 1000 MWe each at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu including fuel supplies for them;

(b) No agreement has been reached for supply of fuel for Tarapur and other atomic power plants;

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) The annual fuel required for atomic power plants is plant specific depending upon the capacity and enrichment of uranium if any. The natural uranium power reactors require about 0.2 tons per MWe. The reactors using enriched fuel need about 0.025 tons per MWe.

(f) USA, France, China and Russia have supplied fuel in the past for Tarapur Atomic Power Station. France has also supplied fuel for Rajasthan Atomic Power Station - 1 & 2 in the past.

Transfer of Amount to CRF

575. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT, AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds collected from the additional cess levied on petrol and diesel for implementation of the National Highways Development Project is lying unused due to non-transfer of the said amount to the Central Road Fund;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take action for expeditious transfer of the said amount to ensure its proper utilization; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid in the house at the earliest.

[English]

Setting Up of Emergency Medical Service

576. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration to establish round the clock emergency Medical Service and Trauma Centres in Mumbai on the lines as in the United States with the help of NRIs;

(b) if so, whether Union Government has assured the NRIs and Maharashtra Government of its assistance;

(c) if so, whether all the formalities have been completed by Union as well as State Governments;

(d) if so, by when the execution of said project would be undertaken; and

(e) the details of assistance the Union Government proposes to provide for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to establish Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Trauma Centres in their states. However, a reference had been received from an eminent doctor raising distinct Health matters including setting up of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Centres (TC) in Mumbai. No formal proposal from the

Government of Maharashtra in this regard has been received in this Ministry so far.

Telephone to Each Gram Panchayat

577. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide telephone to each Gram Panchayat;

(b) if so, the number of Gram Panchayats provided with telephone facilities in the country, State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether the target to provide telephone to each Gram Panchayat in Vilupuram district has not been achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps the Government proposes to take to achieve the target?

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

(b) 2,30,788 Gram Panchayats in the country including 13126 Gram Panchayats of Tamil Nadu State have been provided with telephone facility as per details given in the enclosed statement. In all 5,29,377 number of villages out of 6,07,491 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) as on 30.06.2005.

(c) All the Gram Panchayats in Vilupuram district of Tamil Nadu have already been provided with telephone facility.

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

Statement

Telecome Circle-Wise details of Gram Panchayats Provided with Telephone facilities in the Country

Sl. No.	Name of Telecome Circle	Number of Gram Panchayats provided with Telephone facilities
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	67

1	2	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	18335
3.	Assam	2319
4.	Bihar	8471
5.	Chhattisgarh	7929
6.	Gujarat	12370
7.	Haryana	5992
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3019
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	907
10.	Jharkhand	3322
11.	Karnataka	5692
12.	Kerala	1000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	19938
14.	Maharashtra	22917
15.	North East - I	1784
16.	North East - II	3343
17.	Orissa	5121
18.	Punjab	12687
19.	Rajasthan	8708
20.	Tamil Nadu	13126
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	51262
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	12831
23.	Uttaranchal	6245
24.	West Bengal	3473
Total		230788

Jayankondam Mining and Electricity Project

578. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Union Government to take up the Jayankondam Mining and Electricity Project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected quantity of generation of electricity by the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.(NLC), a Government of India Enterprise, has expressed interest in taking up Jayankondam Mining and Electricity Project on its own for which NLC has sought consent of Government of Tamil Nadu. On receipt of consent from Government of Tamil Nadu, NLC would take up the preparation of feasibility report. At the moment, it is not possible to provide information regarding generation of electricity.

Definition of poverty Line

579. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :
SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of per capita income fixed for each State/Union Territory for determination of poverty line;

(b) the main factors taken into consideration in arriving at the figure;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Union Government proposed to enhance the limit to realistic levels to enable the deserving people to avail of the benefit of various schemes meant for the Below Poverty Line families;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether in China, the criterion to define poverty line is in terms of a household spending 50% or more of its income on food;

(g) if so, by that criterion, the percentage of India's rural population falling into this category;

(h) whether the estimates to determine the ratio of the population living below the poverty line reflects the actual figures of population of the States;

(i) if not, whether the Government has any plan to constitute an expert committee or group to go into the matter;

(j) if so, the details thereof; and

(k) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Planning Commission uses per capita consumption expenditure, and, not per capita income, for determination of the poverty line. The per capita monthly consumption expenditure fixed for States/ UTs for determining the poverty line is given in enclosed statement.

(b) The main factors, which are taken into consideration in arriving at the figure, are based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' (Lakdawala Committee). The Expert Group, which was constituted in September, 1989 submitted its Report to the Planning Commission in July, 1993. A full Planning Commission meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in March, 1997 accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group with minor modifications. Since then the estimates of poverty at national and state level are being made using the Expert Group methodology. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs.49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs.56.64 per month in urban area at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The national poverty line at 1999-2000 prices is Rs.327.56 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs.454.11 per capita per month in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials, according to the Expert Group Methodology.

(c) to (e) The prescribed per capita consumption expenditure limits for determination of people living below poverty line are regularly updated using state-specific cost of living indices, that is Consumer Price Indices for Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) for rural areas and Consumer Price Indices for Industrial Workers (CPIIW) for urban areas.

(f) and (g) No, Sir, Planning Commission is not aware

of the criterion used by China to define their poverty line. Also, the data on per capita income for households is not available in India from the NSSO, which collects data on household consumption expenditure.

(h) to (k) The figures on incidence of poverty, that is, percentage of population living below poverty line, at national and state level arrived at by the Planning Commission are based on the large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years, and, then using the Census data, number of persons living below the poverty line is estimated. The methodology used for this purpose is based on the recommendation of the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' (Lakdawala Committee), which was adopted in 1997. There is no proposal at present to constitute an Expert Group to go into this matter.

Statement

State-Specific Poverty Lines in 1999-2000 (Rs. per capita per month)

S.No.	State	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	262.94	457.40
2.	Assam	365.43	343.99
3.	Bihar	333.07	379.78
4.	Gujarat	318.94	474.41
5.	Haryana	362.81	420.20
6.	Himachal Pradesh	367.45	420.20
7.	Karnataka	309.59	511.44
8.	Kerala	374.79	477.06
9.	Madhya Pradesh	311.34	481.65
10.	Maharashtra	318.63	539.71
11.	Orissa	323.92	473.12
12.	Punjab	362.68	388.15
13.	Rajasthan	344.03	465.92
14.	Tamil Nadu	307.64	475.60

1	2	3	4
15. Uttar Pradesh		336.88	416.29
16. West Bengal		350.17	409.22
17. Delhi		362.68	505.45
All India #		327.56	454.11

The Poverty line (implicit) at-India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons and the poverty ratio at all-India level. The poverty ratio at all India level is obtained as the weighted average of the state-wise poverty ratio.

Joint Forum to Fight Terrorism

580. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA :
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY :
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN :
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BHUDHOLIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint forum to fight terror has been formed by India, China and Russia as reported in the Asian Age dated June 3, 2005;

(b) if so, the details including the areas decided for mutual co-operation;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom;

(d) whether Indian and US has decided to strengthen their economic co-operation further;

(e) if so, the details alongwith the amount of trade during 2003-04, 2004-05 and till date;

(f) whether the Government proposed to sign a bilateral non-proliferation treaty with USA;

(g) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the action takes thereon; and

(h) the likely impact of the said forum on the Indo-US relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c)

The Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia met in Vladivostok on 2nd June 2005 and agreed to cooperate trilaterally in combating new threats and challenges. The three countries have agreed that terrorism should be combated in a consistent, sustained and comprehensive manner.

(d) and (e) In order to strengthen economic cooperation further, India and US launched the re-invigorated India-US Economic Dialogue on June 1, 2005 in Washington DC. The two Co-Chairpersons - Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia on the Indian side and Economic Policy Assistant to the US President and Director of the National Economic Council, Allan Hubbard agreed to continue to coordinate closely on the four tracks in the Economic Dialogue (Trade, Commerce, Finance, and Environment). A CEOs Forum was set up during the visit of Prime Minister to the United States from 18-20 July 2005, so as to involve senior members of the US and Indian business communities to provide private sector inputs to the discussions. It consists of 10 CEOs each from India and USA. The total India-US trade in merchandise and commodities was \$ 21.7 billion in 2004, an increase of about 20% over last year's figures. Indian exports were at US \$ 15.6 billion while Indian imports were worth US \$ 6.1 billion, with a trade surplus of US \$ 9.5 billion in favour of India. While Indian exports to US in the first quarter (Jan-March) of 2005 rose from US \$ 3.8 billion to US \$ 4.3 billion, exports from US to India have gone up from US \$ 1.2 billion to US \$ 1.7 billion.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The trilateral cooperation referred to in (a), (b), & (c) above is not targeted against any country and therefore, would not have a negative impact on India's relations with other countries.

[Translation]

Mining Permission to Karnataka Power Corporation Limited

581. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has permitted Karnataka Power Corporation Limited to mine coal in new mines of Western coal-fields;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving coal mines to Karnataka Power Corporation Limited despite the inability of WCL to supply coal to adjoining industries and power plants;

(c) whether the Government is aware of its adverse effect on small scale industries and power plants in WCL areas; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) Government has allocated coal blocks to M/s Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. which are located in the State of Maharashtra, in the area of operation of the Western Coalfields Limited.

(b) and (c) Blocks which have been identified for allocation to private / public sector for captive mining are considered for allocation to applicants for captive mining of coal for power generation, iron & steel production and cement production. Such blocks are outside the CIL area and are not in production programme and future planning of the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries. The coal blocks of Baranj-I to IV, Kiloni and Manora Deep, which are included in the list of coal blocks identified for captive mining, have been allocated to the Karnataka Power Corporation for coal mining for captive use in their power plant. Since these blocks did not form part of the production programme of WCL, the question of it having adverse effect on small scale industries and power plants in WCL area does not arise.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer given to parts (b) & (c) above.

Doctor-Population Ratio

582. SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL :
SHRI P. MOHAN :

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

(a) whether the medical facilities available both in Urban and Rural areas of the country are satisfactory;

(b) if so, the ratio of doctors with regard to the population;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the doctor-population ratio;

(d) the name of the country which has the highest doctor-population ratio;

(e) whether Government has any plan to develop alternative medical systems such as Homeopathy, Siddha, Unani, Ayurved etc;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government proposes to create employment opportunity for doctors and para-medics during the current year; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) As per the Medical Council of India, the allopathic doctor-population ratio at present works out to 1:1722. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs medical practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the doctor-population ratio comes to more than 128 doctors per lakh population (1 : 781). There are 241 Medical Colleges with annual intake of more than 27,000 students. Though there is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors available, there is an imbalance in the availability of Doctors between urban and rural area.

(d) The availability of physicians per lakhs of population (as per WHO Report 1998) of some of the developed/developing countries is as under:

Country	No. of physicians per lakhs of population
1	2
Australia	240 (1998)
Belarus	443 (1998)
Belgium	395 (1998)
France	303 (1997)
Georgia	436 (1998)
Germany	350 (1998)

1	2
Greece	392 (1995)
Lithuania	395 (1998)
UK	164 (1993)
USA	279 (1995)

(e) to (g) Yes, sir. To improve the Alternative Medical System, the Department of AYUSH is implementing three Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Development of Institutions; Drugs Quality Control; and Hospitals & Dispensaries under which grants-in-aid is provided to States for the development of these systems in the country;

(h) and (i) The National Health Policy inter-alia envisages increased access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions through increased investments. The Government has plans to increase expenditure in the health sector from 5.2% to 6.0% of GDP with its contribution increasing from 0.9% to 2.00% by 2010. The Common Minimum Programme also envisages increased public investment in the health sector. Increased investment in the health sector would normally result in creation of additional job opportunities for medical, para-medical as well as technical personnel.

[English]

Financial Support for Development of AIDS Vaccine

583. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the testing of preventive HIV/AIDS vaccine is done on volunteers;

(b) if so, the details of risks associated with said testing and precautions taken against the same;

(c) whether the Government is extending financial support to the institutions which are in the process of developing AIDS vaccine;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of results and side effects of the vaccine as tested on animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Phase - 1 trial of Adeno-Associated virus based vaccine has been initiated on 7th February 2005 at National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) Pune. Probable vaccine related risks are:—

- (i) Although it is unlikely but wild type AAV may cause complete vaccine replication.
- (ii) Volunteers may feel the sense of false security and indulge in risk behaviour.
- (iii) Local reaction like pain, swelling or redness can occur.
- (iv) Systemic reaction like mild fever, chills headache, nausea, vomiting may or may not occur. There is a possibility of unexpected side effect, although very unlikely to occur.
- (v) Vaccine cannot prevent HIV infection if volunteers become infected with HIV by any other mode of transmission.

In general vaccine appears to be well tolerated and no study product related serious adverse event has been noted so far. An independent international Safety Review Board [SRB] has reviewed the data and given go-ahead for enrollment for the mid-dose group.

The AAV vaccine, which is based on 'C' clade has excellent safety profile with the dose used in Phase-I trial in Belgium and Germany. Only after the regulatory and social Committees in India have critically examined this data from other trial sites, the approval for Phase I trial was given.

The FDAs of Germany and Belgium have already cleared this vaccine for Phase I trial.

(c) to (e) No Sir, Government of India has signed a MOU with IAVI & ICMR for development of vaccine. This project is funded by international AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI).

However, laboratory and the staff of the institute are being used.

(f) Studies have been conducted to determine potential toxicity, local tolerability in rabbits. Parameters of safety included morbidity and mortality, clinical observa-

tions, body heights, food consumption, ophthalmic examination, hematology, blood chemistry, urinalysis, gross necropsy, organ weight, histo-pathology and bio-distribution of vaccine DNA. There was no dose - dependent, clinically significant adverse events related to the test vaccine in any safety parameter and the vaccine was well tolerated at all dose levels and time points upto 180 days. The candidate vaccine was tested on other animals like mice and monkeys for safety and the animals did not show any significant adverse effects.

Scientific and regulatory bodies like NARI Scientific Advisory Committee, DCGI and Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) have reviewed the result of toxicity/side effects of this vaccine on animals. Only after ascertaining that there are no probable risk on human being associated with vaccine, the phase I trial in normal healthy volunteers has been approved.

Prices of Different Grades of Coal

584. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the prices of various grades of Coal have increased during the last three years and the reasons for each of the said price-rise;

(b) whether the Government has made any efforts to regulate the prices of Coal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The details of coal price increased during last 3 years along with reasons are as under:

Date of Price Increase	Name of Coal Company where price increase effected	Grades of Coal covered by price Increase	Reasons for prices increase
18.8.2002	ECL (Raniganj field only). BCCL, CCL, WCL & SECL	All grades All grades except long flame coal of BCCL	To compensate the increase in the cost of inputs since the last price increase w.e.f. 1.2.2004.
16.5.2003	BCCL	Long flame coal only	
1.10.2003	NCL	All grades	
16.6.2004	All subsidiaries	All grades	(1) To compensate the increase in the cost of inputs. (2) To generate resources for investment for upcoming projects and modernization of existing mines to bridge the ever increasing gap between demand and supply.

(b) and (c) With the promulgation of the Colliery Control Order 2000, coal pricing has been fully deregulated from 1.1.2000. Since coal pricing is deregulated, Coal companies are fixing the price of coal with the approval of their Board of Directors.

Comprehensive Medical Treatment

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to adopt an integrated approach towards imparting medical education blending Western and Indian System as well as Yoga to provide comprehensive medical treatment;

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

(c) the details of action plan for cultivating herbal plants on a large scale to meet domestic and external demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Government, at the instance of the department of ISM&H, had asked the Medical Council of India to consider the matter regarding inclusion of basic principle and concepts of Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Siddha and Yoga in the course contents of MBBS. After considering the matter, in consultation with principles of all the medical colleges in India, the MCI came to the conclusion that inclusion of the basic principles and concept of ISM&H in MBBS course may only lead to acquiring inadequate knowledge of these systems by MBBS students which may be misused for practice in those systems by the allopathic doctors and accordingly not recommended the proposal. However, the matter has again been referred back to MCI for reconsideration and response from MCI is awaited.

(c) Government of India has set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in the year of 2000 on the recommendation of the Task Force constituted by Planning Commission. NMPB has sanctioned a number of project during the last four years for the cultivation of medicinal plants throughout the country. Till date 32 State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPBs) has also been set up in 27 States and 5 UTs. The Board gives 30% subsidy for cultivation of medicinal plants. The scheme has been introduced to ensure the availability of raw material for manufacturing of herbal medicines and to meet the domestic as well as external demands.

Sarwa Swasthya Abhiyan

586. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested a slew of measures including the setting up of

Public Health Development Authority with corpus of Rs.500 crore and launching of "Sarwa Swasthya Abhiyan" to make health care accessible to all;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in a midterm appraisal, the Plan panel has pointed out that said authority would use the funds to expand capacity in the public health care system and to develop information technology infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission in its mid-term appraisal of Tenth Plan, has amongst other measures recommended setting up of a Public Health Development Authority (PHDA) with a corpus of Rs.500 crore, to set standards for quality assurance in health care; develop and disseminate national practice guidelines and consumer information; reform professional councils; build capacity in public health and develop Information Technology Infrastructure for Health. They have also recommended launching a "Sarwa Swasthya Abhiyan" in a manner similar to the "Sarwa Shiksha Abhiyan" launched in 2001. Planning Commission has suggested that the resources may be augmented by accessing the WB, IDA credit on the same basis as being done for the "Sarwa Shiksha Abhiyan". These interventions have been recommended for implementation during the Eleventh Plan.

Proposed Reforms of the UN

587. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a US Special envoy, Mr. Shirin Tahir-Kheli tasked with developing Washington's position on UN-reforms including expansion and democratization of the UN Security Council, visited New Delhi in May this year;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal put forth and articulated by Mr. Tahir;

(c) the response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether India and some other countries circu-

lated draft resolution on the proposed reforms of the UN; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of other countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes. During her visit in May, 2005 to New Delhi, Ms. Shirin Tahir-Kheli discussed a range of issues relating to UN reforms, including UN Security Council reform. This provided an opportunity for mutual exchange of views on these issues.

(d) India, Brazil, Germany and Japan - now being termed as the Group of Four (G-4) countries - have introduced a Resolution on UN Security Council Reform on July 11, 2005 in the UN General Assembly. The G-4 Resolution calls for an expansion from the present 15 to total of 25 members, by adding 6 new permanent and 4 new non-permanent members. The G-4 proposes to carry out reform through a three-step process consisting of a decision on a Framework Resolution, the election of new permanent members in the General Assembly and, subsequently, the adoption of a resolution for revisions to the Charter after the designation of new permanent members.

(e) There is a steady accretion of support for the G-4 Resolution which is co-sponsored by 31 countries. In this context, discussions are currently underway in the UN in New York.

[Translation]

Increasing the Number of IAS Cadre Posts in UP

588. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested to increase the number of IAS Cadre posts in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has acceded to the request;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has requested for increasing the Senior Duty Posts from 253 to 301 and the Total Authorised Strength from 467 to 555.

(c) to (e) The matter is under consideration.

[English]

Computerisation of Post Offices in Karnataka

589. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices/sub-post offices in Karnataka, district-wise;

(b) the number of post offices/sub-post offices computerized;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to computerize Head Post Offices, Post offices, sub-post offices throughout the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) There are 60 Head Post Offices and 1771 Sub Post Offices in Karnataka State. The number of Head Post Offices and Sub Post Offices district-wise; is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) All the 60 Head Post Offices and 337 important Sub Post Offices have been computerized in Karnataka till date.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is an approved Plan to computerize all important post Offices in the country, inclusive of Karnataka. The Plan includes computerization of all 60 Head Post Offices and 436 important Sub Post Offices having more than two public countries in the State. 60 Head Post Offices and 337 Sub Post Offices covering all Districts have been provided with computers till date. 99 Sub Post Offices are planned for computerization in the remaining period of the Tenth Plan.

Statement**District-Wise Number of Head Post Offices and Sub Post Offices in Karnataka**

Name of the District	Number of the Head Post Offices	Number of the Head Post Offices	Total
Bagalkot	2	45	47
Bangalore Urban	7	242	249
Bangalore Rural	1	39	40
Belgaum	6	136	142
Bellary	2	71	73
Bidar	1	32	33
Bijapur	2	54	56
Chamarajanagar	1	32	33
Chikmagalur	2	58	60
Chitradurga	1	40	41
Dakshina Kannada	4	124	128
Dharwad	2	64	66
Davangere	1	42	43
Gadag	1	28	29
Gulbarga	2	71	73
Hassan	2	61	63
Haveri	1	33	34
Kodagu	1	25	26
Kolar	2	63	65
Mandya	2	54	56
Mysore	3	73	76
Raichur	1	38	39
Koppal	1	29	30
Shimoga	3	85	88
Tumkur	2	78	80
Udupi	4	63	67
Uttar Kannada	3	91	94
Total	60	1771	1831

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for KBK Districts

590. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the failure of most of the centrally sponsored schemes in the KBK districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to undertake mid-term review to identify the reasons;

(c) the allocation of funds made under various centrally sponsored schemes during the Tenth Plan till 2005-06 and the amount of fund utilized, scheme-wise;

(d) sectors in which developmental benefits have accrued to the people living in the KBK districts and the extent to which the people of the districts have been benefited; and

(e) the reasons for delay in constitution of State level committee to review and monitor the progress of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Implementation of various Centrally Sponsored schemes in the KBK districts is an on going development effort. The implementation of these schemes is being periodically monitored by various State level officers and also by National Human Rights Commission, Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions and the Planning Commission and suitable mid-course directions are given to the State Government from time to time for implementing the schemes more effectively and efficiently.

(c) and (d) The allocation of funds for various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the KBK districts during the Tenth Plan till 2005-06 and the amount utilized is given in the statements I to IV enclosed. The extent of benefits in some of the schemes have also been indicated in these statements.

(e) The State Level Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Orissa to monitor and review the implementation of Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) for the KBK districts and other developmental activities undertaken in these districts was constituted in March, 2002. This Committee has been reconstituted in January, 2005.

Statement-I

*Allocation of funds for Various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the KBK
Districts and amount utilized - 2002-03*

(Rs. in crore.)

S.No.	Sector/Scheme	Allocation	Amount utilized	Benefits Achieved
1	2	3	4	5
I. Agriculture				
1.	Work Plan	1.63	1.56	
2.	OPP	1.59	0.82	12 Farmers training, 9056 Qtls. Certified seeds
3.	ICDP Cotton	0.79	0.75	446 Field Demns., 42 Farmers training 1654 Hand Sprayers
4.	AMDP	0.01	0.01	30 Field demns., 4 Farmers training
Total - Agriculture		4.02	3.14	
II. Horticulture				
1.	Work Plan	17.40	1.45	Fruit Plantation - 1248.5 ha. Floriculture Demon - 115 no. Spices Demon - 2569 no. Distribution of Sprayers - 829 no. Production of QPM - 190262 no. Distribution of Veg. Minikits - 41,000 no. Drip Irrigation - 40.80 ha Sprinkler Irrigation - 29 ha
Total - Horticulture		17.40	1.45	
III. Watershed Development				
1.	N.W.D.P.R.A.	3.06	1.26	3510 ha in 59 W/S
2.	R.V.P.	0.38	0.38	1907 ha in 8 W/S
3.	D.P.A.P.	16.93	8.37	17,809 ha.
4.	I.W.D.P.	7.48	5.03	12,104 ha.
Total - Watershed Development		27.85	15.04	
IV. Afforestation				
1.	Integ. Afforestation & Eco. Dev. Project	0.10	0.01	Maintenance of 10,445 ha. Plantation
2.	Non Timber Forest Produce	0.00	0.00	
3.	Area Oriented Fuel & Fodder Proj.	0.94	0.36	Maintenance of 11,061 Ha. Plantation

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Association of ST & rural poor in rehabilitation of degraded forest	0.00	0.00	
Total - Afforestation		1.04	0.37	
V. Poverty Alleviation and Social Security				
1.	IAY	15.29	16.08	11,131 Houses constructed
	IAY (Upgradation)	5.72	5.36	6224 houses upgraded
2.	SGSY	14.20	13.86	11,063 Swarojgaris
3.	EAS (SGRY - Stream I)	57.91	51.76	95.79 lakh mandays
4.	JGSY (SGRY - Stream II)	54.26	49.86	110.72 Lakh mandays
5.	NOAPS	14.38	18.47	2,16,807 Beneficiaries
6.	NFBS	1.25	0.79	808 Beneficiaries
Total - Poverty Alleviation and Social Security		163.01	156.18	
VI. Health				
1.	T.B.Control Programme	0.61	0.06	8,985 Patients treated
2.	Malaria Control Programme	1.13	0.40	2,29,523 Patients treated 13,18,190 blood slides examined
Total - Health		1.74	0.46	
VII. Provision of Drinking Water				
1.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)	10.54	10.54	1522 1522 Tube Wells, 80 Sanitary Wells & 15 PWs
2.	Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)	2.59	2.59	835 Tube Wells, 80 Sanitary Wells & 5 PWs
Total - Provision of Drinking Water		13.13	13.13	
VIII. Rural Connectivity				
1.	Rural Connectivity (PMGSY)	82.64	45.72	19 roads completed out of 135 ongoing roads
Total - Rural Connectivity		82.64	45.72	
IX. Welfare of SC & ST				
1.	Estt. Of new ST Grils Hostels for SCs & STs	0.15	0.10	2 Hostel buldings in progress
Total - Welfare of SC & ST		0.15	0.10	
Grand Total		310.98	235.59	

Statement-II**Allocation of funds for Various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the KBK
Districts and amount utilized - 2003-04**

(Rs. in crore.)

S.No.	Sector/Scheme	Allocation	Amount utilized	Benefits Achieved
1	2	3	4	5
I. Agriculture				
1.	Rice Development	1.19	1.19	Seed Dist-24000 Qtls. Powertiller - 200
2.	OPP	0.64	0.64	
3.	ICDP Cotton	0.42	0.42	Demon-274, Training-45, Dist of Sprayer - 2090
4.	NPDP	0.13	0.13	
Total - Agriculture		2.38	2.38	
II. Horticulture				
1.	Work Plan	2.25	2.25	
Total - Horticulture		2.25	2.25	
III. Watershed Development				
1.	N.W.D.P.R.A.	2.00	2.00	4443 ha
2.	R.V.P.	0.03	0.03	369 ha
3.	D.P.A.P.	9.85	9.85	14,786 ha
4.	I.W.D.P.	8.08	8.08	13,055 ha
Total - Watershed Development		19.96	19.96	
IV. Afforestation				
1.	National Afforestation Programme through FDA	3.55	2.93	3,887 ha of Plantation
Total - Afforestation		3.55	2.93	
V. Poverty Alleviation and Social Security				
1.	IAY	31.70	29.90	13,706 Houses constructed
	IAY (Upgradation)	2.56	2.69	2,749 Houses constructed
2.	SGSY	17.36	18.00	13,640 Swarozgaries
3.	SGSY - Stream I	63.50	60.50	101.17 lakh mandays

1	2	3	4	5
4.	SGSY - Stream II	64.74	61.07	98.23 lakh mandays
5.	NOAPS	20.91	21.89	2,16,984 Beneficiaries
6.	NFBS	0.27	0.27	342 Beneficiaries
Total - Poverty Alleviation and Social Security		201.04	194.32	
VI. Health				
1.	T.B.Control Programme	0.16	0.65	
2.	Malaria Control Programme	10.83	14.43	
3.	National Leprosy Control Programme	3.07	3.25	
4.	National Programme for Control of Blindness	0.27	0.25	
Total - Health		14.78	18.58	
VII. Provision of Drinking Water				
1.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)	9.77	9.77	
2.	Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)	8.31	3.66	
Total - Provision of Drinking Water		18.08	13.43	
VIII. Rural Connectivity				
1.	Rural Connectivity (PMGSY)	118.14	118.14	
Total - Rural Connectivity		118.14	118.14	
IX. Welfare of SC & ST				
1.	Post matric Scholarship for ST	0.02	0.02	
2.	SCA to Special Component Plan	4.67	3.93	
	NSLRS	0.51	0.19	
4.	NSFDC High Cost Scheme	0.35	0.35	
Total - Welfare of SC & ST		5.55	4.49	
Grand Total		385.73	376.48	

Statement-III

*Allocation of funds for Various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the KBK
Districts and amount utilized - 2004-05*

(Rs. in crore.)

