

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 24, 2005/Bhadra 2, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni,
Question No. 401

[*English*]

Research on Rise in Heart Diseases

*401. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AIIMS has conducted any research on the rise in heart diseases in the country and its treatment with the help of stem cells;

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

(c) whether the use of stem cells has proved successful in curing heart diseases;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to intensify the research on stem cells?

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

Statement

The AIIMS is actively engaged in the research and therapeutic procedure involving use of various stem cells. AIIMS has conducted the following ethically cleared research on the use of stem cells in heart diseases:-

- (1) Stem cells were used in patients of coronary artery diseases while undergoing bypass surgery in 35 patients.

- (1) Stem cells were injected percutaneously in 17 patients of dilated cardiomyopathy while undergoing coronary angiography.

The results in the surgical patients have been successful with no side effect and improvement in the pumping function of the heart with clinical benefit to the patients. The results in the second series have been without any side effects or complications and the patients are being followed up for their clinical status and observation. Although the results are encouraging, the patients are still under regular follow up.

Realizing the potential of stem cell research in modern therapeutics and biomedical research, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Biotechnology have strongly recommended that stem cell research and its clinical applications should be promoted in the country. India has emerged as one of the major countries involved in stem cell research. According to ICMR, around 15 institutions and 3 premier health centers in the country are presently involved in stem cell research and related activities. The ICMR is also in the process of establishing various cord blood stem cell banks in the country.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, research with the use of stem cells to not only cure heart diseases but other major ailments like cancer, spinal cord injury, low blood supply, baldness, blindness are going on for quite some time. Primarily stem cells research is also called regenerative medicine and has the potential to change the face of human disease by repairing specific tissues or by growing organs.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Has the Ministry made efforts to enlighten the general public about the causes for rise in heart diseases and its disastrous impact on not just health but life itself?

It has been stated in the reply that though results are encouraging, patients are still under regular follow-up. Would the hon. Minister let us know how long patients will be under follow-up? Has there been any timeframe in this regard?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, there are two issues which the hon. Member has raised. One is about

the condition of the general heart diseases in the country and whether the Government has taken any steps to create awareness. The second one is pertaining to the All India Medical Institute of Sciences where there were a number of cases treated using adult stem cells.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know how long the patients should take rest.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, it is a constant review of the patient. He has to come for a review after six months to one year according to the progress.

As regards the other question about cardiac conditions and status of the general public, today, in India there is an abnormal increase in the non-communicable disease pattern like diabetic and cardio-vascular diseases. In fact, the WHO has warned us that non-communicable diseases will overtake communicable diseases in the future. So, the Government is all geared up to tackle the issue of the future.

Today, India has literally become diabetic Capital of the world and cardio-vascular disease Capital of the world. We have started a lot of awareness campaigns. This year we are going to have a new national programme on cardio-vascular diseases, diabetics and stroke. Coupled with this, we are going for a lot of programmes including creating awareness in the schools.

MR. SPEAKER: Both relevance and brevity are virtues.

Now, you please put your second supplementary.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, in these days of increasing health consciousness, one cannot understand the rise in heart diseases. Doctors are of the opinion that there is a marked improvement in the food habits, people are following yoga and exercise regimen and adopting vegetarian food habits. Would the hon. Minister inform the august House whether any innovative and concrete methods are being adopted at the national level to highlight the rise in heart diseases? What are the details?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, as I have already mentioned, the Government of India is going for a new national programme for diabetics, cardio-vascular diseases and stroke. A Task Force has already been set up. The Planning Commission has given an 'in-principle' approval

for this programme. The Task Force is now discussing among themselves how this programme is going to go about, how we are going to have early detection, awareness and treatment plan. Awareness is the main concept not only among the elders but among the children at the school level also.

The hon. Member has rightly said that yoga could be inculcated in the curriculum. We are, in fact, discussing this with the HRD Ministry so that yoga should be made a compulsory subject at the school level.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar, you put one supplementary please. Do not put a question starting with parts (a), (b), (c) and (d).

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I would like to know the percentage of success, achieved and progress made so far in use of stem cells in patients undergoing by-pass surgery. What the Central Government has contemplated to take more measures, also state the steps likely to be taken for attaining maximum success in this field in future?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, if you permit, I will inform the Members what are stem cells and what are the types of stem cells.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not a medicine. This is not a medical college.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: It was a different question, he laughingly evaded it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: In order to make it understand the concept of stem cells and what we are doing in the country to the hon. Members, I would like to mention the basic things. There are three types of stem cells—(1) cord blood cells, (2) adult stem cells, and (3) embryonic stem cells. The world over, there is a lot of opposition for the embryonic stem cells on ethical issues. The UK, China, Korea, some parts of Singapore and other countries have carried out research, and in

India, we do not want to lag behind. So, India is propagating the therapeutic cloning for embryonic stem cells. So, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has done a couple of researches on cardiac patients. About 37 patients have been treated.

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned that in your written reply.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: This procedure of using adult stem cells is going on for the last 10 years world-wide, and now recently the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has taken it up. Some of the institutes are going in for not only cardiac research but also for the lymphatic cells, eye cells, pancreatic cells, bone marrow and all that.

So, we are going in for more of research, and in fact, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Department of Biotechnology are going in for a joint venture of having a new stem cell research unit in the AIIMS for not only cardiology but also for all other organs of the body.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome, you put a very specific and brief question.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Yes, Sir. I will put a very specific question. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You may sit down.

[*English*]

I am sorry. Please sit down. He has given you too long an answer for your short question.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, I must appreciate that the Government has taken up stem cell research project in our country, and the research work is going on successfully. This is my specific question. There is one important problem relating to heart disease, that is, even today the coronary heart disease is on the rise. Even today the single largest heart disease is rheumatic heart disease and the common sufferers are the poorer sections of the society.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: You would also appreciate that many times valve replacement surgery is necessary. That is very expensive, exorbitant and cost-effective.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: My question is this. This disease is exclusively controllable through a rheumatic heart disease control programme. I would like to know whether the ICMR has made any study on the single largest heart disease problem in our country. What is their recommendation on this project? This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question is this.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no part (b).

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating to take up a rheumatic heart disease control programme or not.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Pertaining to part (a) of his supplementary, I will collect the details and inform the Member. Regarding part (b), I have already said that the National Programme for Cardiovascular disease, Diabetics and Strokes is in the offing, and we are going to go ahead with the programme this year whether the rheumatic heart disease will also be a part of that programme.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The number of heart patients as well as diabetic patients in the country are on the increase. These specialised treatment facilities are located in the cities or in the institutes like AIIMS or in places like Chennai, Vellore, etc. But in the rural villages, especially, in the State of Orissa, these facilities are very much limited. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether for this kind of patients from the poorer sections, what kind of facilities they have provided in the States, which lack this kind of treatment. I am asking this specially with reference to the State of Orissa. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you going to do for the rural people?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Firstly, it is a State subject, and the State Governments have to put up more facilities for treating these patients, and upgrading facilities in the hospitals at the State level. In the National Programme which we are contemplating, we are trying to

evolve a pattern whereby we should assess them. Most of this Programme will be for awareness, and early detection. It is not viable at this point of time to treat all these patients in the country in the National Programme. But we will be able to assist the States to a certain extent for all this.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Thank you, Sir. Right now, the adult stem cell is being used in the cardiac and other indications. My pointed question is this. I would like to know whether the Government is trying to fund All-India Institute of Medical Sciences which is a pioneering Institute doing research in this field about the embryonic stem cells as well as umbilical cord blood banks. I would also like to know whether they are planning to give this facility to the State Government for bigger hospitals in States.

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be a pointed reply.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: As I have already mentioned in my answer earlier, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences along with the Department of Bio-Technology is on a joint venture project, and are going ahead with a major project on stem cells research including the cord cells. Today also, we have an Umbilical Cord Cell Bank in the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences along with the Organ Retrieval Banking Organization (ORBO) on a joint venture.

As far as the question of States is concerned, in future, the Government will try to help the States which do research work on stem cells because we want this research to go on throughout the country.

Funds to NGOs for AIDS Control Programmes

⁺402. DR. R. SENTHIL:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) the details of the proposals for the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) Programme, Phase-III;

(b) the details of NGOs receiving funds from external agencies for various AIDS control programmes;

(c) whether these NGOs are utilizing funds on projects identified by them for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is aware that the funds allotted to NGOs are not being utilized properly;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action plan of the Government to coordinate and monitor utilization of funds by NGOs?

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

Statement

(a) The National AIDS Control Programme—Phase III is scheduled to begin in June, 2006, and the project period is likely to be for five years. Preparatory work for the National AIDS Control Programme-Phase III has already started and a planning team has been constituted. The planning process will involve all stakeholders i.e. policy makers, experts, NGOs and community based organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies. Under the planning team, 14 working groups have been constituted for indepth discussion on important thematic areas concerning the programme. The working groups will prepare national and state level programme implementation plans for National AIDS Control Programme—Phase III.

In order to review the progress made, a Programme Steering Committee Chaired by Special Secretary and Director General, NACO, has been constituted.

(b) to (d) The World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID), United States AID (USAID) etc. provide funds to National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) for implementation of National AIDS Control Programme phase-II. NACO provide grants to NGOs through the State AIDS Control Societies for undertaking Targeted Interventions addressing mainly the groups at higher risk of contracting HIV infection and to provide care & support services for people living with HIV/AIDS. However, there are certain external agencies like Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, India-Canada Collaborative HIV/AIDS Project (ICHAP), which provide funds to some NGOs directly and have their own evaluation mechanism. Since NACO is not involved in the process of granting of funds to the NGOs by these external agencies, the details are being collected & would be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Due to reasons like poor performance, funds mishandling and change of management committees etc., State AIDS Control Societies have withdrawn support from about 38 NGOs implementing various projects since 1999. Presently, 922 NGOs being funded by NACO are implementing 965 Targeted Intervention projects among High Risk Groups (HRGs) and 58 NGOs running 60 Community Care Centres (CCCs) under National AIDS Control Programme phase-II. The Funding of NGOs supported by NACO has been decentralized to the respective State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) for which detailed operational and costing guidelines have been provided to them. Based on annual action plan discussions with the States, the funds are released to respective State AIDS Control Societies for providing financial assistance to NGOs. A Computerized Management Information System and a Programme Finance Management System have been developed by the NACO to ensure regular feedback from the NGOs through their respective State AIDS Control Societies in respect of diverse parameters for evaluation. With the intensive monitoring and evaluation systems, the SACS are able to check poor performance, improper use of funds and under achievement of targets etc. On finding shortfalls, SACS withdraws the project and stops funding.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri E.G. Sugavanam—not present.
Dr. R. Senthil.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I thank the hon. Minister for an exhaustive and a very comprehensive reply. I have only one pointed Supplementary with regard to the action of the NGOs. At the moment, NGOs play a vital role. They develop a project and present it to the NACO and get funds. The problem with this project is this. For example, there is an NGO in Mumbai that works with the employees of a multi-national company, and draw funds. Actually the studies have shown that employees working in a multi-national company are at least matriculates. They do not need education. It is the people in the unorganised sector who need education. So, at the moment, the NGOs are choosing projects on their own. Would the Government consider that the NACO plans and develops all the projects, and gives only those projects which it decides as important for the NGOs. Instead of NGOs presenting a project, the NACO should decide a project, and give this to the NGOs.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good suggestion.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Firstly, I would like to say that the NGOs are doing a wonderful work in the control and prevention of HIV AIDS in the country though some NGOs are black-sheep in the total enormity of situation. But, today the National Aids Control Organization (NACO) funds the State governments. We have State Aids Control Societies (SACSs). We give all our funds to these State SACSs, and the SACSs appoint the NGOs. The NGOs are called for, and they have criteria for eligibility. Then according to the State's local needs, these NGOs are funded by the State SACSs. The SACSs monitor these NGOs, and they are accountable to the SACSs. Moreover, we have been getting some complaints on this issue of NGOs, and the Government of India is going to take a more proactive role in the functioning of the NGOs, including in their monitoring and accountability.

MR. SPEAKER: have you got second Supplementary?

DR. R. SENTHIL: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: So, no other Supplementary. Very good.

Shri Virendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. I thank you once again for giving me permission to ask supplementary question after lapse of one month. I am grateful to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you sincerely doing it?

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Yes, Sir.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Or, are you trying to taunt? Are you increasing the prestige of this House by making such observations?

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that many organizations of international level are extending

cooperation to AIDS control programmes in the country. In reality, on the pretext of giving funds for AIDS control programme in our country, these international institutions are preparing market for laboratory kits and medicines manufactured in their country by exaggerating figures and spreading fear among the people. In real terms, instead of extending cooperation in AIDS control programme, these organizations are exaggerating the figures. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether a process has been adopted in regard to registration of actual patients, door to door identification of patients and distribution of medicines to them.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Wherever issues have come up and wherever the national figures of HIV have been refunds, we have strongly defended our numbers and refuted the so-called claims of the multinational agencies, some of which have been funding us. We have asked for explanation from some of them and they have given the explanation that they have not done any of those things. We are closely monitoring the situation.

Today, the number of multinational or global agencies like Global Fund, the US-AID, the UN AID, DFID, and the Bill Gates and Melinda Foundation are funding/supporting the NACO's AIDS Programme. They are doing wonderful work in the country in close association with the NACO and with us as a cohesive unit. There is no problem with any of these units. If there are any issues that are brought up to the Ministry, we would take notice of them.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I am not undermining the importance of research and advocacy when it comes to HIV/AIDS. Most of the funds procured by the NGOs are directed towards research and advocacy. But another critical area that is emerging here is the social stigma that is attached to the AIDS patients because in the hospitals also they are treated almost like untouchables and are sidelined. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the NACO would come up with some mechanism wherein rehabilitation centres and homes could be created for AIDS patients, wherein they could take shelter.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The Government is going to bring in an enactment against discrimination of

HIV/AIDS patients. The Bill against discrimination of these patients at work, at school, and at treatment places has been sent to the States for their comments and we are yet to get the comments from them. Once we get the comments, we would enact it soon.

Coming to the second part of the hon. Member's question, we have about 50 community care centres, mostly run by NGOs where AIDS patients are taken care. These patients are mostly terminally ill AIDS patients. The NACO is funding all the 60 community centres in the country.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Some of the NGOs working in the name of AIDS control are mainly concentrating their work on supply of condoms and contraceptives after they receive funds from the Government. This, in a way, promotes prostitution. I would seek to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is giving any direction to the NGOs for having better projects to control the spread of diseases like AIDS and whether there is any machinery to monitor the functioning of the NGOs.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Supplying condoms is one of the important functions of the NACO. Today, the Government is going for a more active condom promotion campaign whereby it is a dual protection campaign: one against population growth and the other against infectious diseases like sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis-B. All those infectious diseases could be prevented by using condoms. The Government is going to go in for a more active condom promotion campaign and we are going to use more NGOs in this method.

For streamlining the NGOs, the Government is preparing a proposal to streamline the functioning of the NGOs in the country and the Central Government is going to go ahead with that.

[Translation]

Increase in Quota of Seats of Medical Colleges

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*403. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that quota of seats of some medical colleges have been increased despite the adverse remarks made against them by the Indian Medical Council;

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

(c) the State-wise details of such colleges;

(d) the reasons for adverse remarks made by the Council against the said colleges; and

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

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

Statement

As per the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Medical Council of India (MCI) is required to make its recommendations on the schemes referred to it by the Central Government for establishment of new medical colleges, increase in intake capacity or starting Post Graduate courses. The Central Government after considering the scheme and the recommendations of the Council and after obtaining, wherever necessary, such other particulars as may be considered necessary by it from the person or college concerned, and having regard to the factors referred to in sub-section (7) of Section 10A, either approve with conditions or disapprove the scheme.

During the year 2005-06, the Central Government has received a number of negative recommendations from the MCI with which the Government has agreed and not given permission for either establishment of new medical colleges or increase in seats. The Central Government, however, in exercise of the powers vested with it under Section 10A(4) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, renewed the permission for admission of fresh batch of students for the academic session 2005-06 in previously established three Government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu and one each in Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 403. Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi— not present. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

The ballot is always favouring the Health Ministry!

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Question, the hon. Minister was asked to divulge the names of states where permission has been given to those colleges whose applications were kept pending for the last three years, the colleges of only Uttar Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Chhattisgarh have been mentioned in the reply. The Government has permitted admission of fresh batches of students in these colleges. Whether there are any such colleges in Madhya Pradesh who have applied for permission and their applications are lying pending? Whether the Government had considered them.

The second part of my question is, as to which are those negative recommendations of Indian Medical Council of India, on the basis of which Government is delaying grant of permission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is asking about Madhya Pradesh.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: As already mentioned in the written answer, this year there were negative recommendations in about five medical colleges and all five were Government colleges. In fact, the Government had a responsibility. In the Government colleges, the Chief Secretaries and Health Secretaries have given undertakings and affidavits to us stating that they will rectify deficiencies. Then, we have gone ahead and given permission to these Government colleges.

As far as other issues of Madhya Pradesh are concerned, I will inform the hon. Member.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is very specific, Medical Council, Dental Council and the Government granted permission to some private Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges, but their requests seeking permission to start next year's course are pending due to which the future of medical students has become dark, because, though permission has been given for first year, but permission for second year has not been given. This way the future of these students hangs in balance. Whether he would consider the situation and take decision in this regard at earliest?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Today, there is a procedure whereby if someone wants to apply for a medical or dental college, then they have to get the permission from the State Governments, the affiliation of the universities and, then apply to the Central Government. The Central Government sends these recommendations to the Medical Council or respective Councils. Then, these Councils go and inspect these colleges and give recommendations to the Government whether they could give permission or not. There are a number of colleges, who are waiting for permission or not. There are a number of colleges, who are waiting for permission, because of various reasons of deficiencies which are yet to be rectified, by the so-called colleges. Once they rectify these deficiencies, then the Central Government will have no problem in giving permission to them.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: They have rectified the errors and they have also given fresh applications for permission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He will look into it and inform you separately.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Once the Medical Council gives its recommendation, then we could give permission to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: There are Medical Colleges which were given sanction to start the college. But now permission for the second year is not being given. Who is responsible for this? What is the Government doing about it? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. JAGANNATH: In the recent past when the Medical Council of India went for inspection of the private medical colleges, they found that instead of having good infrastructure, they have made a hotch-potch arrangement. They were getting patients from other hospitals and were also hiring doctors and students. The standard of any institution depends on the infrastructure. Such an institute without good infrastructure will not be turning out good doctors and doctors will be playing with the lives of the human beings.

As per the hon. Minister's answer in which it has been mentioned that there were adverse comments from

the Medical Council of India, five colleges were not given permission. Likewise, there were so many allegations against the Medical Council of India which has not taken care to evaluate them.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action the Government is proposing to take against such type of colleges which have entered into such types of practices and also against the Medical Council of India which has not taken care of the standards of the medical education.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I do not know about the second part.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Today, unfortunately, we have a situation whereby there is no synthesis between the Medical Council of India and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Medical Council of India was formed exclusively to help the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to upgrade the standards of medical education in the country. Today, we have come to a situation or a deadlock has been arrived whereby the Medical Council of India is not functioning in coordination with the Ministry of Health. It is an unfortunate situation. The Government is trying to rectify this situation. In fact, we have been getting a lot of complaints. ...*(Interruptions)* In fact, over the last few years also, some of the friends from the Communist Parties also have written directly. They have written to the hon. Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You say some hon. Members of Parliament.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Other than the Communists, a lot of other Members of Parliament have met me personally. They have written to me and they have been asking to rectify the functioning of the Medical Council of India which is, unfortunately, not at all satisfactory. So, the Government is going in for enactment of an amendment of the Medical Council of India Act.

MR. SPEAKER: After the amendment, all these matters will be looked into.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: In fact, yesterday we have introduced in the Rajya Sabha, the Medical Council of India (Amendment) Bill whereby we will try to rectify

the deficiencies and functioning of the Medical Council of India.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, the hon. Minister himself has admitted that the Medical Council of India has become a defunct organisation. I agree with him.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not said defunct. He said: "Not working together."

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: It is not functioning and there is no synthesis between the Ministry and the Medical Council of India. That is what he admitted. Here, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much time he will take to change the Act and see that this new Act is introduced in the next Session of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: You say: "As soon as possible."

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, yesterday we have introduced the Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha and it may go to the Committee and then we will try our best to pass it in the Winter Session of Parliament.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, is there any difference of opinion between the Medical Council of India and the Government in the matter of sanctioning new seats in both private and Government colleges? Is the matter taken to the Supreme Court for their decision? Is there any bar in sanctioning of new colleges for the current academic year? Will the hon. Minister reply to these points?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, there is no bar on sanctioning of any new courses or new colleges from the Medical Council of India or the Government of India. The Supreme Court has given us some deadlines or dates to follow whether to give permission or for renewal or for post-graduation etc. It is an unfortunate situation whereby the courts are directing the Ministry to take up these issues on a time-bound manner. We are following that.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to follow it.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: In some issues like increase of seats, the courts have given a deadline. After the deadline we have not been able to follow it or give permission.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to comply with the court's order.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Medical Council of India was constituted to improve the standard of medical education in India and help the Government in this task. But now, the differences between the Government and Medical Council have become public. The situation is such that when Medical Council of India conducts inspection of a particular college and reports to the Government about inadequate standard in that college against prescribed norms but the Ministry increased the number of seats in said college on its own, ignoring Council's report.

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, the names of such Medical Colleges in Northern India, about whom the MCI has recommended to increase/not to increase the seats and on the contrary the Government have given the permission to raise the seats in those colleges contrary to the opinion of the Council. There is a need of more Medical seats and Medical Colleges in Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know from the Minister the basis of derecognizing private colleges in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why did you take away the affiliation?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: If the hon. Member informs what is the name of the college I will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is some private medical college.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: What is the name of the college?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I am talking about Meerut Medical College.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we go according to the recommendation of the Medical Council of India. In the Rule 10(a)(4) of the MCI Act, it states about it and I can read out the relevant portion of the Act.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you give the substances.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, it says that the Medical Council is a recommendatory body and the final permission is given by the Government of India after fulfilling the facts and then getting the views from the management or the college concerned.

With regard to the issue of Meerut college, the Medical Council has given some negative recommendations to us. In fact, there is a cut off date, which I have already mentioned, from the Supreme Court and after the date, unfortunately, we are not able to give permission even though the college has rectified these deficiencies.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: As a Member of the Standing Committee on Health, I just want to ask a question whether the hon. Minister is aware that it is not just the case with Medical Council but also the Ayurvedic Council (Amendment) Bill, the Homeopathic Council (Amendment) Bill which were sent to the Committee. There was a unanimous feeling which was recorded that the Ministry is working to destroy these councils by taking away all their powers. Every time the Council recommends that a particular institution should not be recommended, the Ministry has gone ahead and recommended it, specifically in two cases in Haryana and Rajasthan where they were found to be completely not existing and they were recommended over a period of three days during Diwali. Now, the Medical Council enactment is also a part of this endeavour that all the Councils, which are manned by professionals, actually lose all their powers to veto to do anything.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I strongly deny the views of the hon. Member stating that the Government is trying to take over these Councils and abolish those Councils. It is not a statement to be made by a responsible Member.

These Councils were formed by the Ministry to assist the Ministry. Today, we have a situation whereby these Councils just on their own. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I am also a professional. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: They are formed by Parliament, not the Ministry. They are autonomous. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I am also a doctor and these are medical bodies, professional bodies. I also want them to be run as professional bodies, competent bodies. Today, we have a situation where there have been so many complaints, and hon. Members are also complaining. There is so much corruption in all these Councils. We have to take a view on that and we have to rectify them. It is the responsibility of the Parliament to rectify them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: It is very objectionable. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We cannot be sitting idle on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have denied the allegation. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Dr. Dome, you are also a doctor.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 404. Shri S.K. Kharventhan—not present.