S.No.	Sector/Scheme	Allocation	Amount utilized	Benefits Achieved
1	2	3	4	5
I. Agriculture				
1.	Rice Development	0.82	0.82	Seed - 24042 Qtls.
2.	OPP	2.46	2.46	
3.	ICDP Cotton	1.23	1.23	Demon-347, Training-82, Dist of Sprayer - 1179
4.	NPDP	0.73	0.73	
Total - Agriculture		5.24	5.24	
II. Horticulture				
1.	Work Plan	2.59	2.59	
Total - Horticulture		2.59	2.59	
III. Watershed Development				
1.	N.W.D.P.R.A.	2.00	2.00	4,443 ha
2.	R.V.P.	0.03	0.03	369 ha
3.	D.P.A.P.	9.85	9.85	14,786 ha
4.	I.W.D.P.	8.08	8.08	13,055 ha
Total - Watershed Development		19.96	19.96	
IV. Afforestation				
1.	National Afforestation Programme through FDA	1.03	1.03	2,099 ha of Plantation
Total - Afforestation		1.03	1.03	
V. Poverty Alleviation and Social Security				
1.	IAY	50.89	46.85	15,858 House constructed
2.	SGSY	19.39	20.62	15,899 Swarozgaries
3.	SGRY	118.46	109.69	171.47 lakh mandays
4.	NOAPS	25.45	25.25	2,16,984 Beneficiaries
5.	NFBS	0.59	0.55	557 Beneficiaries
Total - Poverty Alleviation and Social Security		214.78	202.96	

1	2	3	4	5
VI. Health				
1.	Malaria Control Programme	4.93	4.93	
2.	National Filaria Control Programme	0.26	0.26	
3.	National Programme for Control of Blindness	0.33	0.31	
Total - Health		5.52	5.50	
VII. Provision of Drinking Water				
1.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)	5.17	5.17	
Total - Provision of Drinking Water				
VIII. Rural Connectivity				
1.	Rural Connectivity (PMGSY)	35.29	35.29	
Total - Rural Connectivity		35.29	35.29	
IX. Welfare of SC & ST				
1.	Upgradation of Merit of SC Students	0.02	0.02	
2.	SCA to Special Component Plan	3.25	3.25	
3.	NSLRS	0.26	0.26	
4.	Micro Finance	0.50	0.50	
Total - Welfare of SC & ST		4.03	4.03	
Grand Total		293.61	281.77	

Statement-IV

*Allocation of funds for various Centrally Sponsored
Schemes for the KBK Districts - 2005-06*

S. No.	Sector/Scheme	Projected Allocation (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
I. Agriculture		
1.	Rice Development	0.99
2.	OPP	1.86

1	2	3
3.	ICDP Cotton	0.93
4.	NPDP	0.79
Total - Agriculture		4.57
II. Horticulture		
1.	Work Plan	30.00
Total - Horticulture		30.00
III. Watershed Development		
1.	N.W.D.P.R.A.	1.44

1	2	3
2.	R.V.P.	0.00
3.	D.P.A.P.	15.00
4.	I.W.D.P.	11.00
Total - Watershed Development		27.44
IV. Afforestation		
1.	National Afforestation Programme through FDA	2.58
Total - Afforestation		2.58
V. Poverty Alleviation and Social Security		
1.	IAY	49.28
2.	SGSY	19.54
3.	SGRY - Stream	111.58
4.	NOAPS	11.69
5.	NFBS	0.59
Total - Poverty Alleviation and Social Security		192.68
VI. Health		
1.	Malaria Control Programme	0.10
2.	National Filaria Control Programme	0.26
3.	National Programme for Control of Blindness	0.31
Total - Health		0.67
VII. Provision of Drinking Water		
1.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)	15.00
2.	Swajaladhara	4.00
Total - Provision of Drinking Water		19.00
VIII. Rural Connectivity		
1.	Rural Connectivity (PMGSY)	238.41
Total - Rural Connectivity		238.41

1	2	3
IX. Welfare of SC & ST		
1.	Upgradation of Merit of SC Students	0.02
2.	SCA to Special Component Plan	0.66
3.	NSLR	6.40
4.	NSFDC High Cost Scheme	13.65
Total - Welfare of SC & ST		
Grand Total		529.00

Maritime Projects for A.P.

591. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Government has sought clearance as well as financial assistance from the Union Government for implementation of various maritime projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the necessary clearance is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) In the context of the exercise undertaken to formulate a Policy for the Maritime Sector (Ports, Merchant Shipping and IWT) and the National Maritime Development Programme, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for establishment of National Sea waterways along the North Coastal Andhra Pradesh with the associated development of Coastal and Marine Infrastructure of Ports/Warehouses and complementary development of Coastal and Marine Infrastructure and IMO compliances, for consideration and approval of the Central Government. The Project component includes development and establishment of new ports at 10 locations, development and construction of 4 trestle structures, improvements to existing minor ports, logistics and warehouses, sub-projects like ship-repair facility, fish landing and fishery infrastructure, oil spill response unit, ship breaking yard, coastal tourism and recreational infrastructure, sheltered

waters and ports of refuge as also preparation of Detailed Project Reports. The total project estimate as furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is Rs.6050 crores out of which an amount of Rs.1353.63 crores is proposed from private sector and financial support of Rs.4699 crores for implementation over a two year programme has been sought from the Central Government.

(c) Whereas, responsibility for development/up-gradation of minor ports vests with the State Government, there is no on going scheme under which Central financial assistance could be rendered for the projects as sought by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Neem based Contraceptive

592. MOHD. MUKEEM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the DRDO has developed a contraceptive based on Neem; and

(b) if so, the time by when the said contraceptive is likely to be made available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes Sir, two processes for preparation of spermicidal agents based on neem have been developed by DIPAS, DRDO.

(b) Action for transfer of technology (TOT) in respect of processes for the preparation of spermicidal agents based on neem was initiated on 23.3.2005. The commercial vendors have been identified and appropriate letter offering of technology has been issued. The last date for receipt of response letter of intent from vendors is 31.7.2005. after which the technology for commercial production of neem based contraceptive will be transferred to the interested vendors.

[English]

Coal Linkage for Sponge Iron Units

593. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise details of sponge iron units for

which Ministry of Steel has recommended for grant of coal linkage during the last three years;

(b) the details of units to which Ministry has granted coal linkage and also the details of units which have not been granted coal linkage;

(c) whether the attention of the Ministry has been drawn by concerned States in regard to short supply of coal and lack of grant of coal linkage to these units;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Navigators

594. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of navigators/pilots in some major ports;

(b) if so, the port-wise position as on date;

(c) the steps taken to overcome the shortage of pilots/navigators; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The requirement of pilots in Major Ports is dependent upon the numbers of shipping movements required to be undertaken in a port. The port-wise position of sanctioned and actual strength of regular pilots as on date is given below:-

Port	Sanctioned Strength	Actual strength of regular pilots
1	2	3
Mumbai	28	23

1	2	3
Kolkata	91	50
Chennai	09	05
Jawahar Lal Nehru	06	05
Visakhapatnam	08	07
Kandla	13	07
Paradip	06	05
Cochin	11	09
New Mangalore	03	03
Mormugao	06	03
Tuticorin	03	01
Ennore	03	03

Whenever the shortage is felt, the Ports engage pilots on contract basis in addition to regular pilots to meet their requirements.

Elections for Central Council of Homoeopathy

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

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted elections in all the States/Union Territories for the Central Council of Homoeopathy;

(b) if so, when these elections were last held in all the States/Union territories;

(c) whether these elections are being held within the time specified by the Union Government;

(d) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The last elections were held in 1997-98 from all the States/UTs except Bihar and Maharashtra.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (e) The elections are conducted by Returning Officers who are State Government Employees. The Central Government on the recommendation of State Government appoints Returning Officers to hold CCH election. The voters list on the basis of updated State Registers is to be provided by the State Boards/Councils of Homoeopathy (Statutory body under State Government) to Returning Officer for conducting the election. The work of updation of Registers of Homoeopathic practitioners and preparation of voters list is not being done regularly in several States which is holding up elections in those States. The State Governments are being requested repeatedly to expedite the CCH election at the earliest. Necessary funds from Central Government have already been advanced for holding CCH election.

Providing ISDN Services in District Headquarters

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide ISDN services in all district headquarters;

(b) if so, the State-wise progress in this regard as on date;

(c) the time by which ISDN services would be provided in every district headquarters in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Telephone Connections to Villages

597. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI SUBHASH SURESH CHANDRA
DESHMUKH :

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

(a) the latest position with regard to telephone facilities and the number of villages in West Bengal and Maharashtra yet to be provided with telephone facility;

(b) whether the targets for the year 2004-05 have been achieved;

(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) As on 30.06.2005, telephone facility is available in 37,306 and 33,166 inhabited, accessible, undisputed and undisturbed villages of West Bengal and Maharashtra respectively. While West Bengal is fully covered 4,816 villages in Maharashtra are yet to be provided with telephone facility.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There was no Village Public Telephone (VPT) target for West Bengal as all villages had already been provided with telephone facility. In Maharashtra Circle 1,416 VPTs were provided against the target of 892 for the year 2004-05.

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

Non-availability of Neuro-Surgeon in Public/ Private Hospitals

598. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that an accident victim was turned away by a hospital due to lack of neuro-surgeon as reported in the Hindustan Times dated April, 29, 2005;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken or proposed to be taken against the erring hospital; and

(c) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken to ensure availability of Neuro-Surgeons throughout the day in all major public and private hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Shri Jaswant Singh an accident victim referred by Deen Dayal Upadhaya Hospital was admitted in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital at 2.30 AM on 26.04.05. The patient was examined by concerned doctors. Since the Operation Theatre was not free as surgeries for emergency cases were in progress, the patient was referred to Sushruta Trauma Centre, after discussions with concerned Neuro-Surgeon there. The Neuro-Surgeons are available on call in emergency in major Central Government Hospitals in Delhi.

[Translation]

Expansion and Development of Health Care System

599. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

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

(a) whether only 20 percent of the country's population is being benefited under the existing health care system;

(b) if not, the assessment of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan for expansion and development of this system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) It is estimated that around 20% of the country's requirement of health care is met through public health care system and remaining through the private health care systems.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has set up a National Rural Health Mission which seeks to provide effective health care to rural population through out the country. It has as its key components provision of a female health activist in each village; a village health plan prepared through a local team headed by the Health and Sanitation Committee of the Panchayat; strengthening of the rural hospital for effective curative care and made measurable and accountable to the community through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS); and integration of vertical Health and Family Welfare Programmes and Funds for optimal utilization of funds and infrastructure and strengthening delivery of primary health care.

In addition, 6 AIIMS like institutions are proposed to be set up in the under-served areas of the country and another 7 institutions in the States are proposed for upgradation to that level by grant of a one-time assistance under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

(e) The total outlay for the National Rural Health Mission for the year 2005-06 is Rs.6371.156 crore. The outlay for the PMSSY for the year 2005-06 is Rs.250 crores.

[English]

Release of Amount under CRF

600. SHRI D.P. SAROJ :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI :
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE :
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH :
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL :

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

(a) the amount released to States during the last three years under the Central Road Fund (CRF) with details of these roads and length, State-wise;

(b) the roads with length sanctioned under the CRF during the financial year 2004-05; and

(c) the roads under CRF being built during the year 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) State-wise details of amount released, number and lengths approved for development of State Roads from the Central Road Fund (CRF) during the last three years are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) Improvement works on State Roads aggregating to a total length of 20059.61 km. were approved during the Financial Year 2004-05.

(c) State-wise road lengths approved for construction during Financial Year 2005-06 so far are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2002-03 to 2004-05	
		Number and length of roads approved (Km)	
		Number	Length
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100	976.37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	126.51
3.	Assam	37	317.83
4.	Bihar	17	109.00
5.	Chandigarh	06	28.50
6.	Chhattisgarh	08	367.17
7.	Delhi	37	6.51

1	2	3	4
8.	Goa	01	7.20
9.	Gujarat	226	2565.00
10.	Haryana	21	428.02
11.	Himachal Pradesh	18	144.075
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	108.20
13.	Jharkhand	02	100.40
14.	Karnataka	432	4064.13
15.	Kerala	13	180.31
16.	Madhya Pradesh	34	898.80
17.	Maharashtra	169	1245.65
18.	Manipur	04	58.00
19.	Meghalaya	09	70.00
20.	Mizoram	13	99.95
21.	Nagaland	07	78.00
22.	Orissa	13	84.23
23.	Punjab	13	158.05
24.	Pondicherry	01	11.00
25.	Rajasthan	189	4234.43
26.	Sikkim	05	26.00
27.	Tamil Nadu	297	2147.00
28.	Tripura	04	22.01
29.	Uttar Pradesh	48	955.815
30.	Uttaranchal	29	304.65
31.	West Bengal	06	108.30
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	02	28.50
Total		1794	20059.61

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2005-06 Number and length of roads approved so far (Km)	
		Number	Length
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	02	35.06
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	186.72
3.	Assam	08	24.53
4.	Gujarat	22	272.00
5.	Haryana	05	67.72
6.	Kerala	11	201.77
7.	Madhya Pradesh	05	108.61
8.	Maharashtra	25	397.00
9.	Manipur	01	2.98
10.	Meghalaya	18	53.73
11.	Orissa	11	161.13
12.	Punjab	05	58.97
13.	Rajasthan	41	561.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	09	195.22
15.	West Bengal	04	159.61
Total		195	2486.03

Raising of Kashmir Issue

601. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the address given by the Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf at the South Asian Free Media

Association (SAFMA) Conference held recently wherein he suggested a proposal for resolution of the Kashmir issue;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any official communication has been received in this regard;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has considered the proposal and discussed the same with Pakistan; and
- (f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) According to media reports, President Musharraf, at the concluding session of a conference organized by South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) on 20 May 2005, had, inter alia, said that there was a solution to the Kashmir issue which ought to be acceptable to India, Pakistan and the Kashmiris.

- (c) No.
- (d) to (f) Does not arise.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

602. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
 SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :
 SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
 SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) Visits by foreign dignitaries to India during the last two months, till date;
- (b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;
- (c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them;

(d) if so, the details thereof with the gain likely to be accrued to India as a result of these agreements;

(e) the details of visits undertaken by the PM and EAM during the above period;

(f) the details of discussions held and outcome thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (d) and (g) The details of the foreign dignitaries who visited India during the last two months, till date; the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries; and bilateral agreements signed with them with details thereof with the likely gains which are to be accrued to India as a result of these agreements, are give below, country wise:-

AFGHANISTAN

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Afghan Foreign Minister visited India from 3-4 July 2005 and Dr. Zalmi Rassoul, Afghan National Security Adviser visited India on 13 July 2005. Bilateral relations including India's assistance programme to Afghanistan and regional issues of common concern were discussed in their meetings with Indian leaders.

As part of international effort, India is committed to support Afghanistan's economic reconstruction. India's aid commitment is over US\$ 500 million for the period 2002-2008. We have undertaken, in consultation with Afghan Government, projects in virtually all parts of Afghanistan, covering a wide range of sectors.

SRI LANKA

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga visited India on June 2-4, 2005. The whole range of bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed during the visiting President's meetings with Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj.

There is excellent political understanding at the highest levels between India and Sri Lanka. This is reflected in the frequent high-level visits, regular contacts at official levels and an expanding institutional and juridical framework. Negotiations to finalise a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement are underway to facilitate further growth in economic ties; India remains engaged in the post-tsunami national reconstruction effort in Sri Lanka; three credit lines are running; a number of development projects are in various stages of implementation. A number of steps have also been taken to expand cooperation in other sectors and facilitate further people-to-people contact.

Myanmar

The Minister of Energy of Myanmar, Brig. Gen. Lun Thi visited India from 5-7 July 2005 at the invitation of the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Mani Shanker Aiyar. During the visit, discussions were held on the various options for evacuation of natural gas from Myanmar to India as well as on participation of Indian companies in exploration and production of hydro-carbons in Myanmar. In addition, Government of India announced extension of a line of credit of US\$ 20 million for revamping the Thanlyin refinery in Myanmar.

Thailand

Thai Prime Minister Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra paid a working visit to India on 3 June 2005. During the visit, he held talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and called on Chairperson UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Minister for HRD, Shri Arjun Singh called on the Thai PM. Talks covered a wide range of bilateral issues including the exchange of high level visits, FTA negotiations, civil aviation matters, and cooperation in the fields of defence, security, science and technology, education, tourism as well as disaster relief. India-Thai cooperation in regional forums such as ASEAN and BIMSTEC as well as on multilateral issues also figured in the discussions.

An MOU on Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) was signed during the visit. The MOU was signed by HRD Minister Mr. Arjun Singh and the Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon. Thai PM's visit reflected a reciprocal desire to broaden and deepen our mutual engagement and maximize the opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse areas.

Singapore

The Prime Minister of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, paid a State Visit to India from 28-30 June 2005. During the visit, the Singapore Prime Minister called on the President and Vice President, and had one to one as well as delegation level talks with the Prime Minister. He also had separate meetings with the Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Finance, Minister of Commerce and Industry, former Prime Minister Shri A.B. Vajpayee as well as with the Chairperson of the UPA. The discussions covered the entire gamut of our bilateral relations with Singapore, India's growing partnership with the ASEAN and several international issues of mutual concern.

A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between the Republic of India and the Republic of Singapore, a Protocol amending Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion, Side letters to CECA and Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Singapore concerning Mutual Legal assistance in Criminal Matters were signed.

The CECA is a comprehensive package including an FTA that covers, *inter alia*, trade in services, investment, financial services movement of natural persons, electronic commerce, intellectual property rights, cooperation in science and technology, education and media. It also incorporates an improved Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. The India-Singapore CECA is the first such Agreement to be signed by India with another country. It comes into effect on August 1, 2005. Signing of CECA would open

new avenues for cooperation in trade in goods, services, technology, flow of capital and professionals between the two countries. The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Criminal Matters will help carry forward ongoing bilateral security cooperation.

Australia

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer visited India from June 6 to 9, 2005 for the next round of Ministerial Framework Dialogue. In new Delhi, FM Downer called on PM Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Ministers for Defence and Environment as well as Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Downer held talks with EAM on June 8, 2005. Downer also visited Chennai on 6th and 7th June where he met the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and addressed the Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce. No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit. The visit reinforced the reciprocal desire to maximize the opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse areas and helped carry forward the momentum of renewing ties between India and Australia in bilateral and regional framework.

Indonesia

Mr. Ali Alatas, former Foreign Minister of Indonesia and UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on UN Reforms for the Asia Pacific Region visited India from July 12-15, 2005. The issue of UN reform which is expected to come up in the deliberations of the 60th U.N. General Assembly Session in September 2005, was discussed in detail with the above dignitary. No bilateral agreements were signed during the above visit. The discussions served to clarify the positions with regard to various aspects of UN Reforms and assess the possible areas for future cooperation.

Palestine

President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), President of Palestinian National Authority accompanied by

Palestinian Foreign Minister Nasser Al Kidwa undertook a working visit to India on 19th and 20th May 2005.

President Abbas and his delegation called on the President and held discussions with Prime Minister and EAM on the revival of the Middle East Peace Process and also briefed Hon'ble Prime Minister about the recent developments on Middle East Peace Process in the post-Arafat era. India reiterated its commitment to Palestinian cause and sovereign, independent Palestinian state. During the meeting India announced \$15 million as grant to Palestine.

India and Palestine have traditionally good relations. India was one of the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine in 1988 and opened Representative Office in Gaza Ramallah in 1996. India is a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause and supported various resolutions at UN and other international fora. Since inception of Palestinian National Authority (PNA), India has extended an aid of \$3.96 million. During the visit of President Abbas India also pledged an additional aid of \$15 million for the reconstruction of Palestine. We have been also offering scholarships under ICCR for higher studies for Palestinian students. Several short and medium-term course are also being offered regularly for Palestinian officials including diplomats. In February 2005, India has appointed a special envoy for West Asia in Middle East Peace Process in an endeavour to enhance our engagement with the region.

Sudan

Dr. Mustapha Osman Ismail, the Sudanese Foreign Minister, visited India from 6-8 June 2005. The Sudanese Foreign Minister called on PM and held wide-ranging discussions with EAM and MOS (EA) on bilateral, regional and multilateral organizations and issues as well as on enhancing bilateral political and economic cooperation, trade and investment. The

Indian leaders briefed the Foreign Minister on the steps taken to improve India's relations with its neighbours.

India has traditionally good relations with Sudan and welcomed the formation of the new Government of National Unity on 9th July 2005 under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between North and South Sudan. In March 2005, India sent 20,000 MTs of wheat as humanitarian assistance for the people of Darfur in Western Sudan.

India and Sudan are also cooperating in key sectors such as hydrocarbons, railways, IT and small-scale industries. India pledged a concessional bilateral line of credit of US \$ 100/- million and a separate bilateral grant of US \$ 10 million for carrying out various development projects in Sudan as part of the Rehabilitation and reconstruction of Sudan under the CPA. During 2004-2005, Sudan was allotted sixty slots, one of the biggest such allotments, under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.

USA

Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State on UN Reforms, USA visited India on May 26, 2005. The issue of UN reform which is expected to come up in the deliberations of the 60th U.N. General Assembly Session in September 2005, was discussed in detail with the dignitary. No bilateral agreements were signed during the above visit. The discussions served to clarify the positions with regard to various aspects of UN Reforms and assess the possible areas for future cooperation.

Guatemala

Mr. Jorge Briz Abularach, Minister of External Relations of Guatemala, visited India from May 1-7, 2005. The issues on which deliberations were held include strengthening of bilateral relations, cooperation in IT,

service and manufacturing sectors, opening of resident embassies in the respective capitals, cooperation in international fora, support to India's bid for a permanent seat in the expanded UNSC etc.

An MOU on Foreign Office level Consultations was signed during the visit. It is expected that the MOU will lead to monitoring of the bilateral relationship and coordination of the respective positions on issues of mutual interest.

(e) and (f) The details of visits undertaken by the Prime Minister (PM) and External Affairs Minister (EAM) during the above period, and the details of discussions held and outcome in such cases are given below country wise;

Details of visits undertaken by PM

Russia

Prime Minister visited Russia from 8-10 May 2005 at the invitation of President Putin to participate in the 60th anniversary of the Victory Day. PM met President Putin in a bilateral meeting and discussed a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. No agreement was signed.

The UK

Prime Minister visited The UK from July 6-9, 2005 for the G-8 Summit. Discussions were held on issues relating to global economy, climate change and sustainable development. The outcome of the meeting is the initiation of a new dialogue between G-8 nations and other countries with significant energy needs, consistent with the aims and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change.

USA

At the invitation of President George W. Bush, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh accompanied by External Affairs Minister paid a visit to the United States from July 18-20, 2005.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Bush declared their resolve to transform the relationship and establish a global partnership between the two countries. Discussions were held on various aspects of multifaceted cooperative relationship. These included potential for bilateral cooperation in the fields such as economic and trade relations, revitalizing the India-U.S. Economic Dialogue and launching a bilateral CEOs Forum. Energy, environment, democracy and development, combating terrorism, non-proliferation and security, completion of the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) initiative, high technology, space, civilian nuclear technology, science and technology, agricultural education, fight against HIV/AIDS and disaster relief operations, were the other areas of focus for bilateral cooperation.

Recognizing the significance of civilian nuclear energy for meeting growing global energy demands in a cleaner and more efficient manner, the two leaders discussed India's plans to develop its civilian nuclear energy program. President Bush conveyed his appreciation to the Prime Minister over India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation and stated that as a responsible State with advanced nuclear technology, India should be entitled to the same benefits and advantages as other such States. The President indicated to the Prime Minister that he would seek agreement from Congress to adjust U.S. laws and policies, and the United States will work with friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India, including but not limited to expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactors at Tarapur. In the meantime, the United States will encourage its partners to consider India's request for its inclusion in ITER and Generation IV International Forum. The Prime Minister conveyed, that India would reciprocally agree that it would be ready assume the same responsibilities and practices and

acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States.

There has been steady progress in relations between India and the US in recent times. There is a strong commitment on both sides to carry this process forward and to further widen, deepen and strengthen these ties. Frequent contacts at political as well as at official levels and the regular bilateral dialogue on a wide range of issues of mutual interest is reflective of the qualitative transformation in bilateral ties. Prime Minister's visit has resulted in taking this relationship to higher plane.

Details of visits undertaken by EAM

Sri Lanka

EAM Shri K. Natwar Singh visited Sri Lanka on June 9-11, 2005. EAM co-chaired the sixth meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission along with the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister. During his meetings with the Sri Lankan President, Prime Minister and other leaders, the whole range of bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed. Ways and means of adding further momentum and substance to the existing excellent bilateral relations were also discussed.

Korea

EAM visited Seoul on June 1, 2005 during a transit halt and held bilateral talks with Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea (ROK) Mr. Ban Ki-Moon. Both sides reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction over the recent positive developments in the relationship following the visit of the ROK President to India in October 2004. Government of India attaches great importance to development of relations with ROK. The "Long-term Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity" established between the two countries during the visit of the ROK

President to India in October 2004 symbolises the political commitment on both sides to fully utilise the substantial potential and opportunities for deepening mutually beneficial cooperation by taking advantage of their economic complementarities and political convergences.

Russia

EAM visited Vladivostok on 2nd June to participate in the Fourth India-Russia-China Trilateral Ministerial Meeting. Issues of mutual concern were discussed. The three Foreign Ministers agreed that terrorism should be combated in a consistent, sustained and comprehensive manner without any double standards. They underscored the need for coordinated action between the law enforcement authorities of the three countries to act against illegal drug-trafficking and other manifestations of transborder crimes. They acknowledged the considerable potential for mutually beneficial cooperation between Russia, India and China in such spheres as transport, agriculture, energy and high technologies. EAM also met the Russian and the Chinese Foreign Ministers separately in bilateral exchanges.

Kazakhstan

EAM visited Astana, Kazakhstan from 4-5 July, 2005 as the Head of the Indian delegation for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit Meeting. In addition to attending the Summit meeting, where India was admitted as an 'Observer' of the SCO, EAM had bilateral meetings with leaders of delegations of SCO Member and Observer countries. The member countries decided to strengthen the fight against terrorism, separatism, extremism and other challenges and threats. They would also endeavour to expand cooperation among themselves in the economic field in multilateral forums, which should lead to enhanced trade, and economic cooperation amongst the members.

Senegal

EAM visited Senegal from 25-26 May 2005. He held wide-ranging discussions with the President and Foreign Minister of Senegal on bilateral relations. Both sides noted with satisfaction the steady growth in terms of trade, investment and exchange of high level visits. EAM also discussed UN reforms and India's claim to a permanent seat in expanded UNSC. Senegal expressed its support for India's legitimate claim to permanent membership with veto power. India has approved various lines of credit for Senegal for implementation of projects in areas such as irrigation, transport, railways, IT, steel, infrastructure, agriculture, SMEs etc. India is setting up Technology Demonstration Centre in Dakar which will help increase bilateral cooperation in the SME and other areas. India is conducting a feasibility study and detailed project report for a 900 km railway link between Dakar and Ziguinchor in Senegal.

The UK

EAM visited the UK on 27 June 2005. EAM delivered a speech at Chhatam House on 'India in the next decade' and held bilateral talks with Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. Bilateral, regional and global developments of mutual interest were discussed. The UK side agreed to review the Travel Advisory on India. The UK is India's strategic partner and bilateral relations are marked by frequent exchange of high level visits.

EAM also visited London from July 8-11, 2005 to attend the G-4 Foreign Ministers Meeting. The G-4 Foreign Ministers met in London on 8th July with the Foreign Minister of Ghana as Chairman of the African Core Group of Three. They agreed to explore a common draft resolution and the prospects of joint action.

ITALY

EAM visited Italy on 20-21 June 05 and met with his

counterpart, Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr. Gianfranco Fini. EAM and Foreign Minister Fini reviewed progress in bilateral relations since President Ciampi's visit to India in February 2005. EAM also met with 20 leading Italian CEOs with whom he expressed deep interest in expanding bilateral trade investment and economic cooperation. Indo-Italian relations are marked by civilizational links and are based on shared values and mutual interest.

HUNGARY

EAM visited Hungary from June 23-25, 2005 at the invitation of his Hungarian counterpart. The entire gamut of Indo-Hungarian relations was reviewed, including measures to strengthen cooperation in the economic and commercial sphere, science and technology, culture, education. An Economic Cooperation Agreement was signed. EAM unveiled the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at Balaton Fured. Efforts are being made to further diversify and deepen bilateral ties in all areas of mutual importance. Institutional mechanisms such as Joint Commission and Foreign Office Consultations are being actively pursued.

NORWAY

EAM paid an official visit to Norway on June 16-17, 2005 at the invitation of Norwegian Foreign Minister Jan Petersen. EAM co-chaired the first Indo-Norwegian Joint Commission Meeting. Bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern have been discussed with focus on strengthening economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. Institutional mechanisms like Joint Commission; Foreign Office Consultations have been activated. A Joint Working Group (JWG) on Hydrocarbons is being used to forge close cooperation in energy sector. New JWGs on S&T and Culture have been established and JWGs on Trade & Investment and Shipping have been proposed.

BELGIUM

EAM visited Brussels to attend the meeting of G-4 Foreign Ministers held in Brussels on June 22, 2005. During their meeting in Brussels on June 22, 2005, G-4 Foreign Ministers discussed their efforts at furthering UN Security Council reform. They expressed their resolve to introduce the text of the framework resolution, leading to its adoption by the General Assembly after AU and CARICOM Summit meetings in July.

USA

EAM visited USA to attend the Meeting of G-4 Foreign Ministers held in New York from July 16-17, 2005. On July 17, 2005, Foreign Ministers of the Group of 4 (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) and Ministers from the African Union Follow-Up Mechanism on the Reform of the United Nations (Nigeria, South Africa, Libya and Egypt) met and discussed the way forward and prospects for common action between the AU and the G-4 with regard to UN reform and the reform of the Security Council. They agreed to establish a joint mechanism and directed their Permanent Representatives to work expeditiously to explore ways to overcome the differences and arrive at a common position.

Immunization Plan

603. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI GANESH SINGH :

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

(a) whether experts have questioned the immunization plan as its emphasis on the polio campaign has sidelined the routine immunization plan as reported in the 'Hindu' dated July 1, 2005;

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

(c) whether diseases including diphtheria, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and measles have increased over the years;

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No Sir, the Polio Campaign has not sidelined the Routine Immunization Programme. However, experts have advised for measures aimed at further improving the implementation of Routine Programme in the States with the objective of achieving 100% immunization.

(c) The trend in the country for the last 5-6 years shows that Whooping Cough, and Measles cases have remained static and Poliomyelitis has declined significantly. However, there has been an increase in number of Diphtheria cases. In 2003 the reported Diphtheria cases were 4237 as against 8465 in 2004.

(d) and (e) In order to further strengthen Routine Immunization certain initiatives have been taken. The Routine Immunization strengthening is also one of the thrust areas in National Rural Health Mission. The measure taken to strengthen Immunization programme are:-

- (i) Mobilization of children in the session site by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)/ Aganwadi Worker (AWW) etc,
- (ii) Strengthening the immunization services in urban slums,
- (iii) Support for vaccine delivery in outreach sessions,
- (iv) Introduction of Auto Disable Syringes in immunization for all antigens,

(v) Introduction of 10 doses BCG in place of 20 doses to ensure availability of BCG in session sites.