[Translation]

Outsourcing Market

*405. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether outsourcing is a big market for India;
- (b) if so, the estimated value of outsourcing market of India at present;
- (c) the companies operating in the field of outsourcing in India;
- (d) whether Indian companies are not capable of competing with the international companies in outsourcing;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to promote Indian companies to bring them at a par with international companies; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Value of outsourcing market for Indian IT software industry is US \$17.2 Billion during 2004-05.

(c) The companies operating in the field of IT software and services outsourcing in India have proven their mark in the global market. Indian industry's quality and cost benefits are amongst various advantages that have made India a preferred destination for outsourcing. As per the database maintained by National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), 3170 companies are engaged in outsourcing business in India.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Details of various steps taken by the Government to promote IT Software & Services exports sector are given in Annexure.

Annexure

Steps taken by the Government to promote IT Software & Services exports

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
2. Peak rate of customs duty is 15%. Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals is zero %. Excise duty on computers is zero %. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives continue to be exempt from excise duty.
3. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme

is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years.

4. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for units under Export Oriented units (EOU)/ Software Technology Park (STP)/Special Economic Zone (SEZ) schemes.
5. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
6. EOU/STP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
7. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) of Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, Security & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
8. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker Sir, the statement of hon. Minister of Information and Technology is very satisfying that India would be exporting software to the tune of 50 billion dollars by the year 2008. I would like to bring to his attention that the head of our country's as well world's major software Company Infosys, Shri Narain Murthy has warned India and a recent study of Assochem and Government of India also says that if the infrastructural facilities in the information and technology sector are not improved then some other emerging countries in the I.T. Sector like Israel, Mexico, Ireland, Philippines and China may overtake India in this

sector. My question to the Hon. Minister is about the steps and action taken by him to ensure that our economy is saved from other developing and emerging countries in the I.T. sector in case of attack in our economy.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the kind of boom we have had in the I.T. Sector in recent years is a rare example of revolution and progress across the world.

The percentage of export made by India in the Information Technology Sector is 44 per cent, our share of software export made across the world is 44 per cent and if this continues to be our pace then our share will go up to 51 per cent by the year 2008. We are committed in the information technology sector that we would not only maintain what we have already achieved but we would make major achievements. That is why we have reduced the custom and excise duty on computers to see that it is available at low cost and there is more affordability in rural areas so that more and more people can buy it at lowest price available. It was in news recently that computers would be manufactured for less than Rs. 10 thousand and we are trying to make it available to maximum number of people. The Government of India is concerned about it and it wants that we should not lag behind our targets and should continue to grow leap and bounds.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I do not at all agree with the reply of the Hon. Minister. My question was: What infrastructural facilities being raised in the I.T. sector and what physical assets are being created therefor. He has given tax relief to help people buy computers but I had asked in regard to I.T. sector as a whole and have not received any reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening in the House?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHAUDHARY: My second supplementary is that a list of 212 countries in regard to I.T. Sector was prepared and a study was conducted and it was found that when an assessment of India's position was made in the year 1995 then out of 10 we got 2.5 points, thereafter during a survey in 2004 it was found that India's position was the same with 2.5 points. That is why I would like to ask him as to what revolutionary steps are likely to be taken in this direction

so that the economy of the country is not adversely affected. Today, I.T. is giving a major contribution in our economy, it is strengthening our economy.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We all should compliment our young technocrats, technicians, engineers, etc. for making significant development in the field of Information Technology.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker Sir, I fully agree with you and through this House I would like to congratulate our technicians, engineers working in the I.T. Sector. We owe this epithet of super power in the I.T. Sector to their contribution. Through this House I would like to express my gratitude to them before the people of this country. In regard to computer education of business processing, outsourcing question and the question asked by our hon. Member as to whether we lack the necessary potential for outsourcing in the I.T. Sector, I would like to say that our 3174 companies which include both foreign and domestic ones are doing outsourcing job. We have made 34 per cent growth in outsourcing this year. We hope that it continues to grow even more. The emerging nations in this field definitely want to make more progress. We know there is stiff competition amongst them, in spite of that we would like to maintain the leadership of our country at global level by providing more facilities like tax deduction and other incentives to local manufacturers and I.T. Sector people.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, India has a lot of advantages and there is a great potential to growth further. In a situation when the business processing is moving towards knowledge processing, although compared to many developed countries of the world it is still very negligible, data security and data protection is one of the major areas of concern in the light of certain incidents that have taken place afflicting our outsourcing companies. Does the Government propose to bring about necessary amendment in the IT Act itself to provide and strengthen the provisions as regards data protection?

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Two incidents have taken place recently in regard to security data, the Government

feels that this contract is between that company and its local centre over here. If there has been a breach then it is between those two companies. Unless the Government receives a complaint, it can not take any action. Through you, I would like to apprise the House and the hon. Member that so far no complaint has been registered in both the cases, so the Government can not take any action against them.

[*English*]

It is a contract between two organizations

[*Translation*]

But as regards the question of the hon. Member, the Government is seriously contemplating upon making an amendment in the I.T. Act 2000. The Government is seriously contemplating to bring an amendment so as to check all kinds of new incidents that are occurring presently.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think the House appreciates the efforts made by our boys and girls, men and women, and the excellent progress they have made. We should all encourage them. I think the entire House will join me in this.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: No. 406.

Shri Ganesh Singh—Not present.

Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao.

[*Translation*]

Alleged Ill-Treatment of Indians Abroad

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether frequent cases of ill-treatment of Indians abroad have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian missions receive a large number of complaints of alleged ill-treatment by foreign employers;

(d) if so, the details thereof, mission-wise, during the last two years;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take stringent action against illegal recruitment agencies which lure labourers to take up menial jobs abroad;

(f) if so, the number of complaints received during the last two years in this regard;

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interest of workers abroad; and

(h) the stringent measures adopted/likely to be adopted against such unscrupulous agencies?

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Sporadic complaints are received from various quarters including Indian Missions, particularly in the Gulf countries, alleging ill treatment of Indian workers. These complaints relate to non-payment/reduced payment of salaries, non-availability of promised jobs, adverse working conditions or exploitation.

(d) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

(e) to (h) On receipt of complaints against illegal recruiting agencies, the concerned Protector of Emigrants, (POEs) are directed to file complaints/FIRs against such unregistered recruiting agencies for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act 1983. During the last two calendar years i.e. 2003-2004, 64 complaints have been filed with the Police authorities against such illegal recruiting agencies.

With a view to avoid exploitation of workers by unscrupulous recruiting agencies, all State Governments/ Union Territories have been requested to instruct the Police Stations to keep strict vigil on the activities of the unregistered agencies engaged in illegal emigration.

With regard to workers employed abroad, the concerned Indian Mission closely monitors the situation and takes up complaints of workers with the relevant local authorities/foreign sponsors with a view to expediting the process of law and obtaining due justice. The concerned foreign employers are also called in the Mission to discuss details of the complaints in the presence of the employees for redressal of their grievances.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, the hon. Minister has given a reply about maltreatment of Indian workers and other professional personnel in foreign countries, in very general terms. It does not show any coordinated and consistent policy framework to deal with such cases. There have been complaints of workers, businessmen and tourists about maltreatment in countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the United States of America and the gulf countries.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to frame a specific policy framework to deal with such cases which are in force in many other countries.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, there are complaints about maltreatment of the workers who are sent by illegal recruiting agents, that is, those who are not registered with the authorities. There are also complaints about some workers who are sent through the authorised recruiting agents. And there are complaints about the foreign employers. So, there are three types of complaints and all the three types of complaints are analysed and action taken.

About the workers who are sent through illegal recruiting agents, under Section 10 of the Immigration Act, 1983, a complaint is filed with the State police department of the area from where the worker had gone. When it is a complaint against a registered recruiting agent, we have the authority to cancel his licence and revoke his deposit. When there is a complaint against a foreign employer, we talk to our Missions abroad. In the worst case, we can blacklist those foreign companies so that no clearances are given to them. We are still trying to strengthen this whole arrangement so that our migrant workers are protected fully.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: My second question, whether the Government of India evoked the provision for payment of compensation in the cases involving maltreatment of workers, businessmen and tourists in foreign countries.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, we do not have a system of compensation for maltreatment. But we now have got Pravasi Bima Scheme. Under this scheme, we compensate a person in case of death up to Rs. 2 lakh, for medical treatment up to Rs. 50,000; and maternity benefits are given. This scheme is working very well. We want to strengthen it. Earlier, we were taking deposits from workers so that one way ticket could be arranged, which is now stopped. We now have a Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Venai Minase community which is the biggest Community of Indian migrants, comprising of people belonging to Manipur and Mizoram of North-East are being displaced from Neve Dekalim in the Gaza strip by the Israeli forces. It has been said that they will be taken to safer places within ten days or they may themselves put up either tents or start living in shanties. Presently, they are living in uncertainty. I want to know from the Minister as to whether a provision is likely to be made so as to ensure that arrangements are made for displaced Indian migrant workers there and they are transported to safer places?

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, this question is about treatment of migrant workers, who go abroad. I need a separate notice for this.

MR. SPEAKER: It is really about Indians abroad. Mr. Minister, that is a very important issue. You take note of that.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, in spite of Government's repeated assurances, it is a fact that illegal recruitment agencies are thriving all over the country. They are cheating people. They take money from these poor persons and when they are sent abroad, they are not given jobs which they are earlier assured. In spite of repeated complaints from various quarters, the Government is not taking any action against these illegal recruitment agencies. I would like to know as to what specific action the Government would take against these agencies.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: One of the main channels through which these illegal recruitment agencies

ture the people is through advertisements. We have taken strict action in consultation with the Press Council of India. We requested them that no advertisement from the illegal recruitment agencies should be accepted. This is coming into force. Whenever such advertisement comes to the notice, action is taken. Section 10 of the Immigration Act provides for action to be taken against unregistered recruitment agents. But we appreciate that we need to be more pro-active in rooting out this menace altogether.

Amendments in the Telegraph Act

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*407. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to make amendments in the Telegraph Act in order to incorporate a clause which will help cellular service providers to get a share from the Universal Service obligation (USO) fund to connect rural India, highways and rail networks;

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

(c) whether this matter has been discussed with the USO fund administrator;

(d) if so, the outcome of the said discussions;

(e) the extent to which it is likely to help mobile firms to enter into rural areas;

(f) the other steps under the consideration of the Government to assist mobile firms to enter into rural areas; and

(g) the rural areas likely to be brought under mobile connectivity during 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

An amendment in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to provide support for Cellular Services from Universal Service Obligation Fund for faster expansion of telecommunication services in rural and remote areas is under active consideration of the Government Administrator USO Fund has also recommended such a measure.

At present, various Access Service Licensees in their service area are free to participate in competitive bidding process by Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund, to provide rural fixed telephones on wireline or wireless system.

Unified Access Service Licence and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Licences stipulate roll out obligations as coverage of 50% district headquarters of any town in lieu thereof within three years of effective date of licence. Expansion of mobile services in rural areas is as per the business plans of the various licensees.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi—not present.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that he has amended the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 to provide support for Cellular Services. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government is also formulating a time-bound programme for those parties who are willing to participate in providing Cellular Services in the rural areas, especially those who are poor, by providing funds from the USO Fund.

MR. SPEAKER: You mean that private concerns should be provided funds.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: This Act was formulated in 1885. This Act is being amended because when universal service obligation fund was set up in 2003 it was mentioned—"to provide facilities for the basic services." The entire House is well aware that the inclination of the people towards cellular mobile telephone services has increased but the facilities from the said fund are not being provided to those who provide mobile services as

it is provided to only those operators who provide landline telephone services. The demand for mobile services is very high in rural areas and there is very long waiting list for the said services in the country. So, it has been decided by the Government to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1985 to provide USO fund facilities to cellular services as well so that rural telephony may also get benefited from this fund.

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether all the villages would be covered by 2007.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Yes, Sir. We have fixed a target that by 2007, we will have 150 million more telephones in this country. Out of six lakh villages in this country, we have already covered more than 5,50,000 villages. Roughly, 50,000 villages are remaining, and we plan to cover these villages by December, 2006.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister whether the Government contemplates, in any way, to compel private firms. Spending USO funds and giving them to private firms seem very illogical. In high income areas like highways, railway links or urban areas, when a private firm covers like highways, railway links or urban areas, when a private firm covers these areas and makes income, whether the Government is contemplating to compel that private firm to cover certain percentage, say 25 per cent of rural areas against 75 per cent of urban areas or in the ratio of 50:50, whatever seems judicious.

In the Government contemplating anything of that nature? Could the hon. Minister answer it in specific terms?

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot compel anyone for providing specific service. Telecom services are regulated by the TRAI. As per our commitment with the private operators under USO fund are concerned, nearly 27,000 phones were to be provided till September this year by the BSNL, TATA and Reliance. The Government had also signed agreement with TATA and Reliance and the Member will be glad to know that

we have surpassed the target before the stipulated time and till now 34,000 telephones have provided in rural areas. The TATA has under performed a bit and has provided comparatively lesser number of telephone connections. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Why cannot the Government compel the private operators to stick to the target when the Government has been providing financial assistance to them?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Satpathy, you are right. Mr. Minister, you can enter into an agreement to put some obligations on against them.

Mr. Satpathy, you are right, and I agree with you.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, there are provisions in the agreement.

[Translation]

As per the terms and conditions of our agreement, if the private operators fail to keep pace with the target fixed for them, the Government can impose a penalty to the tune of five percent to the maximum of ten percent of their license fee against them. The Government are bound to act as per the provisions of the agreement and is committed to comply with the said provisions, however, what is not in the agreement cannot be enforced by the Government. As against the target of providing 27,000 telephone connections, 34,000 phone connections have been provided in rural areas through the USO fund by the Government.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: The hon'ble Minister has submitted that the telephone services will be provided in all the villages by December, 2006. He has also said that telephone services have been provided to five lakh and fifty thousand villages and only fifty thousand villages have yet not been covered. However, I doubt the veracity of this fact that only 50,000 villages have not been covered. Even if it is accepted that only 50,000 villages have been left, it is a fact that there are many remote and inaccessible places in the country, particularly in hilly regions where it is very difficult to provide telephone connection, as it is on account of the adverse conditions that neither landline nor cellular phone can be provided because there is lack of inter-visibility in the hill

ranges. Ultimately, one is left with only the last option of satellite phone which is a costly affair. Whether the Government propose to provide rebate to the village whether there are hardly one satellite phone and that too is not successful. I would like to know from the Government as to how the Government will provide telephone service facilities in those areas especially in hilly regions where even cellular phone services can not be provided as it is very difficult for the Government to provide OFC access, in those areas due to the problem of invisibility in such areas as well. It is very difficult to lay OFC in hilly areas.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, for hilly areas, what will you do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Once raising hand is sufficient, you do not have to continue raising it.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, certainly it is our target to provide telephone services in the remaining villages at the earliest. I have already submitted that our target is to complete it by December 2006.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It shall not be recorded. You are not permitted to speak as you are not on your seat.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it not true that out of the six lakh villages, the telephone facility has been provided in five lakh and fifty thousand villages? So, it is not right to say that the target will not be completed. The efforts are being made by the Government for the said purpose. Several types of telephones are provided by the Government as has also been submitted by Shri Khanduri ji. There are several reasons for not providing telephone in the villages where it could not be provided. Some of the reasons are difficult terrain and

*Not recorded.

hilly areas. It is not viable to provide phones in those areas where population is very low. Despite that it has been decided by the Government to provide telephone wherever it will be required and new exchanges will be provided in those areas where waiting list have 150 or more entries. Besides, the satellite phone is also under consideration of the Government. The Government have prepared plan to provide 14,183 satellite phones in the remaining villages. The phone facility will be provided in the remaining villages by the satellite phones as well.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think you referred to difficulties of terrain. Okay, you can take that into consideration.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, it is not a proper answer.

MR. SPEAKER: He has intentions to help you.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: His intentions are good but *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, it is commendable work on the part of the Government that out of the six lakh villages telephone facilities have been provided in five lakh and fifty thousand villages, however, the performance of telephone services at many places in those five lakh and fifty thousand villages is not good. I would like to know as to what step are proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline telephone services in those places.

There are many telephone subscribers who do not use STD facility still, they get STD bills and the telephone exchange officials harass them. My next question is that what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to provide relief to the subscribers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: His question is on false STD bills.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such complaints are received from some places, however, I

can say with my own experience that 90 percent of such complaints are false. If the hon'ble Member has any specific telephone number and bill having such complaints then we will certainly make efforts to hold inquiry in this regard and will retrieve it as far as possible.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaaidu, you please be brief and specific.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with the Minister's statement that he will do it by December, 2006. You go through your earlier Minister's statement. I have been following this for the last ten years. Previously when Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Communication Minister, he had said that by December, 2002, he would provide telephones in the entire country ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. What is your question?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, my question is this. Unless you provide for a separate budget and also for a telephone exchange for 50 applications in the waiting list, it would be difficult to provide telephones by December, 2006. Now, as per the directions of the Government, you can get a telephone exchange when there are 150 applications in the waiting list. In the rural areas, how can you get 150 applications? You have to relax the guidelines. Only then you can fulfill it by December, 2006. But by merely making a statement on the floor of the House, it would not be possible. You will have to seek for the. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. It is enough. He is advising you to be very careful and not to make statements only.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, he is mentioning the statement of a Minister of the NDA regime. I cannot comment on that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I am not commenting on any Government. But the statement made on the floor of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, we have relaxed the norms for opening of new exchanges. Now, we have extended the cable, which previously during the NDA

regime used to be 2.5 kilometres from the site of the exchange, up to five kilometres. We have also decided to open new exchanges. The Government of India will make all efforts to meet this deadline of December, 2006.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, cables for landline phones are not permitted to be laid in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir and mobile phones are not being provided there. Then how shall the people of these areas avail telephone facility? The Hon. Minister has said that he will get the works completed by 2006. There are some districts in my state spanning over 12000 square kilometres but the work of laying of telephone lines has not been started even in one square kilometre area. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to by when the work in this regard would be completed?

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling you, this task would be completed by 2006.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you will maintain your time limit, you have mentioned it, I suppose.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Giving a Boost to Landline Telephone

*404. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in the country both fixed and mobile, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of mobile phone subscribers has increased over the year;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to further reduce the rental as well as call charges on landline phone to attract more subscribers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of telephone subscribers, both fixed and mobile, state-wise, as on 30.6.2005 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir. The number of mobile subscribers has increased over the years as shown below:

(No. in millions)				
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005 (as on 30.6.2005)
Mobile	6.43	13.00	33.70	56.73

(c) the rental and call charges for landline phones are not fixed by the Government. However, TRAI has fixed a standard tariff package for rural areas, which includes rental and call charges for landline phones.

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

(e) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is the authority to regulate the tariff rates. However, service providers have been given the freedom to fix their own tariff rates for the landline phones according to the market forces of demand and supply, their business plans, etc. For the rural landlines, a standard package was notified by TRAI on 5th November 2003. It is mandatory for the service providers to offer this package along with any other package that they may choose to offer. There is no proposal with TRAI to revise the rental and call charges for landline phones.

Statement

Number of Fixed and Mobile Phones as on 3.6.2005

Sl.No.	Name of Circle/State	Fixed Phones (Landline + WLL Fixed)	Mobile Telephones (WLL Mobile + Cellular)	Total Number of Telephones
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	39812	14095	53907
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3725004	4191757	7916761
3.	Assam	541356	330926	872282
4.	Bihar	1099554	1218635	2318189
5.	Chhattisgarh	352910	75245	428155
6.	Gujarat	3160565	4079449	7240014
7.	Haryana	1223206	1298129	2521335
8.	Himachal Pradesh	498753	405230	903983
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	319317	329837	649154
10.	Jharkhand	500179	174795	674974
11.	Karnataka	3139550	3913680	7053230
12.	Kerala	3809926	2704065	6513991
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1515005	1889819	3404824

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	4567215	4679601	9246816
15.	North East	384272	162557	546829
16.	Orissa	864060	778478	1642538
17.	Punjab	2384279	3741209	6125488
18.	Rajasthan	2147065	1875123	4022188
19.	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	3184301	3584073	6768374
20.	Uttaranchal	393432	134070	527502
21.	Uttar Pradesh	3217305	4815805	8033110
22.	West Bengal (-) Kolkata	1324967	1003134	2328101
23.	Kolkata	1542227	2042810	3585037
24.	Chennai	1163883	2155508	3319391
25.	Delhi	2399584	5802697	8202281
26.	Mumbai	3061885	5325878	8387763
Total		46559612	56726605	103286217

[Translation]

Categorisation of Poor

*408. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has categorised poor into two categories i.e. the poor and the most poor;

(b) if so, the basis and the definition thereof;

(c) the State-wise number of people in the above two categories; and

(d) the differences in the nature of programmes selected for implementation, extension of facilities or otherwise as applicable as a result of the aforesaid classification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission which is the nodal body for official poverty estimates, does not categorise the poor as 'the poor' and the 'most poor'. The estimate of incidence of poverty distinguishes only between the poor (BPL) and the non-poor (APL) for the total population of the country. Therefore, there is no basis for differentiation of 'the poor' and the 'most poor'. The latest estimate of state-wise poverty by the Planning Commission, in the year 1999-2000, is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The various anti-poverty programmes in the country are applicable uniformly to all BPL persons/ households, except the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), which was launched in December 2000 and involved the identification of 1 crore poorest of the poor families who would be provided 25 kg foodgrains at a highly subsidized price of Rs. 2/kg for wheat and Rs. 3/kg for rice. The scale of issue has since been increased from 25 kg/family/month to 35 kg/family/month with effect from 1st April 2002. The scheme has been expanded to cover 2.5 crore families.

*Statement**Population Living Below Poverty Line in 1999-2000*

(in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/U.T.'s	Rural	Urban	Combined
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	60.88	119.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	0.18	3.98
3.	Assam	92.17	2.38	94.55
4.	Bihar	376.51	49.13	425.64
5.	Goa	0.11	0.59	0.70
6.	Gujarat	39.870	28.09	67.89
7.	Haryana	11.94	5.39	17.34
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	0.29	5.12
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.97	0.49	3.46
10.	Karnataka	59.91	44.49	104.40
11.	Kerala	20.97	20.07	41.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	81.22	298.54
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	102.87	—
14.	Manipur	6.53	0.66	7.19
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	0.34	8.23
16.	Mizoram	1.40	0.45	1.85
17.	Nagaland	5.21	0.28	5.49
18.	Orissa	143.69	25.40	169.09
19.	Punjab	10.20	4.29	14.49
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	26.78	81.83
21.	Sikkim	2.00	0.04	2.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	49.97	130.48
23.	Tripura	12.53	0.49	13.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	117.88	529.89
25.	West Bengal	180.11	33.38	213.49

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.58	0.24	0.82
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	0.45	0.51
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.30	0.03	0.33
29.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.05	0.06
30.	Delhi	0.07	11.42	11.49
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.08	0.11
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	1.77	2.41
	All India	1932.43	670.07	2602.50

Note:

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir.
4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A&N Islands.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
8. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Captive Coal Blocks

*409. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to increase the number of captive coal mines;

(b) if so, the total number of captive coal mines operating at present;

(c) the number of coal mines proposed to be given to this sector;

(d) the objective of increasing the number of captive coal mines in the country; and

(e) the time by which the said decision is likely to be implemented?

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. Addition to the list of identified blocks for captive mining is an ongoing process.

(b) At present 14 captive coal mines are operating.

(c) As on date 148 coal blocks have been identified for captive mining. 86 have already been allocated/decided for allocation. The remaining 62 are to be taken up for allocation.

(d) The main objective of increasing the number of captive coal mines is to enhance production in order to bridge the projected demand and supply gap in coal.

(e) Allocation of coal blocks for captive use is an ongoing process.

Retrenchment by Coal Companies

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

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies are adopting the policy of retrenchment;

(b) if so, the number of staff retrenched during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of manpower employed till date in all the companies under CIL;

(d) whether the trade unions are protesting against this policy;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has any problem in giving employment to the displaced persons due to this policy; and

(g) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

(c) The number of manpower employed in all the companies under Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 01.08.2005 is:

ECL	BCCL	CCL	WCL	SECL+ DCC	MCL	NCL	CMPDI	Others (NEC +CIL)	Total
103869	90471	65972	68218	87579	21245	17087	3272	4608	462321

(d) and (e) does not arise in view of reply given to parts (a) & (b) above.

(f) and (g) Employment to land oustees is given by Coal Companies as per the existing Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) Policy of CIL.

[English]

Indo-Japan Ties

*411. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan and India are steadily progressing to foster wide-ranging and multifaceted relationship;

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

(c) whether India and Japan have decided to work against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

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

(e) the outcome thereof?

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

(b) India and Japan have been working together to broaden and deepen their bilateral relations and cooperation on regional and global issues, under the mutually-agreed framework of Global Partnership. During the recent visit of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to India in late April, 2005, the two countries agreed to pursue all-round and comprehensive development of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on strengthening economic ties. They also decided to foster closer dialogue and collaboration to secure peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and to strengthen cooperation on global issues, like UN reforms, environment, energy, terrorism, disarmament, non-proliferation and security. India and Japan also agreed on an Eight-fold Initiative to realise the full potential of the Global Partnership. India and Japan are also working under the framework of G-4 for an early realisation of UN reforms.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) In the Joint Statement signed by the Prime Ministers of India and Japan on April 29, 2005 during Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to India, the two countries agreed to work as partners against proliferation. While expressing their respective positions on the approaches towards the shared goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, the two Governments affirmed that they would seek to promote commonalities and

identify areas of convergence for mutual cooperation between them in a constructive manner, contributing to the advancement of overall bilateral relations.

Slow Progress of Land Acquisition in States

*412. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land acquisition for the development of National Highways is progressing slowly in some States;

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

(c) whether the Union Government had requested the Chief Ministers of concerned States to ensure timely acquisition of land; and

(d) if so, the response received from them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The progress of land acquisition varies from State to State. So far as the first phase of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is concerned, balance land remaining to be acquired is mostly in the States of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Progress of land acquisition in NHDP has been affected due to various factors such as: (i) delay in nomination of the competent authorities by the State Governments; (ii) competent authorities unable to give sufficient time; (iii) frequent transfer of the competent authorities; (iv) non-updating of revenue records.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The matter has been raised with the State Governments at the level of Chief Secretaries and Chief Ministers from time to time which has helped to some extent, in expediting the process of acquisition of land.

Termination of Contracts

*413. SHRI SARBANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few contracts with Indian and foreign companies for maintenance/upgradation/development of National Highways have been terminated by the Government;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that these companies carry out quality works and do not indulge in fraudulent practices; and

(d) the extent to which these measures have helped expediting the various projects taken up by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eight contracts under National Highways Development Project being implemented by National Highways Authority of India have been terminated. Details are enclosed as statement-I.

(c) and (d) The precautionary measures taken by the Government to ensure quality work and check fraudulent practices adopted by these companies are enclosed as statement-II. These measures have helped to a great extent to ensure the quality of work and to expedite the project?

Statement I

Contracts Terminated

Sl.No.	Details of Contract	Name of Contractor/Date of Termination	Reasons for termination	Action taken against contractor/person responsible
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ganjam to Icchapuram on NH-5 length 50.8 km	Bumi-Hiway-DDBL/ 14.1.2004	Poor performance of the contractor	Contract terminated and performance security has been forfeited and balance of work to be executed at the risk and cost of contractor.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Shikohabad to Etawah on NH-2 Length 59.02 km	China Coal const. Group Corp./ 09.06.2004	Poor performance of the contractor.	The contract has been terminated. The performance Bank guarantee has been invoked, the matter is subudice.
3.	Srikakulam to Champawati on NH-5 Length 48 km	You one-Maharia/ 21.12.2004	Poor Performance of the contractor	Contract has been terminated and performance security has been forfeited
4.	Etawah Bypass on NH-2 Length 13.6 km	Bhageeratha Engg. India & Ashwini construction Co. (JV)/ 05.04.2005	Poor performance of the contractor	The contract has been terminated and the performance bank guarantee has been encashed.
5.	Six laning of Panchi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonepat) on NH-1 Length 21.7 km	Maharia-Raj/ 11.12.2004	Submission of forged bank guarantee	Contract terminated, FIR lodged
6.	Eight laning of Haryana/ Delhi Border to Mukaraba Chowk on NH-1 Length 12.9 km	You-one-Maharia/ 11.12.2004		
7.	Nagpur-Hyderabad Section (km 464 to km 474 and km 9.4 to km 22.3 of NH 7 Section in the State of Andhra Pradesh)	You one-Maharia/ 13.12.2004	Submission of forged bank guarantee	Contract terminated, FIR lodged. A petition against contractor was filed in High Court of Delhi.
8.	Four laning from km 59.5 to km 75.5 of Lucknow-Kanpur Section	M/s. Rana Projects International Ltd/11.10.2002	Submission of forged bank guarantee	The contract has been terminated. FIR has been lodged by NHA1 with Delhi Police.

Statement II

Precautionary measures taken by the Government to ensure quality of work and to check fraudulent practices

- (i) Action had been taken against defaulting civil contractors. Eight contracts have been terminated.
- (ii) In order to check genuineness of bank guarantee submitted by the Companies, the confirmation are obtained from the issuing bank independently.
- (iii) Provision has also been made in DPR contracts to provide for continuation of certain key personnel of DPR consultants for a period of three to four months after award of civil contracts so that technical coordination between the DPR consultants, supervision consultants and the contractor is facilitated and deficiencies, if any rectified.
- (iv) The supervision consultants check and ensure quality of construction. There is provision of fully equipped laboratory for testing of quality of construction under each contract. To ensure quality of construction in selected projects, quality audit of contracts are being done by Engineers India Ltd (EIL) and Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi. They visit the project site, test the quality and submit quality audit report. The short-comings are forwarded to the contractor/consultant for rectification. The quality audit team visits the site to check the rectifications carried out by the contractor.

[Translation]

Introduction of Character Key Boards of Indian Languages

*414. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce character keyboards of main Indian languages in computers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the aforesaid character keyboards are likely to be introduced?

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

(b) Department of Information Technology, in 1991, has already introduced character keyboards known as INSCRIPT for Indian scripts covering main Indian languages; Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Assamese and Oriya.

(c) INSCRIPT keyboard layouts were proposed by DIT, which have been published as standard in the document IS 13194:1991 by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

(d) INSCRIPT keyboard layout is already in use.

[English]

Committee for Approval of New Drugs

*415. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted for the approval of new drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of terms and reference of the Committee and the number of new drugs approved by the Committee since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) A Standing Committee of experts under the Chairmanship of DG, ICMR, was constituted on 17.01.2001 for Investigational New Drugs (IND). The Committee examines Investigational New Drugs indigenously discovered in the country and gives recommendations to Drugs Controller General (I) for grant of permission to conduct various stages of clinical trials before the drug is approved for manufacture and marketing.

The terms and conditions of the Committee are as under:

- (i) to undertake indepth evaluation of data furnished by the applicant for an Investigational New Drug (IND) or New Chemical Entity (NCE). These are the molecules/products, which have never been earlier tested in human beings. The data would include the chemistry of drug substance, animal toxicological study reports etc. relating to safety, metabolism of drugs as well as the proposed Phase-I study protocol.
- (ii) To advise the DCG(I) in matters relating to regulatory provisions under Schedule-Y of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and any modifications required thereof.

There are about 21 INDs currently undergoing various stages of clinical trials. However, none of these new drug molecules have passed the Phase-III stage of clinical trial. New drugs approval for marketing purpose is considered only after Phase-III clinical Trial data submitted by the applicant.

[*Translation*]

Allocation of Coal Mines to State Coal Boards

*416. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a scheme to provide coal mines to the Coal Boards of the States keeping in view the shortage of coal in the Thermal Power Stations of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States where the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

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) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, *inter-alia*, allows mining of coal by Government companies. It also allows captive mining of coal for power generation. Accordingly, coal blocks are provided to State Government Undertakings and Companies including those engaged in generation of power.

Coal blocks have already been allocated to the following State Government entities engaged in generation of power:

Sl.No.	Name	State
1.	West Bengal Power Development Corporation	West Bengal
2.	West Bengal State Electricity Board	West Bengal
3.	Punjab State Electricity Board	Punjab
4.	Karnataka Power Corporation Limited	Karnataka
5.	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited	Jharkhand
6.	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Chhattisgarh

In addition, coal blocks have also been given to the Central Government Public Sector Undertakings such as the National Thermal Power Corporation, the Damodar Valley Corporation and the National Aluminium Company Limited for power generation.

[*English*]

Banking Functions in Post Offices

*417. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

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

(a) whether the Department of Posts proposes to start its ATM network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target set for 2005-06;

(d) whether the services would be provided in the rural areas also;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government plans to convert the post offices into post Banks by entrusting them with banking functions; and

(g) if so, by when the 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 (e) The proposal for providing ATM access to the customers of Post Office Saving Bank is in a conceptual stage and details are yet to be worked out.

(f) The proposal for creating a Post with banking functions is also in a conceptual stage and the proposal is yet to be firmed up.

(g) In view of reply to (f) above, it is not possible to indicate any definite time frame in this regard.

[Translation]

MMS Facility

*418. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMS facility has been provided in mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some countries have banned this facility;

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

(e) whether the MMS facility is being misused;

(f) if so, whether the Government proposes to ban the MMS facility; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some Mobile Phone handsets support Multi Media Messaging Service (MMS) facility. MMS runs over General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) based mobile network. Many mobile service providers are offering MMS facility. In this facility mobile subscribers can send MMS from mobile to mobile or to e-mail ID. Some operators have also provided the facility to deposit pictures onto an online web album by sending a picture via MMS.

(c) and (d) No such information is available with Department of Telecommunications.

(e) Some of the press reports indicate that there were some instances where subscribers misused MMS facility.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. Technology development is an ongoing process for the benefit of the society. Its use or misuse largely depends on the person using the technology. Data in electronic form is legally recognized through IT Act 2000. Based on the nature of damage caused by the abuse of data, existing legal provisions including those under IPC/Cr.PC are available to deal with the crime. In addition, mobile telephone service licence also provides that "The LICENSEE shall take necessary measures to prevent objectionable, absence, un-authorised or any other content, messages or communications infringing copyright, intellectual property etc., in any form, from being carried on his network, consistent with the established laws of the country. Once specific instances of such infringement are reported to the LICENSEE by the enforcement agencies, the LICENSEE shall ensure that the carriage of such material on his network is prevented immediately."

[English]

Issuance of Warning by WHO

*419. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the World Health Organisation has issued warning in regard to spread of bird flu and outbreak of some other diseases in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to check the spread of bird flu and other diseases;

(d) if so, the details of the steps/measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the amount spent by the Government on prevention of the same during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) No case of Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) has been reported in India either in humans or birds. Bird Flu among poultry was reported from Asian countries of Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, China, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia and human cases were reported in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia. World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed concern about the threat of influenza A (H5N1) virus spread in Asia and its potential to spread globally following the cases reported in South Asian countries in humans as well as in birds.

Government of India took adequate measures to prevent entry of Avian Influenza into India. The measures instituted are:

- Government of India alerted all State Governments/Union/Territories administrations to keep a close watch on fatality among bird population, especially poultry and appearance of severe respiratory illness in the exposed human population.
- Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment & Forest, Shipping and Railways were sensitised on the issue to prevent cross border entry through poultry, poultry products and migratory birds.
- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying had written to the Chief Secretaries and the Directors of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services of all the States/UTs enclosing guidelines for prevention and spread of the disease in poultry and proforma for reporting the disease. A ban was also enforced on import of poultry and poultry related products from all countries affected with bird flu outbreak. The states have been alerted to be vigilant and guidelines issued from time to time to prevent ingress and spread of the disease in case of any event the State Animal Disease Emergency Committee (SADEC) have been activated and surveillance is undertaken.
- A Joint Monitoring Group under the Chairmanship of director General of Health Services consisting members from Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute from Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization and Department of Animal

Husbandry is monitoring the situation and advising appropriate action to the Government.

- National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, has been identified as nodal agency to investigate any suspected cases/outbreak among human population and the laboratories under Indian Council of Medical Research are kept in readiness.
- Because of the proactive steps taken by the Government, there is no spread of avian Influenza from neighbouring countries into India.
- As Avian Influenza has the potential to cause human infections and a pandemic, a National Pandemic Preparedness Plan has been prepared by Directorate General of Health Services. A National level Consultation meeting, chaired by the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, was held on 1st August, 2005, with all concerned to further concretize the plan and follow up action.
- Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, under the 10th Plan, has a Macro Management Centrally Sponsored scheme, "Livestock Health and Diseases Control (LH&DC)", under which there is one component "Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD)". Under this, Central assistance of Rs. 33.27 crore (2003-04), Rs. 54.50 crores (2004-05) and Rs. 36.20 crores (2005-06 till date) has been provided to various States/Union Territories.

[Translation]

Increasing Efficiency/Capacity of Ports

*420. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

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

(a) whether the Government has worked out plans for expanding port capacity and improving quality of port services to meet the rapid rise in foreign trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked therefor;

(d) the time by which the expansion programme is likely to be launched;

(e) whether the Government is also seeking private participation in the development of ports;

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

(g) the measures proposed to be undertaken for the overall increase of efficiency/capacity of ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (g) Capacity expansion in major ports is a part of the on-going process of their development, keeping in view the demands of maritime trade. The focus in the major ports during the Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07) is on improving productivity through technological upgradation provision of cost effective services and enhancement of service quality. At the end of Ninth Plan period of 31.3.2002, the aggregate capacity in major ports was 343.95 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). It is planned to achieve an aggregate capacity of 470.60 MTPA in the major ports by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan on 31.3.2007. Thus, capacity addition of 126.65 MTPA is envisaged during the Tenth Five Year Plan in major ports.

An amount of Rs. 4531.29 crores has been allocated for development including expansion and modernisation of major ports in Tenth Plan. This includes Rs. 3325 crores for projects which will add to the capacity in major ports. This, however, does not include private sector investment in major ports.

The schemes for development of the major ports include deepening of channels to facilitate berthing of large size vessels, construction of new berths, upgradation/expansion of existing berths, modernization of cargo handling equipments through fresh procurement as also upgradation/replacement of existing equipments, improvement in storage capacities, upgradation of internal circulation systems for smooth cargo movement within the port area, improved rail and road connectivity to hinterland, etc.

Participation of private sector in expansion and development of the major ports has been sought in order to mobilize the resources required for the purpose and in order to improve efficiency, productivity and quality of

service as well as bring in competitiveness in port services in consonance with the general policy of liberalization/globalization of India's economy. So far, 19 projects involving an estimated investment of Rs. 6445.20 crores by the private sector have been approved out of which 13 projects have been operationalised.

[English]

New Policy of Periodic Health Check-Ups

4137. SHRI RANEN BURMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to introduce any new policy in the country under which people will have to undergo periodic health check-ups to help in checking the spread of deadly diseases like cancer;

(b) if so, by when the above policy is likely to be formulated and implemented in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) There is no policy for periodical check-up for cancer. However, details of National Cancer Control Programme are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

National Cancer Control Programme

Cancer has become one of the ten leading causes of death in India. It is estimated that there are nearly 2-2.5 million cancer cases at any given point of time. Over 7 lakh new cases of cancer and 3 lakh deaths occur annually due to cancer. Data from population-based registries under National Cancer Registry Programme indicate that the leading sites of cancer are oral cavity, lungs, oesophagus and stomach amongst men and cervix, breast and oral cavity amongst women. Cancers namely those of oral and lungs in males, and cervix and breast in females account for over 50% of all cancer deaths in India. WHO has estimated that 91 per cent of oral cancers in South-East Asia are directly attributable to the use of tobacco and this is the leading cause of oral cavity and lung cancer in India.

National Cancer Control Programme was started in 1975-76. Its Goals & Objectives are:—

1. Primary prevention of cancers by health education regarding hazards of tobacco consumption and necessity of genital hygiene for prevention of cervical cancer.
2. Secondary prevention i.e. early detection and diagnosis of cancers, for example, cancer of cervix, breast cancer and of the oro-pharyngeal cancer by screening methods and patients' education on self examination methods.
3. Strengthening of existing cancer treatment facilities, which were inadequate.
4. Palliative care in terminal stage cancer.

Schemes under National Cancer Control Programme (till 2004):

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations:

This scheme is meant for IEC activities and early detection of cancer. Under the scheme financial assistance upto Rs. 5.00 lakh is provided to the registered voluntary organisations recommended by the State Government for undertaking health education and early detection activities in cancer. A linkage with the Regional Cancer Centre (or Medical College if there is no RCC) is now mandatory by the NGO concerned.

District Cancer Control Scheme: It is known that a large number of cancer cases can be prevented with suitable health education and early cases detection. Accordingly the scheme for district projects regarding prevention, health education, early detection and pain relief measures were started in 1990-91. Under this scheme one time financial assistance of Rs. 15.00 lakh is provided to the concerned State Government for each district project selected under the scheme with a provision of Rs. 10.00 lakh every year for the remaining four years of the project period. The project is linked with a Regional Cancer Centre of an institution having good facilities for treatment of cancer patients. The patients are provided treatment at the concerned Regional Cancer Centre or the nodal institution.

Financial assistance for Cobalt unit Installation:

To strengthen the cancer treatment facilities, the financial assistance of Rs. 1.0 crore for charitable organisations and 1.5 core for government institutions is provided for

procurement of teletherapy and brachytherapy equipments etc. This is one time grant as at present.

Development of Oncology Wings in Govt. Medical College Hospitals: This scheme had been initiated to fill up the geographical gaps in the availability of cancer treatment facilities in the country. Central assistance is provided for purchase of equipments, which include a cobalt unit beside other equipments. The civil works and manpower are to be provided by the concerned State Government/Institution. The quantum of central assistance is Rs. 2.00 crore per institution under the scheme. The scheme provides one time grant only.

Assistance for Regional Research and Treatment Centres: There are 20 Regional Cancer Research and Treatment Centres recognised by Government of India receiving annual grant. The list of Regional Cancer Centres is enclosed.

Evaluation of the programme was done in year 2002 and accordingly National Cancer Control Programme was revised.

Reasons for revising the schemes

- Funds for DCCP were not made available to the DCCP societies by the State Govts.
- RCC & Oncology Wing Scheme funds were less than the requirement.
- Private grantee institutions were not providing the benefits to the needy & poor.
- Finance Ministry objected to the indefinite funding of the RCCs.
- Need for recognising more RCCs specially 2nd RCC in populous States.

Revised National Cancer Control Programme (since 01.01.2005). The following are the changes in different sub schemes:

1. **Cobalt Unit Scheme**—This is discontinued in view of the findings of the evaluation report that grantee NGO institutions are not providing the benefit to poor people. The well developed Govt. institutions would henceforth be covered in the Oncology Wing Scheme.

2. **Oncology Wing Scheme**—In view of the recommendations of the evaluation report as well the working group for 10th plan strategies, the financial assistance under this scheme is enhanced from the present Rs. 2.00 Crores to Rs. 3.00 Crores. There are several district hospitals which are comparable to Medical Colleges in terms of facilities and need enhanced financial assistance, which are covered by this scheme.
3. **Regional Cancer Center**—In view of the recommendations of the evaluation report and the EFC meeting held in March 2003 unlimited funding of the RCCs is discontinued after invoking the sunset clause. Assistance to RCCs is at the rate of not exceeding Rs. 3 crores for existing RCCs and financial assistance of Rs. 5.0 Crores to new RCCs based on action plan for developing infrastructure of the institution including equipments for cancer treatment to bring them to a particular level.
4. **District Cancer Control Programme**—The scheme is revised with more focus on prevention, early detection etc. The financial assistance is proposed to be released to the nodal agency (RCC/well developed Oncology Wings in Medical Colleges) instead of the State Govt. in earlier schemes. Funding about Rs. 90 lakhs per district (including funding for 2 congruent Distt.) for 5 years.
5. **NGO Scheme**—The NGO scheme for cancer awareness, prevention etc. is proposed to be decentralized and entrusted to the RCC/Govt. medicinal Colleges as nodal agencies as compared to being operated centrally as at present in order to remove complaints.
6. **New Components**—New components of IEC and Research is made for the first time to be operated at central level.

National Cancer Registry Programme 1981-2001

- 97.8 (Bangalore) to 121.9 (Delhi) Cancer Cases Per 1,00,000 Population-Urban Males (Age Adjusted Incidence Rate).
 - 92.2 (Bhopal) to 135.3 (Delhi) Cancer Cases Per 1,00,000 Population-Urban Females (Age Adjusted Incidence Rate).
 - 46.2 (Barshi) Cancer Cases Per 1,00,000 Population-Urban Males (Age Adjusted Incidence Rate).
 - 57.7 (Barshi) Cancer Cases Per 1,00,000 Population-Urban Females (Age Adjusted Incidence Rate).
- One in about 15 Men and One in about 12 Women in the Urban Areas could Develop Cancer in their Lifetime.
 - Cervical Cancer and Breast Cancer are Commonest in Females the Latter is more than Former in Mumbai and Delhi.
 - Cancer Lung is Commonest out of all Tobacco Related Cancers in Men.
 - Age Adjusted Incidence Rate of Oesophageal Cancer in women of Bangalore is one of the Highest (8.3 per 1,00,000) in the World.
 - Cancer of Tongue in Males at Bhopal (8.8 per 1,00,000) is Highest in all Continents.
 - Cancer of stomach is one of the main Cancer in Males in Southern Registries.
 - Gall Bladder in Delhi Women is one of the Highest (8.9 per 1,00,000) in the World.
 - 75-80% Patients are in Advance Stage of the Disease at the Time First Attendance.
 - New Cancer Patients in India are Estimated Between 7-9 Lakhs.

Enquiries by CBI

4138. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases in which the CBI has registered preliminary enquiries (PE) together with dates of registration during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases where PE has been converted into regular enquiries; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in finalizing investigation in other PEs?

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) During the last three years i.e. 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 31.7.2005) CBI has registered 633 preliminary enquiries.

(b) In 132 cases PE has been converted into regular cases.

(c) There is no delay in finalizing the other PEs. However, in some cases a lot of time is consumed in

obtaining relevant documents from the authorities concerned.

Seats for SCs/STs in Medical Colleges

4139. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has reserved requisite percentage of seats for person belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Medical Colleges including the Aligarh Muslim University; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise and college-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The University Grant Commission has informed that they have been issuing guidelines for reservation, for admission in all courses, including courses run by medical colleges, for SC/ST candidates every year to all universities including Aligarh Muslim University.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges on River Ganga

4140. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of the two bridges on the River Ganga at Ghattugad near the confluence of Alaknanda and Swargashram to link Shrinagar to Chauras in district Pauri Garhwal, Uttaranchal has started;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken for the construction of these sanctioned bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The Construction work of both the bridges has not started.

(b) and (c) Consultancy work has been awarded for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Design of both the bridges.

[English]

Shortage of Sorting Staff

4141. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bill Mail Service has been introduced at Railway Mail Service in Nagpur City;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shortage of sorting staff is hampering distribution of letters and other postal items;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to appoint more sorting staff at RMS Office, Nagpur; 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.

(b) Nagpur Railway Mail Service has been identified as one of the receiving centres for National Bill Mail articles. Posting of Bill Mail and National Bill Mail articles in being accepted at Nagpur General Post Office and Speed Post Concentration Center Nagpur Zero Mile.

(c) No, Sir. The shortage of sorting staff has not hampered the distribution of letters and other postal items.

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

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to appoint sorting staff as per requirement in accordance with the recruitment rules.

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

Assistance for Construction of Health Centre

4142. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Uttaranchal regarding financial assistance for the construction of a building for health centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Government of Uttaranchal has submitted a proposal for Upgradation of Regional Training Centre, Haldwani, into a State Institute of Health and Family Welfare at a cost of Rs. 307.26 lakhs. The request for waiver of the condition to do new construction under Empowered Action Group (EAG) Scheme was not acceded to by the Ministry of Finance. Hence, the proposal could not be accepted.