(vi) Strengthen supportive supervision and monitoring.

[Translation]

Use of Old Machines for Coal Mining

604. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coal production in Murpar and Bandar Coal Mines of Western Coalfields in Maharashtra is being carried out with the help of old machines;

(b) if so, whether the lower production due to such machines has been estimated;

(c) whether the Government has planned to purchase new machines for these mines; and

(d) if so, the time by which new machines will be provided to these coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a), (c) and (d) As reported by Coal India Limited, Murpar underground mine is located in Bandar Coal Block. There is no coal mine in the name of Bandar. The production operation is being carried out by Side Discharge Loaders in Murpar underground mine. As a procedural cycle, the old machines which outlive their specified lives, are replaced by new machines. Recently, one such Side Discharge Loader has been surveyed off and has been replaced with higher capacity Load Haul Dumper. Further, two old Side Discharge Loaders have been replaced by one higher capacity Load Haul Dumper. Both the Load Haul Dumpers are in operation at Murpar underground mine.

(b) No, Sir. The low production is mainly due to poor roof condition, thin seam and excessive seepage of water from Strata.

[English]

Poor Service of BSNL

605. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the service of BSNL in the country particularly in far flung areas/remote areas is not satisfactory;

(b) whether due to poor service of BSNL, the number of subscribers is gradually declining; and

(c) if so, the specific 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) The telecom services of BSNL in the country particularly in far flung/remote areas are generally satisfactory. However, sometimes telecom services are interrupted due to prolonged commercial power supply failure or due to non-availability of standard power supply.

(b) No, Sir.

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

New Schemes for Postal Department

606. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new schemes proposed by the Department of Posts during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the amount allocated for the first three years for the above schemes; and

(c) the action plan prepared to implement the above schemes effectively and the success achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The details of the New Schemes proposed by the Department of Posts for the Tenth Five Year Plan Period along with the details of funds allocated for the first three years are given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Plan Schemes	Financial Allocation		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Modernization of Circle Stamp Depots	0.24	0.01	0.66
2.	Computerization of International Mail Processing	1.26	2.06	Nil
3.	National Data Centre	5.00	0.550	0.10
4.	Research & Development	1.00	0.07	1.00
5.	Establishment of Express Parcel Post Centres	0.50	0.01	1.00
6.	e-post	0.50	2.30	0.71
7.	e-Billpost	0.50	3.00	0.25
8.	New Products and services including	5.00	3.60	3.00

1	2	3	4	5
development of financial products and services				
9. Improvement of quality of Services		Nil	Nil	2.34

(c) The phase of implementation of the schemes is approved by the competent authority when approving the plan schemes based on the recommendations of the scrutinizing agencies. Based on this phasing and the resources and physical targets given under Annual Plans, the schemes are implemented. These targets are also monitored at various levels in the Department, the Planning Commission etc. to ensure effective compliance.

Export of Coal

607. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has stopped export of coal by the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries;

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

(c) the impact thereof on price and supply of coal to Non-core Sector and bulk industrial consumers; and

(d) the measures being taken to bring more transparency in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The quantity involved on export of coal is very meagre which amounts to 0.007% of the total dispatch

made by Coal India Limited during 2004-05. Therefore there is as such no impact on price and supply of coal to Non-core Sector and bulk industrial consumers.

(d) The system of export of coal is transparent and working to the satisfaction of the importing countries.

[Translation]

Tripnosomiasis Disease

608. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the incidents of human beings getting infected by the tripnosomiasis, a disease found in animals, as has been reported in the 'Dainik Bhaskar' of May 27, 2005;

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

(c) the research being conducted by the Government to fight the disease;

(d) whether any help has been sought for from WHO, which is already conducting research on the disease; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) Govt. is aware of a stray incident of trypanosomiasis in human being in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra in October, 2004. The Govt. of India constituted a Multidisciplinary team for investigation of the case. The clinico-epidemiological investigation of the reported case revealed that it was an isolated case of infection caused by *trypanosoma evansi* in human beings which is prevalent amongst cattle in the area. It is a

possibility that the same parasite got entry in an individual because of his occupation. The World Health Organisation (WHO) had extended technical support in the case management.

[English]

Health Package

609. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the National Commission on Macro Economics and Health has suggested a health package of Rs. 1, 165 for every citizen in the country per year;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions/recommendations made by the Commission; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The National Commission on Macro Economic and Health has submitted its draft report for the consideration of the Co-Chairpersons of the Commission, namely, Union Finance Minister and Union Health and Family Welfare Minister. The report is still to be finalized.

Reforms in Coal Sector

610. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering reforms in the coal sector; and

(b) if so, the broad spectrum of the reforms contemplated and the decision taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) An Expert Committee has been constituted by the Government to draw a road map for coal sector. The Committee is likely to submit its interim report shortly.

Amount Collected by Major Ports

*611. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of revenue and royalty received by various major ports in the country from private terminals during the last three years; and

(b) the manner in which the amount so received by each port has been utilised during the said years?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU) : (a) The amount of revenue and royalty received by various major ports in the country from private terminals during the last three years are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Port	(Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Jawaharlal Nehru	116.99
2.	Kandla	76.28
3.	Tuticorin	26.12
4.	Chennai	183.99

*The reply was subsequently corrected through a correcting statement made in the House on 24.08.2005 and was also placed in the Library under LT No.2765/2005. In reply to Part (a) Sl.No.11 the amount collected by Kolkata port has been corrected as Rs.28.40 crore in substitution of Rs.36.42 crore.

1	2	3
5.	Mormugao	4.49
6.	Visakhapatnam	15.37
7.	Paradip	Nil
8.	New Mangalore	Nil
9.	Mumbai	Nil
10.	Cochin	Nil
11.	Kolkata	36.42
12.	Ennor Port Limited	6.78

(b) The revenue received from the private terminals is treated as part of the operating income of the Port and utilised for port operations and development.

Deepening of Port Channels

612. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to invite private companies in the activity related to deepening of port channels;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposes to be taken towards the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Deepening of port channels essentially involves capital dredging in these channels. Under the extant policy, all ports are required to follow the competitive bidding process for award of contracts for capital dredging in which private companies are allowed to participate. The policy further envisages first right of refusal to Indian

dredging companies provided they fulfill certain specified conditions.

Recruitment of Truck/Trailer Drivers

613. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the KGL company of Dubai has again started recruiting truck/trailer drivers in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the safety of these drivers abroad and to ensure that they are not forced to travel to Iraq as was done earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :

(a) to (c) There have been Press reports about M/s KGL recruiting truck and trailer drivers for Iraq. M/s Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Co., Kuwait was placed in PAC list in 2001 and was removed from Prior Approval Category (PAC) list in November 2004 based on the recommendation of Embassy of India, Kuwait. The workers going to Kuwait and Jordan are required to submit employment documents duly attested by the concerned Indian Mission. Further, on the passports of the workers going to such countries, specific endorsement 'NOT FOR EMPLOYMENT IN IRAQ' is made.

However, on a review of the situation, all the Protectors of Emigrant have been directed not to give any emigration clearance at their level to Indian workers proposed to be deployed for the said company w.e.f. 22-7-2005 last year the proposals to the Ministry.

Setting up of National Drug Regulatory Authority

614. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI GANESH SINGH :
SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR :
MOHD. MUKEEM :

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV :
 SHRI UDAY SINGH :
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :
 MOHD. SHAHID :

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

(a) whether the Government has announced in the Consultative Committee meeting recently held in June, 2005 that the Government proposes to set up an independent National Drug Regulatory Authority to make drug regulations more stringent to ensure quality and standard in the drug industry with the assistance of US Food and Drug Administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms and conditions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) While inaugurating the meeting of Drugs Consultative Committee held on 23rd and 24th June, 2005 at New Delhi, Hon'ble HFM had informed the participants that the Ministry of Health is seriously examining the possibility of setting up of a Central Drug Administration/ National Drug Authority on the lines suggested in the Mashelkar Committee report.

(b) and (c) The details of the aforesaid regulatory mechanism are under finalization. No deadline has been fixed for setting up of such a regulatory mechanism.

[Translation]

**Central Marine Engineering and
 Shipping University**

615. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
 SHRI MUNSHI RAM :
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

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

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to set up Central Marine Engineering and Shipping University on the pattern of the Indian Institute of Technology;

(b) if so, the total number of such private institutions functioning at present which can be affiliated to the said university;

(c) whether the said university will not be under the purview of human resource development department;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) It is proposed to establish an Indian Maritime University to take care of the requirements in maritime sector. However, details in this regard have not yet been finalized.

[English]

Funds for Health Programme

616. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to each State during the current year for the improvement of health programme;

(b) whether the work done by the State Governments is reviewed by the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the per capita expenditure on health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The progress on implementation by the States is reviewed regularly at the National level by periodic reports, review meetings and field visits.

(d) The Government has launched a National Rural Health Mission which seeks to provide effective healthcare to rural population throughout the country. It aims to undertake architectural correction of the health system to enable it to effectively handle increased allocations as promised under the National Common Minimum Programme and promote policies that strengthen public health management and service delivery in the country. The Mission is an articulation of the commitment of the Government to raise public spending on health from 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP.

Statement

Scheme-wise, state-wise allocations under Major Disease Control and RCH-II programmes for the year 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/UTs	TB	Leprons	IDSP	IDD	Blindness	NVBDCP	AIDS	RCH-II
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.05	11.19		6.00	17.50	236.96	289.12	45.56
Andhra Pradesh	1100.00	102.50	610.00	4.50	528.76	862.37	7511.86	1345.88
Arunachal Pradesh	55.31	50.03		13.00	21.00	1053.66	56.69	217.87
Assam	1337.50	54.45		13.00	115.00	3035.10	1395.18	675.67
Bihar	1270.28	409.21		3.50	284.52	4736.19	1757.78	1026.73
Chandigarh	15.16	10.65	46.00	6.00	29.00	69.62	438.84	25.42
Chhattisgarh	740.21	238.80	305.00	3.50	271.78	2114.72	916.54	549.15
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.37	9.35		5.00	4.50	50.09	9.08	26.25
Daman and Diu	3.37	10.04		6.00	11.00	11.66	158.94	27.56
Delhi	232.42	63.41	177.00	5.50	63.00	42.51	2273.02	187.64

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Goa	19.92	17.05	59.00	4.00	68.44	21.13	604.78	8.47
Gujarat	775.35	114.90	440.00	5.00	621.44	838.84	4163.1	680.47
Haryana	200.00	33.94	283.00	6.00	184.52	122.76	724.35	38.14
Himachal Pradesh	93.47	35.97	360.00	4.50	122.18	31.72	903.45	321.31
Jammu and Kashmir	154.76	52.45		3.50	216.35	50.96	597.74	374.27
Jharkhand	957.30	346.80		3.50	183.74	2179.13	634.15	586.89
Karnataka	807.30	80.42	620.00	9.00	462.08	385.99	2071.35	1007.12
Kerala	487.27	24.07	330.00	5.00	270.19	91.53	2251.61	582.97
Lakshadweep	1.68	6.52		5.00	6.00	8.27	125.59	25.23
Madhya Pradesh	925.51	354.52	900.00	3.50	449.50	1897.77	1779.61	1416.47
Maharashtra	1483.27	148.23	890.00	3.50	351.07	768.09	5202.27	1353.56
Manipur	120.68	32.09	172.00	12.00	30.00	531.37	1576.5	198.54
Meghalaya	115.66	33.15	164.00	12.00	15.50	729.00	328.71	151.12
Mizoram	45.25	35.07	149.00	13.00	23.50	677.82	76.16	155.07
Nagaland	100.56	78.57	164.00	12.00	20.50	732.23	1405.36	169.71
Orissa	300.00	292.58	425.00	7.00	326.64	4027.67	1563.29	1038.04
Pondicherry	16.84	11.28		2.50	24.00	31.77	200.08	71.35
Punjab	372.35	47.38	55.00	4.75	148.39	140.70	924.24	483.47
Rajasthan	855.75	73.16	500.00	5.50	554.79	1661.86	1280.72	1023.35
Sikkim	25.14	23.92		13.00	13.50	24.65	391.92	91.69
Tamil Nadu	951.56	80.81	760.00	4.50	1294.39	358.60	4329.04	1018.25
Tripura	160.90	21.12	151.00	12.00	61.00	1616.66	34.59	136.21
Uttar Pradesh	2545.16	449.94		5.00	1061.06	1121.00	1267.83	2082.02

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Uttaranchal		302.49	108.93	300.00	6.75	164.77	58.44	1542.66	540.34
West Bengal		1228.91	257.09	290.00	3.50	390.41	1231.17	4301.47	1137.61
Total		17819.74	3739.60	8150.00	282.00	8410.02	31552.00	54681.10	15252.83

Failure to use Central Funds

617. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that a few State Governments have failed to utilize central funds meant for development of roads, conservation of forest, wild life and other such projects;

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

(c) the total funds released and utilized for the above said projects during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed for speedy implementation of the delayed projects;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Centralised Accident and Trauma Services

618. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centralised Accident and Trauma Services has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the details of major facilities and services under this;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up such services in other parts of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS) project is functional since 1991.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

(c) The Centralised Accident & Trauma Services (CATS), an autonomous body under the Government of NCT of Delhi, have deployed 35 ambulances in different areas of Delhi and round the clock, free medical emergency service is provided to persons involved in accident/trauma conditions. At present, CATS is providing following services;

(i) Cardio Pulmonary Train Resuscitation.

(ii) Clearing air passages & providing oxygen, artificial respiration during transportation of victims.

(iii) Splints for immobilizing the fracture part of the body.

(iv) Transportation of victims from site of occurrence to Hospital.

(v) Stretcher-cum- trolley.

(vi) Wireless communication with CATS Control Room, Police Control room and Fire Control Room.

(d) and (e) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to set up such services in their States keeping in view their priorities and availability of resources. The Central Government have a scheme under which financial assistance upto Rs.1.50 crores is provided to the State Government Hospitals located on National Highways for Upgradation and strengthening of Emergency (Trauma Care) facilities.

[Translation]

Meningococemia Disease

619. SHRI MUNSHI RAM :
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :
MOHD. SHAHID :

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

- (a) whether the Government has ascertained the causes of meningococemia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) States which have been affected by this disease;
- (d) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Govt. to check this disease and to prevent the same in future;
- (e) if so, the funds allotted to each State for combating it;
- (f) whether the reasons for shortage of medicines for the disease has been ascertained;
- (g) whether some patients have died owing to shortage of medicines for this disease; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Meningococcal disease is an acute bacterial disease caused by the bacterium Meningococcus. The cases were reported from Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

(d) and (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to prevent the disease and to provide the required facilities. Regular monitoring of disease is still continuing by the concerned State Governments. It was made mandatory to notify the disease. Efforts were made

for early diagnosis and prompt treatment; Contact tracking of the patients and providing chemoprophylaxis. IEC activities were carried out with the participation of the communities. A Control Room has been set up at National Institute of Communicable Diseases to receive samples from hospitals to monitor and review the situation. Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme has been launched to strengthen surveillance activities and promote early detection of outbreak and institute appropriate action for prevention and control of epidemic communicable diseases including Meningococemia.

(f) to (h) Adequate stock of medicines were available to treat the cases and to provide chemoprophylaxis to the patients.

Modernisation of Hospitals

620. SHRI SURAJ SINGH :
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH :

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

- (a) whether a large influx of patients from backward States to Delhi have recently come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, whether this has created tremendous pressure on various hospitals in Delhi;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) whether irregularities have been noticed in the admission of patients in AIIMS;
- (e) if so, whether some patients are made to wait for longer period in cases of operations and tests while others get treatment more quickly by other means;
- (f) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (g) whether effective measures have been undertaken to upgrade and modernize the hospitals in various parts of the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The patients from various states do report for treatment to various Central Government Hospitals in Delhi. Special clinics are organized in the afternoon to control the rush.

(d) to (f) No incidence of irregularity in admissions has been noticed in the admission of patients in AIIMS. While the patients have to wait for their turn, various Departments are strengthened as per the need and available resources to reduce the waiting period.

(g) and (h) It is proposed to set up one AIIMS like institution each in the states of Bihar (Patna), Chhatisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubneshwar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh). In addition, medical institutions namely, (1) Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, (2) Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi, (3) Govt. Medical College, Jammu (4) Kolkata Medical College, Kolkata (5) Govt. Medical College, Salem, Tamil Nadu (6) Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad and (7) Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati are proposed to be strengthened to the level of AIIMS like institution.

[English]

Kasaragod-Kovalam Waterways

621. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala Government has sought clearance for its proposal for development of the Kasaragod-Kovalam waterways; and

(b) if so, the details and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT

AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Government of Kerala had pursued for declaration of extension of National Waterway No. 3 from Kottapuram to Kasaragod and Kollam to Kovalam as a National Waterway. However, keeping in view the fact that the existing waterway is yet to become fully operational due to various problems, such as fishing stakes on fairway, problem of dumping dredged material, etc., the Government has decided not to pursue the said declaration proposal until the existing waterway becomes fully operational.

[Translation]

Cost Escalation of Projects

622. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has estimated the cost escalation of the major projects due to their non-completion on time;

(b) if so, the total amount of cost escalation so far of major projects under various ministries;

(c) the total number of projects sanctioned and the number of projects on which the work is going on smoothly and the number of the projects on which the progress of work tardy;

(d) whether the Government is examining the projects cost of which has nearly doubled;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the shortcomings detected; and

(f) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for timely completion of the projects to avoid cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1st June, 2005, 136 Major and Mega projects belonging to 12 sectors have suffered cost escalation of 40.7% on account of various reasons including non-completion in time.

(c) There are 313 sanctioned major and mega projects on the monitor. 98 projects have reported no cost and time overrun.

(d) Yes, Sir. Government is periodically reviewing the status of projects which have suffered cost and time overrun.

(e) The shortcomings in completion of these projects include: (i) financial Constraints, (ii) delay in Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation, (iii) delay in Award of Contracts, (iv) delay in Equipment Supply and Construction, (v) slow progress by Contractors, (vi) delay in Environment and others clearance, and (vii) geological Surprises.

(f) The steps taken to ensure timely completion of these projects are as follows:-

- (i) adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of project before investment approval;
- (ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;
- (iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government;
- (iv) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearance, infrastructure facilities and ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.
- (v) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;
- (vi) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;

(vii) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;

(viii) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and

(ix) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

[English]

Maintenance and upgradation of National Highways

623. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR :
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI :
SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :

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

(a) fund allocation for maintenance and upgradation of National Highways (NHs) during the Financial Year 2004-2005 and 2005-06, year-wise;

(b) funds sub-allotted to States during the above years and the amount utilized year-wise and NH-wise;

(c) whether the aforesaid allocation is inadequate in case of Uttaranchal;

(d) if so, the steps taken to rectify the same;

(e) whether proposals for declaration of new NHs and repair/upgradation of existing highways are pending with the Government particularly from Karnataka;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The fund allocated for maintenance and upgradation of National Highways during the financial year 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as under :

	2004-05 (Rs. in crores)	2005-06 (Rs. in crores)
Upgradation of National Highways	6958.70	10257.34
Maintenance	745.56	769.14

(b) The funds for development and maintenance of National Highways are allocated state-wise and not National Highways-wise, A statement-I indicating State-wise allocation and utilization of funds for development and maintenance of National Highway during the financial year 2004-2005 and 2005-06 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The funds for upgradation and maintenance of National Highways to the states including Uttaranchal

are provided according to the availability of fund, inter se priority of works and lengths of National Highways. Accordingly the fund provided to Uttaranchal is not inadequate.

(e) to (g) The details of proposals for declaration of State roads as National Highways received from various State Governments including Karnataka are given in the enclosed statement-II. In February, 2004, Government had declared 7457 kms. of State roads as National Highways, At present, emphasis is being given at present for development of existing National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways. All State Governments were informed accordingly.

The details of pending proposals with the Government as received from various States including that of Karnataka for repair/development of existing National Highways are given in the enclosed statement-III. Repair and development of National Highways is a continuous process and the same are being done as per availability of funds and inter-se priority of works.

Statement-I

Details of Statewise allocation and utilisation of funds for Development of National Highways during 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Rupees in Crores)

Name of the States/UTs	2004-05				2005-06			
	National Highways Development		Maintenance and Repair		National Highways Development		Maintenance and Repair	
	Alloca- tion	Expendi- ture	Alloca- tion	Expendi- ture	Alloca- tion	Expendi- ture (as on 30.06.2005)	Alloca- tion	Expendi- ture (as on 30.06.2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	96.74	89.86	35.13	20.65	86.23	17.19	43.78	6.65
Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	5.91	0.41	0.10	7.00	0.00	0.32	0.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Assam	79.81	77.84	26.59	11.28	61.50	6.00	25.08	2.10
Bihar	79.51	52.64	46.28	22.25	79.00	17.00	30.78	98.80
Chandigarh	1.00	1.00	0.93	0.40	2.00	0.20	0.50	0.30
Chhattisgarh	36.26	34.89	26.99	16.69	53.70	8.73	19.03	2.78
Delhi	4.00	3.95	0.75	0.00	5.50	0.35	0.42	0.00
Goa	5.00	5.00	2.80	1.75	5.50	0.00	25.5	0.15
Gujarat	70.35	53.64	34.86	26.09	69.77	17.64	27.00	1.38
Haryana	46.00	37.87	11.80	3.96	47.00	9.19	10.52	2.45
Himachal Pradesh	45.00	40.48	17.75	13.53	42.00	9.19	14.70	3.62
Jammu and Kashmir	0.22	0.21	0.44	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00
Jharkhand	35.00	14.04	23.28	7.63	35.00	7.78	17.96	3.06
Karnataka	81.51	76.69	34.40	31.56	74.61	8.31	33.60	5.63
Kerala	64.69	58.38	13.20	7.40	55.96	8.42	33.19	1.55
Madhya Pradesh	94.90	82.86	59.49	49.85	93.03	14.89	54.14	6.88
Maharashtra	78.98	65.07	48.48	41.61	100.65	9.77	42.50	2.30
Manipur	14.07	13.78	8.79	3.20	16.07	0.21	10.08	0.56
Meghalaya	28.43	28.26	14.63	9.11	26.21	2.60	8.63	1.14
Mizoram	25.00	24.91	4.87	1.90	21.50	3.90	4.33	1.05
Nagaland	16.00	16.00	3.79	1.13	11.00	0.86	3.44	0.17
Orissa	74.55	72.33	37.24	24.06	67.63	8.72	34.56	1.81
Pondicherry	2.13	2.07	0.84	0.65	5.00	0.31	0.80	2.53
Punjab	54.79	50.72	20.26	14.52	49.01	21.56	18.68	0.04
Rajasthan	64.72	46.34	53.09	39.48	75.36	23.90	45.54	11.61
Tamil Nadu	86.55	65.15	37.99	29.18	90.91	15.00	57.92	10.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Uttaranchal	28.44	26.48	14.60	7.99	25.06	11.72	11.60	2.71
Uttar Pradesh	186.43	186.40	53.87	44.15	139.30	61.71	46.32	5.48
West Bengal	183.70	71.90	24.95	15.79	256.30	11.26	21.40	4.48
Andaman and Nicobar Islands					5.00	0.00		

Note : Allocations for National Highways Development include funds for National Highways (Original) [NH(O)], Permanent Bridge Fee Fund (PBFF) and Externally Aided Projects (EAP)

Statement-II

Details of Proposals received for declaration of New National Highways

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of proposals received	Length (in kms.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	4590.00
2.	Gujarat	19	3806.00
3.	Karnataka	20	4518.10
4.	Kerala	1	164.00
5.	Haryana	3	60.40
6.	Meghalaya	2	442.00
7.	Nagaland	3	725.00
8.	Orissa	13	1584.87
9.	Rajasthan	17	2715.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	2	152.00
11.	Tripura	1	310.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	7	943.23

Statement-III

Details of pending Proposals for Upgradation/Repairs of Existing National Highways

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Upgradation/Repairs of National Highways	
		No. of pending proposals	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	72.04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	14.80
3.	Assam	26	99.66
4.	Bihar	8	67.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	19	19.82
6.	Delhi	3	8.50
7.	Gujarat	19	57.39
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13	7.92
9.	Haryana	7	24.83
10.	Jharkhand	6	15.91

1	2	3	4
11.	Karnataka	16	38.00
12.	Kerala	6	13.20
13.	Madhya Pradesh	60	146.72
14.	Maharashtra	2	150.00
15.	Manipur	3	1.33
16.	Meghalaya	5	27.46
17.	Mizoram	3	12.42
18.	Nagaland	5	30.31
19.	Orissa	14	49.01
20.	Punjab	12	33.20
21.	Pondicherry	3	10.42
22.	Rajasthan	25	70.52
23.	Tamil Nadu	31	48.91
24.	Uttar Pradesh	28	63.97
25.	Uttaranchal	9	7.80
26.	West Bengal	27	32.13

[Translation]

Proper utilization of External Assistance

624. SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has properly utilized the approved external assistance amounts on the road projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total external assistance amount provided for road projects so far; and

(e) the interest paid so far due to non-utilisation of external assistance amount alongwith the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of BSNL SIM Cards

625. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for short supply of BSNL SIM Card against its demand in the country;

(b) the time by which the demand subscribers is likely to be met;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to solve the problem of network in the areas facing this problem; and

(d) the number of people targeted to be provided SIM Cards during the year 2005-06 and the number of applications of subscribers lying pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED) : (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) cellular services has been well received by the public and as a result its services has been subscribed by around 1,02,51,184 subscribers against a capacity of 1,03,47,573 lines. The release of connections is controlled temporarily in various parts of the country as a result of constraint in capacity.

(b) and (c) BSNL has already taken action to place purchase Order to expand its cellular network by 14 M

lines across the country. The network roll out is in various stages of progress and the capacities are being realized since last month and it is expected that the entire planned capacity will be available during the current financial year.

(d) BSNL has set a target of releasing 65 lakhs cellular connections during the current financial year. As on 30.06.2005, around 13,86,076 applicants are in waiting list seeking BSNL cellular connections.

[English]

Signing of MOU with China

626. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and China have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sports cooperation as reported in the Hindu dated July 3, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sports Cooperation was signed on 1st July, 2005 between India and China.

(b) As per MoU, there will be exchange of literature, information and expertise related to the field of physical education and sports between both the countries. Besides, there will be exchange of sportspersons in bilateral and multilateral competitions. The MoU also covers exchange of experts, coaches, referees, judges, sports officials, administrators and sports scientists. MoU also envisages participation of experts & sports officials in national/international workshops/seminars organized in each country and to deliver lectures in national level academic institutions for sports and physical education.

(c) Sports Authority of India and Human Resource Development Centre under General Administration of Sports in China have been identified as the nodal agencies for exchange of experts.

Allocation of funds for Combating Diseases

627. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR :
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU :
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY :
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

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

(a) the total number of TB, Goitre, Cancer, AIDS, Heart Patients and disabled in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for all these diseases;

(c) the details of death caused by the aforesaid diseases, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government alongwith the fund allotted to control and detect the diseases effectively?

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

[Translation]

Availability of BSNL Cash Cards

628. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that cash cards and regular cards of BSNL are not available in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, since when these cards are not available;

- (c) the details thereof;
- (d) the action taken against the persons responsible for it; and
- (e) the steps taken for augmenting the availability of cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The post paid cellular connections are available on demand. However, due to constraints in the network capacity, the release of pre-paid connections is controlled temporarily in some parts of Rajasthan.

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

(e) BSNL is already in the process of augmenting the network capacity by 8.5 lakhs lines in Rajasthan State. The network rollout is in progress and cellular connections are being released progressively commensurate with the availability of capacity.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka

629. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of telephone exchanges functioning in Karnataka particularly in Bellary district and their exchange-wise capacity as on date;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase the present capacity of the existing telephone exchanges and also to open some new telephone exchanges;
- (c) if so, the details of the same; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to exhaust the waiting list in the said district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) There are 2708 telephone exchanges functioning in Karnataka and 121 telephone exchanges in Bellary district. The details of telephone exchanges in Bellary district are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The capacity of telephone exchanges is being augmented through WLL technology. There are no plans to open new telephone exchanges.

(c) There is a plan to install additional CDMA WLL capacity of 750 Lines BTS each in H.B. Halli, Bellary, Harapanahalli, Huvinahadagali, Kudligi, Sandur and Siruguppa SDCAs in Bellary Telecom District.

(d) Presently, there is no waiting list in Bellary Telecom District.