[Translation]

Establishment of International Post Office

4143. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish International Post Office in the Muradabad district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by when this work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. To cater the needs of exporters of Moradabad Region, Department of Posts had issued orders for opening of Export Extension Counter (EEC) at Moradabad. Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance had also issued notification in this regard. The Export Extension Counters are opened for the purpose of booking outward foreign mails with their Customs Examination facility to facilitate the Exporters.

(b) EEC will start functioning upon deployment of customs officials from the Department of Revenue at Moradabad Head Post Office. Department of Posts has already written to Customs Authorities in this regard.

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

Employees Caught Red-Handed by CBI

4144. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of the Union Government caught red-handed by the CBI while accepting bribe during the last three years;

(b) the number of such employees reinstated;

(c) the number of employees under suspension till now;

(d) the relevant rule of reinstating the employees after revoking their suspension;

(e) the number of employees caught by the CBI having property disproportionate to their known sources of income during the last three years; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against them?

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) During the last three years i.e 2002, 2003 and 2004, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered 684 cases against employees of the Union Government for demanding/accepting bribe.

(b) and (c) Suspension or reinstatement of Central Government employees is within the administrative power of competent authority in the relevant Ministry. No data is maintained centrally for the employees under suspension on reinstated.

(d) Suspension of Central Government employees is revoked under Rule 10 of CCS (CCA) Rules 1965.

(e) During the last three years i.e. 2002, 2003 and 2004, CBI registered 284 cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 on the allegations of possession of disproportionate assets.

(f) Appropriate legal/departmental action is taken on the basis of findings of the investigation in the cases registered by CBI.

Periodic Medical Check-up of Pensioners

4145. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to make suitable arrangements for the periodic medical check-up of pensioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain guidelines have been issued to the parent offices of the pensioners in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Due to constraints of resources and manpower, it is difficult to provide periodic medical check-up of the pensioners.

[English]

**Quality of Medical Services in Clinics/
Nursing Homes**

4146. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that complaints are being made from time to time regarding quality of services provided by the private clinics, nursing homes and other medical institutions;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to prescribe minimum standard for employees working there and also for providing basic facilities;

(c) whether the Union Government has sent a draft proposal in this regard to the State Government to get it passed by their respective legislative assemblies; and

(d) if so, the details of the State Governments which have passed the proposal and intimated the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to regulate/monitor the functioning of private clinics, nursing homes and other medical institutions within its jurisdiction as well as to attend the complaints made from time to time and to prescribe minimum standard for employees working there and providing basic facilities.

The Central Government is in the process of formulating standards and specifications for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments to ensure quality health care services including norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation of such clinical establishment as well as maintenance of records.

In the year 2001, a reference was made to all the States seeking the consent of their legislatures under Article 252 of the Constitution for enactment of a Central legislation in this regard. The States of Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have given their consent.

[Translation]

Transfer Policy of SAI

4147. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any transfer policy has been formulated by the Sports Authority of India for its trainers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this policy has been followed in toto;

(d) whether some 300 trainers have been transferred during the last few days;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is aware of the adverse impact of such transfers on sports activities; and

(g) if so, the action plan of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) A Transfer Policy had been formulated in 1991. The salient features of the Policy include:

1. Sports Authority of India (SAI) have a common cadre of Coaches for all its Wings/Directorates.
2. The first posting of the Coach shall be generally for 5 years within the Region but not in one's Home State.
3. Efforts should be made to post a women Coach at the place of their husband's posting, failing which in their home state or in the same region.
4. Normally, transfer would be ordered at the end of academic session i.e. May/June.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Orders for transfer of 736 coaches have been issued in three phases during the month of June-July 2005. Details are enclosed in the statement.

(f) and (g) 'Sports' is a State subject under the Constitution and it is the primary responsibility of State Governments to plan and implement schemes for

development and promotion of Sports. However, Government of India facilitates and supports, through various schemes implemented by SAI, the efforts of State Government and National Sports Federations. SAI has been given the responsibility of implementing following schemes related to spotting, nurturing and developing talents and for achievement of excellence:

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
3. SAI Training Centre (STC)
4. Centres of Excellence (COX)
5. Rural Sports Programmes (RSP)
6. Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools.

Keeping in view the ensuring Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in 2006 and 2010 respectively and requirement of Coaches of SAI's own schemes as a result of expansion of activities, an efforts has been made to move towards a ratio of 1:10 (10 trainees per Coach). At the same time, SAI has taken into account the requirement of State Coaching Centres. Coaches have been withdrawn from District Coaching Centres. The entire exercise is expected to yield positive results, in the long term for promotion of sports activities.

Statement

State-wise status Position of the Coaches

Sl.No.	State	Total Coaches Prior to transfer	Coaches withdrawn	coaches Posted	Present Strength after transfer orders issued in June-July 2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	4	1	3	6
2.	Andhra Pradesh	73	51	47	69
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	0	2
4.	Assam	24	14	16	26
5.	Bihar	26	14	22	34
6.	Chandigarh	42	33	15	24

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Chhattisgarh	10	4	9	15
8.	Daman and Diu	2	1	1	2
9.	Delhi	112	39	37	111
10.	Goa	12	9	10	13
11.	Gujarat	34	18	16	32
12.	Netaji Subhash Western Centre Gandhinagar	4	1	6	9
13.	Haryana	67	36	47	78
14.	Northern Centre, Sonapat	2	0	32	34
15.	For Faridabad, Gurgaon, Rohtak	23	23	23	23
16.	Himachal Pradesh	53	33	17	37
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	23	16	23	30
18.	Jharkhand	10	3	11	18
19.	Karnataka	84	52	43	75
20.	Netaji Subhash Southern Centre, Bangalore	17	0	9	26
21.	Kerala	55	28	28	55
22.	Lakshmbai National College of Physical Education, Trivandrum	6	0	5	11
23.	Madhya Pradesh	42	16	21	47
24.	Central Centre, Bhopal	7	0	18	23
25.	Maharashtra	53	27	28	54
26.	Manipur	39	10	10	39
27.	Meghalay	5	1	1	5
28.	Mizoram	4	1	1	4
29.	Nagaland	4	1	1	4
30.	Orissa	38	20	19	37
31.	Pondicherry	6	3	6	9
32.	Punjab	125	91	44	79
33.	National Institute of Sports, Patiala	59	10	21	70
34.	Rajasthan	82	52	33	63

1	2	3	4	5	6
35.	Sikkim	7	3	0	4
36.	Tamil Nadu	62	35	24	51
37.	Tripura	21	14	15	22
38.	Uttar Pradesh	61	17	15	59
39.	Sub-Centre, Lucknow	13	2	1	12
40.	Uttaranchal	36	20	18	34
41.	West Bengal	64	31	17	50
	Netaji Subhash Eastern Centre, Kolkata	37	5	3	40
Total		1465	736	736	1465

[English]

**Road Work Relating to Four Laning under
GQ Project**

4148. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a private company called AFCON has taken contract of the stretch between 340 km and 404 km from Devagiri Cross to Hubli in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has given sub-contracts to other contractors to execute the road work relating to 4 laning under the Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(d) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in the said work; and

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

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

(b) The details of the contract package undertaken by M/s AFCON APIL (JV) is given below:

Name of Package	NH No.	Length (Km.)	Contract price (Rs. in Crore)	Targeted date of completion	
				(Original)	(Revised)
Haveri-Hubli (K.m. 340 to 404)	4	64	183.65	31.12.2003	31.12.2005

(c) yes, Sir. M/s AFCON APIL (JV) has given sub contract to specialised contractors for some part of work of specialised nature only as per provisions of the contract.

(d) The main reasons for delay are:

- (i) delay on account of land acquisition;
- (ii) delay on account of tree cutting and relocation of utilities;

(iii) difficulty in getting aggregate of the requisite specification; and

(iv) slow progress by the contractors due to cash flow problems.

(e) The steps taken to speed up the work are:

- (i) the bottlenecks in land acquisition and utility shifting have been sorted out and acquisition of land and shifting of utilities have nearly been completed;

- (ii) the contractor has inducted more senior engineers than in the past, plants and equipment to speed up the works; and
- (iii) the project is being closely reviewed by National Highways Authority of India and the Ministry.

Earthquake Relief Operation by IRCS

4149. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) deployed more than 180 foreign delegates for its work in earthquake affected areas of Gujarat in February, 2001 and a large number of them continued to work during 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) if so, the authority responsible for taking such a decision;

(c) whether the Union Government was consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the cost of their maintenance (travel, salaries, accommodation and all other amenities) till March, 2004 and the name of the agency which met this cost;

(e) whether full control and operation of earthquake relief was handed over by the IRCS to the International Federation of Red Cross, Geneva; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The national headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society have informed that after the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, medical, water sanitation, logistics and other Emergency Response Units, from various countries consisting technical and medical experts, came in Gujarat for rescue, relief and medical services of the affected population. Later on, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC&RCS) set up India Operation Centre to provide technical, human and financial support to the Indian Red Cross Society for relief and rehabilitation. The India Operation Centre got a project office status for the Government of India and its office continues to be in New Delhi. At present, there are only three foreign delegates in the International Federation office working with the Indian Red Cross Society. All the relief and rehabilitation measures taken

by the Society were approved by the Disaster Mitigation Committee, Finance Committee and Managing Body of the Society.

(c) and (d) The national headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society have informed that the Project Office has the approval of the Reserve Bank of India. The expenditure on the travel, salaries, accommodation and all other amenities is borne by the respective national Red Cross Societies of if the foreign delegates are deputed by IFRC&RCS, the Federation meets the cost.

(e) and (f) The national headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society have informed that according the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement regulations, the IFRC&RCS supports the national Red Cross Societies and the leadership of the operations is always with national Red Cross Society. After the Gujarat earthquake also the Indian Red Cross Society was in control of operation of earthquake relief.

Disaster Management Support System

4150. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department has evolved space based disaster management support system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this system had been put to use during the recent disaster management in some parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the extent of success achieved as result of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The space based disaster management support system implemented by Department of Space, jointly with Ministry of Home Affairs, comprises of the following elements:

- Creation of digital database for disaster-prone areas towards facilitating hazard zonation and damage assessment; monitoring of major natural disasters using satellite and aerial data and development of related techniques and tools.
- Strengthening the communication back-bone for timely dissemination of information and emergency support.

- Setting up of a secure satellite based communication network linking the National Control Room at Ministry of Home Affairs with State Control Rooms and other concerned organizations.
- Establishment of a Decision Support Centre at National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) of Department of Space, at Hyderabad, towards facilitating the disaster management operations by Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The results pertaining to: (i) monitoring of Agricultural Drought in fourteen States, on bi-weekly basis during Kharif season, are provided to concerned State Relief Commissioners and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation; and (ii) Flood inundation and damage assessment, for all flood events, generated on near real-time basis, are provided to the Natural Disaster Management (NDM) wing of Ministry of Home Affairs, concerned State Relief Commissioners and Central Water Commission.

This information is utilized by the above Agencies for relief as well as rehabilitation purposes.

Ban on Stone Mining along National Highways

4151. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that traffic on National Highway No. 4 is stopped during blasting of stone mines at Khind Wadi near Satara in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government plans to stop stone mining activities along this National Highways;

(c) if so, the distance in Km. where mining activities are banned along the Highways throughout the country, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strictly adhere to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The stretch under consideration is entrusted to NHAI for implementation of Golden Quadrilateral project. No such stoppage of traffic has been reported by NHAI.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of New Roads for East-West Corridor

4152. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of new roads is being undertaken at various places for the East-West Corridor leaving a side of the original route of National Highway No. 76;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of new roads being constructed leaving aside of the National Highway No. 76 in Kota, Bundi and Baran districts of Rajasthan;

(d) the procedure being followed to acquire land for the said project and payment of compensation to the landowners in lieu of the acquired land;

(e) whether more land has been acquired than the requirement;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the details of works undertaken on additional acquired land;

(h) whether the Government has appointed/contacted any Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) for the rehabilitation and re-establishment works;

(i) if so, the details of such NGOs including their experience in the field of rehabilitation works; and

(j) the number of employees engaged by the aforesaid NGOs for the works of rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The four laning of NH-76 as part of East-West Corridor is mainly proposed along the existing alignment except for the place where geometrical improvement realignment to save densely populated areas and the bypasses are required. The details of new alignment proposed are as under:

Sl.No.	Chainage		Location of Diversion
	From	To	
1.	0	5.615	Pindwara Bypass
2.	55.919	59.547	Jaswantgarh Bypass
3.	85	104.715	Udaipur Bypass
4.	213.214	229	Chittorgarh Bypass
5.	381	406	Kota Bypass
6.	461.255	474.2	Baran Bypass
7.	609	632.029	Shivpuri Bypass

In addition, alternate alignment from km 349 to km 357 of NH-76 has been proposed by Government of Rajasthan for which feasibility study and survey & investigation are being carried out.

(d) the land is acquired and compensation paid as per law.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

(h) and (i) Yes, Sir. Three Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) namely: M/s. South Asian Foundation for Human Initiatives (SAFHI), Kolkata (WB), Organisation for Applied Socio-Economic Systems (OASES), New Delhi and M/s. Advantage India Delhi, have been appointed by NHA for implementation of Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) activities on NH-76.

The appointment has been done on the basis of Open National Competitive Bidding advertised in National Newspapers.

All the selected NGOs have adequate experience of implementing R&R in highway projects in particular and other projects in general. Each team of NGO comprises of five key professionals.

[English]

Alloting Pay Phones/PCOs to Unemployed Youths

4153. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to allot Pay Phones/PCOs to the unemployed youths throughout the country on a priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received reports regarding alleged violation of the instructions issued in this regard; and

(d) if so, the number of persons found guilty in this regard and the nature of punishment awarded to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to provide priority to the unemployed youth in allotment of PCOs. However, PCOs are allotted liberally without any restrictions to all applicants of 18 years of age or above including unemployed youths, subject to technical feasibility.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Prescribing Medicines in Company's Name

4154. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the doctors prescribe medicines in their company's name;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce the audit system for treatment prescribed by the doctors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) As per the provisions contained in the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 issued under Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, every physician should, as far as possible, prescribe drugs with generic names and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Chowkighat Bridge on N.H.-52

4155. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board to which the work of feasibility and model study of the Chowkighat Bridge on NH-52 in Assam was assigned has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned and paid to the Brahmaputra Board for this study;

(d) the estimated cost of the Bridge according to the study; and

(e) by when the construction of the said project is likely to commence?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The amount sanctioned and paid to the Brahmaputra Board for conducting the feasibility and model study of the Chowkighat bridge on NH-52 is Rs. 63.86 lakh.

(d) and (e) The cost of the bridge and likely date of commencement can only be known on receipt of the feasibility report by the Brahmaputra Board and its approval by the Government.

[Translation]

NHDP Phase 3A and 3B

4156. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for strengthening of the National Highways and converting 890 km. of N.Hs. into four and six lanes under B.O.T. based N.H. Development Project phase 3A and 3B in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government provides 40 of grants for the project and the rest of the amount mobilized from the entrepreneurs;

(d) if so, whether the work on the said project has not been started;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government proposes to implement these projects in Bihar through Central Agencies providing full grants for the purpose; and

(g) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 9 stretches of various National Highways as per details given below having a total length of 890 km have been identified for four laning under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III in Bihar. None of these stretches has been approved under NHDP Phase-III A for implementation on BOT basis.

Sl.No.	Route	NH No.	Length (km.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Purnea-Khagaria-Begusarai-Barh-Bakhtiarpur	31	255
2.	Bakhtiarpur-Patna	30	53
3.	Patna-Hazipur-Muzaffarpur (excluding Muzaffarpur bypass)	19,77	46.3
	Muzaffarpur bypass	77	13.7
4.	Motihari-Raxaul	28A	67
5.	Forbesganj-Jogwani	57A	13

1	2	3	4
6.	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hajipur	85, 19	153
7.	Buxar-Patna	84, 30	130
8.	Muzaffarpur-Sonbersa	77	89
9.	Mokama-Munger	80	70
Total			890

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Detailed Project Report for these projects is under preparation. Implementation of projects will be taken up after process of selection of entrepreneurs is completed.

(e) Bids for two works, viz., Patna-Bakhtiarpur section of NH-30 and Hajipur-Muzaffarpur section of NH-77, were invited on 'Build-Operate-Transfer' (BOT) basis and there was no response from the entrepreneurs. Besides, Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been completed for an aggregate length of 80 kms only of NH-57A and 28A. Preparation of DPR for the remaining stretches is in progress.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Construction of Bridge on Saunk River

4157. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the construction work of the bridge on Saunk river between Muraina-Gwalior National Highway No. 3 is likely to be completed;

(b) whether accidents have increased on this Highway due to the said construction work;

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

(d) the number of accidents that took place on the above highway due to diversions for the said construction;

(e) whether any action will be taken against the concerned construction company; and

(f) if so, the time by which the action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The construction work of bridge on Saunk river on NH-3 is likely to be completed by September, 2005.

(b) and (c) Section-wise accident data on National Highways is not being maintained.

(d) to (f) The traffic is moving on existing two lane bridge. No diversion has been constructed for construction of new four lane Saunk bridge.

[English]

Clearance to Projects Received from Karnataka

4158. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects received by the Union Government from the Government of Karnataka during the last three years for clearance;

(b) whether any request from Government of Karnataka has been received to clear the pending projects;

(c) if so, the details of projects cleared so far;

(d) the details of projects yet to be cleared by the Union Government;

(e) the details of the allocated funds for various major development projects executed during the last three years;

(f) the details of the funds disbursed for various Centrally assisted schemes during the said period;

(g) whether the money allocated for various schemes and projects in the State have been utilized fully;

(h) if not, the details thereof; and

(i) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (i) Information is being collected.

[Translation]

**Community Development Programme
of Rajhara Coal Field**

4159. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works undertaken and expenditure incurred in community development programme in Rajhara coal field during the last ten years;

(b) whether nearly the whole fund was spent only on a school i.e. Chandrashekhar Dubey Charaia Middle School;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is against the spirit of community development programme; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The nature of work under Community Development Programme undertaken during last ten years and consolidated expenditure, year-wise, are furnished below:

Year	Work undertaken	Amount spent (in lakhs)
1995-96	Construction of two rooms in Lohra Middle School & construction of Bus Stop shed at Rajhara Colliery More	Rs. 1.71
1996-97	Construction of two rooms in Lohra Middle School	Rs. 1.86
1997-98	Construction of drain in C.S. Dubey College, Chenya	Rs. 0.83
1998-99	W.B.M. in existing road from Nimiahi to Kothi & repair of two rooms at Middle School, Pendwa	Rs. 1.58
1999-00	Installation and commissioning of 4 nos. Handpump at Rajhara	Rs. 0.32
2000-01	Construction of Boundary wall in C.S. Dubey College	Rs. 1.76
2001-02		
2002-03	Construction of one room with Warrandah at Surat High School, Lohra Village	Rs. 1.54
2003-04	Repairing of approach road from main road to Labji River	Rs. 0.21
2004-05	Construction of boundary wall in C.S. Dubey Inter College, Chenya & construction of boundary wall in Lohra Middle School	Rs. 2.32

(b) and (c) No amount has been spent on Chandrashekhar Dubey Charaia Middle School.

(d) Community Development works mentioned above are covered under Community Development Programme.

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

Sponsored Sport Scheme in West Bengal and Maharashtra

4160. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sponsored scheme is on for the sports activities in West Bengal and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated under the said scheme during the last two years and the amount proposed to be allocated during the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) At present, there is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme in force for Sports Infrastructure. However, till 31.3.2005 this Ministry was operating the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes under which

Central assistance was provided in accordance with the approved pattern to States including West Bengal and Maharashtra and other agencies for creation of sports facilities subject to receipt of viable proposals from the States. The Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes have been transferred to the State sector w.e.f 1.4.2005, and accordingly, no allocation has been made in the budget for 2005-2006 for sports infrastructure schemes. All States were informed in this regard in February, 2005. Apart from above, there is a centrally sponsored scheme, which envisages setting up of State Sports academies with joint funding by the Central Government, State Government/UT Administration and a Sponsor, as a cooperative venture, in the ratio of 25:24:51. This scheme is applicable to all the states, including West Bengal and Maharashtra.

(c) No State-wise allocation was made under the aforementioned schemes. However, State-wise details of Central assistance provided during the last 2 years i.e. 2003-2004 to 2004-2005 under the sports infrastructure schemes have been given in the enclosed Statement. The total outlay for Tenth Five Year Plan for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes captioned "State Sports Academy" is Rs. 93.24 Crores. In 2003-04 and 2004-05, budget provision was Rs. 7.00 Crore each. The amount allocated for this Scheme in the Budget Estimate (BE) for 2005-06 is Rs. 5.00 Crores. During 2003-04 and 2004-05, no funds could be released for want of viable proposals. Release of funds during the remaining period of the 10th Five Year Plan will depend on receipt of viable proposals from State Governments.

Statement

State-wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 2003-2004 to 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2003-2004		2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	484.52	14	123.75	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	191.00	5	27.00	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	17.00	2	188.09	8
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	65.00	2
8.	Haryana	40.17	2	118.13	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	100.21	8	118.63	10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	26.82	18	22.50	1
11.	Karnataka	58.70	8	101.30	9
12.	Kerala	13.01	4	1.50	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	152.27	13	115.40	6
14.	Maharashtra	238.43	13	169.04	9
15.	Manipur	0	0	22.50	3
16.	Meghalaya	100.11	5	234.55	5
17.	Mizoram	136.32	21	30.00	1
18.	Nagaland	962.46	21	115.98	12
19.	Orissa	0.05	1	0.75	1
20.	Punjab	45.00	1	0	0
21.	Rajasthan	25.00	2	8.72	1
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	170.36	22	81.15	13
24.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	46.94	3	69.23	6
26.	West Bengal	20.07	15	49.70	4
27.	Chhattisgarh	78.50	4	0	0
28.	Jharkhand	0	0	30.00	1
29.	Uttaranchal	0	0	94.80	5
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
Total		2906.98	182	1787.99	122

State-wise details of Central Assistance released under the Scheme of Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of playground from 2003-2004 to 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of schools
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.37	1	2.76	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.35	4	7.74	7
3.	Assam	30.88	41	22.18	38
4.	Bihar	3.29	3	7.53	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.13	2	3.32	4
6.	Delhi	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Goa	0.00	0	1.08	1
8.	Gujarat	2.98	4	1.42	2
9.	Haryana	43.36	59	24.17	41
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.72	15	10.21	14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.17	3	9.64	14
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0
13.	Karnataka	16.75	26	12.10	18
14.	Kerala	0.00	0	15.48	17
15.	Madhya Pradesh	22.95	29	13.67	20
16.	Maharashtra	51.63	58	54.19	71
17.	Manipur	3.28	5	1.48	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Meghalaya	1.08	1	9.37	10
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0	0.00	0
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0	3.80	5
21.	Orissa	44.21	55	61.99	80
22.	Punjab	2.56	3	0.63	2
23.	Rajasthan	25.19	29	18.76	30
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0.00	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	7.65	21	3.70	6
26.	Tripura	0.37	1	0.40	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	39.60	47	51.11	75
28.	Uttaranchal	11.04	12	18.44	26
29.	West Bengal	77.98	106	127.15	167
30.	UTs—A&N Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0.00	0
34.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0.00	0
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0.00	0
Total		399.63	525	482.45	662

State-wise details of Central Assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges from 2003-2004 to 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Amount released	No. of colleges/ Universities	Amount released	No. of Colleges/ Universities
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	87.82	27	97.22	36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	26.81	10	126.31	48
4.	Bihar	20.60	4	0.00	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0	20.70	9
6.	Goa	0.00	0	2.70	1
7.	Gujarat	18.27	10	28.20	1
8.	Haryana	10.31	9	26.86	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5.85	3	7.37	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	2.70	1
12.	Karnataka	39.35	35	149.87	63
13.	Kerala	39.70	18	45.07	24
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10.80	4	26.10	7
15.	Maharashtra	197.53	98	244.15	115
16.	Manipur	25.03	3	17.80	5
17.	Mizoram	10.72	4	0.00	0
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	10.80	4
19.	Nagaland	22.50	11	19.20	10
20.	Orissa	83.60	40	57.98	32
21.	Punjab	52.68	13	29.45	11
22.	Rajasthan	4.20	2	7.20	3
23.	Tamil Nadu	164.81	27	169.80	29
24.	Tripura	0.00	0	0.00	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	101.56	41	158.65	62
26.	Uttaranchal	24.60	10	16.80	8
27.	West Bengal	79.86	42	141.28	63
28.	Delhi	53.50	2	62.64	1
29.	UTs—Chandigarh	0.00	0	1.00	1
Total		1080.25	413	1472.00	555

State-wise Details of Central Assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Installation of Synthetic Surfaces from 2003-2004 to 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1.	Andhra Pradesh	00.00	0	20.00	1
2.	Haryana	30.00	1	0.00	0
3.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0
5.	Karnataka	0.00	0	0.00	0
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Maharashtra	50.00	1	15.00	1
8.	Manipur	0.00	0	0.00	0
9.	Orissa	0.00	0	50.00	1
10.	Punjab	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0	65.00	1
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0
13.	West Bengal	0.00	0	0.00	0
14.	Delhi	20.00	1	0.00	0
15.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0
16.	Jharkhand	100.00	1	0.00	0
Total		200.00	4	150.00	4

Amount for Promotion of Sports Activities

4161. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount proposed to be spent on the construction of stadiums, sports complexes, play grounds etc. for the promotion of the sports activities in the next three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the amount sanctioned and spent for the same during 2004-05 and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) 'Sports' is a State subject. It is for the State Government to construct stadia, sports complexes, playgrounds etc. in the States. Government of India supplemented their efforts till 31.3.2005, by providing Central assistance in accordance with the approved pattern under the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure subject to the receipt of viable proposals from State Governments. The scheme has been transferred to State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005, and accordingly no allocations have been made in the budget for

2005-2006 for sports infrastructure schemes. Thus, fresh proposals for the sports infrastructure projects have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. All States were informed in this regard in February, 2005. However, State-wise details of Central assistance provided under the aforementioned schemes during 2004-2005 are given in the enclosed Statement. Further, Planning Commission has recently informed that funds would be provided for ongoing approved sports infrastructure projects. Subject to availability of funds, the admissible Central assistance will be considered for release during the X Five Year Plan for the incomplete projects on receipt of requisite documents viz. utilization certificate, progress reports, completion certificates etc. from the State Governments and other agencies.

Statement

State-wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)	
		Amount released	No. of projects
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	123.75	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.00	1
3.	Assam	188.09	8
4.	Bihar	0	0
5.	Delhi	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	65.00	2
8.	Haryana	118.13	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	118.63	10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.50	1
11.	Karnataka	101.3	9
12.	Kerala	1.50	1

1	2	3	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	115.40	6
14.	Maharashtra	169.04	9
15.	Manipur	22.50	3
16.	Meghalaya	234.55	5
17.	Mizoram	30.00	1
18.	Nagaland	115.98	12
19.	Orissa	0.75	1
20.	Punjab	0	0
21.	Rajasthan	8.72	1
22.	Sikkim	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	81.15	13
24.	Tripura	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	69.23	6
26.	West Bengal	49.70	4
27.	Chhattisgarh	0	0
28.	Jharkhand	30.00	1
29.	Uttaranchal	94.80	5
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0
Total		1787.99	122

[English]

Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project

4162. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project (MUIP) estimated to cost around Rs. 2600 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government for the expeditious clearance of the project; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has submitted a Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project (MUIP) for upgradation of roads, construction of flyovers and traffic network in Mumbai at an estimated cost of Rs. 2648 crore, excluding land acquisition cost.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission has made a tentative allocation of Rs. 1000 crore in the Annual Plan 2005-06 of Maharashtra under the proposed National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM). The MUIP could also be considered for additional assistance, provided the State Government fulfils the proposed Mission guidelines.

[Translation]

Target for Opening of New Post Offices

4163. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed regarding the number of new post offices and branch post offices to be opened in Maharashtra during the last two years;

(b) whether the target has been achieved, district-wise; 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) Two (2) Departmental Sub Post Offices and 25 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices were given as target for opening Post Offices in Maharashtra in 2003-04. The targets were fully achieved.

No Plan targets were given in 2004-05 for opening new Post Offices. However, two justified Departmental Sub Post Offices were opened through relocation of existing post offices. District-wise details of Post Offices

opened in the last two years are given in the enclosed Statement.

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

Statement

District-wise details of Post Offices opened in Maharashtra in the last two years

Sl.No.	District	2003-04	
		DSO	EDBO
1	2	3	4
1.	Aurangabad		1
2.	Beed		0
3.	Dhule	1	1
4.	Nandurbar		0
5.	Nasik		1
6.	Nanded		1
7.	Jalgaon		1
8.	Osmanabad		1
9.	Ratnagiri		1
10.	Kolhapur		1
11.	Sangli		0
12.	Thane	1	2
13.	Raigad		1
14.	Mumbai		0
15.	Satara		2
16.	Solapur		1
17.	Ahmednagar		3
18.	Pune		2
19.	Akola		1
20.	Amravati		1
21.	Buldana		1

1	2	3	4
22.	Gondia		1
23.	Gadchiroli		1
24.	Nagpur		0
25.	Yeotmal		1
Total:		2	25

Sl.No.	District	2004-05		Remarks
		DSO	EBO	
1.	Pune	2	—	Opened by relocation

EBO: Extra Departmental Branch Post Office.

DSO: Departmental Sub Post Office.

III-Effects of Use of Insecticides/Pesticides

4164. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale use of insecticides/pesticides for increasing crop yields are causing deadly diseases like cancer as reported in the Hindi daily "Rashtriya Sahara" dated July 4, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the matter reported thereon; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) DDT & HCH are considered by WHO to be possibly carcinogenic to humans. Indian studies conducted on human blood samples collected from Lucknow, Delhi and Ahmedabad during the period 1980 to 1997 showed the levels of DDT and HCH in general population to range between 0.02 to 0.71 and 0.022 to 0.049 ppm respectively. The use of DDT, HCH, aldrin, chlordane, heptachlore and phosphomindon are banned for agriculture purposes. A study by the Centre for Science and

Environment, New Delhi (issue dated June 15, 2005) published the levels of various pesticides in blood samples of farmers from Punjab. The report mentions the presence of HCH (0.057 mg/L); heptacholor (0.0006 mg/L); aldrin (0.0062 mg/L); chlordane (0.0009 mg/L); DDT (0.065 mg/L); endosulfan (0.0046 mg/L); monocrotophos (0.066 mg/L) Chlorpyriphos (0.66 mg/L); and malathion (0.030 mg/L). The report states that the observed trends for DDT and HCH are comparatively lower than the earlier reports from India.

Schemes for Bolangir District

4165. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bolangir is one of the most backward districts of Orissa;

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

(c) the names of the schemes alongwith the amount allocated for the development of this district during the last three years; and

(d) the extent to which the development works were carried out in the said district with the aforesaid allocated amount and the details thereof?

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

(b) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Special Plan for the undivided Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts is now being funded on 100% grant basis. Special Central Assistance of Rs. 250 crore per annum is being provided for implementation of schemes included in the Special Plan.

(c) and (d) A Statement indicating the names of the schemes being implemented in Bolangir district under the Special Plan and financial and physical achievements during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

Financial and Physical achievements under the Special Plan for the KBK Districts in Bolangir District during 2002-03 to 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name	Unit	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Agriculture				
	Diversification of Agriculture Crops				
	(a) Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	12.70	8.53	11.22
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	12.70	1.99	8.47
	Crop Demonstration				
	(a) Target	No.	750		
	(b) Achievement	No.	750		
	Training of SHG				
	(a) Target	No.	20		
	(b) Achievement	No.	20		
	Opening of Addl. Sale centre				
	(a) Target	No.		4	10
	(b) Achievement	No.		4	10
	Seed Exchange Prog.				
	(a) Target	Qtl.		5.00	60.00
	(b) Achievement	Qtl.		0.00	5.28
	Supply of Power Tiller				
	(a) Target	No.		7	10
	(b) Achievement	No.		7	10
	Setting up of Agro-service Centre				
	(a) Target	No.			2
	(b) Achievement	No.			2
2.	Horticulture				
	Diversification of Horticulture Crops				
	(a) Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	18.02	43.80	34.46

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	18.02	43.80	33.19
	(c) Area covered				
	Cashew	Ha	0		0.00
	Custardapple	Ha		19.19	16.76
	Mango	Ha	0	310	211.90
	(d) Off-season veg. Cultivation	Ha		0	0
	(e) Drumstick Demonstration	No.			150
	(f) Dist. of Vegetable Minikit	No.		10000	17500
	(g) Dist. of Onion seed	Qtl.	50.00	50.00	20.00
	(h) Dem. on Rose, Crossandra, Jasminum, Marigold	No.			47
	(i) Drip Irrigation	Ha		3	4
	(j) Sprinkler Irrigation	Ha		5	0
	(k) Self-emp. Gardener Training	No.		16	30
	(l) Pre & Post plantation Trg. (Groups)	No.			4
3.	Watershed Development				
	Watershed Development (Food for work)				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	79.61	0.00	0.00
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	0.00	79.61	0.00
	Watersheds (314 Nos.)				
	(a) Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	76.08	101.09	90.00
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	46.84	151.17	90.00
	(c) Treatment of area-Target	Ha		1260	2667
	(d) Treatment of area-Ach.	Ha	1700	973	2656
	(e) Watersheds	No.	28	28	28
	Watersheds (DPAP)				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	52.5	36.00	58.50
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	32.92	91.58	58.50
4.	Cooperation				
	Construction of Warehouses				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	97.95	62.10	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	123.65	62.10	0.00
	(c) Target—Storage Capacity	MT	10000	5000	
	(d) Ach.-Store Capacity	MT	12000	5000	
	Infrastructure Development under Agri-business				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	54.00	19.00	0.00
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	54.00	19.00	0
	(c) Target—Cons. of Marketyards	No.	3	9	0.00
	(d) Ach.-Cons. of Marketyards	No.	3	9	
	Total Co-operation				
	(a) Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	151.95	81.10	
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	177.65	81.10	
5.	Development of Animal Resources				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	35.08	25.97	30.59
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	35.08	25.97	30.59
	(c) Vety. Health Camps organized	No.			13
	(d) Heat Induction Camps organized	No.		19	19
	(e) Deworming Camps organized	No.		10	17
	(f) Construction of VD building	No.	4	2	
	(g) Construction of LAC building	No.	1	1	
6.	Pisciculture/Aquaculture				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	10.81	42.26	10.98
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	4.1	48.97	10.98
	(c) Reservoirs taken up	No.	2	6	2
	(d) Mean water Spread Area	Ha	138	340	120
7.	Afforestation				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	297.94	413.99	452.30
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	297.94	394.29	408.92
	(c) Plantation to be done	Ha	2865	2730	2840
	(d) Plantation done	Ha	2865	2730	2840

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Emergency Feeding				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	149.09	254.83	347.40
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	197.16	254.83	305.35
	(c) Physical Targets	No.	33860	33860	33860
	(d) Coverage of beneficiaries	No.	33860	33860	33860
9.	Reduction of Malnutrition and Child Mortality				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh		18.92	37.83
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh		18.92	37.83
	(c) Target—Beneficiaries	No.		1261	1261
	(d) Ach.—Beneficiaries	No.		1261	1261
10.	Special Nutrition Programme				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	80.87	218.09	316.39
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	80.87	218.09	316.39
	(c) Target—Beneficiaries	No.	141400	141400	146799
	(d) Ach.—Beneficiaries	No.	141400	141400	146799
11.	Construction of Anganwadi Centres				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh		45.00	52.50
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh		0.00	52.50
	(c) Target—Buildings	No.		45	45
	(d) Ach.—Buildings	No.		0	50
12.	Micro Credit support to women SHGs				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	7.65	26.05	24.80
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	7.65	26.05	24.80
	(c) Target—Groups	No.	153	521	149
	(d) Ach.—Groups	No.	153	521	149
13.	Mobile Health Unit				
	(a) Funds available	Rs. in lakh	74.11	41.39	60.91
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	75.83	49.99	59.94
	(c) Patients treated	No.	180270	119400	151442

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Urban Water Supply for Rural Poor				
(a)	Funds available	Rs. in lakh		568.76	341.24
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh		568.76	245.46
(c)	Target—Laying of Pipeline-Cum	Mtr.		18880	18880
(d)	Ach.—Laying of Pipeline-Cum	Mtr.		700	17426
15.	Rural Water Supply				
(a)	Funds available	Rs. in lakh	323.77	381.62	76.16
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	188.98	372.84	76.16
(c)	Target—Installation of Sport Sources	No.	571	558	214
(d)	Ach.—Installation of Sport Sources	No.	571	558	214
16.	Irrigation—BKVY				
	Lift Irrigation Projects				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	242.98	14.40	364.95
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	197.04	5.10	364.95
(c)	LIPs—Target	(No. cum)	34	3	76
(d)	LIPs—Achievement	(No. cum)	28	3	49
	Minor Irrigation Projects				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh			4.28
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh			4.28
(c)	MIPs—Target	No.			2
(d)	MIPs—Achievement	No.			2
	Total-BKVY				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	242.98	14.40	369.23
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	197.04	5.10	369.23
17.	Development of Handloom				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh			22.41
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh			22.41
(c)	Marketing Incentive	No.			7
(d)	Revolving Capital (Beneficiaries)	No.			247

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1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Development of Handicrafts				
	(I) Rehabilitation of Handicrafts Artisans				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh		8.42	5.45
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh		1.00	5.45
(c)	Targets—Beneficiaries	No.		20	50
(d)	Ach.—Beneficiaries	No.		8	109
	(II) Craft Village & Enterprise Prog.				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh			25.04
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh			25.04
(c)	Targets (Craft Village & Enterprise)	No			228
(d)	Ach. (Craft Village & Enterprise)	No.			228
	Total-Development of Handicrafts				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh		8.52	30.49
(b)	Expenditure incurred	Rs. in lakh		1.00	30.49
19.	Gramsat Development Programme				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh		37.93	20.00
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh		38.72	20.00
(c)	Coverage of GP—Target	No.		55	25
(d)	Coverage of GP—Ach.	No.		55	25
20.	Welfare of ST & SC				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	2.21	42.65	32.50
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	0.50	71.98	32.50
(c)	Stipend given to Students	No.	16	1312	1000
21.	Improvement of Traditional Waterbodies				
(a)	Funds Available	Rs. in lakh		87.50	52.50
(b)	Expenditure	Rs. in lakh		0.80	52.50
(c)	Coverage of Tank/Pond—Target	No.		20	14
(d)	Coverage of Tank/Pond—Ach.	No.		0	14

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Rural Connectivity				
	RD Deptt.				
	(a) Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	123.57	79.95	62.55
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	94.20	151.52	62.55
	(c) Road/CD Projects taken up	No.	2	1	1
	(d) Road/CD Projects completed	No.	1	0	0
	Works Deptt.				
	(a) Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	90.00	223.60	245.37
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	46.40	98.23	222.24
	(c) Road Projects taken up	No.		12	8
	(d) Road Projects completed	No.		9	8
	(e) Bridge Projects taken up	No.			3
	(f) Bridge Projects completed	No.			2
	Total—Rural Connectivity				
	(a) Funds Available	Rs. in lakh	213.57	303.55	307.92
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	140.60	249.75	284.79
23.	Construction of Res. Quarters				
	(a) Funds Available	Rs. in lakh		250.11	0.00
	(b) Expenditure	Rs. in lakh		30.00	0.00
	(c) Quarters—Target	No.		64	
	(d) Quarters in progress	No.		35	
	Total Funds available	Rs. in lakh	1828.94	3052.06	2780.33
	Total Expenditure	Rs. in lakh	1513.88	2825.31	2571.00

*[English]***Clinical Trials of Injectable Contraceptive**

4166. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been conducting clinical trials of injectable contraceptive, Depo Provera;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted about the side effects of Depo Provera;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, a prospective study with injectable DMPA (Depo

Provera) 150 mg was carried out at 10 centres in India under Dr. R.P. Soonawala, Gynaecologist, Mumbai, for post marketing surveillance of DMPA between 1994-1997. The results indicated that the method is safe and effective as a contraceptive. However, pre treatment counselling informing the client about the hormonal effect are essential. Studies also indicate that the common side effects reported with Depo Provera are menstrual irregularities, weight gain, nausea, vomiting. Recently some concerns have been raised regarding hormonal contraception and bone health and risk of STI acquisition. Prolonged use of Depo Provera may result in loss of bone mineral density. WHO statement issued in July, 2005 indicate that since the effect of bone mineral density (BMD) is largely reversible, any life time increase in fracture risk is likely to be small.

(e) Govt. of India has at present no proposal to introduce injectable contraceptive Depo Provera in the National Family Welfare Programme. It is a marketed product and is available only on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.

Casual Labourers of Lohiabad Power Plant

4167. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Bharat Coking Coal Limited had taken over Lohiabad Power House of Bihar State Electricity Board on 1.10.1980;

(b) if so, whether a total number of 636 employees were on the roll of Power House including 420 permanent and 216 Casual workers at the time when the said plant was undertaken;

(c) whether all the Casual Workers were given all benefits such as salary, perks & other fringe benefits at par with the permanent employees;

(d) if so, the present status of the 216 Casual workers;

(e) whether there was any break in services before completing 240 days in open area and 190 days in underground mines as per Government guidelines for getting the benefits of permanent job; and

(f) if not, the complete details of their initial date of appointment/contract as Casual Workers and the reasons

for not regularizing their services as per the Directives of Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As informed by Coal India Limited (CIL), Loyabad Power House of Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) had come under the management of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) on 1.10.1980 for improving the generation of power but the ownership of the said power plant remained vested with BSEB till 31.3.1992. On 1.4.1992 again the Power House of Loyabad was taken back by BSEB.

(b) No, Sir. On 1.10.1980 a total number of 629 permanent and 323 casual workers were on the roll of the Loyabad Power House.

(c) While some of the casual workers were given the benefit of category-I wages of National Coal Wage Agreement, others were drawing consolidated pay as per their basic pay at BSEB.

(d to (f) After the BSEB took over the management of the Loyabad Power House, 214 casual workers remained with BCCL. They continued in the roll of BCCL on account of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal award and subsequently removed when the Hon'ble High Court set aside the award. However, presently they are being allowed to continue pending arbitration in the matter by a retired Supreme Court Judge.

Ferry Service In Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4168. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the schedule of ferry service in the backward region of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is not satisfactory after Tsunami devastation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to improve the schedule of ferry service; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The ferry services in Andaman & Nicobar group of Islands were affected only temporarily due to Tsunami. The ferry services now have been restored back to almost normal levels. These services were affected as Tsunami damaged the port infrastructure in the whole of Andaman & Nicobar Islands with partial damage in the Northern Islands and severe damage in the Southern group of Islands.

(c) Steps were taken to improve the ferry service by acquiring new Vessels and by rescheduling of services. 6 nos. of pontoons and 2 LCA type aircraft were acquired immediately after Tsunami which have been deployed to aid embarkation/disembarkation of passengers and mid sea cargo transshipment.

Rescheduling of ferry service to restore shipping service has been done as under:

- (i) Daily ferry services are maintained between Port Blair and Hut-Bay;
- (ii) Car Nicobar is connected with Port Blair on fixed bi-weekly service from Port Blair to Campbell Bay via Noncowry;
- (iii) 13 small boats and three 100/75 Pax speed boats are stationed in Southern Group of Islands for better connectivity;
- (iv) Teressa and Katchal are connected by smaller speed vessels from Noncowry and to provide connectivity between land and the speed boats calling these islands, pontoons with smaller boats have been hired;
- (v) Departmental smaller motor launches and hired vessels are stationed at Noncowry to provide ferry service to neighbouring inhabited islands in the Noncowry group of Islands; and
- (vi) Biweekly ferry service between Campbell Bay and Gandhinagar has also been introduced and the passenger and cargo services between jetty and land at Campbell Bay are maintained by deploying a vehicle ferry.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Complaints Against Dental Colleges

4169. SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by the Government since 2001 till date against the Dental Colleges being run in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) the total number of inspections of Dental Colleges in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan carried out by the Indian Dental Council since 2001 till date;

(c) whether all the aforesaid Dental Colleges of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are being run as per the guidelines of the Indian Dental Council; and

(d) if not, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Some complaints have been received against the dental colleges in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during the period.

(b) to (d) The dental colleges have to conform to standards laid down in the Dental Council of India regulations and inspections are conducted by the Council at the time of grant of permission for their establishment, renewal of permission, recognition and also periodically thereafter so as to ensure that they maintain the prescribed standards. Colleges not fulfilling the norms persistently are denied permission or derecognised. According to the Dental Council of India, the number of inspections conducted by them since 2001 in respect of dental colleges in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are thirty-two and thirty-five, respectively.

[English]

Reservation for Denotified Categories in Medical Entrance Tests

4170. SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some seats like 'Adidharma' are reserved for denotified categories in the medical entrance test of Sewagram Medical College, Wardha which is managed by a Central Registered Society;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such seats are filled up during the yearly medical entrance examination;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure denotified categories like 'Adidharma' are represented in the medical entrance examination of the aforesaid institution?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Kasturba Health Society, Sevagram, District Wardha, is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. This Society runs the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram. According to available information admission of their MBBS course is made as per extant rules and regulations. The Society has stated that the caste "Ad Dharmi" fall under the category of Scheduled Castes and that they are providing reservation as per the constitutional provisions and seats reserved for Scheduled Castes are filled as per merit in SC category.

Development of Sports in North Eastern Region

4171. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes sponsored/undertaken by the Department of Sports to promote sports in the North Eastern Region (NER);

(b) the number of sports persons from NER who represented at National and International levels in various sports events;

(c) the total outlay, allocation and achievement made during the last three years; and

(d) the initiatives, if any, taken by the Government for the promotion of some selected games in which sports persons from NER have an upper hand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) 'Sports' is a State subject and promotion of the same at State level is mainly the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Government of India through various Schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments of the efforts of the State Government in promotion of sports for improving sports performances at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior level.

At present SAI is implementing the following schemes for promotion and development of sports in the North Eastern Region:-

National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)

Dony Polo Vidya Bhavan, Itanagar

Don Bosco HS, Guwahati

Sainik School, Imphal, Manipur

Anthony's H.S. Shillong

Indigenous Games & Martial Arts

Ramswrup Agarwal Memorial English School, Assam

Bal Vidya Mandir, Vill & PO Dhoibal, Manipur

Navodaya Vidyalayas

Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kadmani, Distt. Sonipur, Assam

Navodaya Vidyalaya, Khumbong, Langjing, Distt. Imphal

Navodaya Vidyalaya, Zuketsa, Distt. Phek, Nagaland

Navodaya Vidyalaya, Diatt. Lohit, Arunachal Pradesh

JNV, Ranija, District Kamrup

JNV, Lokak Distt. Bishnupur

Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)

58 GTC, Shillong, Meghalaya

Special Area Games (SAG)

Aizwal, Imphal, Agartala, Namchi, Naharlagon & Utlov

SAI Training Centre (STC)

Dimapur, Imphal, Shillong, Golaghat & Guwahati

Centre of Excellence (COX)

Imphal

In addition to above, following schemes are also implemented by SAI on behalf of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports:

1. All India Rural Sports Tournament
2. National Sports Festival for Women
3. North East Sports Festival (North Eastern States only)
4. Promotion of Sports & Games in School
5. Sports Scholarship Scheme

Under the North East Sports Festival Scheme, North East Region level festival is organized every year in the North Eastern States.

(b) The number of medals won by the sports persons from various Centres of SAI in North East Region in national and international levels in various sports events during the last three years 2002-03 to 2004-05 are as under:

National			International		
Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze
661	432	470	37	12	26

(c) The total budget allocation for the North East Region under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 was Rs. 29.51 crore, Rs. 31.00 crore and Rs. 36.11 crore respectively.