Statement

Exchange and their capacity in Bellary Telecom District

Sl. No.	Exchange Name	Capacity of the Exchange
1	2	3
1.	Arasikere	248
2.	Bachigondanhali	152
3.	Balakundi	96
4.	Bandri	152
5.	Bandri (HPN)	184
6.	Banvikal	152
7.	Bellary APMC Yard	1256
8.	Bellary Contt.	5512

1	2	3
9.	Bellary Corntt.	250
10.	Bellary G. Nagar	4768
11.	Bellary G. Nagar	250
12.	Bellary Main	11536
13.	Bellary Main	250
14.	Bellary R. Colony	1256
15.	Bellary Sastryr Nagar	3128
16.	Bevinahalli	184
17.	Bhagewadi	152
18.	Chellagurki	152
19.	Chigateri	248
20.	Chikkajogihalli	336
21.	Choranur	184
22.	Dammur	192
23.	Daroji	120
24.	Deogiri	184
25.	Devasamudra	248
26.	Donimalai	1512
27.	Emmiganur	368
28.	Gadiganur	152
29.	Garaga Nagalapura	152
30.	Gudekota	184
31.	Gundagatti	152
32.	H. Veerapura	184

1	2	3
33.	H.B. Halli	2272
34.	Hagari	248
35.	Halawagalu	312
36.	Hampasagar	336
37.	Hanasi	152
38.	Harakabhavi	152
39.	Harapanahalli	2000
40.	Hatcholli	152
41.	Hire Hadagali	336
42.	Hiremallanakeri	184
43.	Hire Magalageri	184
44.	Holalu	336
45.	Hospet J.P. Nagar	1512
46.	Hospet M.J. Nagar	3000
47.	Hospet Main	10000
48.	Hospet Main	224
49.	Hospet TB. Dam	1256
50.	Huralihal	152
51.	Huvinhadagali	1192
52.	Ittigi	336
53.	Jalihai	152
54.	K. Ayyanahalli	152
55.	K. Hosahalli	512
56.	K. Verapura	120

1	2	3	1	2	3
57.	Kallukamba	248	81.	Morigere	136
58.	Kamalapur	1000	82.	Nagathibasapur	152
59.	Kamba Tharahalli	248	83.	Nandibevur	152
60.	Kammarchedu	192	84.	Nandihalli	88
61.	Kampli	2000	85.	Neelagund	152
62.	Kanchikeri	248	86.	Nimbalgeri	152
63.	Kappagal	184	87.	Nittur	184
64.	Karur	488	88.	Papinayakanhalli	152
65.	Kogali	152	89.	Ramasagar	488
66.	Kolagallu	152	90.	Raravi	184
67.	Kombli	152	91.	Sanapur	184
68.	Koralagundi	152	92.	Sandur	1640
69.	Kottur	1480	93.	Siddammanahalli	184
70.	Kudithini	744	94.	Sindigere	184
71.	Kudligi	1512	95.	Siraguppa Main	2888
72.	Kuddudharhal	152	96.	Sirigere	488
73.	Kurugodu	1000	97.	Sogi	184
74.	M.M. Halli	1000	98.	Somsamudra	184
75.	Madhihalli	152	99.	Sridharagadda	120
76.	Magala	152	100.	Suggenehalli	184
77.	Mattihalli	320	101.	Talur	152
78.	Metri	152	102.	Tambrahalli	352
79.	Mincheri	120	103.	Taranagar	184
80.	Moka	488	104.	Tekkalkota	488

1	2	3
105.	Telgi	336
106.	Timmalapur	152
107.	Toolahalli	152
108.	Torangallu	808
109.	Torangallu	250
110.	Uchangidurga	248
111.	Ujjini	336
112.	Ulavatti	152
113.	Uppinayakhalli	248
114.	Uttangi	152
115.	Vaddatti	152
116.	Vannenur	248
117.	Vidyanagar JVSL	1000
118.	Virupapura	152
119.	Y. Budihal	120
120.	Yerangli	152
121.	Yeshavant Nagar	152

Irregularities in AIIMS

630. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has pointed out glaring lacunae in grant of financial assistance, irregular payments of transport allowance and deficient procurement planning by the AIIMS etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities in AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The C and AG in Report of 2005 has pointed out irregularities in grant of financial assistance to non-entitled officers, payment of conveyance allowance to ineligible officers and of deficient procurement planning in purchase of certain equipment. They have also advised for recovery of over-payment of conveyance allowance.

According to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the financial assistance was given only to entitled category of officers. However, this matter is being settled with Director General of Audit. Further the payment of conveyance allowance to ineligible officers has been stopped w.e.f. 5.10.2004. The issue regarding recovery of over-payment is being examined by AIIMS. Instructions have also been issued to AIIMS to ensure proper procurement planning, synchronizing with construction activities.

Debit Cards of Post Offices

631. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether post offices across the country will have their own debit cards; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Department of Posts intends to introduce anytime anywhere banking for the Post Office Savings Bank account holders in which debit cards may be issued to the customers to do the transactions. However, it is in a conceptual stage and details have not been worked out.

**Public/Community Health Centres in
Rural Areas**

632. DR. K. DHANARAJU :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :
MOHD. SHAHID :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that medical facilities in rural areas of the country are very poor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of norms laid down for opening of Public Health Centre and Community Health Centres in rural areas;

(d) the details of the public Health Centres and Community Health Centres sanctioned and opened during 2004-2005 and target fixed for 2005-06; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to set up the sanctioned Public Health Centres and Community Health Centres in each State, particularly, in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of inadequate medical facilities in some parts of rural India, which is mainly due to gaps in rural health care infrastructure and shortage of manpower.

(c) The population norms for opening of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) are as follows:

Health Institution	Population Norms	
	Plain Area	Hilly/Tribal/ Difficult Area
Primary Health Centre	30,000	20,000
Community Health Centre	1,20,000	80,000

(d) and (e) The targets for establishment of PHCs and CHCs for the year 2005-06 and achievements during 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto September, 2004) have been given in the enclosed statements. The States/UTs have been requested to fill up the existing gaps, by meeting the targets given, on priority basis.

Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), creation of new Community Health Centres (30-50 beds) as per census 2001, would be considered.

Statement

Targets and Achievements of PHCs and CHCs against targets

S.No.	State/UT	Tenth Plan Target and Achievement during			
		Targets 2005-06 PHCs	Achievement during 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto Sept.05)	Targets 2005-06 CHCs	Achievement during 2003-04 and 2004-2005 (upto Sept.2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	76	104	50	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	27	0	19	0
4.	Bihar	75	0	95	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	39	4	6	2
6.	Goa	1	0	1	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	1	23
8.	Haryana	3	6	9	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	27	0	29	0
12.	Karnataka	0	0	5	4
13.	Kerala	0	0	18	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29	1	24	0
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	21	31
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	1	10
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	2	19	1	7
20.	Orissa	0	0	25	74
21.	Punjab	0	0	3	12
22.	Rajasthan	0	0	12	11
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	2
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	55	0
25.	Tripura	9	0	2	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Uttaranchal	2	1	8	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	126	7
28.	West Bengal	110	0	62	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	6	0	2	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
All India		406	135	575	199

Note: The achievements given are the number of new centres established during the period where the tenth plan target are given.

Telephone on Demand

633. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has taken steps to provide telephone on demand;

(b) if so, the State-wise progress in this regard including Jhalawar district of Rajasthan; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to clear the waiting list for telephone connections in various States?

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

(b) Since most of the pending waiting list is in rural far flung areas which cannot be economically covered on wire line, BSNL has planned to set up the WLL infrastructure in a big way so as to minimize the waiting list as well as cater to the future demand. The Circle-wise plan for making available WLL infrastructure during the current year is given in the enclosed statement.

WLL network expansion plan in Jhalawar District is given below:

- (i) 5 numbers of CDMA WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) BTS (Base Terminal Station) of 750 lines each have been installed in Jhalrapatan, Pirawa, Dag, Choumehla and Akjera.
- (ii) 4 numbers of CDMA WLL BTS of 750 lines each have been planned for installation at

Manohartrana, Ghatoli, Khanpur and Bhawanimandi.

(c) Following steps have been taken by BSNL to clear the waiting list for telephone connection in various states:

- (i) Large Scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas to substitute the landline network.
- (ii) The norms for laying of outdoor cable for wireline connections have been relaxed from 2.5 Kms. to 5.0 Kms wherever such demand exists.
- (iii) Mobile network in all the highways, important towns, pilgrim centres and state highways are being deployed to provide coverage to more areas.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	WLL capacity planned to be made available during 2005-06
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	219750
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—
3.	Assam	44300
4.	Bihar	101000
5.	Chhattisgarh	32800
6.	Gujarat	110000
7.	Haryana	145250
8.	Himachal Pradesh	54000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	91000
10.	Jharkhand	—

1	2	3
11.	Karnataka	218250
12.	Kerala	475500
13.	Madhya Pradesh	106500
14.	Maharashtra	295250
15.	North East-I	56250
16.	North East-II	51250
17.	Orissa	50000
18.	Punjab	50250
19.	Rajasthan	203500
20.	Tamil Nadu	293250
21.	Uttar Pradesh East	57000
22.	Uttar Pradesh West	138000
23.	Uttaranchal	60000
24.	West Bengal	133750
25.	Chennai	—
26.	Kolkata	50000
Total		3036850

Poor Services in CGHS Dispensaries

634. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints from the beneficiaries of the Central Government Health Scheme that the attendance of doctors and para-medical staff is not satisfactory in dispensaries and medicines are generally not available; and

(b) If so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the condition in CGHS dispensaries and hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Occasional complaints are received regarding late attendance of CGHS Doctors and staff and non-availability of medicines in dispensaries. Adequate quantity of medicines are available in the CGHS dispensaries and are supplied to the beneficiaries on the same day. However, the medicines not available in the dispensary are procured through authorized local chemists on individual prescription basis. By and large the medicines are supplied on the next working day by the authorized local chemist or on the third day. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorized local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioners) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

Complaints are regularly monitored at dispensary level, Zonal level and Head Quarter level. There is an inbuilt mechanism to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspection and supervision. Eight special inspection teams have also been constituted to monitor the functioning of CGHS dispensaries in Delhi. Regular meetings are held with the Resident Welfare Associations for improving the functioning of CGHS dispensaries.

Telephone Connection to Village Panchayat in Karnataka

635. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target for providing telephone connection in every village Panchayat of Karnataka could not be achieved during the year 2004-2005;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the action initiated to provide telephone connection in every village Panchayat of Karnataka;

(d) the names of villages where the telephone connections have been provided during 2004-05; and

(e) the target fixed for 2005-06, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) All the 5,692 Villages Panchayats in Karnataka have already been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Permanent Seat in UNSC

636. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is contemplating to stake claim for a permanent seat in the UNSC by tabling a resolution in the UN General Assembly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan is trying to scuttle our efforts through a diplomatic move as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 3, 2005;

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

(e) the countries which have supported India's claim so far; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to gather support for the above and the success achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) India, along with Brazil, Germany and Japan – now being termed as the Group of Four (G-4) countries – has introduced a Resolution on UN Security Council Reform

on July 11, 2005 in the UN General Assembly. The G-4 proposes to carry out reform through a three-step process consisting of a decision on a Frame-work Resolution, the election of new permanent members in the General Assembly and subsequently, the adoption of a resolution for revisions to the Charter after the designation of new permanent members.

(c) and (d) A group of countries, which includes Pakistan, known as the "Uniting for Consensus", is opposed to any expansion of the UN Security Council in the permanent category. They have called for an expansion in the non-permanent category only, with the possibility of re-election and longer term for the new non-permanent seats. They are actively lobbying against the G-4 Resolution.

(e) There is steady accretion of support for the G-4 Resolution which is being co-sponsored by 31 countries. In this framework, there is also steady accretion in support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Several countries—permanent members as well as others – have expressed support for India's candidature either in the UN or in the context of bilateral exchanges. Such support is expressed in different forums and forms and it is, therefore, difficult to give a definitive number on countries which have specifically supported India.

(f) India formally presented its candidature for permanent membership of the Security Council in the UN in 1994. Since then India has pursued its candidature at each session of the UN General Assembly, meetings of the Committees, on the margins of multilateral meetings, and in bilateral interactions.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English

versions) under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:—

- (1) The Drugs and Cosmetics (1st Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 35 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2005.
- (2) The Drugs and Cosmetics (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 32 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2005.
- (3) The Drugs and Cosmetics (4th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 174 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2345/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 292 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 under-sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2346/2005]

12.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Eleventh Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur) : I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.01½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Thirteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH (Bulandshahar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present* a copy of the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004 of standing committee on Rural Development.

12.01¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT**

Statements

[English]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:—

- (i) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Thirty fifth Action Taken Report of the erstwhile Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare (2003) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Thirtieth Report (Thir-

* This Report was presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 21 June, 2005, when the House was not in Session, in pursuance of the directions of Hon'ble Speaker. Hon'ble Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of the Thirteenth Report under rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

teenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2003-2004 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2347/2005]

- (ii) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Thirty-sixth Action Taken Report of the erstwhile Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (2003) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Thirty-first Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2348/2005]

- (iii) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Third Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-2005) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Thirty-third Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the erstwhile Standing Committee of Labour and Welfare (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on "The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited"; and

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2349/2005]

- (iv) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Fifth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-2005) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2004-2005 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2350/2005]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Second Report*[English]*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh) : I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2004-05) on the subject 'Scheme for Rehabilitating Women in Difficult Circumstances - Swadhar'.

12.3¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

One Hundred and Fourteenth Report*[Translation]*

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the standing committee on Home Affairs on the Displaced Person's Claims and Other Laws Repeat Bill, 2004.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

One Hundred Sixty-fourth Report*[English]*

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur) : I beg to lay on the Table copy (Hindi and English versions) of the One Hundred Sixty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on "The Manipur University Bill, 2005".

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TOURISM AND CULTURE**(I) Eighty-ninth Report***[Translation]*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Mr. Speaker, sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Eighty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2004.

(II) Evidence

SHRI ANIL BASU : Mr. Speaker, sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2004.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had said that he does not have the complete information about the Gurgaon issue and he will make a detailed statement later in the House...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen. When I stand up, please sit down and listen to me.

We shall try to expedite the Calling Attention. It has been agreed that after this, we shall take up those 'urgent matters'. I shall allow them.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has been agreed. You may just wait for another 20-30 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the Home Minister give a statement...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is present here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You need not be so advisory all the time advising. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Only prof. Malhotra's observations and the reply by the hon. Minister will be noted down. Nothing else will be recorded; i am sorry.

(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North East) : Sir, I am on a different point.

MR. SPEAKER : Not at this stage.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM : Mr. Speaker, sir, this is about calling attention. [English] Sir, we are going to discuss the atrocities committed on women in Delhi and others parts of the country and the hon. Home Minister is not present. Home Minister can do this much...(Interruptions) He is the Minister of state. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : So what? I am sure, he is a responsible Minister.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

*Not recorded.

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : He is in Rajya Sabha...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is in the Rajya Sabha, I am told.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Situation arising out of increasing incidents of atrocities on women in Delhi and other parts of the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Harishchandra Chavan - Not present.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, i call the attention of the Minister of Home affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Increasing incidents of atrocities on women in Delhi and other parts of the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to present some figures regarding the important issue raised by hon'ble Malhotra ji.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : you cannot do this. You may read the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : The date collected by National Crime Record Bureau...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have not read the first paragraph.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, I am reading the statement.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to say that I associate myself with the concern expressed by the Member's regarding the cases of crime taking place against women of the country. I would like to assure the House that the Government is completely aware of this problem and it will not leave any stone unturned to ensure the safety of the women in the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have to read the entire statement.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is something surprising. I hope the hon. Home Minister should have been here.

MR. SPEAKER : He is in the other House.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : It is a grave irregularity on the part of the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Anybody can make an error.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have got very alert Members to rectify the errors. You have given the suggestion and he has rectified. You can say, it is a very serious matter. So please allow a proper discussion in the House. No gossiping, please.

[Translation]

*SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : According to the All India data collected by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) the total number of crimes like rape, abduction and trafficking, dowry death, torture by husband and relatives reported under the various Acts like. Indecent representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, Immoral Trafficking (prevention) Act and Dowry (Prohibition) Act against women during the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (till March) are mentioned below:

2001	-	1,33,935
2002	-	1,32,803
2003	-	1,28,230
2004	-	1,33,865
From January to March 2004	-	30,114
From January to March 2005	-	29,932

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Too much whispering is going on here. You are not showing proper respect to the subject. You are not showing proper concern for the important subject.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : These figures reflect that a fall has been registered in the total number of crimes committed against women in the country during the year 2004 in comparison to the year 2001. a fall is also noticed in the crime against women during the first three months

*Also placed in Library, See No. LT 2351/2005.

of the current year in comparison to the same period during last year. However, all the figures of four years show a mixed trend. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can comment on that when you will make your submission. Everyone is dictating others.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : The total number of crimes like Dowry death, Rape, Harassment of women in the National Capital region Delhi during the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 15 July) the various sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) like section 406 dealing with crimes related to Dowry, Section 498 dealing with cruelty by Husband or in-Laws, Dowry prohibition Act, abduction/Trafficking and molestation of women are as follows:

2001	-	3,870
2002	-	4,106
2003	-	4,338
2004	-	5,568
From January to 15 July, 2004	-	3,042
From January to 15 July 2005	-	2,706

The above figures show that there has been an overall increase in the crime against women during the year 2002, 2003 and 2004 in comparison to year 2001. The figures of current year during the period of January to 15th July show an overall decrease in crime against women in comparison to the same period during last year. Whereas, it is true that there has been an increase in rape cases during the years 2003; 2004 and first seven months in the current year.

Recently the Delhi Police has taken effective mea-

asures to check the incidents of crime against women. These measures include-strengthening the crime against women Cells, setting up of the rape crisis intervention centres, constitution of special session courts having women judges, investigation of rape and other related crimes by women police officer or inclusion of women police officers in investigation teams dealing with such crimes, launching a legal awareness and publicity drive, deployment of women police constables in the PCR vehicles patrolling women colleges campus, deployment of police officials at various important places in civil uniform to keep a check on cases of women molestation and harassment, setting up of a women Helpline number 1991, constitution of a 24 hour women mobile team to attend to the immediate and emergency calls of women in problem, etc. These steps have led to a widespread awareness among women in reporting cases related to crimes against them.

Unfortunately, even though the Delhi police have taken these steps, two cases of rape have been reported at short interval. These cases received wide media coverage. The first case was related to the abduction and rape of a woman in a moving car on the night of 7/8 May, 2005 at Dhaula Kua. The police has been able to arrest one of the accused involved. Delhi Police has taken many steps to nab the other accused persons. The Delhi Police has started an extensive drive to solve the second case, also of similar nature involving the abduction and rape of a woman in a moving car at Mayapuri on the 20th July, 2005.

One of the major reasons having a bearing on the incidents of crime in Delhi is the Cosmopolitan character of the city. There is a positive co-relation between increase in crime and the population of the city. Besides population, other reasons like nomad migratory section of population, migration of population from neighboring states due to urbanisation and industrialisation, unemployment, economic inequality and the eroding social and family relations also have an adverse bearing on the crime graph of the city.

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

The analysis of data related to the rape cases in the year 2003, 2004 and 2005, reveals that in more than 97 percent cases the accused involved were either a family member, neighbour, close friend and relative who had an easy approach to the victim. Therefore, this problem can not be solved merely by action from the police. The attitude of society towards women can be changed through education and by creating social awareness in this regard. This step will go a long way in prevention of crime against women.

I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that the Government will take further steps to bring a sense of security amongst women in Delhi.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the statement of the Hon. Minister has caused us utter disappointment. It is a very disgusting and shameful situation and so is his statement. There are several issues which require serious discussion, so I do not want to raise those issues here. Atrocities on women, killing them after branding them as witches, killing them for saving family's honour, dowry problem, all these issues are different but nothing can be more erroneous than his statement that only two incidents of rape took place. I am quoting from last seven days' newspapers before you. The first newspaper is of 24th July, [English] "Unsafe Delhi- three rapes reported in 24 hours. Second paper is of 25th July [English] "25 year old raped in Delhi, two held." "Six held after South Delhi shoot-out and rape". "Yet again rape in a moving car", "Another morning another nightmare another Delhi women falls victim to a gang rape in a car not from Dhaula Kuan". [Translation] "How safe is capital for women". These newspaper headlines of last seven days speak for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Sir the statement of hon. Minister that only two incidents of rape were held in Delhi recently is not correct. The entire city is terrorised by the incidents of rape, insecurity is reigning in Delhi, women cannot move out at

night. To make such a casual statement on the situation which has arisen as a result of these incidents is not proper, this statement is really disgraceful.

Mr. Speaker Sir, when this issue was raised before Shrimati Sheila Dikshit, she replied that law and order was not under her control. Since law and order is not under Delhi Government so the onus lies on the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. Now, I will read out a statement of Shrimati Girija Vyas. She is from their party and is Chairperson of National Commission on women. She has made a statement which has been reported in the newspapers. She mentioned an incident of "rape of a deranged woman" which has been reported in the newspapers and was followed by her statement which said that Delhi was no longer safe for women. They come to the capital in search of work from across the country but owing to lack of facilities and slackness in security there is threat to their life and honour every moment.

Mr. Speaker Sir, after the statement of Shrimati Sheila Dixit and Ms. Girija Vyas and reporting by the entire media, the kind of situation which has developed in the country, I feel the Minister of Home Affairs should immediately tender his resignation.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the impression that the Delhi Police cannot check these incidents is not acceptable. Let the Government make arrangements for education, make other arrangements and merely suspending an S.H.O. and not even suspension, he has been transferred, this attitude will not control such incidents. Then making big statements that Home Minister summoned Delhi Police Commissioner, will not solve the matter, will not quicken the matter this attitude is not correct. The Ministry of Home is responsible for this situation in Delhi.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister in his statement blamed the influx of outsiders in Delhi who are deteriorating the situation. I would like to ask him what measures he has taken to check the sneaking in of the Mafia Gangs and rapists in Delhi?

Sir, till last one year, it was repeatedly stated that every Delhite would be provided an identity card and every person residing in Delhi should have an identity Card. Rapists and other criminals freely enter Delhi and they are not able to check this influx. The police can adopt barbaric attitude against 700 workers in Gurgaon, but is unable to arrest rapists, cannot tackle them. This is what is reflected in hon. Minister's statement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make another submission. Right now, so many issues were raised here. Imrana's issue was raised. In regard to Imrana's case I would like to ask the Hon. Home Minister that her father-in-law spoiling the sanctity of the relationship raped her, thereafter a Fatwa was issued that she should take her husband for her son and live with her father-in-law as a wife. I would like to know if the politics if fatwa will rule Imrana's case?

Mr. Speaker*, She represents the women of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall look into that Please omit that name.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I want to repeat it...*** (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This does not arise out of it. Please do not go beyond the motion. Please continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not continue with your submissions, then I would call the next speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, is referring to a Member of Parliament unparliamentary in nature? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am under no obligation to reply to you. It is my decision.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know as to what we have...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given my order.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : There is a common civil code in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : There is a common civil code in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfair. A serious matter is being discussed and unnecessarily, all this commotion is taking place. This is a serious matter. I have allowed you to speak. Now I would request you to please conclude instead of making allegations against another hon. Member. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : why do you interrupt him so often?...*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : She is leader of the party so what is the problem in giving a reply?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It has nothing to do with the Government. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Bring it to me. I will see it.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is Common criminal code in the country, if under a common criminal code a person rapes a woman, demand is being ranked that he should be sentenced to gallows and this may be the view of even the Chair, but if a person, a father-in-law rapes then instead of apprehending that man, instead of putting him to gallows he is rewarded and people like hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Prime Minister remain silent they do not make any comment, how long this type of Fatwas will rule the country? Would this criminal activity be given protection for vested political interest and to save one's vote bank, we would like to know that? Mr. Speaker, I want to submit that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should resign immediately.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, three of you.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : We make this demand inside this House.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajoy Chakraborty may speak now.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, this is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. It should be dealt with seriously. Merely saying it as serious is not enough.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : It is the serious concern of the country also. It is not a matter of a particular political party. It is not the grave concern of 'A' party or 'B' party alone. It is the grave concern of the whole country as such.

Delhi is not only the political capital of our country. It is also the capital of criminals. It is the capital of crimes. Criminal activities and atrocities against women are going on here.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Too many whisperings are going on. This is the Parliament of India. Nobody seems to remember it. You keep quiet. It is not a matter of joke. Such an important matter is being discussed and the House is not maintaining at least sobriety here.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, criminal acts are growing day by day. Criminal acts such as atrocities against women are growing everyday. It is not so only in Delhi. This is happening all over the country. Atrocities against women such as rape, kidnappings, abduction, outrage of modesty, dowry deaths of women are increasing day by day. The police is very much effective in curbing the trade union movement in Gurgaon. But the police is ineffective in curbing the criminal activities in Delhi and other places. Sir, I have already said that this is not the concern of 'A' party or 'B' party alone. It is the concern of the whole country as such. The women folk are subject to torture, they are subject to rape and kidnappings.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : I will put my question now. Already the hon. Minister and Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra have told as to what is happening in Delhi. In Dhaula Kuan, a lady was kidnapped and raped in a running car by two men....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything except what Mr. Ajoy Chakraborty says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry Kunwar Manvendra Singh. I cannot rectify you, it seems, unless I put you out of the House. You are beyond correction.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : In Manipur, a college girl was raped earlier. Last year, a student of the Law College of Delhi was also raped. This heinous crime is growing day by day.

In this situation, my first question to the hon. Minister is this. Is the Government of India going to consider setting up of a Special Task Force of Police to curb the criminal activities against women and prevent women from rape, abduction, kidnapping, dowry death and outrage of modesty?

Law and order situation is a State subject. I would like to know whether the Government of India has advised the State Governments to establish Special Task Force to prevent these kinds of criminal activities and atrocities on women. Secondly, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is considering any proposal to establish a Special Police Cell by women officials to investigate all the matters and all the cases regarding the atrocities on women and cases relating to women? Thirdly, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is considering any proposal to establish a police cell, which would investigate only case which are related to the atrocities on women?

MR. SPEAKER : He has mentioned it in his statement.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : It appears from the statement of the Minister and from the statistics provided by the NCRB that the number of cases and the number

of crimes are on the rise in Delhi and other parts of the country. My questions to the hon. Minister are; in regard to those crimes, how many cases were registered before the different police stations? In how many cases chargesheets had been submitted before the appropriate court? In how many cases the final report had been submitted before the courts? In how many cases criminals, the accused, had been convicted and in how many cases the accused had been acquitted? May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to pay compensation to the womenfolk who were victims of rape, outrage of modesty, dowry death, etc.? Lastly, I submit before your honour that this is the concern of all the countrymen. So, the Government should take serious efforts to curb criminal activities on the women. This is the agony of the day. Everybody is fuming. This is the very serious concern of the day. All of us, cutting across party lines, should think about it seriously.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please ask only question. It is not a matter of elaboration.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur) : Sir, this is a matter of grave concern. I believe that all Members should be equally concerned with this matter. This is obviously not a question of indicting 'X' or 'Y'. The way the report is coming over the last few months, it is very shameful to the whole country. This is not just a question of one or two or three months. If we look at the reports of the last seven or eight or ten years, increasing incidents of similar nature are being reported. All of us know the incidents of Dhaula Kuan and Mayapuri. Rape in a moving car is a new pattern. Probably, earlier such reports were not there. Rape in a moving car is a new thing. We know the incident involving a Swiss diplomat. Again, it was very shameful to the entire country. She was raped. She had to go back to her country. What is the answer to that from a country like India? What is the answer from Delhi? Similarly, all of us know the Tandoor case. One political leader was also involved in that, in the name of—

MR. SPEAKER : Do not take names.

*Not recorded.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY : Okay, I will not take names.

A political leader was also involved. Tandoor case was also very grave incident. So similar cases are on the increase in Delhi. I agree with my friend Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, when he said that Delhi is not only the political capital of the country but it is also the capital for these sorts of activities. National Crime Record Bureau statistics show that 450 cases of rape take place in Delhi every year. Thirty per cent of these atrocities are against the child and young girls. What is the answer from the Government? If you look at the action taken against these evils, you will find that no proper action is being taken against them. The hon. Minister, probably in the third para of his statement, has showed it in such a manner that these cases are coming down in the country.

In 2001, it was 1,33,935. He was boastfully mentioning that in 2004, it was 1,33,865. In number, it is not differing. In percentage, it is not differing. But still, the Government is boasting that 'yes' the figure has come down by 70. It is not coming down even in the percentage figure. In the fourth and the fifth paras, we can see while the incident in the country, according to the Statement, is coming down, the incident in Delhi is on the rise. In 2001, it was 3,870; in 2002, it was 4106; in 2003, it was 4338; and in 2004, it was 5568.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all in the statement. Please come to your question.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY : Obviously, this concern should be taken care of by all concerned and the Government equivalently.

Sir, female foeticide also is a matter of concern. This is the National Capital. This is not a remote corner of the country. Here, the female foeticide is also on the rise. Thereby, I believe, the Government should take very, very serious approach and give a thought on this. The Chief Minister of Delhi has expressed her dissatisfaction. She

has also expressed that she is not in a position to do because the police is being controlled by the Government of India.

Sir, in the 172nd Report of the Law Commission, it has been indicated that various lapses are there in our criminal procedure and in the entire procedure of tackling these issues. I would like to know whether the Government would look into the conviction cases of all these evils, which is very low. Probably, it is not more than four per cent, or even less than that. So, why is it so less? Why is it that many of the cases are not getting registered by the police? Why is it that the police is not taking as much interest as in other cases for all these evils?

MR. SPEAKER : Please, put your question.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY : Probably, the law and the policing is also very much defective. After 1983, some sort of amendment in the law was there. But after that, no amendment has taken place. The entire law procedure and the entire procedure of tackling these issues should be well spelt. In many other and even Commonwealth countries, the procedure has been changed. We have never changed our procedure.

MR. SPEAKER : Enough, enough.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY : In the recent past, Australia has changed its procedure, Canada has changed its procedure, and even South Africa also has changed its procedure. The Commonwealth countries have changed their procedures, but we have not.

MR. SPEAKER : Put your question. It is not a matter of a debate here. Mr. Chakraborty.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry, I cannot allow this.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY : I would like to know from the Minister whether they would be interested to look

into the matter seriously and whether they would discuss and take information and suggestion from all concerned so that a foolproof law and procedure can be maintained.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Including the Commonwealth countries!