(d) SAI has taken initiatives for promotion of sport in the North Eastern Region by establishing a Regional Centre at Imphal and a Sub-Centre at Guwahati. Taking into consideration the genetic advantage of the Mongoloid origin of the population, contact Sports Centres have been established in Imphal and Aizwal for games like Judo, Boxing, Wrestling, Weightlifting, Karate & Taekwando. Talent is also scouted in Archery from these States and talented youngsters are trained for excellence.

Merit Performance in Written Test

4172. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DoPT has framed rules and regulations following the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that the persons should be recruited/selected on the basis of merit performance in written test instead of performance in interview;

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

(c) the specific reasons for ignoring the merit performance of the candidates in written test by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Recruitment and Assessment Centre-DRDO, Indian Space Research Organisation, Bharat Electronics Limited, National Fertilizers Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and other PSUs; and

(d) the action the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No Sir. No such direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any recruitment/selection has to be made only in accordance with the scheme of examination/selection procedure prescribed for it.

(d) Does not arise.

Clinical Test on Sucralose

4173. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sucralose is being used by children in the United States of America but the same is not allowed to be used by children in India;

(b) if so, whether this ban has been clinically examined;

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

(d) the outcome of the clinical tests conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The PFA Rules, 1955, provides for restriction on use and sale of artificial sweeteners. Artificial sweeteners permitted under these rules, which include sucralose may be used in food articles with quantitative restriction and labelling requirements prescribed under the rules. Every package of food containing artificial sweeteners (including sucralose) shall *inter-alia* be labelled as "Not recommended for children".

The label declaration "Not recommended for children" was recommended for product containing artificial sweeteners and table top sweeteners after taking into

consideration the nutritional status of the children in the country. No clinical test has been conducted in this regard.

Cruise Services

4174. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given No Objection Certificate to M/s. Star Cruises, Malaysia for operating cruise services in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has analysed the cost and benefit of the services;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has decided to extend the services to the ports of Chennai and Pondicherry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has given no objection to M/s. Star Cruises of Malaysia for operation of Cruise Services from Mumbai to Lakshadweep (Kadmat Island) and Mumbai to Goa.

(c) and (d) Government has not done any formal cost benefit analysis, however, it is undeniable that its benefit to Indian economy would far outweigh the costs as far as international cruise liners calling at Indian Ports is concerned. The benefits include the vessel related revenue accrual to the ports, purchase of local goods by the cruise tourists, consumption of various types of domestic services offered by airlines, tourist taxis, hotels, restaurants, bunkers, etc. As regards financial costs, there are no costs other than maintaining cruise terminal and providing reception/immigration facilities etc.

(e) and (f) The Government has not received any proposal from any cruise line in this regard.

Irregularities in Dental Council of India

4175. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a large number of complaints from various individuals, NGOs, Dental Associations and others during 2001 to 2004 regarding corruption, mismanagement and misdeeds of the President, Dental Council of India;

(b) whether the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala vide its judgement has directed to take suitable remedial and punitive action against the Dental Council of India and its President; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Complaints were received during the period in question from various quarters against the working of the former President of the Dental Council of India. The Kerala High Court in its judgement dated 25 May 2004 had directed that appropriate remedial and punitive action be taken after studying the report of the Justice Anil Dev Singh Commission and hearing the petitioners and respondents. Further action in the matter is being taken accordingly.

Closure of Post-Offices in Uttaranchal

4176. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deptt. of Posts has taken any decision to close down certain Post-Offices and reduce the number of posts of Postman in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of Posts of Postman in the post offices at Banghat, Pauri Garhwal in Uttaranchal is also proposed to be abolished; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken to close down certain Post Offices anywhere in the country, including Uttaranchal. However, a decision has been taken to relocate/merge post offices which do not fulfil distance norms to needy justified areas. This is in consonance with the direction in the 10th plan to rationalize the network. No specific decision has been

taken to reduce the number of posts of Postmen in Uttaranchal. However, posts are being reduced in consonance with Government policy to reduce 2% of the establishment strength, also taking into account the justification as per work load.

(c) and (d) Out of the sanctioned posts of one departmental postman and one Gramin Dak Sewak Mail Deliverer at Banghat, Pauri Garhwal, there is a proposal to abolish the post of departmental postman as the post is not found justified on the basis of work load.

[Translation]

Modernising Coal Mines in Maharashtra

4177. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to shut down several coal projects in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of coal in tonnes extracted from the coal mines of Maharashtra during each of the last two years;

(d) whether the production has decreased;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to modernise the coal mines of Maharashtra?

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) The Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) proposes to close down Chanda Rayatwari UG and Chargaon OC mines due to exhaustion of coal reserves.

(c) The quantity of coal extracted by WCL from the coal mines in Maharashtra during 2003-04 and 2004-05 was 32.91 Million Tonnes and 34.53 Million Tonnes respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

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

(f) WCL has adopted use of intermediate technology such as application of Side Discharge Loaders (SDL) and Load Haul Dumpers (LHD) in existing underground mines wherever conditions permit. This technology is also proposed to be used in the new underground mines being planned. WCL is also examining the possibility of introduction of mass production technology in some more underground mines in view of its success in Tandsi UG mine.

[English]

Amount Sanctioned to West Bengal from CRF

4178. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned to West Bengal from the Central Road Fund (CRF), so far;

(b) the details of the works sanctioned from the fund during last three years;

(c) the number of pending project proposals in this regard with the Central Government; and

(d) the steps taken for the expeditious clearance of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Under Revamped Central Road Fund (CRF) works amounting to Rs. 188.89 crore has been sanctioned for the State of West Bengal so far.

(b) Details of works sanctioned during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Four estimates have been received from the West Bengal Government.

(d) The above pending four estimates are considered for sanction during 2005-06 subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority of works.

Statement*Details of works sanctioned during last three years*

Sl.No.	Name of District	Name of work	Job No. & Date of sanction	Length in Kms	Sanctioned amount Rs. in lakh
During the year 2002-2003					
-Nil-					
During the year 2003-2004					
1.	North 24 Parganas	W/S of Namkhana-Amrabati road (kmp. 0 to kmp. 24.24) in the district of North 24 Parganas	CRF/08/WB/03 28.07.2003	24.24	967.00
2.	Midnapur	W/S of Contai-Belda road (SH-5) from kmp. 20 (Tajpur) to kmp. 38 (Kashmoli)	CRF/09/WB/03 28.07.2003	18.00	1501.00
3.	South 24 Parganas	Improvement and strengthening of different roads near Kolkata. Port Trust Area with improvement of drainage	CRF/10/WB/03 26.12.2003	19.00	1113.00
Sub total				61.24	3581.00
During the year 2004-2005					
4.	Hooghly	Strengthening of balance portion of decentralized NH-2 from km 611 to 664	CRF/11/WB/03 23.09.2004	25.20	1110.00
5.	South 24 Parganas	Improvement & strengthening of Budget-Budget trunk road	CRF/12/WB/04 23.09.2004	13.00	1543.00
6.	North-24 Parganas	Widening and Strengthening of Sodepur -Madhyamgram) km 0/00 to 9/6).	CRF/13/WB/04 04.11.2004	8.86	1030.73
Sub total				47.06	3688.73

Withdrawal of Commemorative Stamp

4179. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has withdrawn a commemorative stamp released on the occasion of 400

years of Guru Granth Sahib;

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

(c) whether the Government has also discussed the issue with the SGPC before considering release of the stamp;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is a proposal to issue a commemorative stamp to honour 400 years of installation of the Guru Granth Sahib, which is still to be released.

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

(c) to (e) The SGPC is one of the proponents of the stamp and is aware of the proposed release.

Alleged Irregularities in NIC

4180. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has submitted their report about alleged irregularities in National Informatics Centre (NIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether irregularities have been detected in the purchase of V-SAT;

(d) if so, the amount involved;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

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

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Private Participation in Sand/Mineral Mining

4181. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for mineral/sand mining along the Sea Coast of Alappuzha from the Government of Kerala is pending sanction before the Union Government;

(b) if so, the time by when the proposal is likely to be get approval from the Government;

(c) whether the Government is also aware of the mineral deposits along the coast line in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Kanyakumari District;

(d) if so, the steps taken to extract these minerals;

(e) whether the Government proposes to involve private parties in the said sand/mineral mining;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by when the said mining work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir. Six proposals received from Government of Kerala on 09.03.2005 for grant of mining lease of beach sand in different Survey Nos. of village Arattupuzha, District Alappuzha are pending before the Central Government for prior approval.

(b) The proposals are under consideration of the Ministry of Mines and shall be disposed of in accordance with Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. However, no precise time limit for disposal of these proposals can be specified.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Private entrepreneurs were mining Garnet along the beaches, till the Government of India, Department of

Atomic Energy announced a Beach Sand Mineral Policy on 6.10.1998 providing for a guided opening of the entire beach sand mineral sector to private parties for mining even the prescribed substances like Ilmenite, Rutile and Zircon. Till the Policy was announced, only Public Sector Undertakings were permitted to mine Ilmenite, Rutile and Zircon.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Private entrepreneurs like M/s. V.V. Minerals, M/s. Beach Minerals (Sands) Company and M/s. Beach Minerals Company Pvt. Ltd. are engaged in beach sand mining.

(g) Mining activities is already going on along the coast line in Tamil Nadu.

[*Translation*]

Computer Education

4182. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether computer has become biggest means of employment nowadays;

(b) if so, whether the Government is running any programme for providing quality education in computers to the educated and unemployed youths of poor and weaker sections;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard during the last two years, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the time by which the Government is likely to formulate a plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) estimates, the total demand for IT and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) professionals by the end of financial year 2007-08 is projected to exceed 2 million.

(b) to (d) The following programmes are supported by the Government:

- (i) DOEACC Society is implementing a scheme for generation of quality manpower in the area of Information Technology in the non-formal sector. Under the scheme, four levels of courses, viz. 'O', 'A', 'B' and 'C' level courses are offered through its centres and franchises located across the country. These courses have a scholarship scheme for SC/ST, female and physically handicapped students with effect from January 2003 Examination.
- (ii) DOEACC Society is offering ITES-Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Course in association with Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region. The course is offered at DOEACC Region. The course is offered at DOEACC Centres located in the North-eastern region. A similar course is also offered in Jammu & Kashmir with the support of Department of Information Technology. The courses are offered at the rates less than the estimated cost.
- (iii) Indian Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is training the students at rates less than the estimated cost on Computer Literary Programme (CLP) through Community Information Centres (CICs) in North-Eastern States. So far 203 CICs have been activated for the course.
- (iv) In the vocational training offered through Industrial Training Institutes (IITs)/Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) courses under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) are offered in computer related trades. No fee is charged from SC/ST and physically handicapped trainees. Also, the Apprenticeship Training Scheme implemented through industrial establishments under the Apprentices Act 1961 includes three computer related trades.

[*English*]

Internet Connection in Schools/Colleges

4183. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to provide high-speed internet connection to various schools and colleges in every district; and

(b) if so, the time by when the same will be provided to schools and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As present, there is no such proposal with the Government to provide high-speed internet connection to schools and colleges in every district. However, Education & Research Network (ERNET) India, an autonomous society of Ministry of Communications & IT, Department of IT operates state-of-the-art countrywide education research network for interconnecting and providing interconnectivity to educational institutions, schools and colleges in the country. The connectivity is provided to the institutions including schools and colleges based on the request received from them and payment of bandwidth charges. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has also launched a new scheme of ICT @ schools during 2004-05. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs for the computer education and training to students. As per the norms, an amount of Rs. 30,000/-per schools is provided for Internet Connectivity to the States/UTs for Government and Government aided Secondary and Sr. Secondary Schools, in addition to other support like hardware, software, maintenance etc.

Under University Grants Commission-Network Resource Centres (UGC-NRC) scheme, the UGC has provided financial assistance to 2943 colleges for computer & internet connectivity in the X Plan.

Earning of a Government Employee/PSU Worker

4184. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the recently issued World Bank Policy Research Working Paper-April 2005 has revealed that the average earning of a Government Employee/PSU worker in India is 102% over the private sector and 259% more than the informal sector workers;

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

(c) whether according to the report, this kind of wage discrimination is considered highest in India; and

(d) if so, 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) to (d) The World Bank paper on "Wage differentials between the Public and Private Sectors in India" reveals that Public Sector premium ranges between 62% and 102% over the private formal sector and between 164% and 259% over the informal casual sector. The paper also says that India has one of the largest differentials between wages of Public workers and workers in the formal private sector. The difference in earnings vary depending on the level of experience, education and skill of a worker and on the demand and supply conditions for various type of labour.

Payment of Access Deficit Charge

4185. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private telecom operators are obliged to pay Access Deficit Charge (ADC) to the BSNL and MTNL;

(b) if so, whether these charges are levied on subscribers who are the end users;

(c) if so, whether this amounts to taxing the public twice for the same service; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures 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) As per present Inter Connection Usage Charge (IUC) regime dated 6th January, 2005, private telecom operators are not required to pay Access Deficit Charge (ADC) to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for calls originated from fixed line including Fixed Wireless Terminals. ADC funding to BSNL from private telecom operators comes from all calls originating from mobile network. Admissible ADC from all incoming International Long Distance (ILD) calls is also payable to BSNL by International Long Distance Service Providers. However, no ADC is applicable for intra circle mobile to mobile calls.

Further, no private telecom operator is required to pay the ADC to the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

(b) The burden of ADC is not always necessarily passed on the end users since telecom tariffs are under forbearance (except that for rural areas for fixed services) and the service providers are free to define their own tariffs based on competitive market forces. ADC Regime has come into force from 01.05.2003 and per minute rate of ADC is continuously decreasing. It is also a fact that now the end users are required to pay much lower tariffs in comparison to what they were paying prior to implementation of IUC/ADC Regime.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Legalising Euthanasia

4186. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to legalise euthanasia in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the Government would enact a law for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

High Priority Highways

4187. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is funding the high priority highways in various States; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the high priority highways funded by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible only for development of National Highways. The development of all other roads is the responsibility of the

State Governments concerned. The development of National Highways is a continuous process and is done in a phased manner depending upon the volume of traffic, inter-se priority and availability of funds. There is no categorisation of highways as high priority highways.

[Translation]

Setting up of Lignite based Power Plant by NLC

4188. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government, Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and Government of Rajasthan had signed an MoU in the year 2002 to establish a lignite based power plant;

(b) if so, whether NLC is still interested in establishing the said power plant;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by when the plant is likely to be established alongwith its location?

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.

(c) Neyveli Lignite Corporation's (NLC) proposal for setting up a 2x125 MW lignite based power project was sanctioned by Government of India in December 2004 and implementation is progressing as per schedule. There is no delay in the project.

(d) The 1st & 2nd units will be commissioned in December, 2008 and June, 2009 respectively. The Power Plant is being located at Barsingsar Village in Bikaner District of Rajasthan.

Complaints Against Staff of CGHS Dispensaries

4189. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAH SAHU:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL:

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

(a) whether around 210 MPs/personal staff are attached to Allopathic and Ayurvedic CGHS dispensaries, North Avenue, New Delhi;

(b) whether the doctors and paramedical staff are habitual late comers and as a result distribution of indented medicines gets delayed;

(c) whether incidents of arrogant and rude behaviour by dispensary personnel towards beneficiaries have often been reported;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and till date;

(e) whether similar complaints have been received from various other CGHS dispensaries in Delhi;

(f) if so, the details in this regard, dispensary-wise during the above period; and

(g) the measures being contemplated to make the officials of the dispensaries more disciplined and patient friendly?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir. 210 MPs are attached to the CGHS Allopathic Dispensary of North Avenue.

(b) By and large most of the Doctors and staff of the above dispensary attend to their duties on time.

(c) and (d) The number of complaints of rude behaviour received against Doctors and paramedical staff of CGHS dispensary, North Avenue, during the last two years are as under:

1.	Doctors	4 complaints
2.	Pharmacist	2 complaints
3.	ANM	1 complaint
4.	LDC	1 complaint

(e) and (f) Twelve (12) complaints have been received in the last two years against doctors/staff of other dispensaries under CGHS Delhi as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Dispensary	No. of complaint
1.	Kidwai Nagar	1
2.	Chandni Chowk	1
3.	Sarojini Nagar Market	1
4.	Rohini	1
5.	North Avenue	1
6.	Sadiq Nagar	1
7.	Sunder Vihar	2
8.	Chanakyapuri	1
9.	Chitragupta Road	1
10.	Malviya Nagar	1
11.	J.N.U.	1

In addition to the above, one complaint of rude behaviour has been received against M/s. Kendriya Bhandar, Bhagwan Dass Road, which supplies Local Purchase indent medicines to some dispensaries under CGHS Delhi.

(g) Regular inspections are carried out by Zonal Additional Directors, Additional Director (HQ) and Director (CGHS) to monitor, supervise and give guidance regarding functioning of CGHS dispensaries including monitoring punctuality, behaviour of Doctors and staff, etc.

There is an inbuilt mechanism to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspection, supervision and guidance by the Senior Officers of CGHS. The complaints of the beneficiaries are regularly monitored at CGHS dispensary, Zonal level and at the Headquarters level. Necessary instructions are also issued from time to time to improve the punctuality and behaviour of officers.

Eight special inspection teams consisting of Senior Officers of Dte. GHS and CGHS have 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.

Govt. has also constituted a High-powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Kaul, former Cabinet Secretary to review the functioning of CGHS for making it more user-friendly.

*[English]***Back Log Reservation****Filling up of Vacancies in Mormugao Port Trust**

4190. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mormugao Port Trust proposes to fill up 132 vacant posts on direct recruitment basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these posts have been lying vacant for long;

(d) if so, the reasons for not filling them up; and

(e) the time by which the said recruitment is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the policy of the Government on optimisation of direct recruitment of civilian posts that an organization can fill up 1/3rd of the vacancies arising during a year subject to 1% of the sanctioned strength, the Mormugao Port Trust had proposed to fill up 132 posts in Classes-II, III & IV categories. Out of these 132 posts, Government has permitted Mormugao Port Trust to fill up 50 posts in different categories by way of direct recruitment. Regarding remaining 82 posts, Port has been advised to review and explore the possibility of filling up these vacancies by redeployment of existing personnel.

(c) These vacancies have arisen during the years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

(d) As per the policy of optimisation of direct recruitment adopted by this Ministry, the proposals for filling up of direct recruitment vacancies are to be approved by the Ministry. The proposal of Mormugao Port Trust in respect of 03 Class-I posts was received in August, 2004 and approved in January, 2005. The proposal of Mormugao Port Trust in respect of 132 posts other than Class-I was received during March, 2005 and finally approved for 50 posts by the competent authority in August, 2005.

(e) The port has already initiated action to fill up the 50 posts by direct recruitment.

4191. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 16.05.2005 was the cut off date for issuing orders on matters relating to back log of reservation regarding special recruitment drive for appointment and promotion of SCs and STs in Ports;

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

(c) whether this has been followed in all Ports;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Cochin Port has not filled up back log reserved vacancies so far;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) According to the Government instructions dated 05.08.2004, various organizations have to issue offer of appointment to the selected candidates by 16.05.2005 under Special Recruitment Drive to fill up back log reserved vacancies for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates. Accordingly, instructions were issued to all the Major Port Trusts to identify the backlog vacancies and start process for filling up of these posts. The Major Port Trusts identified the backlog vacancies in direct recruitment and promotion and initiated steps to fill up these posts. Efforts were/are made by all the Major Port Trusts to fill up the backlog vacancies reserved for SCs/STs in Ports.

(e) and (f) In Cochin Port Trust, in respect of direct recruitment vacancies there is a backlog of 15 posts for SCs and 14 posts for STs. Out of these vacancies, 04 posts meant for SCs and 05 posts meant for STs have been filled up. As regards remaining vacancies of 11 posts for SCs and 09 posts for STs, applications have been invited by the Port. In respect of promotional vacancies, there is a back log of 24 posts meant for SCs. These posts could not be filled up due to non-availability of eligible candidates in the feeder grades. Further, there is no provision in Recruitment Rules to fill

up such vacancies by any other mode of recruitment. There is no back log in promotional vacancies meant for STs.

(g) The matter is being monitored by holding meetings and obtaining reports regularly from the Port Trusts.

[Translation]

Bogus Appointments in BCCL

4192. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether bogus appointments have been made in the BCCL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken against the persons found guilty?

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) As informed by Coal India Limited, the appointments are made after observing prescribed formalities including identification of the dependents done by the State authorities both in the cases of compassionate appointments and in the cases of land oustees whose land is acquired. Police verification of the candidates is also done. However, in spite of above if any adverse verification report from District Authority or any other source is received, the matter is investigated. If the complaint is found to be true disciplinary action is initiated leading to dismissal from service.

Vigilance Department, Bharat Coking Coal Limited had detected three cases of impersonation who have been dismissed from the services of the company. Details of these cases are as under:

Sl.No.	Name	Designation	Colliery	Dismissed on
1.	Smt. Jaymala Devi	PR Wagon Loader	Mudidih	08.1.2000
2.	Shri Etwari Mahato	Fitter	Alkusa	08.02.2002
3.	Shri Kisto Pada Karmakar	Pit Loader	Dhansar	15.05.2004

[English]

Punishment to Corrupt Officials

4193. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 5,000 corrupt officials are yet to be punished by the CVC;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be 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) and (b) The penalty against Government officials can be imposed only by their appointing authorities.

(c) Several steps have already been taken in order to remove corruption; and to improve administrative functioning. Important among them are: enactment of the Right to Information Act, 2005; Notification of the Whistle Blowers Resolution 2004; the pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance; issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting processes by the CVC; enactment of CVC Act and strengthening the CBI to discharge its anti corruption work; increased use of Information and Communication Technology; introduction of Citizens Charters and simplification of procedures and systems etc.

Land Acquisition for Mine Project

4194. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited along with its subsidiary South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) has arbitrarily acquired the land of three villages of Madhya Pradesh including tribal dominated Kotama village for its Amadand open cast mine project;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the rights of the tribal people against exploitation by the Coal India Ltd. and State Government;

(d) whether CIL entered into agreement with the farmers for providing compensation to them in lieu of land; 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) and (b) No, Sir. As reported by Coal India Ltd., the land for Amadand OCP in Kotma Village has been acquired after duly following procedures laid down in Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (LA Act) and Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 (CBA Act).

Mining right in an area of 3407.403 hectares covered under 7 villages was acquired by the Central Govt. under CBA Act, 1957 vide Gazette Notification under S.O. 495 dated 22.02.97.

Further, based on recommendation of Central Government, surface land over the mining right already acquired under CBA Act, was acquired by Collector/Land Acquisition Officer, Anuppur of Madhya Pradesh vide notification under section 6 of the LA Act, 1894 published in the Official Gazette of State Government on 28.5.2005. The details of land acquired to be made to SECL is as under:

Sl.No.	Village	Area acquired (Surface Right)
1.	Nimha	362.291 Ha.
2.	Amadan	229.850 Ha.
3.	Kuhka	107.870 Ha.
Total		699.939 Ha.

Collector, the Competent Authority for assessment and payment of compensation for acquired land, made a part award for 205.322 Ha. of land, out of total 699.939 hectares in first phase as per urgency and assessment of balance area is in progress. SECL deposited Rs. 2.77 Crore to Collector, Anuppur on 20.12.04 against 205.322 Ha of land for payment. But the Land Owners are not accepting the compensation and demanding employment beyond norms. However, 22 land owners have received compensation on 18.08.05.

(c) Payment of compensation is made by Collector/Land Acquisition Officer of the district and there is a proper mechanism and established system to deal with the award of compensation to the land owners including tribal land owners to protect their livelihood.

(d) No agreement has been made with the farmers by SECL.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer at 'd'.

Reconstitution of Major Port Trusts

4195. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to reconstitute some more major Port Trusts;

(b) if so, the Port Trusts which have been reconstituted so far;

(c) whether the Mangalore Port Trust is likely to be reconstituted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) There are 11 major port trusts, namely Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Tuticorin, Chennai, Cochin, New Mangalore, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mormugao and Kandla which are governed under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. These 11 ports have Board of Trustees which are constituted as per the provisions of Section 3 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. The Board of Trustees for the ports of Kolkata, Mumbai Chennai, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Kandla, Mormugao and Paradip stands reconstituted for the period from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2006.

The Board of Trustees for the ports of Jawaharlal Nehru, Tuticorin and New Mangalore, which were due for reconstitution for the period from 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2007, have already been reconstituted.

[Translation]

Reply to Letters

4196. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments are not covered under provisions of directions of para 122 of Central Secretariat Procedure Manual for replying the letters written by the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to include State Governments and public sector undertakings under the said directions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Paras 63, 66 and 127 of the 12th edition of Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP) lay down the procedures for handling letters received from the Members of Parliament. The guidelines contained in the Manual are applicable to the Ministries/Departments of Government of India only. The provisions relating to reply to the letters from the Members of Parliament have, however, been circulated to the State Governments from time to time for formulation and issue of appropriate guidelines/instructions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Non-Availability of Symptomatic/opportunistic Drugs in Hospitals

4197. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the symptomatic and opportunistic infection drugs except for

Tuberculosis are not available in the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure availability of said drugs in all the Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) In so far as the three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, are concerned, appropriate quantity of drugs for symptomatic and opportunistic infection are available and the management of such patients are undertaken in indoor as well as outdoor as per the need of the patients.

To ensure the availability of symptomatic and opportunistic infection drugs, under National AIDS Control Programme-II, NACO provides an amount of Rs. 1.0 Lakhs through the State AIDS Control Societies for each of the Government Medical College and District Hospitals in the country for purchase of these drugs.

Non-Settlement of Bills by CGHS Dispensaries

4198. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that medicine suppliers to CGHS dispensaries have stopped supply of medicines due to non-settlement of their bills which runs into crores and crores of rupees for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for non-settlement of bills;

(c) the action taken by the Government to safeguard the welfare of the CGHS beneficiaries;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to open medical shops in all CGHS dispensaries instead of depending upon private medicine suppliers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The bills of the Authorised local chemists are cleared as per availability of funds on first-come-first-served basis.

Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS Authorised local chemists.

(c) Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioner beneficiaries) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The Govt. has already approved an ad-hoc formulary for 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 of CGHS dispensaries is expected to improve further.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, the question does not arise.

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

Agreement with Russia In Space Programme

4199. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to launch Russian satellites for a global navigational system next year;

(b) if so, whether the Government has signed any accord with Russian Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Russia is likely to take part in India's Space Programme including manned flights and joint construction of new satellites;

(e) if so, whether the Government has signed any agreement with Russia in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) A proposal has been received from Russian Space Agency to launch their satellites for global navigation system in the coming years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The Government of India and the Government of Russian Federation signed two agreements on December 3, 2004 which open up possibilities for working together in the peaceful uses of outer space including manned flights and joint construction of new satellites.

Commercial Launch of Spacecrafts

4200. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan has been drawn up for commercial launching of spacecrafts by the Indian Space Research Organisation;

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

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with any countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL), which is the commercial arm of ISRO is marketing launch services using India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) on commercial basis. So far, two satellites from Germany (in 1999 and 2001) and one each from Republic of Korea (in 1999) and Belgium (in 2001) have been launched commercially by PSLV.

(c) Presently, three contracts have been signed for launch of foreign satellites using PSLV.

(d) * Agreement between ACL and LAPAN, Indonesia for launching a microsatellite during 2005-06.

- Agreement between ACL and Cosmos International, Germany for launching a 350 kg AGILE satellite for Italy during 2006-07.
- Agreement between ACL and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore for launching a microsatellite during 2006-07.

Annual Budget of National Ayurvedic Institute

4201. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual budget of National Ayurvedic Institute, Jaipur;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan equally contributes in the aforesaid budget;

(c) if not, the justification behind providing 50% reservation in M.D. (Ayurveda) Course of the Institute for the students passing B.A.M.S. from Rajasthan;

(d) the annual expenditure under the head 'scholarship' for students of Rajasthan and M.D. (Ayurveda) separately; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the anomaly, if any found in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The annual Budget 2005-06 of the Institute is:

Non-Plan	Rs. 610.00 lac
Plan	Rs. 500.00 lac

(b) No.

(c) to (e) The Government of Rajasthan provides a Non-plan Grant of Rs. 13.68 lac annually. This amount represents the Expenditure annually spent by the institute when it was taken over the Government of India for establishment of National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur.

At the time of establishment of the Institute, the Government of Rajasthan provided free of cost the campus measuring around 12 acres of land along with building, equipments and instruments. Such a reservation

provision is also available with Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching & Research in Ayurveda (IPGTRA), Jamnagar, which is centrally financed.

No Scholarship is available to MD students. They are paid stipend which is presently Rs. 7600/- during 1st year, Rs. 7800/- during 2nd year and Rs. 8000/- during the final year per month.

During 2004-05 there were total 105 students (43 from Rajasthan and 62 from States other than Rajasthan) in three batches. The expenditure on stipend for students from Rajasthan and States other than Rajasthan were Rs. 66.05 lac and Rs. 148.70 lac respectively.

Network of Basic Sports Infrastructure

4202. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to create a network of basic sports infrastructure throughout the country;

(b) if so, the plan prepared by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is aware that youth of the country do not show any interest in sports;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to develop excellence in sports and promote sports amongst the youth particularly belonging to the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) 'Sports' is a 'State' subject under the Constitution. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create basic sports infrastructure throughout the country. Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this direction by providing Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes in accordance with the approved pattern subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Government. The Sports Infrastructure schemes have been transferred to the State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005

and all State Governments were informed accordingly in February, 2005. No funds have been allocated in the budget for 2005-06 for sports infrastructure.

(c) to (e) A National Sports Policy with emphasis on broad basing of sports and promotion of excellence has been adopted by the Government. The policy also envisages action for scientific back up to sportspersons. The Ministry operates the Rural Sports Programme with the purpose of arranging tournaments in rural areas and at the Block, District, State and National levels. A sum of Rs. 1.15 crore has been released to Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for organizing local rural tournaments during 2005-06 at District level in 58 districts of North-East Region. Government of India is also implementing a scheme of 'Sports Scholarships' through Sports Authority of India (SAI) with the objective of assisting talented young boys and girls for their outstanding performance in Sports. Apart from this, Sport Authority of India (SAI) through their various schemes augments the efforts of the State Government in Promotion of Sports for improving sports performances at Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior level. At present SAI is implementing various schemes for promotion and development of sports in the country like National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC), Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC), Special Area Games (SAG), SAI Training Centre (STC), Centre of Excellence (COX).

[Translation]

Issuance of GP Card Under CGHS

4203. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started the issuance of GP card under the CGHS scheme for the general public on experimental basis in certain areas of New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the persons who will be issued GP Card and those who will not be entitled for the same and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The General Public (GP) card scheme for the general

public was introduced as a pilot project in 1975 in 14 CGHS dispensaries of Delhi. However, due to constraints of resources and manpower, General Public card is not being issued since October 2003, to the fresh applicants. Only those General Public cards issued prior to October 2003 are being renewed by CGHS Delhi if so requested by the existing GP card holders.

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

Coal Rejected by Washeries

4204. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of tonnes of coal rejected by washeries of Central Coalfields Limited in Dhori, Kargali, Swangwashery, Kathara are lying unused;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the said rejected coal is not only causing serious water and air pollution in the region but has also caused loss to the tune of crores of rupees to the Government and the companies;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to sell the said rejected coal through open tender; and

(f) if so, the steps 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rejects are lying undisposed at Kargali, Sawang and Kathara washery of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) because there are no linked consumers/regular buyers.

(c) and (d) There is no report from State Pollution Control Board regarding air and water pollution from these rejects.

(e) and (f) CCL has already taken action for disposal of rejects lying at various washeries of CCL through trial e-auction.

*(English)***Delinking of Vadinar Area from Port Limits of Kandla Port Trust**

4205. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any final decision on the long standing request of the Government of Gujarat to delink Vadinar area from the port limits of the Kandla Port Trust and return it to the State Government;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to compensate Gujarat for the commercial loss suffered as a result of it?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Vadinar was included in the limit of Kandla Port after the Government of Gujarat issued notification deleting it from the limit of Minor Port of Salaya, while the Government of India issued notification for its inclusion in the limit of Kandla Port. By the said notifications issued by both the Governments, *i.e.*, Government of India and Government of Gujarat, Kandla Port Trust has been vested with the jurisdiction of Vadinar. Kandla Port developed Vadinar for handling of liquid cargo. The request of Government of Gujarat to hand over the Vadinar Port to State Government has not been agreed to, and the question of compensation to Government of Gujarat does not arise.

Raising Level of Sports

4206. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the talented youths of the country are not given proper opportunity to take active part in sports at school or college level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the requisite funds are not allocated either by the State Government or by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to allocate special funds for raising the level of sports in school and college level;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) 'Sports' is a State subject and promotion of the same at State level is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Government of India through various schemes implemented by Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Government in providing opportunities to talented youths to take part in sports at school level. Following schemes are implemented:-

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
2. Rural Sports Programme
3. Sports Scholarship Scheme
4. Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools

(c) and (d) Following allocations have been made for the above schemes in the last three years:—

(Rs. In lakhs)

Name of the scheme	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)	140.00	230.00	225.70
Rural Sports Programme	100.00	125.00	135.00

1	2	3	4
Sports Scholarship Scheme	344.00	283.00	550.00
Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools	103.00	125.00	125.00

(e) to (g) Union Government is already implementing the above four schemes of NSTC, Rural Sports Programme, Sports Scholarship Scheme and Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools through SAI.

[*Translation*]

Exchange Programmes with other Countries

4207. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the exchange programmes related to the sportsmen, youth delegations and experts with the other countries during the last three years;

(b) the details of annual expenditure incurred by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the benefits accruing to the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) As per enclosed Statement.

(b) The details of the Annual expenditure incurred is as under:

Year	Expenditure (in Rs.)
2002-03	8,31,679/-
2003-04	15,41,572/-
2004-05	3,95,107/-

(c) The benefits accrued cannot be quantified in physical terms. However, exposure to different countries help the individuals, to acquire knowledge about the policies/programmes and different methods/technologies being implemented in other countries for bringing improvement in different fields related to youth and sports. These visits also give an opportunity to acquire knowledge about various cultures, traditions etc. of different countries.

Statement

Details of the Exchange Programmes related to the Sportsmen, Youth Delegations and Experts with the other Countries during the last three years

2002-03

- (1) 5 member Indian delegation to Seychelles to attend the Youth Festival.
- (2) 6 member Indian delegation to Egypt to attend the International Work Camp.
- (3) 4 member Indian official delegation to Egypt to attend the Youth Employment Summit and to sign a Protocol in the field of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- (4) 35 member Indian delegation to Japan under the Japan Southwest Asia Youth Friendship Programme.

2003-04

- (1) 3 member Indian official delegation to Belarus and Germany to sign a Protocol in the field of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- (2) 5 member Indian delegation to Egypt to attend the International Voluntary Work Camp.
- (3) 2 member Indian delegation to Morocco to attend the 2nd World Congress of Youth.
- (4) 11 member Indian delegation to Japan to attend the Ship for World Programme.
- (5) 24 member Indian delegation to Japan under the Japan Southwest Asia Youth Friendship Programme.
- (6) 3 member Indian official delegation to Mauritius to sign a Protocol in the field of Youth Affairs & Sports.

- (7) 2 member Indian Youth delegation to Australia to attend the Youth Enterprise Development Forum.
- (8) 2 member Indian Youth delegation to Nigeria to attend the Commonwealth Regional Youth Forum.

2004-05

- (1) 5 member Indian Youth delegation to Egypt to attend the International Voluntary Work Camp.
- (2) 38 member Indian delegation to Japan under the Japan Southwest Asia Youth Friendship Programme.
- (3) Delegation from Bulgaria and Maldives attended the National Youth Festival held at Hyderabad.
- (4) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sports Cooperation was signed in India on 15.04.2004 between Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Department of Sports & Recreation, Government of Western Australia.

*[English]***Deployment of Coaches**

4208. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has deployed their coaches at the District Coaching Centres while many Training Centres of the Sports Authority of India are without coaches;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) had recommended for withdrawal of the Sports Authority of India's Coaches from the District Coaching Centres and redeploy them at SAI Centres;

(d) whether the Ministry of Finance had also directed the Sports Authority of India to redeploy SAI Coaches from the District Coaching Centres to the SAI Training Centres;

(e) if so, the number of coaches posted at one place for more than 10 years without giving results at the National and the International level competitions;

(f) the monitoring system adopted by the Government to keep watch on 10,000 trainees in the SAI Training Centres and more than 1400 Coaches deployed by the SAI to enhance the performance of Indian Sports; and

(g) the steps being taken by the SAI to prepare a Pool to Sports talent so as to churn out a strong team for the ensuing Commonwealth Games in 2010 and the Olympic Games in 2008 and 2012?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) In the month of June and July 2005, Sports Authority of India (SAI) has withdrawn coaches from District Coaching Centers (DCC) in an attempt to make good the shortage of coaches in SAI Schemes/Centres. Notwithstanding the transfers, there is still an overall shortage of coaching staff in SAI.

(c) and (d) The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance had, *inter-alia*, recommended redeployment of SAI coaches from DCC to SAI's Centres.

(e) and (f) In each Regional Centre of SAI, there is a cell to monitor the training performance of SAI coaches and schemes of SAI in their jurisdiction. Transfer orders withdrawing coaches from DCC and their redeployment to focus on SAI's Schemes/Centres would *inter-alia* help in ensuring greater accountability.

(g) The preparation/training of sportspersons for major international events including Commonwealth and Olympic Games is an on-going process which take into account inputs provided by National Sports Federations (NSFs). Systematic approach is adopted to select and train athletes and teams for participation in the major international events by drawing Long Term Development Programme (LTDP) to put in action four year roll-on Plan under which elite sportspersons selected on the basis of their performance are put through scientifically designed continuous training programme. Coaches are also being imparted training from time to time. In addition to this, talented sportspersons are being inducted in SAI Sports Promotional Schemes at Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior Level.

*[Translation]***Monitoring of Health Services**

4209. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has expressed its dissatisfaction over the condition of health services in India;

(b) if so, whether the problems regarding maternal mortality/malnutrition among children are very critical in India;

(c) whether the number of patients suffering from contagious and non-contagious diseases like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, T.B. etc. is very high;

(d) whether 80 per cent of health services in India is under the private sector; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for monitoring of the health services?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The World Health Report-2005 released by the WHO ranks India amongst the 51 countries which have shown a slow decline in reducing infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio.

The National Population Policy-2000 and the National Health Policy-2002 have laid down goals for bringing down the infant mortality rate to less than 30 per 1,000 live births and maternal mortality ratio to less 100 per 100,000 live births by the year 2010. Malnutrition is also a challenge occurring due to the factors like poverty, lack of nutritional awareness, unsafe drinking water, sanitation, etc.

(c) The number of cancer patients in India is 2 to 2.5 million which includes 7 to 9 lakh new cases every year. The prevalence of hypertension is 5 to 10 per cent amongst the adult population of rural and urban areas respectively. Similarly, the prevalence of diabetes is 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 per cent in rural and urban areas respectively. As far as TB is concerned, 1.8 million new cases arise every year of which 0.8 million are smear positive infectious cases responsible for spread of the disease.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government has recently launched the National Rural Health Mission which aims to tackle health problems in a holistic manner. While the Mission is applicable to the entire country, it has its special focus on 18 States which have poor health and demographic indicators.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Remote Areas

4210. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges of MTNL and BSNL opened in the remote areas of the country in the year 2003-04, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to grant any facilities/concessions to persons belonging to SC/ST category residing in the remote rural areas in different States;

(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) Sir, the number of telephone exchanges added in the remote areas of the country during the year 2003-04 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. are given in the enclosed Statement. There are no remote areas in the jurisdiction of MTNL as it is operating in Delhi and Mumbai only.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) Telephone subscribers in rural areas are already charged concessional telephone tariffs at highly subsidized rates by BSNL.

Statement

List of Telephone Exchanges added in the remote areas of the country during the year 2003-04 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

Name of Circle	No. of Exchanges added in Rural (Remote) areas
1	2
Assam	324
Andhra Pradesh	106
Bihar	37

1	2
Haryana	1
Jharkhand	13
Karnataka	7
Kerala	28
Madhya Pradesh	16
Maharashtra	31
North East-I	2
North East-II	4
Orissa	6
Punjab	7
Rajasthan	16
Tamil Nadu	7
Uttar Pradesh (East)	17
Uttar Pradesh (West)	4
Uttaranchal	9
West Bengal	12

Deadly Disease in Children due to Toys

4211. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that small children are likely to contract a disease like cancer by putting P.V.C. toys in their mouth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has investigated the matter;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Polyvinyl Chloride (PVCs) is used to produce plastic

materials having wide applications in the building sector, packaging, electrical appliances, medical care, agriculture, the automotive industry and toys. As per a WHO study there is evidence that exposure to vinyl chloride causes cancer in humans. However, the report identifies inhalation as the main route for the occupational exposure, which occurs primarily in plants producing vinyl chloride and PVC. The same report calls for measures to minimize emissions at production sites and sanitary landfills, and to ensure low residual levels in PVC. However, there is no evidence which suggest contracting of cancer by putting PVC toys in mouth.

Guidelines for Proper use of Red Cross Emblems

4212. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Red Cross Emblems meant for various medical fields are not properly used;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any guidelines in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the guidelines issued by the Government in this regard reflects the Geneva Convention Act, 1960; and

(e) if so, the steps/measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring proper use of the Emblems in the medical field?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The national headquarters of Indian Cross Society have informed that the Red Cross Emblem is seen all over the country and is being associated with health services. The Indian Red Cross Society also takes initiatives from time to time to address the problem of improper use of Red Cross Emblem.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Ships by SCI

4213. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has formulated any scheme to acquire some ships due to decrease in production of ships;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has reserved Rupees 2000 crore for this purpose;

(d) if so, the number of ships proposed to be acquired;

(e) whether the Public Investment Board has objected to this proposal of the Shipping Corporation of India; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a), (b) and (d) Yes, Sir. Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has planned to acquire 39 vessels during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(c) No such reservation has been done. However, SCI has adequate internal resources to fund the acquisitions.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Re-Employment of Retired Officers

4214. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 100 retired Secretary level officers have been re-employed in the Government service;

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

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of the services of inservice officers?

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.

[Translation]

Applications for Coal Block Allotment

4215. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with Ministry of Coal for setting up iron, steel, cement and captive power plants in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the Government is considering only those applications which were received prior to 28.6.2005; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not considering the applications of the companies received after 28.6.2005 for coal block allotment?

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) The Government had earlier decided that only applications received up to 28.06.2004 would be considered for allotment of captive blocks. This has since been reviewed, and the Government has, for the time being, decided to continue allocation of coal/lignite blocks for captive mining under the existing process of allocation through the Screening Committee.

[English]

New Schemes during Tenth Plan

4216. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress in implementing plan programmes in the first two years of the 10th Five Year Plan was slow according to the mid-term appraisal of the 10th Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there was inordinate delay in starting new schemes meant to impart specific thrust to the Tenth Plan strategy;

(d) if so, the names of such schemes which were to be implemented during the Tenth Plan period;

(e) the details of the new schemes that have already been implemented; and

(f) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on these schemes during the first two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) As per the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the progress of projects/Schemes/programmes as measured by the outlay indicates that the Central Sector Plan (including PSU plan) for the first three years of the Tenth Plan are estimated to be 44.2 per cent of the total plan as against a normal expectation of 54 per cent. The probable reasons reported for slow progress include delays in acquisition of land, completion of civil work, supplies of equipments, obtaining environment and forest clearances, obtaining investment approval by competent authorities and law and order problem in certain States for the plan schemes/projects/programmes relating to infrastructure sectors such as power, roads, railways and mines etc. while for social sector schemes such reasons include non receipt/late receipt of the proposals from the State Government as well as utilization certificate, delays in releasing matching share by State Government, and in arranging minimum institutional arrangements for implementing the schemes and in undertaking household and other surveys for identifying beneficiaries etc.

(c) and (d) During the periodical review of the performance of Plan Schemes/programmes, by the Planning Commission it has been observed that in case of some of new Plan Schemes/programmes envisaged in Tenth Five Year Plan including National Mission on Horticulture, National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development, Micro Irrigation, Development of Market Infrastructure Grading and Standardization, Support of State Extension Programme, Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension, Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production, Venture Capital Fund for Dairying/Poultry, National Project on Organic Farming, Transgenic and Genetically Modified Crops in Agriculture Sector; Technology Upgradation and Modernization

Scheme in Industrial Sector; Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in Education; National Nutrition Mission for Women & Children; National Urban Information System, Pooled Finance Development Scheme, City Challenge Fund in Urban Sector; Upgradation of 100 existing ITIs into Centre of Excellence, Testing and Certification of Skills acquired through Non Formal Means in Labour and Employment Sector, delay has been reported in implementation.

(e) and (f) The responsibility of formulation, obtaining investment approvals and other clearances from competent authorities and implementation of new schemes vests with the concerned Ministry/Department. The details of the new schemes to be implemented in a financial year alongwith the provision of funds are available in the 'Statement showing details of New Service/New Instrument of Service' for that year published in the Demands for Grants of Central Government presented alongwith the Union Budget and also in detailed Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministry/Department. As the utilization of a Plan allocation under a new scheme is linked with the formulation of plan programmes/schemes/projects, investment approval by the Competent Authority and their actual implementation by the concerned Ministry/Department, the actual expenditure incurred on these schemes are available in the detailed Demands for Grants of the respective Ministry/Department of the subsequent years.

[Translation]

Revalidation of Centre's Share under Central Regional Training and Extension Scheme

4217. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received demands from various State Governments for revalidation of Centre's share worth Rs. 4.00 lakh under the Central Regional Training and Extension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposed revalidation is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture is not implementing any scheme with the name of Central Regional Training and Extension Scheme.

Dilapidated Condition of National Highway No. 200

4218. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 200 between Jaggir-Champa and Raigarh ahead of Bilaspur is in a dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Chhattisgarh Government has sent any proposal for the renovation of the 14 km. road of the said highway from 197 km. to 210 km. under the Annual Scheme 2004-05; and

(d) if so, the cost of the said proposal and the time by which the said proposal will be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No Sir, only limited stretches in the above section are under distress.

(b) Some stretches of the sections between Jaggir-Champa and Raigarh have low height of embankment and are passing through paddy fields, where the water table is considerably high. As a result the road gets water logged during heavy rains. Further, the soil in this area being black cotton soil, the road is adversely affected due to high water table.

(c) and (d) Strengthening including raising of the sections from Km. 204 to 210 in affected area have already been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 269.83 lakhs during the last financial year. Strengthening of distressed stretches between 197 to 204 have been included in the Annual Plan for the current year.

[English]

Derogatory Depiction of Indian God

4219. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
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 French fashion group Minelli is selling shoes with the image of Hindu God, Lord Rama;

(b) if so, the facts of the said matter;

(c) whether the matter has been raised with the concerned authorities; and

(d) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A French private company M/s Vivarte had depicted the image of the Hindu God Lord Rama on its Minelli brand footwear.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the Indian Mission in Paris immediately took up the matter with the concerned company M/s Vivarte, urging them to withdraw the said footwear from the market. Subsequently, several reports have confirmed that the company had indeed withdrawn the said shoes from the market and disposed them of in an appropriate manner. The matter is being closely monitored by our missions in all European countries.

[Translation]

Special Package to Bihar

4220. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has announced any special package for Bihar under the National Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government for the implementation of the same; and

(d) the time by when this package is likely to be given to Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The National Common Minimum Programme relating to Special Package to Bihar reads as follows:

"From time to time, previous governments have announced special economic packages as, for example, for the northeast, for Bihar and for J&K. For Bihar, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had announced a special development package in 1989 and subsequently another package was announced at the time of its division in 1999 to make up for the loss of revenue. These packages will be implemented expeditiously."

A special package is already under implementation in Bihar in the form of a Special Plan under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana during the Tenth Plan.