Yes, hon. Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Hon'ble speaker Sir, This is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I was prepared to allow it a full discussion but Calling Attention has been insisted on. I have allowed it because of the urgency. Do you follow the rules? Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, if Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra has also.....this important issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are satisfied with the Calling Attention. Sorry, I cannot go on. Fifty hands have been raised Shri Mohan Singhji. I cannot allow.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Letter does not matter. Laws and rules are for all. You please read the rule.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : I think no other problem is more serious for our country than this crucial problem on which we are expressing our concern today in this House...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a serious matter. Nobody has taken interest even to give notice.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : There is not one rule for all...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : There is one rule for everyone.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am talking about 'Calling Attention'. You are a very senior Member.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded except the hon. Minister's statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the concern expressed by the members is well taken, however, only four Hon'ble Members have expressed their concern.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

Each and every Hon'ble Member in this House feels deeply concerned over this problem and must be aspiring to see our country finding some solution to this problem. Better if, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji does not politicise this problem...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : What kind of politics takes place in rape cases?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Now he has started playing politics with his question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : What politics he has started with it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Just now I will tell you about the type of politics involved in it?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : What I am mentioning...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : What are you saying...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, NDA Government remained in power for 6 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you need not refer to that I have omitted that you reply to the points only.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : What type of politics, he

has brought in it?...*(Interruptions)* What is your law doing?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : I am telling you just now what type of politics is involved in it, but you will come to know only when you will listen...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Paranjpe, in any event, you are not sitting in your place. You just cannot do that. After taking permission from me only, you can speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First you please go to your seat. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, NDA Government remained in power for six years, Malhotraji was a part of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You people are not listening. What is the matter?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Then, it seems that you are not prepared to listen to the hon. Minister's statement. Please sit down. I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It seems that the hon. Minister must reply according to your satisfaction only! What is this? you will not let the Hon'ble Minister speak?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : At least, let us function in manner which is good. You are putting a Calling Attention but you will not wait for a reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, during the NDA Government regime, in Delhi during the year 2001, 3870 cases were registered. During the year 2002 4106; and during 2003, 4338 cases of rape were registered. Whether you demanded resignation from the then Home Minister? I am telling you the political language ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please leave it. Mr. Minister, do not go into the controversy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, I am telling this for those who say politics is being played. Whether you sought resignation from your then Home Minister? You express your concern. We fully agree with you. ...*(Interruptions)* Rape cases are posing a very major problem before our country. We fully agree with you...
(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Against whom you have taken action so far? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is very unfortunate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Both sides are doing this. Mr. Minister, you come to the merits of the matter.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : He should not be satisfied with that.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, this is very sensitive matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Most of the cases

mentioned by Shri Malhotraji in his particular question have already been worked out. The most significant achievement is that Delhi Police have worked out 97% cases of rape. This is the record of Delhi Police that it has worked out in 97% rape cases. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Delhi is in panic now a days...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you cannot go on making running commentaries like this. Then, I will complete this discussion and I will not allow it if every sentence is being interrupted upon.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Then, I will complete it. I will go straight to the next subject.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, the Dhaula Kuan case mentioned by Hon'ble Malhotraji, has already been worked out. Only one case of Mayapuri still has to be worked out. I am not giving any certificate to police. I fully agree with this concern of Malhotraji that the cases like rape in our country are most heinous and condemnable. Our Government, Delhi Police is taking every possible step in this regard. I had mentioned about several steps which Delhi Police is taking. The process of strengthening women crime cell is continuing. Hon'ble Ajay Chakravarti was mentioning about the process of setting up of crime cell. Crime-Cell has already been established in Delhi. Efforts are being made to strengthen it. Rape Crisis Intervention Centre has been set up...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am very sorry that it has been made a partisan issue. You have also said that it should not be

a partisan issue. Let us tackle this matter as a greatest human problem facing this country.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, this is wrong. I never said that you should not criticize the Government. You do criticize the Government but I am saying when a Minister is replying, have patience to hear him. This is the procedure that we have laid down for this Calling Attention Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : The inquiry related to rape and other crimes committed by Police Officers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunathji, ask all question from the Leader of JD(U).

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : The arrangement has been made to include lady Police Officers in the enquiry. It is an effective step. The legal awareness campaigns are being launched. I would like to tell Shri Malhotraji to join this campaign. We too will join it. This will make this campaign more successful. We have to rise above the party lines, the problem cannot be resolved by asking for resignations. The lady police personnels have been deployed in PCRs patrolling girls schools. In order to keep check on eve-teasing and crimes being committed against women and also to keep a vigil on criminals, the Police personnels in plain clothes have been deployed at important places of the city and buses where more cases of eve-teasing take place. The police personnels will grab such criminals and check crimes. The women Help Line '1991' has been set up. Any women having any sort of complaint, can get her complaint registered on the said number. Women Mobile team has been set up to attend the emergency calls of women round the clock, but it is also an undisputed fact that more than 4-5 lakh people migrate to Delhi every year. At the time of migration, it is not possible to establish the identity or antecedents of all

such immigrants including the place to which they hail from. It has not been done so far.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Give them identity cards.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Malhotraji, you have good knowledge of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not to be recorded. Please do not record it.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : You are crossing all limits today. It is not being recorded. Why are you saying all these things?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfortunate. You have not even bothered to give a notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please control. Mr. Geete, I will request you that please request your hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : As far you raise the issue related to an incident of Uttar Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not necessary. Please, do not deal with names.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : As for as the issue of other States is concerned, the Government of India have made efforts to check the rising incidents of rape in other States. The Government of India have advised all States to set up police cells. In some States, these Police Cells are already operational as in my home State Uttar Pradesh where Police Cells are in operation for the last many years. The States have been advised to make these Police Cells more effective so as to check the recurrence of such incidents. All States have been advised to set up women Police Stations and make Women Police more active. The more women police is made active, the more check could be applied on such crimes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have given through these clarifications to you, I would like to say just that the Government is fully aware of sentiments of the House that crimes like rape should be checked. The law and order situation of our country, including Delhi should be improved because the incidents of rape are blot on law and order situation of the country. Therefore, from time to time, our Government will take all possible steps to check it. I would like to request all hon'ble Members, particularly Shri Malhotraji to cooperate with us. He is more informed about geography and history of Delhi, and if he continues to inform us from time to time, it would be good...*(Interruptions)*. In the end, I would like to make one more request...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : whatever you are saying is not being recorded. You shall speak only when opportunity is given to you.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : I apprised the House of measures being taken by the Union and State Governments to check crimes against the women. But I have one more request to the opposition, if they really want the crimes against the women, to be checked, they should support the passage of the Women Reservation Bill.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : First bring it to the House and ask your colleagues also.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : We will bring it. The crimes against women would be checked, once the said bill is passed.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I beseech the hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please allow me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow the unfortunate serious matter of Gurgaon to be raised. I have committed in the presence of hon. Members to permit Mr. Geete to raise his matter. There would also be a discussion on natural calamities. I will request him to be brief. Then, I will call Mr. Prabhunath Singh because I have committed in your presence. Then, I will come to Mr. Acharia.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you sit down? Please cooperate for heaven's sake.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I may also be granted opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got list of all Members who have given notice. That list has names of Sarvashri Anant Geete, Basu Deb Acharia, Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Prabhunath Singh, Sushil, Kumar Modi. Then also you are creating uproar. Yesterday also you did the same.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only Mr. Geete's statements will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, please take your seat. You are a disciplined Member.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, heavy rains during the last three days have caused massive destruction in Mumbai, Thane, entire Konkan area, Goa and some of the districts in Marathwada. All the national highways have been closed for the last three days in these areas and several bridges constructed over them have caved in. Rail services have come to a halt in these areas as all the tracks are submerged in water. There is no supply of electricity and there is a complete breakdown of the telecom facilities in these areas for the last three days. Even the airport has been closed down. Roughly speaking all the communication and transport services have been paralysed and these areas have lost contact with the rest of the World. Rains have caused large scale devastation in these areas. As per the little information that I have got, excluding Mumbai more than

1000 people have died in Thane and Konkan. This figure is expected to increase manifold once the final information in this regard is received. Several cities have been inundated with water for the last three days. Badlapur of Thane near Mumbai, Mahad, Panvel and Ped of Raigarh district and Khed, Rajapur, Chiplun of Ratnagiri have been lying inundated with water for the last three days. The city is still under 12 feet water. I am apprising the House of the situation prevailing in Mumbai. There has been a huge loss of lives and property there. I believe that property worth more than one lakh crore rupees has been destroyed. Farmers have been ruined. Paddy crop has been destroyed completely. Communication and transport facilities have broken down and the state government has not been much of a help. It has provided three helicopters which are being used for aerial survey. The state government is unable to provide any help. The House is aware that Mumbai is foremost in providing help whenever any part of the country is struck by a natural calamity but today entire Mumbai has been submerged in flood water and it needs help. Through you I request the Government particularly the hon. Prime Minister, to extend assistance to the Government of Maharashtra as soon as possible. There is a need to provide at least 5 thousand crore rupees as relief measures to Maharashtra at present and a visit by the hon. Prime Minister is also required. It is my request to constitute a committee of Members of Parliament which should visit all the affected areas and make an assessment of the requirements of the area. There has been an incident of land slide in Daasgaon which falls in Mahad tehsil in my area, entire villages have been engulfed by flood waters, it is hard to find their traces. Entire Jui village has been wiped out due to land slide. The communication network at these places has broken down. Planes are not able to land in Mumbai. When I telephoned my wife, she was in tears and she told me that water was entering my house. I asked her to move to the terrace of third floor. This was the situation not only at my home but all the families were going through this kind of trauma. The condition of slum dwellers was worse. Entire villages have

been submerged. I have requested not to treat this matter as a general discussion only and the hon. Prime Minister should visit those areas. My another request is that a statement should be made the House about the situation in Maharashtra after collecting information from the Government of Maharashtra. Parliament is in session and the Government of India should immediately announce a relief package of atleast Rs.5 thousand crore. I also request the Government of India to deploy army to provide help to the Government of Maharashtra. All the means of transport including Road transport, railways and aeroplanes have come to stand still. It is difficult to establish any contact with that area. Mumbai is in severe crisis and its agony should not be ignored. Konkan, Goa have faced heavy losses and in Maharashtra, people have left their homes and gone to hills. All the rivers of this region are flowing above the danger mark. There is an urgent need to provide relief to Maharashtra keeping in view the gravity of the situation. The Government should pay attention towards this.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Situation is very bad in all the places including Raigarh and Konkan. Hon. Prime Minister has sent Hon. Sharad Pawar to visit those areas and hon. Prime Minister has promised to extend maximum possible assistance to Maharashtra.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ramdas Athawale, you can associate with this. I believe the entire House is seriously concerned about this situation.

MR. SPEAKER : I would request the senior hon. Ministers who are present here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, I would also

like to raise an issue regarding my constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are now discussing Mumbai. You do it later on. You have a proper discussion before the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair. This is very unfortunate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, please take your seat. I am requesting the hon. Ministers who are present here and I am sure they are aware of this and they will take necessary action as the situation demands.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, there is a discussion today. It has already started. This is being moved by your leader. If you want to speak you can speak on that. Every State cannot raise the issue. Do not dilute the importance of Maharashtra because of its seriousness.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, my constituency is also badly affected.

MR. SPEAKER : I know that. You will make your submission when the opportunity comes. Give up this habit of interrupting the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody else's statement will be recorded and do not stand up when I am on my legs

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to help all of you. This is national concern. It is very unfortunate. The whole country is seeing. I have allowed him to raise it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas. I am very sorry. I can only express my great sorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Except Shri Prabhunath Singh's statement nothing else will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to accommodate everybody.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, voices from that side are disturbing ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I can not smother their voices.

[English]

I ignore him and say whatever you like to say.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the law and order situation is already very grim in Bihar. People had some expectations after the implementation of Presidents rule but the situation is deteriorating further day by day. Terrorist and extremist outfits have become active in entire Bihar. The attack by MCC, an extremist organization at the home of MP, Shri Sitaram Singh is a pointer of the prevailing situation there. Incidentally he was not at home so he had a narrow escape. A round of political killings has begun there. Shri Ashok Yadav, the Chairman of Jal Board was shot dead yesterday. The

*Not recorded.

security covers of all the public representatives and ex MLAs elected from Bihar has been withdrawn. Election campaigning is going in Bihar. As per the situation there is a likelihood of more and more political killings in Bihar. Presently, Bihar is under Presidents rule. The police and administration of Bihar is not ready to lend any ear to our grievances. I request you to convene a meeting of Home Secretary, Government of India, DGP, Home Secretary, Chief Secretary of Bihar at your own level and also invite one representative from each political party and make arrangements for the security of public representatives of Bihar so that there are no more political killings and public could be safe. I am sure you would give your observations in this regard to show the entire country that the Chair is concerned about Bihar and taking steps in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : I will make comments in this regard but first you take your seat.

[English]

I have said that so far as hon. Members of Parliament are concerned, it is the duty of the Administration, the Authority, the Government to provide full protection and security. Some hon. Members from Bihar have told me. I am going to look into it. I have directed my office to look into it and take up the matter with the appropriate authorities. But since you are a senior Member, you are again referring to it. I shall again call a meeting and see what can be done.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, yesterday we raised the issue of Gurgaon. What happened day before yesterday, it continued yesterday also in front of the hospitals where the victims were admitted.

13.00 hrs.

The police have lathi-charged and assaulted the relatives of the victims who went to the hospital to see their relatives. While making the statement, the Home Minister assured the House that he was making a statement with

whatever information he has received from the State Government. He assured that he would make a complete statement today when he would get all the information from there. He will collect the information. I demand that such statement should be made by the Home Minister today. It is because we made a number of demands here. What we and what the entire House demanded was that the officers who are responsible and who issued order to assault the workers, namely, Deputy Commissioner (DC) and SP should be shifted from Gurgaon. That has not been conceded yet. They are still there and they are still provoking.

We also demanded for better treatment of the workers who are admitted in the hospitals. It is because there are not sufficient facilities in the hospitals at Gurgaon. They should be shifted to hospitals in Delhi. That has also not been done yet. We have also demanded adequate compensation to the workers who were injured. There are some workers who were seriously injured. The Government has not announced any compensation to those workers.

MR. SPEAKER : All demands are made to the wrong Government.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We had also demanded that the workers who had been arrested should be released. Even they are not being granted bail. They are still remanded in the police custody. Also, the workers who are retrenched...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the Haryana Assembly. Nothing more I can add. I have allowed full discussion on this yesterday. There is a statement here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But, he assured a complete statement.

MR. SPEAKER : At my request, he made a statement.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Home Minister should make a complete statement in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not denying that, but you are raising detailed matters which I do not know how the Central Government has to deal with them. In that case, any other State matter will come tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Nothing has been done so far...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing else will be recorded except Shri Basu Deb Acharia's statement.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When we were discussing the issue, we were expressing concern and it was continuing...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North East) : The Home Minister, on the floor of the House, has promised that ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Did he say that before one o'clock he will do that? I do not know when he will make the statement. I have no intimation.

(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM : The agony of the workers is still continuing there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know why you are targeting me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed you to speak. Very well, you go on.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have any patience to listen to the Chair. How can I regulate the House? If you do not co-operate, I will adjourn the House.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what you want. You want the House to be adjourned. I will adjourn it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Tell me, what do you want.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Shri Anil Basu, you will have to sit down. I will not allow this type of indiscipline. There is no respect to the Chair. I think, deliberate insult to the Chair is taking place in this House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You are doing it. You wanted a statement from the hon. Home Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, he committed something. *(Interruptions)* He has committed to the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : Did he say at what time he would make a statement? He did not say that he would make a statement today.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I would not allow your intervention.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Ministers have listened. The Government has listened.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Leader of the House wants to say something. Have patience to hear that.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB

MUKHERJEE) : Sir, I can inform the House that the hon. Home Minister is just responding on this very issue in the other House. Therefore, as soon as possible after Lunch, he will ascertain the information and he will share it.

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have patience even to listen. Do not try to bamboozle me. I will not allow this. This can be done in a very structured and in a serious manner. You have already demanded it. When Shri Basu Deb Acharia spoke, I did not interrupt him. You are all trying to bolster him without any permission from anybody.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, will you allow me 30 seconds? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow you. Why should I allow you? What have you done? Not even a notice is there. You are standing up.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, you have not given a proper notice. Even then, I am allowing you because you have made a request. Please be brief.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, I have got a point of submission as to how the Parliament can get seized of this matter. Please allow me. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I heard you. Through FDI you want the Parliament to intervene. I reject it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG (Koraput) : Sir, I am grateful to you. The issue is very clear. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am very sorry to say that nobody co-operates with the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, we are co-operating with the Chair. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not co-operating. Merely saying 'co-operating' does not matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is why people are losing faith in Parliament. They do not trust us because of the behaviour of the Members here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, we are abiding by what you say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you want, I will give you the CD of today's happenings here. You go to your house and quietly see what you are doing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Sir, I have a very concrete suggestion. I will not be satisfied with the ritualistic statement from the Home Minister. He can make any statement if he likes and according to the advice that you are giving but my demand is very simple. The Haryana Government should be advised by the Government of India to take the situation into cognizance and take steps from restraining the Police. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You want the parliament to direct the Government.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Siur, we can advise very well. I know the constitutional impropriety. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would have advised if you co-operated with me.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Secondly, the Govern-

ment of India should take steps to ensure that the workers' rights are protected by this foreign monopoly company. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will take action against you. I will take action against anybody behaving in this manner. I am giving a warning. Do not think anybody will be spared now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will find that it will boomerang one day. Once you have opened the floodgate, it will boomerang. you are not realizing this today.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention and the attention of the House towards those dark days of Indian history after independence when after the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, in some parts of India particularly in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have given notice on two matters. You can raise only one. You raise the matter of revival of terrorism in Punjab. That was decided to be raised.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : I would raise that matter later on.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not done. You can raise only one matter. You can give another notice tomorrow. Right now you speak on revival of terrorism in Punjab.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards this fact which has been reported by newspapers also that terrorism is again raising its head in Punjab. As a part of our duty as opposition party we have levelled this allegation against the Punjab Government and have also got the support of the people as well that it is responsible for reviving terrorism. Leader of the House is here. I want to ask him. *(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, he is not present here. You can not do that. Do not make allegation like this. I am sorry.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : I was saying about the Chief Minister. *(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You know the rules. You had been a Minister also.

MR. SPEAKER : You raise the issue. The country is not concerned with what he has done outside.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Bring it to me. I will see.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : It is being said in Punjabi that...*(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Again this is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already taken action. I have already decided to delete. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Do you have any proof that money has been paid.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : I am asking this very question from the Government. *(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot show any newspaper here. It is a breach of privilege.

Mr. Sukhbir Singh Badal, it is a breach of privilege.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL (Faridkot) : What is this?

MR. SPEAKER : I will issue a privilege notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : On the one side they are fighting terrorism and on the other side, they are trying to promote terrorism in the State of Punjab. *(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2.15 p.m.

13.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seventeen minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Item No.14 - 'Matters under Rule 377', Kunwar Manvendra Singh Please. First you go to your seat.

- (I) **Need to bring necessary legislation to preclude Wakf Board's claims in regard to Taj Mahal and other National Monuments in the country**

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Wakf Board has recently declared the Taj Mahal as a Wakf property. The Wakf has not been able to properly maintain various properties under their charge. Taj is a world heritage site. Taj is also a national property. Therefore, Sir, I request the Government to take necessary steps including passing necessary legislation to preclude such claims in the case of National Monuments presently in the charge of Archaeological Survey of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi - not present

- (II) **Need to expedite construction of a second bridge on River Chenab at Akhnoor, Jammu and Kashmir.**

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu) : Sir, as the House is aware, there is a long pending demand from my constituency for construction of a second bridge on River Chenab at Akhnoor. This matter was also raised by me in Lok Sabha during Question Hour on 22.07.2004 and the hon. Minister of Defence was kind enough to reply that the lowest bid in respect of this bridge has been finalised and this bridge is scheduled to be completed in December, 2007.

It is learnt that because of sincere efforts by this

Government, construction of this bridge was approved and tender was allotted. However, this tender was cancelled and all the progress in the matter has come to a halt for the reasons best known to the authorities concerned. As a result of this, the public has no other alternative but to suffer even after sincere efforts of the Central Government in sanctioning the proposal.

I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and ensure that the process is expedited so that this bridge could be constructed and the long pending demand of the region could be met at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jashubhai D. Barad - not present.

Shri Iqbal Ahamed Saradgi - not present.

Shri Jwal Oram - not present.

- (III) **Need to release more funds for providing relief to the people affected by severe floods in Southern Gujarat.**

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, property worth billions of rupees was destroyed and 200 lives were lost in the ravaging floods of unprecedented fury hitting Surat, Vadodara, Navsari, Balsad, Anand, Khara and Bharuch in Southern Gujarat recently. Life was severely hit by floods and the property of people and the crops of farmers were washed away in flood and now a days their hapless families are starving. The textile industry, brocade industry and diamond industry of Surat have been severely affected and several obstacles are being faced by them in continuing production. Stocks and machinery of several mills have been damaged. Several Ministers of the Central Government did aerial survey but the meager relief of Rs.500-Crore only has been announced though the loss is to the tune of several thousand crores due to these floods. So, it is requested that at least Rs.8000 crores may be provided for relief

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

work to be done there and a new special package may be announced immediately.

Sir, through you, I request the Union Government that a minimum assistance of Rs.8000 crore only may be provided as relief to people affected by floods immediately so that normalcy could be restored in day to day life of people there and a special package may be given for the revival of flood affected industries there.

- (iv) **Need to develop an artificial lake at Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh for promoting tourism in the region.**

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to ancient and historical city of Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh, the land of penance of Rishi Vyas. Where Bhakhra dam has been constructed to enhance hydro electric generation in the country. As a result of which people were evacuated from there and recently rehabilaed. There in the newly developed Bilaspur City which is in such an area that has not even a single entertainment place for those people. There is Gobind Sagar lake near Luhnū Maidan in district Bilaspur but the water table of that lake keeps rising and falling, so, that spot could not be developed as tourist Centre. Therefore, I request the Ministry of Tourism of the Government of India that by constructing a wall in the big canal near Luhnū Maidan an artificial lake should be developed so that the water level could be maintained in that area. This lake can be used for water games for tourists. A cafeteria and a park may be developed at the same place so that the residents of Bilaspur and the tourists could get a tourist spot.

- (v) **Need to continue 'National Programme of Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities' Scheme in Bellary district, Karnataka.**

{English}

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary) : Sir, the

National Programme of Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) Scheme has stopped from 1st November, 2004 in Bellary district, Karnataka and the same is likely to be transferred to some other district. This Scheme was initiated in October, 2001 and successfully implemented in Bellary district till 31st October, 2001. There were 14 Multi Rehabilitation Workers (MRWs) and 376 Village Rehabilitation Workers (VRWs) working in the district in this Scheme.

As per survey report, there are about 22,000 disabled persons in Bellary district and nearly 60 per cent of them need assistance like rehabilitation, reservation, Medical Board certificates, travelling concession, NHFDC loans, vocational guidelines, scholarship and aids and appliances etc. to make them self-reliant.

MRWs and VRWs played an important role to implement above Scheme to maximum extent and their services are recognizable.

I urge upon the Government to continue NPRPD Scheme from 1st November, 2004 so that the disabled persons could be benefited to full extent.

- (vi) **Need to establish a Horticulture University in North Kerala**

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : Sir, the Government of India has given much importance to agriculture especially in the field of horticulture that may give employment and also better production in the agricultural field. Kerala is the land of various types of agricultural products as well as cash crops. The special feature of Kerala necessitates the formation of a Horticultural University in the State especially in the northern part of Kerala. This would really promote the overall development of the area. Such a noble centre can provide supportive research on specific problems of major crops, strengthen research, teaching and extension of the farming community, assist Government by identifying challenges faced by the primary sector and also the empowerment of weaker sections.

Under the Agricultural University of Kerala, there are about 12 research/training/academic institutions in the North Malabar area. These individual institutions are well known for their functioning in the research and promotion of coconuts, arecanuts, cocoa, fruits and vegetables, flowers, spices etc. Besides this there is a large area of cashew plantations also. The CPCRI, a national, prestigious research centre is also functioning in this area. Considering all these factors there is ample scope for starting a Horticultural University in the northern part of Kerala.

So, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take necessary steps to form the Horticultural University with Central Government assistance.

(vii) Need to provide voting rights to Non-Resident Indians

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, it has been a long-standing demand of the Government of Kerala to provide NRIs the right to vote. The Legislative Assembly of Kerala has also passed unanimously a resolution in this regard. The NRIs are citizens of India and their names may be included in the voters' list of the place where they normally resided before going abroad. By giving voting right to the NRIs we will be fulfilling our constitutional obligation to the citizens of India.

Therefore, Government of India is requested to include the names of NRIs in voters' list and to allow them to cast their votes, if they are present in India at the time of elections, by making appropriate amendments in the People's Representation Act of 1950 and thereby fulfilling the aspirations of millions of Indian citizens living abroad.

(viii) Need to attach additional bogies in Vaishali Express from Gorakhpur

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Hon. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, earlier several bogies were attached to Vaishali Express for travelling up and down between Gorakhpur and Delhi. This had made the traveling of the people of several districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar including Gorakhpur very convenient. This train was, therefore, extremely popular among the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Now, these additional bogies are not being attached to Vaishali Express due to which people of Purvanchal and the areas of Bihar adjoining Uttar Pradesh do not get reservation for traveling to and fro to Delhi. The people of Gorakhpur and its nearby districts are facing lot of problems in commuting between Delhi and Gorakhpur. Additional bogies may be attached to Vaishali Express, as earlier, from Gorakhpur to Delhi and reverse to solve this problem. If it is not possible then a new train service between Delhi-Gorakhpur via Lucknow may be started.

I, through the House, request the Union Government to issue directions to the officers concerned immediately for the implementation of this suggestion.

(ix) Need to expedite setting up of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Patna, Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Patna (AIIMS) is one of the six institutes to be set up by the Government in the country. Its foundation stone has already been laid by H.E. the Vice-President of India. The Government has also assured to provide funds for this purpose from the current year budget. The state Government has already transferred the ownership of 70 acres of land to Central Health Ministry. Even then no work has been started as yet. or setting up AIIMS in Patna. Bihar is the most underdeveloped State of the Country. A status quo persists there in poverty, backwardness and road, health and electricity related problems. If AIIMS is immediately set up in Patna, the poor people of the State will get a good health facility there in

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

the State itself and have some relief as presently they have to travel with patients from one corner to another corner of the country.

So, through this House I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Health that in view of the poor state of Bihar instructions should be issued to start early the work relating to setting up of the proposed AIIMS there so that Bihar may have a high-tech AIIMS.

- (x) **Need to streamline credit card operations of nationalised banks in the country.**

[English]

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur) : Sir, it is unfortunate that even nationalised banks like SBI join hands with MNCs for their credit card operations. Some of them are found to be violating professional norms and ethics. Though belated, the RBI has issued recently certain guidelines pertaining to annual interest rates. Still much needs to be done to streamline the system which fleeces unsuspecting customers. Cheques issued by customers for payment are purposely delayed by these credit card operators and late payment fees are levied. They artificially inflate and enhance the liability and interest borne by the customers, fleecing them heavily. The credit card issuing banks employ the services of dubious collection agencies which do not think twice before threatening the customers with dire consequences. So, customers are being harassed and intimidated, apart from being embarrassed. They do not communicate with their customers in writing except for bill statement. Customers are left at the mercy of collection agencies. These unfair trade practices cause great hardship to salaried middle class. Union Finance Ministry may kindly intervene to curb the menace at the hands of credit card operators like SBI card.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa - not present.

Dr. K. Dhanaraju - not present.

Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal - not present.

Shri Subrata Bose:

- (xi) **Need to reopen the park at Eden Garden, Kolkata for general public.**

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat) : There is one very beautiful garden in Eden Garden, Kolkata which is along the bank of river Ganges. Some years back, it was opened for general public but due to some dispute between the State Government of West Bengal and the Ministry of Defence, the garden has been closed. The dispute is over charging of entrance fees by the Government of West Bengal. The Government of West Bengal wants to charge a nominal fee with which the day to day management of the park can be done very well. This is practical and the Ministry of Defence is against this. Due to this, the general public at large is not able to enjoy the open space available there. There are very few open spaces available in Kolkata. I request the Hon. Minister of Defence to intervene in this matter with the Government of West Bengal on an urgent basis and to reopen the park at the earliest so that the public can enjoy and have a good time there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi - not present.

Shri Jashubhai D. Barad - not present.

Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi.

- (xii) **Need to provide environmental clearance to the pending projects of Karnataka Government.**

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga) : Karnataka State has submitted the following four proposals to the Ministry of Environment & Forests for clearance.

1. Requirement of funds under NRCP for the Tenth Five Year Plan period for 11 Towns (Gokak, bailhongal, Shahbad, Hospet, Gangavathi, Kanakapura, Yadgir, Dandeli, Siruguppa, Bagalkot and Madikeri).
2. Project for development of Kote Tavarekere lake in Chickmagalur city with an estimated cost of Rs.2.85 crore.
3. Project for development of Tripuranthakeshwara lake in Basava Kalyana, Bidar District with an estimated cost of Rs.4.96 crore.
4. Project for development of Kundawada lake in Davangere city with an estimated cost of Rs.4.97 crore.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to kindly do the needful at an early date.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jual Oram - not present.

Shri Shishupal N. Patle, in future, please try to come in time.

(xiii) Need to stop evacuation of hutments by Railways during rainy season in Gondia District, Maharashtra.

[Translation]

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE (Bhandara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the families residing in hutments in Gondia district of Maharashtra have been displaced by Railways. Such families have been residing in these places for the last 25 years and approximately 150 families have been rendered homeless. It is not correct to displace such families during such rainy season. On the one hand the Government provides help by rehabilitating flood affected people and on the other hand, hutments of these poor people have been demolished as a result of which their small children are falling sick and dying. While demand to preclude the evacuation of these hutments till the end of the rainy season has been made. But inhuman treatment has been meted out to these

people by the railway officials. Necessary action should be taken against such officers after their immediate identification.

(xiv) Need to construct roads on borders with a view to check intrusion of Extremists from Neighbouring Countries.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the country is under the grip of crisis of additional security. Secessionists, terrorist, Naxalist, Maoist outfits have become a crisis for security of common man and incidentally these miscreant outfits have cross border links. Hon. Minister of External Affairs is also of the opinion that this infiltration is growing from Pakistan. Army cannot be removed from the border and Chief Minister of several states are advocating to check the illegal infiltration. In reality, all these are challenges to internal security of the country. The Government of India is also holding peace talks with the neighbouring countries on this issue. Its result lies in future but I believe we will have to take measures to cut the cross border links of violence. Therefore, I request that a road should be constructed along the borders of the country. It may also prove useful for country's security at a given time but would definitely be a success in snapping the cross border links of these terrorist outfits. There will be patrolling by the armed forces on the border and the roads which will also check the threat of infiltration and would damper the spirits of these mischievous elements.

14.42 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Natural Calamities in the country - contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up Item No.15 - Discussion under Rule 193 regarding natural calamities, raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia on 26th July,

2005. When the House was adjourned, Shri Acharia was on his feet. So, I would request Shri Acharia to continue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, today when we are discussing the subject of natural calamities in the House, there is a huge flood in the State of Maharashtra. Three Districts are completely cut off from other parts in Maharashtra. Mumbai city is completely cut off. Train services have been completely stopped. The airport is also closed. The airlines are not in operation. Thousands and thousands of villagers are without any power or telecommunication facilities. The situation is worsening because of heavy rains. There was a flood in the Konkan region. Because of that, train services of Konkan Railway were also stopped. Konkan Railway is not in operation for the last three days. Goa has also been adversely affected because of the flood. We have not seen such unprecedented floods in the past.

I have seen a report in the newspaper today saying that in one village about 200 people were washed away. They were all in sleep. Because of land slips, the entire village was washed away.

All the 200 people who were sleeping last night died. Affected people cannot be contacted. This is the situation not only in one particular village, but there may also be a number of villages where such things might have happened. It is because we are not aware, as to how many people have died because of floods. As per the report, in Raigarh district, more than one hundred people have already died. There is no information. Maybe, many more might have died in other districts. Relief work has not yet been started, because of non-communication. Roads are also washed away. There are breaches in National highways and State highways. A part of these roads have been washed away.

Railway lines in Mumbai city are under water. Mumbai city is six or seven feet under water. One can realise the fate of the people of Mumbai and its suburban

areas. Suburban train service is the lifeline of Mumbai. Everyday, 50 lakh people travel by Mumbai suburban train service. If it is stopped, one can well realise the fate of the people of Mumbai. Mumbai is the financial Capital of our country. We are not aware of the situation. The House has not been informed as to what the Central Government has done or initiated in regard to providing relief and starting rescue operation. People have to be rescued.

We have seen when there was a flood in Gujarat. A train was overcrowded because of floods. It was stranded in a station for two or three days without drinking water and food. There was no relief or rescue operation. Only one gentleman whose wife was travelling by that train, when he got the information, went there and he not only rescued his wife but also all the passengers who were stranded in a particular station in Gujarat for more than two days. Gujarat flood was also an unprecedented one. In a day, 65 per cent rainfall was recorded in Gujarat. Out of 35 districts, 11 were badly damaged. Around 1,500 village roads were damaged and breached. About 215 State highways were also breached and damaged. Many important district and towns were inundated. This was also unprecedented.

There was a flash flood in Himachal Pradesh because of which a part of Himachal Pradesh was flooded. The biggest and the largest hydel power plant was called in the past as Naptha Jakhri Hydel Project, today it is called as Sulej Jal Vidyut Nigam. It has a capacity of 1500 megawatt.

It was because of flash flood, the operation of the Sulej Jal Vidyut Nigam, which was commissioned and inaugurated by the Prime Minister only a month back, was completely stopped. The turbine was damaged. All the three units of it went out of order. This is not the only case. There was flash flood in the same area about four years back. About 35 workers were working during the time of construction of the hydel power project. All of them died because of flash flood. The Government was

aware of the fact that that area was prone to flash flood. The question is whether any preventive measures were taken.

This time, a number of States have been affected. There was a heavy rain in Madhya Pradesh and a number of districts were flooded and inundated. Thousands of villages were damaged. More than 200 people died because of flood in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

There was a flood in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Amarnath Yatra was to be stopped for a few days because of heavy rains and flood. A number of rivers flowed higher than its danger level. A number of people died because of flood in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

There was a flood in Andhra Pradesh. A number of districts like Rangareddy and others were badly damaged. There was incessant rain. In a day, 40 to 45 per cent of annual rainfall was there in the State of Andhra Pradesh. A number of people also died because of floods in the month of July in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Kerala also experienced flood this year. Flood has been very extensive this year starting from Assam. This year, West Bengal has not experienced much flood. Only one or two districts were affected particularly in North Bengal. There is still time for that. Generally, the flood comes in the months of September and October. The State of Kerala experienced an extensive damage because of flood. It took away the lives of more than 12 people.

In some states, there are floods and there are some States where the people are facing a drought-like situation. Entire State of Orissa today has less rainfall. Sowing of paddy has not started. Entire State is facing the drought-like situation. In West Bengal and especially in South Bengal, at least three districts are today facing a drought-like situation. There is much less rainfall today in Southern Districts of West Bengal.

In some parts of the State, people suffer because of flood and in some other parts of the same State, people suffer because of drought. Every year and in every Session, we discuss natural calamities and their impact on the economy on a particular State, but there is no permanent solution to these calamities. Because of this flood every year, Rs. 15 crore to Rs. 20 crore are lost; hundreds of people have to die; and there is extensive damage to the agricultural crops.

Sir, in our country, 40 million hectares of land is flood-prone. According to the Rashtriya Barh Ayog, out of 40 million hectares of flood-prone land, only 32 million hectares of land can be protected. But no permanent solution has yet been found to prevent the occurrence of flood.

A number of rivers, particularly in the northern parts of our country are international rivers which originate from Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet. Whenever flood occurs in the State of Bihar, northern part of Bihar is bound to suffer. This year Bihar is fortunate that people there have not yet faced flood like situation. But every year, due to flood, a large portion of agricultural land of the northern part of Bihar is damaged. It is all because of the river which originates from Nepal. But there is no arrangement to control flood coming from that country. The northern part of Bihar can be protected from flood if certain measures are taken in Nepal. There is an agreement with Nepal but that agreement has not yet been implemented. It is yet to be implemented. So, just because of non-implementation of the agreement with Nepal, people of Bihar face flood like situation every year.

Then, North Bengal, particularly Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts are affected because of flood water coming from the river originating from Bhutan.

In this very House, we demanded the formation of Indo-Bhutan Joint Commission. We are told that that a Commission has already been constituted. But some concrete measures are to be taken to protect that area from flood. Those measures are yet to be taken jointly by Bhutan and our Government.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

15.00 hrs.

Our Government should impress upon the Government of Bhutan to implement certain measures so that floods do not occur in the northern part of West Bengal.

Sir, a Working Group was constituted. That Working Group recommended as to how much funds would be required during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The recommendation was that Rs. 10361 crore should be spent in the State sector and Rs. 30,700 crore should be spent in the Central sector. As per the recommendation of the Working Group, this much of amount would be required during the Tenth Five Year Plan to protect agricultural lands, villages and people from the damaging effect of floods.

Sir, a Task Force on Floods was also constituted. That Task Force has made several recommendations for short-term as well as long-term measures to mitigate the impact of floods. Sir, the important recommendations are: change in the funding pattern of existing Centrally sponsored schemes for erosion control in the Ganga from Centre-State ratio of 75 per cent and 25 per cent to 90 per cent and 10 per cent - I will come later on the problem of erosion which the State of West Bengal is facing). Other recommendations are: setting up of North Bengal River Management Board; provision of funds to States as additional Central assistance for maintenance of embankments; provision of Rs. 50 crores in the form of revolving funds to the Ministry of Water Resources annually for funding flood-protection schemes, which is urgently required; full Central funding of flood-storage components in storage tanks; inter-State and intra-State storage projects affording flood-control benefits should be vigorously pursued for implementation; State Governments should be persuaded to implement flood-plain zoning; community participation in maintenance of embankments should be encouraged and immediate measures costing Rs. 316.14 crore to be implemented

before 2005 monsoon in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and other north-eastern States.

Certain short-term measures costing Rs. 2030.15 crore have also been recommended to be taken up in 2006-06 and 2006-07. These are beyond the resource capability of the State Governments and hence liberal Central assistance would be required. This Task Force has very categorically recommended that the resource capability of the State, the money, which will be required to implement the recommendation of the Task Force, is beyond the capability of the State Governments. So the Central Government should provide liberal assistance. The Task Force has given its recommendations about two months or three months back.

What action has been taken to implement the recommendations of the task force? The task force has submitted its recommendations. I would like to know when the Minister replies to the debate-what action has been taken on the recommendation of the task force which was constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources?

There is no major flood in the State of West Bengal; and only two districts were affected. But the State of West Bengal, over the last several years, is facing the problem of erosion.

15.06 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

River Ganga is an inter-State river and there is erosion in the Ganga basin. It flows through Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Every year, there is erosion and many villages are washed away because the River is changing its course. There is confluence of Ganga-Padma; Malda and Murshidabad are the two districts that are greatly affected because of erosion.

A high powered Committee was constituted by the Government of India in the year 1996. That Committee recommended that an amount of Rs. 926 crore would be

required to prevent erosion. That Committee had submitted its recommendations in the year 1997. How much money has been allocated till 1997? Each year, they allocate Rs. 35-40-45 crore for the three States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The estimate was Rs. 926 crore and the estimate was worked out in the year 1996. How much money will required today? It should not be less than Rs. 1,500 crore or maybe, Rs. 2,000 crore. I feel that it should be declared as a national problem, since Ganga is an inter-State River. This cannot be left out to the States; and the ratio of 75:25 is not sufficient. That is why, the task force recommended that the ratio should be 90:10 - 90 per cent grant should come from the Central Government and 10 per cent should be provided by the State Government.

A Centrally-sponsored scheme, namely, Critical Anti-Erosion Works in Ganga Basin States was approved in January, 2001, with a Central share of Rs. 110 crore against the recommendation of Rs. 926 crore. I am not saying that this Rs. 926 crore was meant for one year but it was for five years. What was the fund that was provided? The Central share of Rs. 110 crore was provided for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan for providing Central assistance to the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, West Bengal as well as Farrakka Barrack Project Authority for undertaking anti-erosion works of critical nature. Only Rs. 110 crore was provided in the year 2000 and that too for four States. What was the share of each State? It is not more than Rs. 25-30 crore for West Bengal. The Central Assistance under this scheme is in the form of Grant to the concerned States in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the State and hundred per cent funding for ABPA. During 2001-02 an amount of Rs. 31.85 crore has been released as grant-in-aid to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and Bihar for taking up critical anti-erosion works in Ganga basin making the total release of Rs. 51.85 crore. Against the Central share of Rs. 110 crore for the entire Ninth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 51.85 crore was released to these States for taking up critical anti-erosion works in Ganga basin. The entire fund provided

for the Ninth Five Year Plan for taking up anti-erosion works of the four States was not released. The balanced spill over portion of the scheme amounting to Rs. 58.15 crore is being continued against the Tenth Five Year Plan allocation of Rs. 192 crore. It is being spilled over to the Tenth Five Year Plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 32 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will take another 15 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point in deciding time in the BAC. you yourself have decided time for its discussion in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Kerala is affected this year.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Hon. Member would speak for some more time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Pathakji, you, Shri Kashiram Rana and Shri Varmaji, too will speak. I am just supporting you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : Achariaji there is no substance in what he is saying.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He is my friend. If it is so then I would speak in Hindi.

[English]

For the year 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 25 crore has been kept in the budget estimates. A Committee has also been set up under the chairmanship of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission to identify

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

individual schemes for formulating the schemes for the balance amount of Rs. 133.85 crore for taking up critical anti-erosion works in the Ganga basin States during Tenth Five Year Plan. What can be done with this paltry sum of Rs. 133.85 crore? Huge sums of rupees are required to tackle the erosion problem in the four States. Prabhunath Singh ji, I am mentioning about your state Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Please ask from the Govt. benches whether they are listening to him or not. It not then there is no use of speaking.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This problem of erosion is not confined to the State of West Bengal but this problem is a major problem in West Bengal. The people residing in Ganga basin areas are passing sleepless nights. The river is changing its course. One village after another are being washed away by the river. People are uprooted and they are becoming homeless. There are problems of their rehabilitation as well as tackling erosion problem of Ganga basin States. This should be declared as a national problem and it should be tackled by the Central Government. It should not take short term measures. It should take long term measures so that a permanent solution can be found and the people living in the Ganga basin can have peaceful sleep.

Today, in certain areas, there is a drought like situation. The drought situation can be tackled. There is not much difficulty in that. What is required is sufficient funds. The capacity of our rivers has been reducing because of siltation. There has not been enough efforts for rain harvesting. There has been change in the atmosphere because of global warming. In some areas, there is less rainfall. You will be surprised to know that

even in one district, in one part the rainy season is almost complete and in other parts, there is drought.

How could this problem be solved? For several years now there has been no capital formation in the agriculture sector. Enough allocation has not been made for the expansion of our irrigation systems. There are a large number of irrigation projects awaiting completion for over 15 to 20 years now. The Teesta Irrigation project was started some 20 years back. This project is yet to be completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have now taken almost 40 minutes. Your time is over.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, now I would like to touch upon the drought situation in the country ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, there are 14 Members from our party who would like to speak on this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am only appealing to you to conclude now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Let the time be regulated from the very beginning. Otherwise, at the end you would allow the Members to speak only for two minutes. The time should be regulated from the very beginning only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Enough allocation should be made for capital formation in the agriculture sector. More capital investment should be made for the expansion of the irrigation system. What we have seen during the NDA regime is that not enough funds were allocated for the expansion of irrigation. There were less investments for irrigation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea) : Has the situation improved in the last one year?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : At least this Government is trying to improve the situation. The allocation is more.

You may compare the budget allocations made by this Government for irrigation to the allocations made by the previous Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are about 35 Members who would like to participate in this discussion. If we go no like this, would we be able to complete the discussion on this subject during this Session?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the discussion will continue till mid-night.

The States which have been affected by flood, agricultural activities have not started in those States. Agricultural workers are suffering due to lack of employment. The Food for Work programme was started in 150 districts in the country in the month of December last year. My suggestion is that the Food for Work programme should be extended to those States affected by flood by doing away with the stipulation of first identifying whether the percentage of people living below the poverty line in that particular district or area was more or less. The Food for Work programme should be started on a massive scale.

The Public Distribution System should be strengthened in the States affected by flood. The hon. Prime Minister has announced a relief to the tune of Rs. 500 crore for the State of Gujarat. I do not know whether the money has reached the State or not. It is because I have observed that first a Central team visits the affected areas of the State in the middle of July, they come back and then they submit the report. The problem today in the system is that first a Central team visits the affected area, they come back and submit the report and then the Central Government releases the funds. It takes time. The relief should reach the people immediately. Thousands and thousands of people have been marooned in the State of Maharashtra today.

Relief material should be sent immediately. Army should be deployed there and rescue operations should

be started immediately. Shri Maran is here. People are not able to communicate with the people living in that part of Maharashtra. So, telecommunications should be restored immediately on a war-footing. Damages in the railway track should be repaired immediately. Train services have not yet been restored. They should be restored immediately because they are the lifeline of the suburban areas of Mumbai.

Thousands and thousands of villages are in the dark without power. Electricity should be restored in those villages on a war-footing. This year, a number of States have been affected due to natural calamities. There has been an adverse impact of flood in a number of States. The Disaster Management Bill has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. The purpose is very good. It has a lot of relevance after the great disaster of Tsunami. I do not know whether the Standing Committee has reported back to the Government after the scrutiny of the Bill. But the Authority should be constituted immediately at the Central level, State level and district level. Whatever has been suggested in the Bill should be implemented.

As regards the Meteorological Department, our farmers do not rely on the weather forecast given by the Meteorological Department. As far as monsoon is concerned, it should be taken into consideration so that this Department gives the exact position of the rainfall and other things.

I urge upon the Government that the Central Government should dispatch relief materials immediately to the people who are adversely affected in Maharashtra and rescue operations should be started immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, before Shri Kashiram Rana begins, let me inform the House that there are 37 Members to speak on this subject. Hon. Members are requested to take not more than ten minutes each.

Shri Kashiram Rana may speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) : Thanks a lot, Mr. Chairman, Sir, several states in the country are reeling either under flood or draught. It appears that the country is facing a natural calamity and a number of States are facing the fury.

Just now hon. Basu Deb Acharia ji was telling that life had been thrown out of gear in many States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh because of floods and there had been huge loss of life and property. On the other hand, many a States like Rajasthan are facing drought and that too during rainy season.

The Government should have a will to tackle such a situation. Flood and draught affected areas should immediately be provided relief and efforts should be made to restore normalcy. I think the Government should be more alert in such situations. The Government should provide every possible help to the affected states so that they can come out of the precarious condition soon.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I won't take much time of the House though others have spoken at length on the subject. This morning I heard about flooded condition of Mumbai, Thane and Konkan. Hon. Members from that region were telling about that. Earlier, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir had faced similar situation. But I would like to tell the House that now Gujarat is facing worst ever condition. I have never seen such heavy rains in Gujarat. Mumbai and Konkan may have witnessed such kind of rains earlier also. 15 out of 25 districts of Gujarat are severely affected. The State Government is helping the people to come out of that crisis. But the State has not got expected help from the Central Government. 15 out of 25 districts are under flood. Most of the areas were cut off because of heavy downpour for five days and all communication links were snapped. Express Highways have been badly damaged. 20 thousand kilometer road length has been washed away. Power supply to 5-6 thousand villages has been disrupted. Water supply to eight thousand villages has

been totally stopped. Even railway tracks have been washed away. Such is the condition in Gujarat and people are trying to grapple with such kind of devastation. A Central team had surveyed the affected areas. Even Hon. Home Minister conducted an aerial survey. On reaching there, he announced an assistance of Rs. 500 crore. Of course, he provided help and released Rs. 72 crore from Natural Calamity Relief Fund also. But the state has suffered losses worth thousands of crores of rupees. This year the state faced floods. We are unfortunate to face natural calamities every year, be it, flood, drought, cyclone or earth-quake. Gujaratis have been constantly facing natural calamities. Though, they themselves try to overcome the difficulties, yet the Central Government owes its responsibility towards providing help. Now, I would like to tell about the total losses caused and the total financial assistance provided by the Central Government. During last four-five years the State Government spent rupees 6,741 crore to meet the losses suffered. This amount was sought from the Central Government. But so far the State Government has received only Rs. 2545 crore from both Natural Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund. The help we receive from the Central Government is quite meager.

My submission is that Government of India should not politicise and discriminate between states so far as relief on humanitarian ground to meet the calamities is concerned. The states should be provided with the required help. State Government of Gujarat has sent a memorandum to the Central Government after assessing the losses suffered. As per memorandum there is an urgent need for Rs. 8110.84 crore. The party which is ruling the state should be immaterial and the Central Government should act neutrally. Over two hundred people lost their lives and many rendered homeless. I hope the central Government would definitely provide help.

If losses suffered by small industrial units are also taken into account the total loss works out to Rs. 3,730.37 crore. Owners of small factories who employ lakhs of workers are sitting idle for want of assistance. By providing

just Rs. 500 crore the Government of India want to convey that they have done enough. No doubt, help was provided in the beginning itself. But people who have suffered losses, be it from South or Central Gujarat or Saurashtra or Surendranagar, where Chivda and Nimdi has been destroyed by rains, are facing bad times due to flood havoc. The Central Government should provide them shelter. Until and unless the Central Government provides them help, they would keep facing difficulties.

Through you, Sir, I would like to say that each affected state, be it Gujarat, Maharashtra or Himachal Pradesh should be provided help. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to provide help commensurate to the losses suffered by each state.

So far as Gujarat is concerned, 20-25 back Central team had been there, but it is yet to announce any kind of relief or assistance. The Rajya Sabha was discussing natural calamities in the pre-lunch period. During the discussion, hon. Home Minister told that the Government had provided Rs. 500 crore and he assured of further help if need arised. We have submitted a memorandum to the Central Team for more help but the Government had made no commitment about any help.

Through you, I would like to tell the hon. Home Minister and the Government of India that Gujarat's condition is no better as compared to other states. The farmers and small industrialists are in distress. The state as well as the Central Govt. will have to make joint efforts for their revival. I would say that immediately after the heavy losses were caused by the floods, the State Government started relief work. It did not wait for the relief from the Centre. The Government of Gujarat had spent Rs. 150 crore on relief work before receiving rupees 92 crore as calamity relies. My submission is that the relief is purely on humanitarian grounds and thus the Central Government should not play politics in it. Release of funds on the one had and simultaneously staging of dharna by the Congress workers is quite funny. We, all, should unite to face

calamities and extend whole-hearted support to the Government of Gujarat.

As I have stated earlier, Gujarat has been facing similar calamities for the last several years. While Gujarat has the sympathy of the whole country and post earth quake events are testimony to it. All of us are aware that people all over the country, the world over came forward to help Gujarat. Today also Gujarat is facing another kind of calamity, be it man made or otherwise.

Sir, through you, I would like to say that heavy downpour have been frequently taking place in various states of the country due to cloud-burst. I would like to ask as to why this happens? We should conduct intensive research to study the phenomenon of atmospheric and climatic changes. We should also try to find out as to why does a place receives the level of rainfall in just four five days which is equivalent to the level of rainfall to be received in the entire season. And it still keeps receiving rainfall for the rest of the reason. I think that the precautionary steps taken by us and disaster management effort to tackle the problem is not upto the mark. We wake up only after the disaster strikes and then we run for help. I would like to suggest that the Government of India should take some concrete steps to insure that appropriate precautionary steps are taken to avert such bend of disasters.

As I said, all natural calamities have their origin in the wrath of nature. Therefore, no delay should be caused in providing assistance for such because delay is tantamount to committing inhuman act. These issues should not be politicized and political mileage should not be derived out of such incidents. If this happens, the people of country will have to pay a very price for it in the future. I would like to submit to you that the Union Government should cooperate with Gujarat Government in its programme of helping people, and should provide aid on the basis of report submitted by the Central team. Besides, the demand of Rs. 8110 crore made by the Gujarat Government should be sanctioned immediately and help should be provided

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

without any delay. 500 crores were allocated long time ago. 500 crore rupees is a very meager amount. One would be horrified to see the losses amounting to thousands of crores of rupees. The Union Government should provide full assistance to the Gujarat Government to come out of this crisis and I request the Government of India to seriously consider, and honour the suggestions being given during the ongoing discussion on natural calamities in the House and should devise ways to help the states and people of this country in the future. If the Government follows these suggestions, I think it would be the biggest service to the people of this country and the Government would be able to tackle the situation of flood and drought more confidently in future and in effectively delivering aid to the people. With these words, I would again like to appeal, that the Gujarat Government is providing every possible assistance to the people, but the Union Government should also announce on aid for the Gujarat today itself during this discussion and with this hope, I conclude my speech.

SHRI V. THUMMAR (Amreli) : The Union Government have also already provided aid of Rs. 500 crore. But Gujarat Government have yet to pass to the poor...
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to add only one sentence to what Shri Kashiram Rana has said just now. I would request the Central Government that the relief which is given to the Government of Gujarat should be given on the basis of Tsunami, not on the basis of natural calamity because within 100 hours heavy rain has destroyed 90 per cent areas of the State.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to associate myself with what Shri Harin Pathak has said.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The relief which is given to the Government of Gujarat should be given on the basis of Tsunami, not on the basis of natural calamity.

[English]

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY (Kulaba) : Mr. Chairman. Sir, we are discussing something very tragic.

[Translation]

I am being told to speak in Hindi. I want to speak in English, but if you order me, I shall speak in Hindi.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak in any language under the rules. There are certain languages specified under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and you can speak in any one of them.

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY : Sir, the rules give me that power, but I delegate that power to the hon. Chair and whatever the hon. Chair directs I will follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may speak in English or Hindi or whatever language you wish to.

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY : Sir, we are discussing something which is most tragic. At least to the extent I know Maharashtra and Mumbai, there has never been such a disaster, but I will not say 'cloud burst'.

But I will put it as sky burst. I will call it a sky-tsunami.

I have heard many friends speaking. They meant it well. They have every right to make their own suggestions. But I have been in constant touch with the district authorities and also with the Konkan and Mumbai authorities. The way the downpour is there, each street has become a river. It is not flood. Everybody has witnessed floods on a small scale or a large scale, but the dimension

of this is worse than floods. It is a natural calamity and it is a calamitous tragedy.

When can the relief reach if one person is drowned up to the breast and another person is there at a distance of two feet and his arm does not reach him? If he has something in his hands, he cannot even give it to him by way of alms, excuse me for the word "alms." It is something which cannot be described in words. I do not know any words in the dictionary. For example, there were certain villages which have been situated on the slope of hills and hillocks. They thought that they were well protected because of the hill, but if the hill itself is slipped, the entire village is underneath-hillside. What has happened to those people? We do not know whether they are living or dead. If they are dead whether they can be cremated or buried, nobody knows and nobody can reach that village. For example, I can give an illustration by name, Jui. Jui is a village in Mahad Taluka in Raigad district, i.e. in my own district. It is not possible at all to reach that village at all. Everybody from social workers to political workers to administration to officers tried for the past two-three days, but nobody can reach that village simply because there is no way to reach.

There is a continuous downpour. No helicopter is there and it is flooded to the extent of dimension that was never witnessed in the history before. You cannot reach there by road. You cannot walk into the water, which is up to your breast. You can swim, but to what extent you can swim if you know swimming. Therefore, I would not blame either the State Government or the Central Government at the moment and I am confining myself only to Konkan and Mumbai.

My friend, Shri Basudeb Acharia has made a very good speech. He has flooded it with statistical data. His speech is also flooded with facts from every nook and corner of this country from Himachal Pradesh to erosion of Ganga river. But I would confine myself to where I come from because I know that from the most authoritative channel. I will not say that either the State

Government or the Central Government has lagged behind.

I will not do so. Military had gone there. They could not reach the spot. The assistance could not reach there. They could not know about it. Helicopters could not fly due to incessant down pour. Who will be sending the relief unless it comes like rains or thrown down from the sky? No human being can reach there. Therefore, my suggestion is this. I only pray the Almighty that this skyburst; this sky tsunami should subside immediately. It has been going on for the past three days and three nights. If it continues like this - and I pray not - I do not know what will happen. I will pray that there should be a halt put by the Almighty. It is beyond the comprehension and imagination of human beings. Only He can put a halt to it. We pray that He should put a halt, and thereafter only the relief can start. Relief can start only when somebody can reach there to handover the relief. From now on, the State Government and the Union Government however must be readying themselves - I am sure they are - to reach there. How many lives have been lost? By the time I reached this house, I think, the latest figure was 60 leaving aside those villages which have been underneath the hill-sides. We do not know how many of them are dead and how many of them are alive, if at all, which I doubt.

So, in the face of the disaster like this, we must be ready to give every relief that can be reached to the victims. I am sure, there will be a survey, but the survey officers must also be told that they should not ask for 'challans' for account books and for records. It is because everything has been washed away. Nothing is there. You cannot ask them to indulge in forgery and present them with forged documents. Therefore, they the officers should also use their common sense, spirit of humanism, indeed and be humane. Unless their attitude is humane, I do not think they can really do justice to the cause of the victims.

Mumbai has witnessed the same thing. From one State to another and from one house to another people

[Shri A.R. Antulay]

have been sleeping at a distance of ten houses. They simply cannot go to their own houses. They sleep in somebody else's house. It has been going on like that. Therefore, my only plea, my only request to both the Government - the Union Government and the State Government - through you and through this august House is that they should be ready. The moment there is relief from the devastating rain, outburst, outpouring, sky-burst and sky Tsunami, we must immediately rush the relief to them, and there should be no delay thereafter. Whatever is required should be done by way of short-term relief - to which I have referred - and also by way of long-term relief. It is because it might be running into thousands of crores of rupees, as my friend has said just now. Nothing is there. Everybody is a destitute. Konkan has become unfortunately a part of the sea.

16.00 hrs.

It was said that it was a part of the sea. Again it has become a part of the sea. It is very unfortunate but nobody can be blamed. According to me - it is totally my personal opinion and it does not reflect on anybody and it is not attributable to anyone - it may be a sort of a test by Him. We must have a humane attitude, a humane approach and we must behave like human beings. These are merely warnings by Him. A day may come, the warning will not be only for a few minutes and the warning may be a permanent deluge from which you cannot ever be rescued.

Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity. I wanted to say a few things. I come from Konkan. I come from Mumbai. Indeed Mumbai is a part of Konkan because it is in the belly of Konkan. So, Konkan and Mumbai are one and the same thing. You call it Mumbai or you call it Konkan. I have already written a few words to the hon. Prime Minister yesterday. I met him too and requested for his visit. I handed over my letter to his office thereafter. I am sure, the hon. Prime Minister must be seized of it.

His approach is very humane. His approach is absolutely generous similar to those who are a chosen few by the Almighty. I am sure, the Union Government will not spare any effort and the State Government also will not spare any effort in rehabilitation and in giving at least decent livelihood for the people. That is the only request I have to make. But this will start only as I said - I conclude my few words or observations - only after the rains stop. They were not over when I reached the House. I hope, in the intervening period of three or four hours, the rains have subsided. If they have subsided, we have to thank Him. If they have not subsided, then we have to pray to Him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri N.N. Krishnadas, you have only five minutes because Shri Basu Deb Acharia has taken all your time.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, he is the initiator of this discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What can I do?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I am taking part in this debate on behalf of my party only.

First of all, I express my Party's deep concern over the serious and severe situation caused due to floods and some other natural calamities in several parts of our country, especially in Mumbai. Just now, our hon. Senior Member, Shri Antulay has narrated the pathetic situation prevailing right now in Mumbai and in some other parts of Maharashtra and Goa. Some weeks back, there were severe floods in Gujarat, Himachal, West Bengal, Rajasthan and some other parts of the country.

In my very short experience in this House, this is the third time I am taking part in the debate regarding the natural calamities. Sir, almost in all our discussions and debates, all the hon. Members - Members from the Government side also - pointed out that we should find out a remedial measure in a permanent way to tackle this situation.

But every year, drought, flood and other natural calamities are shocking our country. As per the direction given by the hon. Chair, I am not taking much of the time. There is no need for any elaboration. There is no need for any further narration regarding the existing situation.

I have to add one point along with this. In Kerala, the monsoon has started in heavily way from last June. So, between this short period, seven landslides have occurred in Kerala. It has taken place first in Malappuram district in Kerala and then in Calicut district. Yesterday it took place in Idukki district which is a hilly area and a part of the Western Ghats area. A very serious landslide had occurred yesterday. Nine precious lives have been lost. Today, effort is going on there with the help of military, army people, to take up the rescue measures. Eight dead bodies have been found out so far till 3 o' clock. I do not know the position after 3 o' clock. I have got the information up to 3 o' clock that eight dead bodies have been found.

In my own constituency, that is, in Palghat, two lives have been lost yesterday. One is missing in floodwater. Today I heard that in my constituency one farmer has committed suicide because all his paddy cultivation has been destroyed by flood. This is the situation there. The situation is something different, especially in Kerala when compared with other States. It is only due to the geographical differences.

As our Chairman knows very well, in Kerala one part is the Western Ghats and the other part is Arabian Sea. In the monsoon period, when the monsoon has started, in the hilly area, natural calamities like landslides, landslips and something like them are happening. On the coastal side, there is sea erosion also. In the Western Ghats, there are landslides and landslips, and on the coastal side, there is sea erosion. This is the situation there. So, till up to 3 o' clock in the afternoon, thousands of hectares of cultivated land, especially paddy fields, have

been spoiled. *...(Interruptions)* What happened? I did not hear much of what you say.

So, thousands of hectares of paddy fields have been destroyed by floodwaters. Some other crops have also been destroyed. This is a perennial problem. Every year it is happening. So, I urge upon the Union Government to take up rescue measures. I am not taking this opportunity to blame the State Government of Kerala. This is not the proper time for blaming them for whatever lapse they have committed in the rescue measures. It is a different thing. So, I urge upon the Union Government to send a team immediately.

Do you know what the practice is? The hon. Chairman also knows it well. Every time, while taking up drought, flood or any other natural calamities, we, the Members of Parliament, were demanding the Government to send a team for the examination and evaluation of loss or damage. But the practice we see in all these things is that the team will go only in summer for examination and evaluation of flood situation. The team, which is going for examination and evaluation of damage due to drought, will go in monsoon period only.

This is a very unfortunate situation. So, I urge upon the Government to send a team immediately to evaluate the real damage and loss. Thousands of hectares of paddy fields have been damaged by flood water. Crops like ginger, pepper, banana and some other vegetables have been damaged. Thousands of hectares of cultivated land have been spoiled by flood water. As I have mentioned, yesterday itself, due to landslide at Munnar in Idukki district, nine precious lives have been lost. Eight dead bodies have been found out till 3 o' clock in the afternoon. We cannot say how many people are missing. This is the situation there. The Government should take it seriously and send a team to evaluate the situation. The Government should give maximum assistance for the rescue measures so that the situation can be brought to normal.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the house is holding a discussion on natural calamity. The discussion on natural calamity is held in Monsoon session of Parliament every year. I would humbly like to submit that now it appears that we are merely fulfilling formality in holding such discussion. Sincere discussion demands the appraisal of our then initiatives, efforts and progress made so far in dealing with drought and flood situation since the last year's discussion.

16.31 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Keeping this in view I can say that the efforts needed for tackling the natural calamities, are not being made at war footing. Our country simultaneously witnesses the fury of drought and floods in different parts of the country. It is not that droughts and floods keep striking new areas every time. The areas of flood and drought have been identified in the entire country still, the issue of damage caused by such calamities is discussed as a ritual every year in the House. An effective measures needed to be taken at war footing in the country in this regard are not being taken. Today, in the morning, colleagues from Maharashtra and just now Shri Antulayji mentioned. Maharashtra, Mumbai and Gujarat have been affected by the floods. The floods have also affected Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Kanpur and some other parts of Uttar Pradesh. Keeping this in view I can acknowledge that some new areas were also affected by floods and the real impact of heavy rainfall has yet to be felt. Most of colleagues from Bihar are very eager to initiate discussion. When floods and drought cause loss in any part of the country, we should rise above the party lines in discussing the losses caused by the floods and drought in any part of the country. We know that the states have limited economic resources and they cannot compensate such a great loss by their own limited economic resources. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to

provide assistance with open heart to the flood affected states. Just now discussion was held and last time a question about floods was asked from the Minister of Water Resources.

Sir, on the insistence of the hon. Prime Minister, a task force was constituted, for dealing the problem of floods and on 18 April a question was asked about the work being done by the said task force. Sir, I have with me the reply of the unstarred question given by the Minister of Water Resources:

[English]

"The Ministry of Water Resources had set up a Task Force for flood management and erosion control under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Central Water Commission to look into the problem of floods in Assam and neighbouring States of West Bengal, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh. The task Force has submitted its Report. This has been sent to the various Ministries, Planning Commission and the concerned State Governments and the same is under consideration in the Ministry."

[Translation]

This reply was given on 18th April. I would definitely like to know the action taken on the proposal that was sent to the concerned states. The Government should give reply in regard to the flood control. All of us have made a joint request to the Government to hold discussion on floods caused by rivers originating from Nepal. The Government in response had replied that the agreement has been signed with Nepal and in the year 2004, the Government have opened an office in the Nepal. I do not know whether the concerned Minister is present in the House or not, but I would definitely like to know about the work being done by the office set up in pursuance of the agreement between India and Nepal. The House should definitely be apprised of it.

Today, the world has changed and the new technology has been developed in all countries of the

world. Canada is using a new technique in regard to flood control, but India is lagging behind in the use of satellite technology and our experts are inept in using that technology available to us. As I said earlier, the areas of drought and floods have been identified. Surplus water areas have also been demarcated. I do not have much knowledge in this regard as I am not a technical expert, but we have not been able to transfer the water from the surplus water areas to the water deficient areas. We have not been able to do this. I am of the opinion that there is a need to make headway in this regard. More than 24 rivers originating from Nepal, Bhutan and China flow through India and affect 7 million hectares area of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and cause losses to the tune of crores of rupees every year, but till now, we have not been able to formulate a policy in regard to water Management. In 1972, Dr. K.L. Rao and in 1977 Captain Dastoor had forwarded their perspective in regard to saving country from drought and floods and in 1980 National Water Policy was formulated. In 1982, National Water Development Agency was set up and it was assigned the task of preparing the feasibility report of 30 river basins of the country. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I want to know, what progress has been made in that? So much progress has been made by that agency that they have formulated the report on connectivity of only 13 rivers so far. Whether this country will get rid of floods and droughts with this pace of progress. No progress has been made to prevent floods and drought in our country. We had made the provision of Rs. 468 crores for flood control during Tenth Five Year Plan but Rs. 114 crores were released out of it till March 2000. The interesting point is that 52% amount remained unspent out of it also. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, if even this meager amount can not be utilized, I fail to understand how can we protect ourselves from this calamity?

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, one more serious question of climatic changes is before us. Climatic changes have taken place and we have cut the forests of our country so

indiscriminately that nobody can have imagined. 33% of the land should have green cover but here the situation is such that even less than 19% forests have remained and Planning Commission has also announced the target of maintaining 25% forests. I do not know whether our country would be able to achieve the target of maintaining 25% forests but this much I know that we have been suffering because of floods which occur mainly due to ruthless felling. So we will have to prevent cutting of forests.

Hon'ble Sir, we get 1872 billion cubic meter water from rivers of our country, out of which we utilize only 605 billion cubic meter water. There are in total 3596 reservoirs in the country with the total capacity of 177 billion cubic meter water. 50% water of the main rivers of the country Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, Narmada, Kaveri, Krishna and Mahanada etc. flows waste into the sea. We are not even able to utilize water properly. Therefore, we are somewhere hit by floods and by draughts elsewhere. I can definitely say that there is no scarcity of water in our country. If anything is lacking that is lack of reservoirs for storing water. Our maximum water flows waste into the sea. Government should give attention in that direction also as to enable us utilize that water.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please conclude now.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Sir, I am concluding my speech.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, every year floods come and air surveys are done for relief operations. A long term scheme be formulated as might check deceiving the people in the name of relief operations. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we know about the State you belong to. Plundering of money is done there in the name of flood relief work. Several people undertaking flood relief operations have fished in floods to effluence. The people of the whichever States suffers floods, that always demands fund for relief and compensation of loss suffered due to floods. This

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

will not stop till any long terms scheme will not be formulated to prevent floods and draught in the country. Floods and draught will continue as a recurring phenomena in this country and our country can never get rid of floods and draught until and unless some tenable measures are taken.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the end I would like to say that every Government has its own priorities. There are myriad works before the Government but always some of them are accorded priority. The problem of flood and draught will remain un solved till it is not dealt on top priority basis. I would like to urge Government that they should give top priority to evolving the solution of this problem and solve it in a well planned manner.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to give maximum assistance to the affected States and Central Government as well as state governments should resolve that a long term plan will be formulated in the ensuing days for the entire country to provide protection against flood and draught. Here we always discuss and give suggestions in this regard but no concrete action has been taken so far. I want to submit that measures should be taken to avoid loss of life and property suffered due to natural calamities in the states where these natural calamities take pace.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude for giving me opportunity to take part in this debate on an important subject and here put forth my views. Almost every year we discuss natural calamities. I fully agree with the view of Shri Ramji Lal Suman that we discuss and give suggestions in this regard but these suggestions are not implemented by the Government. This is true.

The Government should try to take concrete measures in pursuance of the suggestions of hon'ble Members

and if Government makes some efforts, some solution will come out. But it seems that we are in the habit of speaking and the Government only listens. Do not take action on it, it seems that it is the resolution of the Government.

I express my gratitude toward you that and Hon'ble Shri Basudev Acharyaji, who have brought this subject under rule 193 for discussion and this is the right time because whole country is suffering from natural calamity, somewhere floods come and else where draught sets in. Several drought prone states receive floods every year. I would like to mention that Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh are the seven such states which witness flood every year and loss of thousands of crores of rupees and huge toll of life and property and crops is fixed. 4-5 states are drought prone and are affected by draught almost every year. Central Bihar and Southern Bihar also get affected by draught every year. Loss of crores of rupees is suffered every year due to floods and draught in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and many other places but we could not find any permanent solution to it. If measures for its permanent solution would have taken, I think thousands of crores of rupees,, approximately Rs. 10-15 thousand crores are spent in the name of natural calamity by the Government of India and State Governments may not have spent, but as Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji have mentioned that if we formulate long-term scheme, we can definitely evolve the permanent solution of this problem. I am speaking regarding Bihar State. Bihar is a State where problems persist through out the year, draught in the first half and floods during the later half of the year.

The main problem in Bihar is the water logging that takes place due to the rivers originating in Nepal. This problem has been aggravating due to the perennial floods caused by the rivers originating in Nepal. We have always been drying to draw the attention of the Government towards this problem, though the Government have taken some initiative and I would like to thank the UPA

Government for their efforts in this direction, the Government have sanctioned Rs. 32 crores for making DPR etc., but there is a need to ponder over the progress so far made in this regard. Unless we reach an agreement with Nepal and since this is not a subject of state list, the problem can not be resolved until talks are held at the international or national level with Nepal. I believe that this problem can not be solved permanently as long as we do not talk of constructing a permanent dam. Our country has been facing losses of thousands of crores of rupees due to this and this will continue further also. I believe that the government should seriously consider this and come out with a permanent solution.

I believe that since it is not a new problem and it has been persisting for last many years, if we had done some long term planning at the time of independence of the country and made a canal there or made some proper arrangements to drain surplus water then we would have tackled the problem to certain extent. If we had spend some money on this then it would have saved us a lot of trouble today. But I believe that planning was not done properly. I am talking about Bihar only, wherever there is a similar problem in the country, planning should have been done to find a permanent solution to this. I believe that any part that has been into power after independence has not fulfilled to their responsibilities completely due to which we have been facing such kind of problems even today and we are putting the general public also into a situation of great trouble.

Therefore, through you, I would urge upon the Government to work towards finding a permanent solution and make some long term plan in this regard. The Government should stop leaving people at the mercy of God and rendering them dependent on freebies by giving some aid and funds every year. This spoonfeeding is making people dependent on relief and assistance. The Government should work towards bringing the people out of this mindset.

The Government should work towards finding a permanent solution to this problem. This hinders the

progress of any state. How can any state progress if it is faced with floods and drought every year? In our country we spend thousands of crores of rupees on development. Every year we construct school buildings, houses, roads, electricity polls and make arrangements for water supply but all the same goes down the drain and there is a huge loss of life and property every year. Due to non-permanent arrangements the development of all the flood affected states is also obstructed. Through you I would request the Government to take some concrete and effective measures so that a permanent solution could be found for this problem. A long term plan should be formulated so that people can have permanent relief.

Sir, due to heavy rains the daily life of people have become disrupted in Maharashtra and there are no proper arrangements for drainage there. The sea water and rain water has accumulated upto six feet over and the drainage of water is not taking place as the level of accumulated water is same as that of sea. There is a need to make a comprehensive plan for Bombay. If the water is not drained then it may cause an epidemic to spread. Mumbai has a very dense population which may further aggravate the problem for the people there. Therefore, I would request the Government to make arrangements for proper drainage of rain water that gets accumulated every year.

Sir, though floods have not occurred in Bihar so far and god forbid it but I know that floods are inevitable. Last time when Hon'ble Prime Minister visited there, the State Government had asked for package in proportion to the losses suffered by them to restore normalcy of life. Despite the continuous pleading by the State Government it was not provided sufficient facilities and funds. I would like to thank the Government for providing components in the form of special package for building houses but still Bihar was not provided with adequate funds in commensurate with the view of the losses suffered due to which even today the condition there is very bad. The NHAI roads are still lying in a damaged condition. Funds have not been

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

provided for their maintenance which has made it difficult for the people there to commute. A large number of people have still been living either homeless or under a single roof. It is commendable that the farmer over here is still engaged in cultivation. They are poor people. In Bihar agriculture is the only source of livelihood. In fact agriculture is the only source of the entire country but the poor farmers of Bihar do not get remunerative prices for their produce. There is no one to purchase their foodgrains. I want that arrangements should be made for purchasing their foodgrains. The Government should make some arrangements for purchasing the poor farmer's produce which he gets after so many hardships including taking loan. But nothing in this regard is being done. Therefore, I would request the Government to pay some attention toward this.

Mention has been made about interlinking of rivers and also that the next world war would take place over water and also that the surplus water from the rivers of Bihar would be transferred by the implementation of interlinking project.

If the water of Bihar is diverted in pursuance of this policy than nothing would remain in Bihar after that. Recently 16 districts have been surveyed in Bihar and it has been found that the ground water level is receding over there. This year the summers were very hot. There were many villages in some districts where even drinking water was not made available. The wells over there had dried up. This is also a cause for concern. The Government should make some arrangements for conservation of water over there so that the water level does not go down further. There are 16-17 districts, which are affected with drought and the people over there have to face a lot of difficulties.
---(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, I am concluding.

Through you, I would like to request the Government that the UPA Government, who is committed for farmers, poor people and those who are in the last rung of the social ladder, should make the required arrangements for them. The Government should find some permanent solution for the States affected with floods and drought in the country. It should not merely provide some funds on the name of Natural calamity. The Government should form a certain policy to make people self dependent so that the farmers do not rely upon anyone and can earn on their own. Permanent arrangements should be made for the drainage of flood water that gets accumulated over there. The Government should also save the public which is facing problem of draught.

With these few words I would like to express my gratitude towards you and request that the suggestion given by me and other hon'ble Members be implemented and action to be taken according to them. You only can do this, they cannot do it, they can only deliver speeches, they have only deceived the people. Since you have thought about it then you must do something in this regard and provide relief to the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the discussion on natural calamities initiated by Shri Basudeb Acharia. Sir, the area of our country is very vast. Besides, there are geographical vivid nesses in it. If some part of our country is affected by drought simultaneously elsewhere the people may get affected by floods and rains. I want to remind the House that in the previous session this house had discussed on damage caused to farmer's crops by hailstorm and a session before that the House had expressed grave concern on drought. Besides hail storm, drought and floods the people of India are also affected by calamities like land-sliding, heavy snow fall and Tsunami waves. But despite of all these problems the

Government of our country have not been able to take any concrete steps so far to deal with these Natural Calamities. It is a fact that people of our country are facing natural calamities since long. In spite of it no concrete programme has been formulated so far for providing safety to the people affected due to natural calamities. We are not having any cell of trained personnel to deal with natural calamities. We have not trained any such team which could help the affected people at the time of flood or any other natural calamity. When any natural calamity occurs, our Government leave the affected people on the responsibility of local administration. Local administration send their Patwari or supervisor Kanungo there. At the most they send a policeman from the police station. Only one or two people are sent by the Government. If the affected person living on the mercy of God survives, the people posted at the lower level in Government machinery get involved in the manipulation of amount of assistance meant to be given to the affected people.

Sir, for example, I would like to draw your attention to one incident of recent flood in Uttar Pradesh. Following the breach of Bariyarpur dam of Madhya Pradesh on the night of 3rd - 4th July, the houses of the people in the villages which are affected by the Kain river on the border of district Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur and Fatehpur were inundated. The local administration is neither able to evacuate the villagers nor the Government machinery is in a position to conduct rescue operation. For three days the people had to remain on the roof tops or on the trees due to flood waters. This flood came on the night of 3rd-4th July whereas the boats of military and PAC reached on the evening of 6th July. Two boats of PAC were sent there for rescue operation. The people affected by the natural calamities, who were boarded those boats were drowned. 26 persons died in this incident. This is a fact that flood can come any time in this river, this is a fact that such incidents - have occurred several times in this river. Had the local administration made arrangement for quality boats and trained army men, the lives of those 26 persons could have been saved. Personnel of the

Government could not save them. When the flood water receded their houses had been destroyed, there was no place to live in. There was no trace of Houses. Wells, reservoir, roads and electricity poles and pipeline etc. were washed away in the river. They have no place to live in but the Government is busy in making the best suited lists only instead of providing facilities to those flood affected people.

Through you, I would like to request you that if we want to find any solution for the rescue of people affected by natural calamity, we will have to create a separate fund for dealing with the natural calamities.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please conclude.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD : After the calamity is over, the Central Government and the State Government vie with each other to issue statements. It will do no good to the affected people. I want to submit that whereas the flood affected people expect relief, the State Government steers clear of it by simply putting the demand before the Central Government and on the other hand, the Central Government expresses its helplessness. The result is that the relief/assistance does not reach the person who is actually affected. Hence, through you I would request that a separate calamity management cell should be set up to provide assistance to the people who are affected due to natural calamities. Creating separate fund for this purpose will help in providing assistance to the affected people.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, the Monsoon Session of Parliament should be called as a 'Monsoon Session' or a 'lack of Monsoon Session'. It depends upon the situation prevailing at that particular time. This time, we have a discussion that was initiated to discuss about the problems arising out of a lot of down-pour in some parts of the country while others chronically suffer from lack of water as it happens every year. So, my first request is this. The Monsoon Session begins in the

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

month of July. We should have a fixed agenda for discussion as to how to deal with the problems arising out of the natural calamity because every year we keep discussing it. Therefore, I really wonder whether it is really every natural or it is really man-made because natural calamities cannot just keep on happening by giving a notice or an advance notice saying that next year again, it is going to come, it is going to recur year after year. Therefore, we have to think about it very seriously.

We have been discussing these issues for so many years now. There are various elements of this natural calamity. One element which is causing a problem is that North and North-East of India and particularly Eastern part of India suffer from excessive rains every year. As a consequence of that, there is flooding in those parts of the country. There are chronic districts in the Southern parts of the country which always suffer from lack of water. Therefore, there is this scenario. In one single part of the country which is geographically and politically one country, two sets of people live here – one in excessive water and therefore, they suffer and the other set of people who constantly suffer because there is no water. Therefore, we have to seriously think about this issue as to how we can solve this issue permanently. There is, of course a vested interest involved in not solving the problem. If you really compare, in the last 57 years since we got Independence, there are literally thousands of crores of rupees have been spent by the Central Government, the State Governments and the local Governments on both these problems. Therefore, there is always an interest to perpetuate this problem because if there is flood, there is flood economy which operates and if there is drought, there are people who benefit from drought. It is the people who suffer ultimately. There are some interests who always benefit from either of the situations. Therefore, we should really seriously think about this issue.

The second element is about the visible impact of natural calamities like floods and droughts. But, there are certain invisible impacts which we cannot see openly with our naked eyes. But we are actually seeing that it has a strong impact on what is happening over a period of time. Desertification and land erosion are some of the slow poison issues which are also part of the natural calamities that are taking place as result of deforestation and many other things. Therefore, I think, when we discuss this natural calamity problem, we should always be conscious that there are certain problems which are recurring year after year. Therefore, we should now claim the responsibility for it because they are no longer natural but they are man-made by our own inaction or action in some way.

Sir, this time we have got floods in those parts which are not normally chronically suffering from floods. Maharashtra and Gujarat are not the States which year after year suffer from floods. This year, Konkan and Mumbai, in particular, are suffering from unprecedented floods that even today nobody knows what is the damage that is caused there. But thanks to the help from Army. At least, there is some respite that Army is now moving in there. Police forces are totally helpless. They cannot really cope up with the situation. Therefore, we really do not know as to how much the damage is caused.

Therefore, I would request the Government – the hon. Defence Minister is present there on behalf of the Government – to immediately assess the damage caused and make sure that all the relief measures are taken immediately for the people of Konkan and Mumbai. There are so many people who are suffering and they are not getting even food. Sixty-three per cent of people in Mumbai live in slums, and they really depend on their own livelihood, because there is some public utility available for them. Now, in the absence of it, it is causing problems. Therefore, some urgent efforts are needed to deal with these problems in a very serious manner. We should really need to analyse the situation as to what are the causes of this problem.

Firstly, over a period of time, this is the mindless development that is taking place, which is really causing this problem. When the flood takes place, like it is taking place in Mumbai, Gujarat and other parts of the country, the worst sufferers are the poor people because they live in slums because slums are developing in such areas where probably the flood affects the most. It is because slums are located near the gutters and nullahs, and it is these gutters and nullahs, which actually carry the flood water out. Slums are located on these places because they are the only places which are available unhindered, and they encroach these places. Therefore, this mindless development is the real root cause of this problem. We should now seriously think about it by doing the development work or the pattern that would take all these things into consideration. Otherwise, year after year, this situation will keep happening.

The main point is deforestation. But unfortunately, the forest cover in India is now decreased to such an extent that it is causing many problems. For example, when the water comes in, it comes with such ferocity that it is not able to stop because there is no route which can actually stop it. Therefore, soil erosion is an adjacent problem.

My next point is about the development of mangroves. We have not given any attention to the development of mangroves. Whenever there is flood or when the Tsunami hit us, then we realise the importance of mangroves, which could have saved us. Therefore, the entire coastline is now vulnerable because the entire mangroves have been totally uprooted. This is another issue that we should try to take into consideration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, because there is time constraint, I would now come to the real solution as to what we should really need to do. Firstly, we should do a land use survey on a national scale. We should really decide as to what land should be used only for habitation -- natural habitation and human habitation, and the rest of the land should not be allowed for human habitation because it is vulnerable. For that, we should use GIS Remote Sensing and try to

create this as early as possible, otherwise this problem will keep on happening year after year.

Secondly, as I said, we must earmark only specific areas for human habitation. Like, we are seeing now, in Mumbai, those people who are living there are the worst affected. Yesterday and today, I have just got the report that, they have not been able to eat anything. It is because they were located in such an area where their houses were washed away, their slums were washed away and their huts were washed away, and now, nothing is left. Therefore, the area for human habitation should be decided.

As many people have said, the real problem today is the surface water. The water which is available on land, is causing havoc because it is flooding, and where there is no surface water, it is also causing havoc. Sir, you will be surprised to know that India uses 83 per cent of irrigation potential by only ground water. So, the ground water is now servicing 83 per cent of the irrigation potential of the agriculture. In the whole of India the *per capita* storage capacity is only about 200 cubic metre. In the United States, it is 5,000 cubic metres; in China, it is 1,000 cubic metres; and in India, it is only 200 cubic metres! As a result of it, when the Monsoon fails, the entire area goes under drought and when the flood comes, because there is absence of storage, it again causes havoc. Therefore, what is really needed is creating an adequate water security. For that, storage capacity has to be created. But at the same time, we should also make sure that the ground water is not exploited in a worst manner. That should really need to be looked into.

Whenever floods come, whenever any calamity comes, what should be the response? One of the most important things we should do is that we need to look at it in a very scientific manner. World wide, there is a scientific evidence available of climate change. As a result of climate change, some areas are getting more floods, some areas are getting more rains; and some areas are now getting snowfalls where never ever there was a snowfall, like the UAE.

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

But this year, in UAE, there is snowfall. So, climate change is a reality. In India, we should set up a high-powered climate change monitoring station. That station should give a forewarning to all the States, all the areas, where some natural calamity is going to take place. For that, we really need to create a mathematical model, a computer-simulation model, to forecast how the weather is changing and which parts of the country are going to be affected. In fact, the forecast says that, as a result of climate change, India will get more rains for the next 20 years. If that is so, we should really prepare ourselves to deal with that situation. Store the water, which is going to come in access, and put that water in further use. Therefore, this is something which really needs to be done. I think we need to do it.

Now, I come to disaster management. We call it 'disaster management'. But, I think, there is a disaster in management of this 'disaster management'. It is because whenever there is a call, there is no response from it. Sir, London had a very serious bomb blast just last week and also on the 7th July. When it happened. Within five minutes, the entire response of the disaster-management team could really be seen and felt. Here, disaster management is something which we have to go and find out whether really the disaster-management team exists. So, the amount of money that we are spending on disaster management is also a water. We really need to do something about it. So, disaster management is something that is to be kept in place. Otherwise, we will keep on spending money only. The only demand will be that, since there is a big problem, give us Rs. 1,000 crore. Even that money will be going down the earth. No substantial usage would take place. So, disaster management is something to which we really need to look into at this moment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : This needs to be done in a multi-dimensional way.

The other issue, which I think we really need to look at as a nation, is that all the houses, all the properties of all the citizens of this country should be insured because virtually not everybody gets his claim settled. Whenever a relief is given, it does not go to everybody. The worst affected never gets that money. Those who cannot afford to pay insurance premium, the Government should pay their insurance premiums. If we have compulsory insurance, everybody will at least get whatever loss that he has suffered; he will be able to get compensation for that. For those areas, which are very vulnerable, where there is likelihood of more losses because they are going to suffer in natural calamities, insurance premium can be higher. But all the areas in the country should be covered with compulsory insurance. That would be one of the best ways to do it.

Sir, my appeal to the Government is this. In fact, by now they should have come out with a response-Konkan and Mumbai are the worst affected areas - as to many people have suffered loss. We do not know that. There is hardly any telephonic contact with the Konkan region. I am not able to make contact with the people of my constituency. So, my appeal is that the Government should instantly and immediately come out with a statement as to what is the extent of loss and damage is. Immediate response should be given and money should be spent. Whatever amount is required to be spent, that should be sent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : Even the mobile phones are not working there.

I think the Government will make a statement on this. It needs to be done.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the house is debating the natural calamities at such a time when lakhs of people in Maharashtra are grappling with natural calamity. Torrential rains have been

reported in Mumbai, Marathwada and Konkan regions of Maharashtra. Godavari river in Nanded district of Marathwada has touched 354 meters mark. Paindur, Ankeshwar, Chikli and Bharteshwar villages in Loha Tahsil of Nanded district are in the grip of floods and the entire area is inundated in flood waters.

17.00 hrs.

This has resulted in snapping of all communication links. This morning a demand was made to the collector at 10 AM to provide a helicopter but so far nothing concrete has come out of it. An apprehension is being expressed that thousands of people are likely to perish. The State Government does not have means and resources so as to save lives of the people. Through you, I would request the Government that arrangements should be made to deploy military personnel there so that the lives of the people could be saved. Thousands of people who left for their respected offices yesterday have failed to return to their homes.

Jhuggi-Jhopris have been totally inundated in flood waters. No person has been in a position to get milk, newspaper and other eatables. Even press reporters have not been able to reach their respective offices. Such torrential rains have never been witnessed in the history of Mumbai. Entire traffic, railway network, telephones, electricity are in shambles in a city like Mumbai. Rivers in my constituency Yavatmal are flowing at danger mark. Flood on 9th July caused collapse of a dam in Yavatmal district resulting in death of 15 people and destruction of houses of thousand of people. Beside houses of 950 people have been washed away and crops on 20,000 acres of land have been destroyed. About 10,000 acres of land has been rendered uncultivable. Even the Chief Minister of the State has not been able to visit the affected area. I have seen that in my district the families whose houses have been washed away have been given compensation at the rate of rupees one thousand per family member. If a family has two members, they have been given Rs. 2000 as compensation. This amount of

compensation is nothing but peanuts. About 350 families in my district have taken shelter in schools. Their predicament is that during the day, school administration drives them out of the school premises and allows the in to take shelter during night only. I had taken up this matter with the DM. Whatever he has ordered in this regard should be taken seriously. He had stated that only those people are entitled for compensation who have the ownership rights-and those who have settled by encroachment of land would not be able to get any compensation.

It is obvious when these slums settle along the banks of the rivers, it is an encroachment. They do not have any ownership right. This way, without giving any compensation to these people legislations are made. Is there any separate law when tsunami spell a disaster? Why a separate law has been enacted for the flood affected people? We had repeatedly demanded it in this very House and there was a great furore in the House last year. The Maharashtra Government has not yet received Rs. 1750 crore demanded by it. Three months ago a Central Committee visited my district and sanctioned Rs. 103 crore after conducting a survey and submitting its report, but the fund has not been received as on date. Such kind of things have been noticed. Just take the case of Mumbai. There is neither a river nor a canal. It is not hit by floods. However, yesterday all means of transport including air traffic, railways road transport came to a stand still. Why does such a situation arise? We have repeatedly asked the Ministry of Urban Development to implement Urban Infrastructure Project for Mumbai called MUIP but the union Government has not done anything for it.

17.06 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

The said project also involves the Sewage Disposal Project State-II of Mumbai and Implementation Slums Sanitation Programme stage II. The Government should pay some attention to Mumbai. Right now Acharya ji

[Shri Haribhau Rathod]

was saying that Mumbai is the hub of all kinds of economical activities, but so far no consideration has been given to it. The Government should consider over all the demands of Maharashtra Government which are pending with it and all the funds should be released on this occasion.

I have learnt just now that Shri D.B. Patil, hon. Member from Nanded has already left for Nanded. The situation there is growing critical. The people there are still trapped in water, helicopter and other reinforcements should be immediately dispatched to rescue the people stranded in those four villages mentioned by me. Besides, efforts should be made lest such a situation, which is prevailing today in Mumbai should develop again in future. The demands relating to infrastructure development in Mumbai should also be considered. I reiterate that there was great furore in the House over the issue of Drought Programme raised last year and the hon. Prime Minister had given the assurance to extend all possible help to Maharashtra. Last year, farmers were compelled to sow the seeds thrice and a similar situation has been emerging this year also. I would request the Government to extend help to Maharashtra in such a situation. The poor people there are looking up to the Union Government for the help it can provide.

I have visited them door to door and my eyes become tearful at their plight but, I am helpless. The Government has nothing to give to the people whose families have been ruined. We cannot provide them accommodation to construct their houses. The Government should ponder over it.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Madam Chairperson, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this subject. In fact, I do not want to narrate the agony of the recent flood in Gujarat because one kind of disaster or the other seems to be visiting Gujarat perhaps every year. I

have witnessed floods, cyclone, earthquake and drought. I have seen land slides, avalanches and even cloud burst. In all these calamities, what you would normally see is death and destruction where thousands of people sometimes get killed, houses destroyed and people become homeless. That is a very desperate situation. What I am deeply anguished about is — even when I was not an MP and was a social activist in those years - that the stories get repeated. You will always find the administration, especially the State Administration, wanting in providing relief, rescue and rehabilitation in a post-disaster situation. You will always find that in the area of pre-preparedness the administration had never ever reached up to the expectation of the citizens.

Take the example of cyclone and earthquake in Gujarat. The first thing you will notice is that the communication link gets completely disrupted. The administration do not know how to reach there, whether it is flood or earthquake or any other kind of disaster and also when the nature of disaster is sudden. In drought, one can prepare but in flood, there is very little chance. So, what you normally see is that [Translation] there is no communication in this particular situation. [English] The worst part during the flood in Gujarat was that. [Translation] People are stranded, the level is so high, boats cannot be used there as we have none. [English] It is happening despite the fact that Gujarat State has a Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority which has got, according to the Government, a Commonwealth Award. [Translation] Even the Gujarat Disaster Management Authority which has non acclamation from Commonwealth has failed to rescue people for want of boats. The administration should have geared itself up but there have always been lacunae in its functioning secondly. I found that despite all the scientific information as stated by Shri Prabhu [English] that despite having all the information and despite having intimated the administration [Translation] we do not have scientific mind, have we find it out?

[English]

The Central Government has already introduced a Bill in this Lok Sabha which is called the National Disaster Management Authority Bill which may perhaps be taken up in this Session or in the next Session. I do not know about it. But I have gone through that Bill. I will come to the Bill later because the Bill describes how the Authority is to be set up at the national level and at the district level in order to meet the eventualities which are arising out of disaster situation. But a scientific bent of mind is required to apply it, law pressure had started to develop.

[English] in Arabian sea some 6-7 days back there is bound to be a way. There is bound to be cyclone and we have failed to implement a system. Even after having such examples of such a disaster situation, the communication system always gets cut off. [Translation] Administration can deploy army or the Forest Department for this purpose, it is possible to rescue people by activating radio.

[English]

The Central and the State Government administrations have not been able to respond to it. We simply depend on the information from the radios. When the islands of Car Nicobar was affected by Tsunami, the people depended on information from the radio only.

[Translation]

We do not have any other communication link in addition to it. We have reached there in such a situation, the preventive measures.

[English]

I have found it completely lacking. I do not know what to do and how to tone up the administration despite the fact that they have been listening about it and talking about it and even asking for more money to tackle the situation. I will talk about the recommendations of the Finance Commission on this aspect later.

[Translation]

But in such a situation first aspect is scientific application and its development and in such a situation the locals can be of maximum help. It has been recommended to prepare a Disaster Response Force under National Calamity Authority but if the character of Disaster Response Force would be similar to that of the police then.

[English]

I do not think it is going to serve much purpose except that during rescue and relief operation we can provide immediate help, such teams should be mobilized from among the villagers because it may take a lot of time for the Government agencies to reach the affected place. Local population can provide immediate and maximum help, so arrangements should be made to provide them training.

Another issue which has been raised here and which has been raised repeatedly and, I would like to apprise all the colleagues that 9th, 10th and 11th Finance Commission summed up all the expenditure incurred by all the states in the country and 12th Finance Commission has proposed that each state would get its share of disaster management by taking into account the share of each state during the year 1995 and 2004-2005 alongwith the actual expenditure incurred by each state on disaster management and giving a 10 percent increase to the figure arrived as such factoring 5 percent inflation into it. Share of each state has been decided irrespective of occurrence of a disaster be it drought, flood, earthquake, tsunami, etc., to cite an example the share of my state Gujarat is Rs. 246 crore, of which 75 percent is given by the Union Government and the remaining 25 per cent is borne by the state Government, which means Rs. 186 crore has to be provided the Government of India every year to the Government of Gujarat whether it is struck by any disaster or not. That share is mandatory and is deposited. If the share of state of the calamity fund is Rs. 246 crore, as in case of Gujarat, and if the state wants to withdraw funds

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

in the subsequent year, it can withdraw 25 percent out of that deposit as every state, which is hit by floods joins the race of putting forth their claim. I would like inform the House that every state has got its contribution of its calamity fund be it Rs. 140 or Rs. 150 crore with itself. Secondly, every state put forth its claims for the relief package or compensation. It is a separate question. In that situation compensation food package, relief and rescue is to be provided to the people for which funds are required and sought by every state and it is even claimed that since there is paucity of funds so they can not tender any help. It is not correct. This issue is in limelight since 9th Finance Commission and the share of each state has been discussed even in the 10th, 11th and 12th Finance Commission. How much fund a state is to receive every year by the year 2010, this all has been discussed in the Appendix of the 12th Finance Commission's Report.

He can ensure it and if yet is receive has share, it can be asked for. The slides have to contribute only 25 percent of the money.

[English]

Year after year there have been reports that the States are not contributing their 25 per cent share to the Calamity Relief Fund.

[Translation]

Consequently, this money can be invested in any security. This has been stated.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I am just concluding. It is an important subject. I am just speaking to the point. I am not telling anything else. I am trying to inform the House what I have been listening from the people.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I know that. But I have to accommodate other Members also.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I know it. I am taking the time of my part only.

Through you, I would like to say that it is a national level calamity. That is also defined as calamity of a rare severity going by it the share to be given by the centre and by the National Calamity Centre for disaster management set up as per the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission, a sum of money is recouped from the Rs. 700 crore being managed by the said body. As far as giving money to states is concerned no state can complaint that they are not getting any money for relief and rescue operations because the money is immediately released by the centre. Besides, it has been seen that states including my own state spend maximum part of such money on building their infrastructure. The state fail to provide money to the people as compensation to build their houses etc. They provide little money to the people for providing relief and cut down on the amount to be provided as immediate cash relief.

[English]

So much so, there are instances where the States have not been able to spend even the money which has been given to them under the Calamity Relief Fund which is in fact their money and they have not been able to spend that money.

the issue of infrastructure is other than it.

There also what I found from the reports of the C&AG as well as the Finance Commission is this that the states fail to spend the money under plan expenditure on calamities etc. The first thing is that all expenditure must be demanded from the Union Government and if the Union Government belongs to one party and the State Government is of other party then there is also a tendency to inflate the figures of damages.

[Translation]

Some Governments quote it as 5000 crore others 6000 crore, 7000 crore, 8000 crore and this figure keeps on increasing. I would like to make a submission in this regard that as per the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission the States can utilize that part of money which they receive in their State Calamity Fund from the Central Calamity Relief Fund.

[English]

There should be strict monitoring from the Union Government as to how this money has been spent and whether it is spent in order to restore the infrastructure of the State Government or it is spend for the benefit of the people who are being affected. There should definitely be a mechanism for monitoring it. In our site it is said that there is politics and I again say that it is politics of disaster.

[Translation]

Such is the prevailing condition that I found that when there was a lot of hue and cry in my State that the Central Government have not provided any assistance despite making an announcement that Rs. 500 crore would be provided. On inquiring about it I found that Rs. 246 crore are already with the State Government. Still Rs. 500 crore have been given. If the Centre and the State Government belong to two different parties, such is the tendency among the State Governments to create a false propaganda that they have not received adequate relief package from the Centre and hence they are not able to undertake the relief and rescue operation in full swing. The State Governments should not take resort to such alibis and immediately undertake the relief and rescue operation in full swing.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You conclude within two minutes.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Madam, I am concluding within two minutes. It has been seen during

relief and rescue operations that a large amount of money is collected by the people in the name of disaster management whether it is earthquake, tsunami or any other kind of calamity or disaster.

[English]

There are trusts and newspapers which have raised money for this and we do not know how this money has been used. They are all private people. I think the Government must put its foot on and should ask whether this money which was collected by the people has been used for the purpose for which it has been collected. The Government must inquire into that.

[Translation]

It has always been seen that this issue is politicized. I would like to say that politicization of such issues is not a good thing. Many of our colleagues and friends who have raised questions during their speeches and who are not present in House right now have resorted to distributing that money taking credit in the name of their party which have been collected in the name of natural calamity. It should not be done. Whichever State Governments are guilty of doing so, should not resort to such kind of behaviour. I thoroughly condemn it. They should not play with the feelings of the people and should not take advantage of such distress situations. I would like to say that the State Governments receive the funds from NCCF and there should be strict monitoring on as to where this money has been spent. MPs do not know that how has this amount been spent. Though the Union Government provides money for disaster management but simply they are mute spectator. This situation must be avoided.

Second thing, there should be a provision of disaster preparedness having the features of post disaster rehabilitation by applying scientific mind and toning up the administration. This is my suggestion.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Thank you Madam for

[Shri B. Mahtab]

allowing me to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 on natural calamities in the country. Calamity, as we all know, is affecting this country in many forms. There are natural calamities and there are also man-made calamities. It is often said that there is no remedy to natural calamities. But man-made calamities should be abhorred and culprits punished. Calamities are met first by rescue, second by relief, third by restoration, and fourth by reconstruction. As has been diagonalised, initially, say around 130 years back, when the first Relief Code was written down, first 'flood' was mentioned as a natural calamity. Subsequently, 'drought' was included, then 'cyclone' was included, then 'landslide' was included, recently 'earthquake' has been included, then 'fire' has been included, and 'hailstorm' has also been included in the definition of natural calamity.

I will come to another aspect later on in my speech. It is regarding what more should be included as a natural calamity. In our country, incessant rains bring flood; when there is scanty rain, we have drought. Repeated arrangements have been made to protect areas from inundation and provisions have been made to provide irrigation facilities in drought-prone areas. Crores of rupees have been spent to build embankments in flood-prone areas and to provide irrigation facilities in drought-prone areas. Today, what is the total area which is irrigated in this country? It is not more than 30 percent of the cultivable land. I think about five years back a book was published, titled "Everybody Loves a Good Drought". Similarly, everybody loves a good flood. That nexus has to be broken. Even in this 21st century the sensex is dependent on the blessings of the rain God.

Orissa has the misfortune of facing calamities in a periodic manner. During the last ten years, year after year, one calamity has succeeded another. This year because of scarcity of rainfall, already the early variety paddy crop has been totally destroyed. One does not know what will happen to the late variety paddy crop, if we do not get rain within another week's time or in ten day's time.

At the same time, the undivided district of Koraput is today facing heavy flood. But the rest of the State is totally under the spell of drought. The district of Cuttack, the district of Jagatsinghpur, the district of Kandhamal, the district of Puri, the district of Nayagarh, the district of Ganjam, even part of Kalahandi, the district of Sambalpur, most of the districts other than the undivided district of Koraput are under the spell of drought. Take for example, the reservoir in Orissa, even in Jharkhand, in Madhya Pradesh, in Chhattisgarh and also in Uttar Pradesh. There, the water level is quite low and down below the national level.

CSIR has recently stated that the poor prospects of monsoon in June and July are 'disturbing'. The States that I have mentioned comprises the large part which are paddy producing States. Here, the production of coarse cereals - as per the report of CSIR which it has brought out - will be adversely affected by this year by this errant monsoon. It is projected that the output would be 10 per cent less.

At the same time, the production of food grains is expected to fall by 3 per cent - 2.9 per cent to be precise. I would urge upon the Agriculture Ministry now because keeping CSIR's report in view, what steps has the Government taken to improve the *rabi* crop, to educate the farmers, to take up more areas, to cultivate *rabi* crop, to increase the production of food grain, at least, for sustenance of the people of this country? Flood and drought are considered as 'calamity'. 'Landslide' also was added, as I told earlier. What we in Orissa faced this year in 2005, we had faced the similar instances, the similar situation in 1999. That is, the sunstroke, the heat wave. Orissa being in the eastern coast had never experienced this situation earlier. There is no recorded history regarding heat wave and sunstroke in Orissa earlier.

17.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

But, it was in 1998-99 and again in 2005 that we have faced heatwave and where hundreds of people

have died because of sunstroke. I am sorry to mention that despite Orissa Government drew the attention of the Central Government to include sunstroke as a natural calamity, it has not been accepted. I urge upon the Government through you in this House that sunstroke be included in the list of natural calamity because many people have died during the last 5-10 years due to this sunstroke. Especially this year, in Orissa, more than hundreds of people have died within a short span of 2-3 weeks.

We all know that flood throughout the world cannot be fully controlled. It is to be managed to the best of ability. During 2004, Government of India had constituted a Task Force for Flood Management. But it is Ganga-Brahmaputra centric. I would request through you, Sir, to the Government that there are a number of river basins, especially the Mahanadi river basin, which need attention from the CWC where attention has to be given. Only one reservoir has been created at Hirakud on Mahanadi. But attempts should be made to inter-connect rivers, firstly, state-wise. A grand idea was formulated by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji during NDA's Government.

I do not know what is the idea of the UPA Government relating to that. But linking Mahanadi with Rushikullya will help sort out a larger problem within our State. Rushikullya needs water. The farmers of Ganjam district need water for irrigation. In Mahanadi, we have sufficient water. If another barrage is constructed in the downstream of Satkosia Gorge, Mahanadi water can reach Rushikullya and also irrigate Ganjam district. At the same time, the Government should also consider inter-connecting the river aspect. Construction of river water reservoir is an old idea - projects are there - of constructing another reservoir over river Baitarani at Bhimkund. Similarly for the last more than 15 years, the construction of a reservoir over Suvarnarekha has been going on. These two projects need attention by the Government.

At the same time, people who have been affected by fire, floods and earthquakes or any other calamity where

the house is destroyed, irrespective of their economic status, houses should be provided to them under *Indira Awas Yojan*. Houses should be provided at least to the weaker sections because we all know that many people, who belong to the weaker sections, do not find their names in the BPL List. At least, that provision should be made. The authority to determine the beneficiary may be given to the District Magistrate whereby he can identify the people from the weaker sections irrespective of the BPL List. They can be given the facility of shelter.

Now I come to the other most important point which is disaster management. Disaster Management is the call of the day. People at large have been managing the disaster in their own way with the help of the community. But today the concept is how the State is coming forward to help the people who are in distress, how the State is geared up to meet the challenge, the disaster.

Recently, in the G-8 Summit in Edinburgh, which our hon. Prime Minister attended, global warming was one of the issues that was discussed. The current nature and magnitude of disaster is not only complicated but also may go well beyond the conventional disaster management practices. Therefore, there is a need today for a paradigm shift in the disaster management and disaster preparedness.

I will give you one example. This year, 2005, a town in Orissa, Talcher, had a temperature of 54 Degree Celcius. This is totally unthinkable. 54 Degree Celcius in one small town of Talcher! What will happen? Are we prepared to meet that situation? If any township in this country goes up to 54 or 55 degree or even more than that, how is the Government, the society and the country prepared to meet that situation? What attempt is being made at the national level to meet that situation to help people at that point of time? Orissa was simmering under heat wave. Hundreds of people died as I told the House earlier also. But I want to mention here that the M

[Shri B. Mahtab]

eteorological Department is pathetically slow. It needs utmost attention specially from the Science and Technology Ministry as well as from the Environment and Forest Ministry. Specific steps should be taken to meet this challenge which is quite new for this country.

With these words, I would once again request the Government through you, to do one thing. Sir, the amount that is being provided under CRF and the NCCF is not sufficient. Therefore, I would once against request the Government that the affected States should be provided with immediate relief, and, when the restoration work is being done, immediate funding should also be provided by the Centre.

With these words, I would request that the suggestions which I have made should be considered by the Government.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : Sir, we are discussing the question of natural calamity when the country is facing one of the biggest disasters in the Western Coast. The whole of Western Coast, especially, Maharashtra, Mumbai, are badly affected by incessant rains and floods. India is a big subcontinent. As we all know it consists of various climatic zones and natural calamities of different type occur. On the eve of this New Year we faced Tsunami, one of the things that was not experienced by our people for hundreds of years. It was very devastating. Just after that we had the hailstorm in Kashmir and the devastation was so big. Then, as always, we experienced floods in the Gangetic region and Brahmaputra region. There is continuous drought in central India, especially, in Rayalseema, Andhra Pradesh and other places. The Eastern Coast is prone to cyclones. This is how we are. So, probably we cannot expect that it will not be there. We cannot expect that. But what we expect from a Government is disaster management, water management and better facilities provided to the people. We cannot expect that disasters would not be there but people should be helped to come out of it as soon as possible.

Let us take the case of crops. When flood is there crops are destroyed. The peasants are telling that there should be a crop insurance scheme which is peasant friendly. Even now we do not have that. So, even if the flood is there, if a peasant friendly crop insurance scheme is there, probably they will be able to get over the crisis. I come from Kerala. We call it God's own land. It is really beautiful. The whole coastal area is virtually affected by sea erosion. It is not in the description of calamity or in the definitions of calamity of the centre. It is not prescribed as a calamity. I do not know what is it then. In sea erosion what happens is you lose land. Sea intrudes into the land and you lose land. Just before coming here, I visited my constituency, Trichur. Anappandham which is a tribal colony was affected by landslide. Now, today the report is that the entire Kerala is affected by landslide. Palghat, Malappuram and Trichur are also being affected. Then seven or nine people died in Munnar in a big calamity. You provide some free ration, establish some camps and all that but that is not a solution. In such places where sea erosion and landslide is taking place, we can identify those areas. Land should be insured there.

One suggestion made here that all the houses should be insured in the country. I may not say that all the houses should be insured - the houses in the slums, houses in the landslide-prone areas., houses in the coastal areas that will be affected by sea erosion, and the huts that will be wiped off when the flood affects the country - such houses should be compulsorily insured. If that is done and once this 'natural calamity' phenomenon is over, people need not run from this office to that office to get relief. There will be an in-built organised system by which the insurance will take care of their needs. The land should be insured in areas where landslide has affected and also the area where sea-erosion has affected. Similarly, as I told you, in the flood-affected areas, the huts that may be affected by floods should be insured.

Now, Sir, there is another problem - the problem of water usage. Several hon. Members mentioned that we are

a country where groundwater is indiscreetly used, and the groundwater level is speedily going down. There is no organised system by which you are trying to replenish the loss, and the run-off water is going to the sea. Kerala is a typical case in question. Our land is tilted towards sea. In spite of so much rain, but within 24 hours, the rainwater from the hills will go to the sea. All these good Monsoons will have no effect. It will not affect the replenishment of groundwater. It will just flood and it is flooding to the sea. So, there should be a very systematically planned approach by which you save the water not by huge dams. It may not be possible because there are environmental problems. You can make maximum number of check dams. It is not only the case of Kerala but also the case of entire country. Through check dams, we can preserve maximum water and the groundwater will be replenished. Then, our situation will be far better than that of what is today. These are some of the issues. It is not that the Government has never discussed about them. They might have discussed but what is not there is, Sir, giving priority and deciding that these are one, two or three things that we will implement them. If we have such an approach in relation to the problems of calamity, probably we will be better off even though the calamity will occur because of the natural reasons.

Then, I will come on to man-made calamities. Sir, I remember Mahatma Gandhi - the Father of the nation. It was he who said "That the nature will provide everything to meet the needs of the people but not to meet the greeds of the people." It is where the problem lies. The forests are destroyed; everything is destroyed. Mindless destruction is taking place and mindless construction is taking place. Now, in Kerala, the construction mafia is mining the areas for finding sand for construction. Mining is possible anywhere. What does it mean? We are losing good land - cultivable land, the land that can be used for many other purposes. If that is allowed, Kerala will become one day a lake or something like that. I do not think that it is a 'Kerala' phenomenon alone. It may be a phenomenon in many parts of the country. The construc-

tion mafia is trying to do the sand mining in an indiscriminate manner.

So, there should be laws and the laws should be implemented without the influence of corruption. It is very difficult. But otherwise, things will not improve.

Then, there is exploitation of the relief about which many hon. Members have mentioned here. Some people are waiting for the drought and flood to occur because there is an economy of drought and there is an economy of flood which they can operate and mint money out of it. We have to find solutions to these problems in such a way that the country and the people are saved from such people and the natural wealth is preserved to the maximum so that people are given opportunity to live better after the natural calamity.

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank the Chair to speak on behalf of my party DMK in this discussion under Rule 193 drawing the attention of this House to the plight of our countrymen during natural calamities. Drought in one form or the other has become a recurrent feature in this sub-continent every now and then. We are also seriously discussing the problems arising out of natural calamities every three months or every six months in this House of the People. It is unfortunate that no lasting solution has been found as yet and no viable mechanism to meet the ground realities is in place. Our Government established National Disaster Management Authority. It may evolve long term strategy and may start functioning effectively only thereafter. But immediate rescue and relief operations are not available now. There is no viable mechanism in place to ensure relief measures and rush rescue and relief materials. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, our UPA Government extended all possible assistance immediately but unfortunately that has not reached the needy ones. Drought prone Districts all over India have been identified to be 150 and Employment Guarantee Schemes are being

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

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carried out there during the regime of UPA. Even in this Scheme the Tamil Nadu Government is floundering and the guidelines are not properly followed and hence, the needy people are not getting the relief from the Scheme conceived and implemented for them. Even the elected representatives of the people like the Members of Parliament are not aware as to where the funds allocated go. There are too many lacunae in the implementation of the scheme in Tamil Nadu. ...*(Expunged as ordered by the Chair)* Shri Harin Pathak of Gujarat, my esteemed colleague in this House who spoke ahead of me highlighted the ravage caused by the rain floods in both Maharashtra and Gujarat. He compared the devastation to that of Tsunami havoc. He urged upon the Union Government to rush help urgently. As far as Tsunami that hit hard the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, there was a huge loss of life and property. There is no second opinion that the Union Government rushed rescue and relief measures and materials as early as it can. But unfortunately the needed help was not extended to the needy people who were worst hit by that tragic disaster. Even in Tsunami relief operations...^{*} in identifying the beneficiaries, the victims and their families, and their party men gobbled up even the relief materials and cash compensations extended to the victims and their families. I have already recorded this sorry state of affairs in this august House while participating in a similar discussion under Rule 193. I had stated about those lacunae and mismanagement with documentary evidence and newspaper clippings. But still no effective action has been taken to plug the loopholes or to put an end to the corrupt practices in the implementation of the continuing relief work there. Even in identifying the beneficiaries for many centrally sponsored schemes and centrally funded schemes like Andhyodaya Scheme, corrupt practices are resorted to and the money do not reach the deserving poor living as destitutes. Sampoorna Rozgar Yojna, Gramin Sadak Yojna, Indira Awas Yojna, Swarnajayanti Scheme are some of the centrally funded schemes implemented

through the State Governments but what is happening in Tamil Nadu is rather paining. On the one hand, we find natural Tsunami and on the other hand we find corruption Tsunami. On the one side we find drought and natural disasters and on the other side we find...^{*}

When Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister of our country, through the able efforts of our beloved leader, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was set up in 1990. The Tribunal came with an Interim award in June, 1991. We are yet to see the award fully implemented in all these years. It is high time serious efforts are made to get a final award to evolve a lasting solution for this vexing problem that has left the Cauvery Delta region high and dry without proper share of water being released on time for cultivation. I hail from the Cauvery Delta region which was the Paddy-granary of the South which is now becoming a drought prone area and the agriculturists and agricultural labourers are facing enormous problems due to lack of irrigation facilities. It is unfortunate that starvation deaths are taking place in that Cauvery fed area and people are even driven to the state of hunting rats for feeding themselves. This situation must go.

All these years we have been talking about inter-linking of rivers. I urge upon this Government to ensure taking up this scheme and complete it before the end of the term of this Fourteenth Lok Sabha. This is necessary to give protection to and ensure livelihood to the people living in drought hit areas. This will give adequate protection to people living in flood-havoc prone areas. Because surplus water would be flowing away to other canals and rivers. During the tenure of Thirteenth Lok Sabha, an authority was constituted to study the inter-linking of rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu. I would like to know what is the state of affairs now.

Similarly, I would like to emphasise upon the need to implement properly the Employment Guarantee

^{*}Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Scheme and improve more Districts that are drought prone. The Centre must also evolve a viable scheme to ensure alternative job or at least off-seasonal job opportunities to the agricultural labourers living in the drought prone areas of our country. Otherwise they will be pushed below the poverty line due to the ravages caused by drought.

Sethu Samudram project that remained a dream for more than 140 years has seen the light of the day during the time when Dr. Manmohan Singh is the Prime Minister of this Country and ushering in a viable era with able guidance and leadership of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Kalam Karunanidhi. I request this Government to ensure a historic event of completing the inter-linking of rivers during its regime.

I need not mention again the drought conditions prevailing in Tamil Nadu even in the Cauvery Delta region. Even drinking water is a problem in many parts of the State. Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu is facing acute drinking water shortage. In order to get adequate supply of drinking water a thousand crore rupees scheme was announced by the Centre in the Union Budget to set-up a water conversion unit near Chennai to get potable water from the sea-water. The needed help and co-operation was not forthcoming from the State Government. It is unfortunate that this viable scheme could not be implemented. At the same time,*.... under the head New Veeranam Scheme. It is ending up as a wasteful expenditure as no water could be procured for Chennai on a lasting basis. The citizens of Chennai City are still going about with their parched throats.

Our Constitution provides the Centre with enormous powers under Articles 355 and 356. There could be second opinion on that and I am not going into it. But I would like to highlight that powers to proclaim national emergency, powers to proclaim economic emergency and powers to take over administrative machinery of a State

are vested with the Centre. As long as this Constitutional provisions are there and as long as the state of affairs are found wanting, then the Centre must act. The natural disasters in the form of drought, floods, cyclones. Earthquakes and Tsunami cause huge and immediate loss to both lives and properties all of a sudden. So, they must be treated as national disasters whenever and wherever they occur, the Centre must immediately put in place rescue and relief operations involving the officials of both the Centre and the States. The relief measures must be taken up on a war footing as and when the disasters occur. A viable mechanism must be conceived and evolved.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, Tsunami relief operations have come to a stand still because of the lackadaisical attitude of the State Government there. The Central Government and even certain foreign Governments along with several voluntary organisations are ready to fund the relief work that are going on there but they are lying unutilized. Even after seven months of the Tsunami tragedy the relief work has not started in full swing there. Permanent houses have not been constructed and the work in this regard has not commenced still. Thousands of families are still living in the temporary shelters. I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that one of those temporary structures fell a prey to a fire accident some ten days back. The fangs of fire hit the people who were hit by seawaters earlier. Those hapless people again lost whatever material they had. Those people are still staying in rescue shelters. The failure on the part of the State Government earns the wrath of the people against the local representatives like us who are serious and sincere to rush in help. This is like the guilty and the charged are unfortunately two different sets of people while the guilty goes scot-free, and the innocent people like us are facing charges and abuses for no fault of ours. Even the Central Government is not spared while making allegation. This can stop only when the State Government is made accountable.*...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri A.K.S. Vijayan]

In the style of several Standing Committees to Parliament, a Disaster Relief Work Monitoring Committee comprising of Members of Parliament must be constituted to ensure accountability in relief work. This Parliamentary Committee may rope in officials from both the Centre and the State to rush help to needed places and needy men in time during natural calamities. At the local level, Committees comprising of the District Collectors and the local MPs must be set up to oversee the relief work. I urge upon the Rural Development Ministry to set up such committees to monitor the effective implementation of centrally sponsored schemes as they are fully funded by the Centre and approved by the Parliament.

Thanking the Chair again for the opportunity given, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall continue this discussion tomorrow.

The House now stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, 28th July, 2005 at 11 a.m.

18.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 28, 2005/ Sravana 6, 1927 (Saka).

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