(b) Under this programme, the following nine schemes have been identified in consultation with the State Government of Bihar:

Name of the Scheme	Estimated cost (Rs. in Crore)	Amount Released) (Rs. in Crore)
1. Million Shallow Tubewell Programme (Subsidy Component)	633.78*	344.64*
2. Strengthening of Sub-transmission system	365.00	325.394
3. Restoration of Eastern Gandak Canal	294.00	51.417
4. Development of Horticulture (Grant/Subsidy Component)	35.53	18.1809
5. Integrated Watershed Dev. Programme	60.00	10.00
6. Development of State Highways	846.29	—
7. Integrated Community-based Forest Management	351.00	—
Total-A	2585.60	749.6319
8. Strengthening of Sub-transmission System in South Bihar (Phase II)	597.00	New Scheme
9. Renovation and Modernisation of Barauni and Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Stations	643.00	New Scheme
Total B	1240.00	—
Grand Total	3825.60	749.6319

*Includes Rs. 55.50 crore released as one time ACA to the State Government for implementation of MSTP up to 2002-03, prior to RSVY funding.

(c) These schemes are at various stages of approval/ implementation. Implementing agencies for all the schemes have already been identified for execution of these schemes. Preparation of Detailed Project Reports for some schemes are in progress. The Union Government is monitoring these schemes regularly for their speedy implementation.

(d) The schemes are being implemented.

Abduction of Children from Hospitals

4221. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of abduction of children from Government hospitals are on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the children abducted during the last three years, hospital-wise;

(c) whether staff of the aforesaid hospitals have also been found involved in it;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against them; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) It is for the respective State Governments to take all necessary steps to prevent such incidence in the State owned hospitals. In Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, no incident of abduction of children has been reported during the last three years.

However, the following steps are adopted in the above mentioned hospitals to prevent the abduction of children from hospitals:—

- The baby and its external genital area is shown to the mother immediately following delivery before cutting the cord.
- Hand badges and chest badges indicating the names of the mother, father, MRD Number, date and time of the delivery, sex, ward number is fixed on the baby.
- Sex of the baby is confirmed by the Obstetrician and Paediatrician and foot print of the baby is taken. Simultaneously, entry is made in the labour register and transfer register.
- On discharge from hospital, baby's discharge slip is checked by the security guard before allowing the baby to be taken out of the ward. Entry is made in the labour register and transfer register.

Non-Utilisation of Computers in Post Offices

4222. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that computers are lying unutilized in a number of post offices in Bihar for the last four or five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether computers are lying unutilized in Bagaha sub-post office;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(f) whether the Government is considering to launch computerised services in the post offices of the State; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No Computer is lying unutilized in Post Offices in Bihar for the last four or five years.

(c) One computer at Bagaha Sub Post Office is lying unutilized since November, 2004.

(d) One computer was supplied to Bagaha Sub Post Office during 1997-98 for electronic transmission of money orders through VAST (Very Small Aperture Terminal) network working on CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) technology. This network was discontinued with effect from 1st November 2004 and a high speed TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access) VSAT network has now been put in place for transmission of money orders. The computer installed at Bagaha Post Office is not compatible with this high speed VSAT system and hence the computer is lying unutilized.

(e) The existing computer is being upgraded for its utilization at Bagaha Post Office.

(f) and (g) Department of Posts is presently implementing a Plan Scheme to computerize all Head Post Offices and large Sub Post Offices across the country, including in Bihar State. Till date, all the 31 Head Post Offices and 26 large Sub Post Offices have been provided with computers. It is proposed to computerize more large Post Offices of Bihar by March, 2007 subject to availability of funds and required approvals.

[English]

Opening of New Hospitals/Dispensaries

4223. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the Government hospitals and dispensaries in West Bengal are in pitiable condition;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve their condition;

(c) whether the Union Government is planning to open some new hospitals and dispensaries to meet the demand of the people in the State;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the budgetary allocation for the current year for health sector in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Government to regulate/monitor the functioning of its hospitals and dispensaries. It is also for the State Government to assess the requirement and to open new hospitals and dispensaries to meet the demand of the people of the State within its resources.

Four Laning on N.H.-5

4224. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the four laning work in the National Highway 5 of Orissa has been slow and the condition of road has also deteriorated due to slow progress of the work; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There have been delays in implementation of four laning of National Highways Projects on NH-5 in Orissa as part of Golden Quadrilateral. The delays are on account of problems associated with acquisition of land, poor management of contractors, law & order problems etc. However, the Highways is being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

Review of Functioning of NICD

4225. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) has failed to provide timely diagnostic investigations during mysterious outbreaks of diseases;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the cause of its failure;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the functioning of NICD and make it effective; and

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) investigates disease outbreaks in different parts of the country round the year on the request of State Health Authorities or as per epidemiological requirement. In most situations, the methods are well established and containment measures are advocated to the concerned State Government authorities. However, in some situations when the disease presentation is complex, in-depth advanced laboratory investigations are often required which is time consuming. In reported disease outbreaks involving new emerging pathogens of communicable disease or due to non-communicable agents, NICD seeks support from other national and international agencies to diagnose and control outbreaks, if required. The preliminary reports submitted by NICD after each investigation are timely and based on the clinico-epidemiological and field observations, and diagnosed to the extent of taking immediate control measures which are communicated to the concerned State Governments immediately.

NICD has responded immediately by investigating and conducting health status assessments during 2003-2005 all over the country relating to different diseases on the request of various State Governments.

As the Institute is performing its duties well, there is no proposal to review its functioning. However, certain plan schemes are envisaged during the X Plan to further strengthen the activities of the Institute.

[Translation]

Functions of NPPCO

4226. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the functioning of the National Pharmaceuticals Price Control Organisation (NPPCO);
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up fixed price structure for various services in the hospitals;

(c) if so, the time by which the said structure will be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is entrusted with the task, *inter-alia*, to fix prices and notify changes therein, if any, of bulk drugs and formulations, from time to time, under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1985. Other functions of NPPA, include:

- (1) To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- (2) To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
- (3) To collect/maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc. for bulk drugs and formulations.
- (4) To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/pharmaceuticals.

NPPA has been discharging its functions effectively and has fixed/revised the prices of 237 bulk drugs including derivatives and 3070 packs of formulations since its inception.

(b) to (d) In Central Government hospitals, all the services are provided free of cost except for some costly investigations, for which nominal rates are charged. For poor patients, even the nominal charges are waived off.

Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Governments to fix the charges of services provided by the Government Hospitals/Private Hospitals/other clinical establishments of the State within its jurisdiction.

[English]

Potential of Jhanjra Coal Project

4227. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production capacity of Jhanjra Project, E.C.L. has the potential lasting for 100 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a joint meeting of the management and the workers has been called in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tap the huge potential of this project?

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) Jhanjra project has an estimated mineable reserve of around 200 Mt. The foreclosure report for Jhanjra Project envisages a production of 1.03 Mty, and at this rate the project will have a life of more than 100 years. However, the project has a potential of higher capacity with the introduction of mass production technology like continuous miner and longwall.

(c) The proposal was discussed in the Joint Consultative Committee meeting and worker's representatives were appraised in this regard.

(d) For introduction of continuous miner, a separate project report has been approved by Coal India Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has initiated action for introduction of this technology. For implementation of longwall mining, ECL has already submitted a project report which is presently under process of Government approval

Contribution of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

4228. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL) built and delivered ships to Maritime, Oil, Defence and Port Sectors;

(b) if so, the details of the contribution of the HSL so far to the national maritime industry;

(c) the details of the ships constructed and delivered during 2004-05 by the HSL, capacity-wise;

(d) the details of the orders secured by the company during the current year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the installed capacity of the HSL?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the Ships/Wellhead Platforms built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) so far for the National Maritime Industry are given in Statement-I.

(c) The details of the ships constructed and delivered during 2004-05 by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) capacity-wise are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The details of the orders secured by the Company during the current year (as on 15.08.2005) are given enclosed Statement-III.

(e) Government is providing Subsidy to the yard as per the existing Shipbuilding Subsidy Scheme to help it secure shipbuilding orders in the domestic as well as international markets. Subsidy coupled with consistent efforts by HSL has resulted in increased order book position in Shipbuilding, thereby resulting in increased

capacity utilization. A fresh financial restructuring of the Company is under active consideration of the Government which is expected to result in better capacity utilization of the Yard due to technical upgradation and improved financial condition.

In addition, some of the specific steps taken by HSL to increase the utilization of its installed capacity are as follows:

1. To undertake retrofitting of Naval Refit, short Refit & Medium Refit and modernization of special class submarines such as 877 EKM Submarine.
2. To make collaboration/Joint venture arrangement with reputed foreign Yards for securing new orders to achieve improvement in Ship repair & Retrofitting business from 2004-05.
3. To secure orders for construction of Naval OPVs (Offshore Patrol Vessels), Tankers and Survey vessels.

Statement I

The details of the Ships/Wellhead Platforms built by HSL so far to the national maritime industry

MARITIME SECTOR

Cargo Lines	54
General Cargo-cum-Multi purpose vessels	12
General Cargo-turn-Container vessels (Shortened Pioneers)	03
Bulk Carriers (HSL Flexible Design 27,000 DWT)	07
42.750 DWT Bulk Carriers	03

DEFENCE SECTOR

Survey Vessel	01
Mooring Vessel	01
HSD OJ Oiler	01
Landing Ship Tank	01
Offshore Patrol Vessels	05
Training Ship	01

OIL SECTOR

(a) Ships	
Supply Vessels	06
Drill Ship	01

(b) Wellhead platforms

Jackets	11 nos.
Decks	11 nos.
PORTS	
Dredger for Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT)	02
Port Survey Vessel (CPC)	01
Tugs for Mormugao Port Trust & VPT	07
FRP launch VPT	01
OTHER	
Passenger Ferry/Ships	02
Passenger-cum-Cargo ship	09
Motor Launches (HSL)	03
Landing Crafts (HSL)	02
Barges	12
750 DWT Barges	-6 nos.
Pantoon-cum-barges for A & N Admin.	-6 nos.
floating Crane	01
Total	136+22*

*Wellhead platform structures.

Statement II

*The details of the ships constructed and delivered during 2004-05
by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., capacity-wise*

Sl.No.	Yard No.	Type (Capacity)	Owner
1.	11107	100 Passenger Vessels	Andaman & Nicobar Administration
2.	11108	100 Passenger Vessels	-do-
3.	11109	100 Passenger Vessels	-do-
4.	11126 to 11131	6 No. 10x8x2 meters Barges	-do-
5.	1177	17.5 T Floating Crane	M/s. Sarat Chatterjee & Co.
6.	11113	500 M ³ Grab Hooper Dredger	Visakhapatnam Port Trust
7.	—	FRP Launch	-do-

Statement III

The details of the orders secured by the Company during the current year i.e. 2005-06 (as on 15.08.2005)

Sl.No.	Yard No.	Type (Capacity)	Owner
1.	11132 to 11135	4 No. Utility Launches	Andaman & Nicobar Administration
2.	11136 to 11141	6 no. 53,000 DWT Diamond Series handy max bulkders	M/s. Good Earth Maritime Limited, Chennai

[Translation]

'Outcome Budget' Report

4229. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recently published report called 'Outcome Budget' by a non-official advisor of the Planning Commission has highlighted the inadequacy of funds in respect of eight major programmes like Rozgar Guarantee Yojana, Village Health Mission etc. as reported in the Hindi Daily 'Rashtradoot' dated July 20, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any programme-wise evaluation in this regard;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the directions of the Prime Minister and the commitment made in the Budget Speech of 2005-06 to stress upon the importance of the outcomes of major programmes, Planning Commission, at the instance of Ministry of Finance, has compiled outlays, outcomes identified and target set by Ministries/Departments for Outcome Budget 2005-06 which is likely to be laid in the Parliament by Ministry of Finance during its current Session. The Outcome Budget is not an assessment of the adequacy of funds for Government programmes.

(c) to (f) The evaluation of selected programmes/schemes under implementation are undertaken regularly

by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission to assess the performance, process of implementation, effectiveness of the delivery systems and impact of programmes as per the requirement of Ministries/Departments of Government of India, and also if considered necessary by the Planning Commission. These reports are available in the public domain.

Completed/Pending Projects of CIL

4230. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects completed/lying pending with Coal India Limited and each of its subsidiaries during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of the estimated and projected expenditure of pending and completed projects;

(c) whether there are projects of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries lying pending for the last ten years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extra expenditure incurred due to delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Revision in Procurement Policy of BSNL

4231. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposes to revise its procurement policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the BSNL to boost manufacturing of the telecom equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Indigenous manufacture of telephone equipment is felt desirable with the objective, *inter alia*, of the availability of desired quality/standard products at competitive rates, immediate availability of after-sales services and development of new technologies in the country. A procurement framework, whereby only vendors who indigenously manufacture (or have definite plans to do so) certain telecom products are alone eligible for procurement is under active consideration by BSNL.

[*Translation*]

Brain Stroke

4232. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether lakhs of people in the country are under threat of brain stroke every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government is likely to take any measures to save these people from this threat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) As per the WHO estimates, out of 9.4 million deaths in India, 619,000 deaths were due to stroke. This gives a stroke mortality rate of 73 per 100,000.

(b) to (d) A draft proposal on "National Programme for Control of Diabetic and Cardiovascular Diseases". (CVD) has been sent to Planning Commission for "In Principle" approval.

[*English*]

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

4233. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of money allocated for the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of financial assistance provided to patients, living below poverty line, together with the number of patients covered, State-wise;

(c) the criteria laid down for selecting persons for providing financial assistance; and

(d) the reasons for not spending the full allocated amount under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The funds under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi scheme are not allocated State-wise. Financial assistance to the patients, living in States/UTs, is released under this scheme through the respective State Illness Fund(s), revolving fund maintained by certain Government hospitals/Institutes besides the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Contributions to the State Illness Fund are made by the State Government concerned and the Government of India in the ratio of 2:1. Accordingly, those States that have set up the State Illness Fund have been released funds during the last three years as per detail given in the enclosed Statement. The quantum of funds allocated for Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi and expenditure incurred during the last three years are given below.

(Rupees in lakhs)

Years	B.E.	Actual expenditure
2002-03	310.00	420.00
2003-04	414.00	480.00
2004-05	450.00	675.00

The number of patients and quantum of financial assistance provided to patients by respective States/UTs is not maintained centrally.

(c) Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to poor patients, living below poverty line, suffering from

life-threatening diseases and receiving medical treatment in any Government hospital.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply at (a) and (b) above.

Statement

(Rupees in lakhs)

Years/States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Jharkhand	150.00	50.00	—
NCT of Delhi	40.00	50.00	25.00
Rajasthan	100.00	101.00	—
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	50.00	—	50.00
Jammu and Kashmir	—	24.00	—
Kerala	—	100.00	—
Uttaranchal	—	25.00	—
Lakshadweep	—	50.00	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	205.00
Goa	—	—	90.00
Karnataka	—	—	100.00
Pondicherry	—	—	25.00

Popularization of Family Planning Message

4234. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce surrogate advertisement in films to carry the family planning message to the masses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is coordinating with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the talks held between them so far; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Permission to BAMS Graduates to Practice Modern Systems of Medicine

4235. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) whether the Bachelor of Ayurvedic and Medicine Services (BAMS) Integrated Medical Graduates are being

allowed to practice Modern Systems of Medicine in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when it is likely to be considered by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) This matter was examined by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Dr. Mukhtiar Chand & Ors. Vs. the State of Punjab & Ors. civil appeal No. 89 of 1987. Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that a harmonious reading of Section 15 of Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and Section 17 of Indian Medicine Central Council (IMCC) Act leads to the conclusions that there is no scope for a person enrolled on the State Register of Indian medicine or Central Register of Indian Medicine to practice modern scientific medicine in any of its branches unless that person is also enrolled on a State Medical Register within the meaning of 1956 Act. However, the right to prescribe modern medicine by practitioners of Indian Medicine under rule 2 (ee)(iii) of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 would be available in those States where privilege of such right to practice any system of medicine is conferred by the State law under which practitioners of Indian Medicine are registered in the State.

Alleged Irregularities in Marketing of Coal

4236. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received complaints against the Western Coal Fields Limited regarding alleged irregularities and manipulation in marketing of coal to various industrial units/power plants in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received and the number of cases referred to CBI/vigilance agencies for investigation during the last three years;

(c) the details of irregularities confirmed and the extent of manipulation involved and the action taken against those found guilty; and

(d) the details of initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for efficient marketing of coal?

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) It has been alleged in the complaint received that the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has entered into an agreement with coal washery units to lift coal on their behalf from Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and supply washed coal to the power stations of MSEB. These units are allowed to sell 20% of this coal as 'rejects' and MSEB gets only 80% of the coal. The washery units are selling good quality coal in the garb of rejected coal to the local small scale units and thus causing loss to MSEB. In addition to it, MSEB is also paying the coal washing charges to these washeries. The connivance of WCL officials has also been alleged in the complaint.

Government of Maharashtra and WCL have been requested to verify and to send a report in the matter. Since the matter is still being verified, the question of referring it to CBI/Vigilance agencies does not arise.

(d) Sale of coal through e-Auction w.e.f. April 2005 has been introduced in WCL. Under e-Auction, customer whether linked or non-linked can participate to meet their coal requirement. The customer is free to bid for the quantity and quality as required by him. For the year 2005-06, quantity of 2.2 Million Tonnes has been allocated to WCL for e-Auction which is expected to be enhanced upon availability and customers demand. Besides the above, coal has been allotted to National Co-operative Consumers Federation (NCCF) and also to State Government Agencies of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for meeting the coal requirement of small and tiny consumers. It has also been decided to conduct verification of documents related to operation/existence of Non-core sector consumers. Accordingly, WCL has called necessary documents from such consumers and the verification is under progress in order to meet the coal requirement of genuine consumers.

Damage in Atomic Energy Establishments

4237. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy damage has been caused in the various units of Atomic Energy establishment located in different parts of the country due to recent flood;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to find out the exact loss;

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

(d) the expenditure incurred by the Government to bring each of such plants to normal condition; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to deal with such a situation in future?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Release of Philatelic Stamps of Bharat Ratna Awardees

4238. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to release philatelic stamps in respect of all Bharat Ratna awardees till date during the current and the coming year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. However, it is proposed to release a stamp on M.S. Subbalakshmi, who is also a Bharat Ratna awardee, during 2005-06.

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

Combating AIDS

4239. SHRI ASUDUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether organizations fighting to contain AIDS in the country have joined hands with Andhra Pradesh to combat this global killer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the organizations which have joined hands for the eradication of AIDS in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the details of MoU signed between Government of Andhra Pradesh and Union Government and concerned organisations; and

(e) the extent to which this step is likely to eradicate AIDS in the State?

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

(b) and (c) A number of International, State, District level organizations fighting to contain AIDS, apart from Non Governmental Organisations implementing Targetted Intervention for the High-Risk Population, have joined hands with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to combat HIV/AIDS. A list of such organizations is enclosed as Statement.

(d) Five organizations namely (i) Confederation of Indian Industries, (ii) LEPRA India, (iii) Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust (HLFPPT), (iv) Centre for World Solidarity, and (v) People Living with HIV/AIDS, (PLWHAS) signed MoU with Andhra Pradesh Government for assisting the Government on various aspects of the AIDS Control programme. These inter-alia include sensitizing the Industry Heads on issues related to HIV/AIDS, promotion of safer sex practices by information and education, Capacity building of Counselors involved in the programme, maintaining and supervising Targetted Intervention programme implementation, running of Drop in Centers etc.

(e) All these Organizations are providing valuable cooperation to Government to control the epidemic and contain the prevalence to the minimal level by enabling and motivating the community to own and lead the HIV prevention and treatment programmes.

Statement

List of Organizations which have joined hands with the Government of Andhra Pradesh in combating AIDS in the State.

Sl.No.	Name of the Organizations
1	2
1.	AP Legislators' Forum
2.	AP Gram Panchayat Sarpanches Association
3.	UNICEF
4.	Indian Red Cross Society

1	2
5.	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (along with their partners Family Health International, Population Services International, Centre for Advocacy and Research, Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust, Alliance, TCIE, CARE India)
6.	Catholic Health Association of India (Catholic Health Association of India) along with Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
7.	Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust
8.	Confederation of Indian Industries
9.	AP Partners Forum
10.	Centre for World Solidarity
11.	Lepra India
12.	PLHA Networks
13.	Indian Medical Association
14.	Nehru Yuvak Kendras

(All the NGOs implementing Targetted Interventions for the high risk population)

[*Translation*]

CBI Investigation against Officers

4240. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has initiated investigation against the officers of Joint Secretary level and above during the last two years;

(b) if so, the names of the officers against whom investigation has been initiated including the details of cases against them;

(c) whether the CBI has sought permission from the Government for investigation against some officers of Joint Secretary level and above during the last two years;

(d) if so, the names of such officers and the date on which permission was sought and the date on which permission was granted; and

(e) the reasons for delay if any, in granting permission?

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 (d) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(e) There has generally been no undue delay in grant of permission.

Statement

Details of cases taken up for enquiry/investigation from 1.1.2004 to 31.7.2005 against officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above

Sl.No.	Case ID No. with date of registration	Name and designation of the accused (only Joint Secretary & above)	Date of seeking permission from the Government	Date of granting permission by the Government	Present status of the case
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	RC.15/2004-JAI dt. 31.7.2005	Dr. T.D. Dutta, Addl. Director, Central Government Health Scheme, Jaipur	15.7.2004	23.7.2004	Under Investigation

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	RC.16/2004- JAI dt. 31.7.2005	Dr. T.D. Dutta, Addl. Director, Central Government Health Scheme, Jaipur	15.7.2004	23.7.2004	Under Investigation
3.	RC 10(A)/2005- NPR dt. 27.06.2005	Shri Sanjay Kumar Tiwari, the then Asst. General Manager and General Manager, Railway India Technical Economic Services, Ministry of Railway, Nagpur	9.4.2005	15.6.2005	Under Investigation
4.	RC 3(A)/2005- SCU- I/SCR-I dt. 12.4.2005	Shri Baldev Singh Sandhu, IRS Commissioner of Income Tax, Ahmedabad	1.4.2005	6.4.2005	Under Investigation
5.	RC 8(A)/2005- Ranchi dt. 02.04.05	1. Shri M.K. Thapar, The then Director (T) Chairman-Managing Director, CCL, Ranchi presently, CMD, SECL, Bilaspur	13.02.2004	04.04.2005	Under Investigation
6.	PE 3/2004- CHG dt. 22.4.04	Shri Virendra Singh, IAS the then Advisor to the Administrator, UT, Chandigarh Presently working as Secretary, OBC Commission, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, New Delhi	17.10.2003	30.1.2004	Recommended for such action
7.	RC. 1/2004- DLI dt. 01.01.2004	Dr. Mrs. K.K. Kalra, Addl. Director, Central Government Health Scheme, New Delhi	Not Required (Trap case)	—	Under Trial
8.	PE. 11/2005- DLI dt. 06.06.2005	Sh. H.M. Caire, IAS (A&M 1978) the then Commissioner, Kendriya Vidhyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi	23.3.2005	19.5.2005	Under Enquiry

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	PE 01/2004- Kol. dt. 29.01.2004	Shri N.K. Sharma, Chairman-Managing Director, Coal India Ltd.	09.01.2004	19.01.2004	Closed
10.	RC 39/2004- Kol. dt. 09.09.2004	Shri Malay Sengupta, the then GM presently Chairman-Managing Director, Metal and Scrap Trading Corporation, Kolkata	15.07.2004	06.08.2004	Under Investigation
11.	RC 48/2004- Kol./ACU- IV dt. 10.10.2004	Shri Prakash Singh, Chairman-Managing Director, Union Bank of India	Not Required (Trap case)	—	Under Investigation
12.	PE.01(A)/2005- BLR dt. 15.06.2005	Shri M.S. Zahed, Chairman-Managing Director, M/s. Hindustan Machine Tools Limited, Bangalore	20.01.2005	04.04.2005	Under Enquiry
13.	RC. 1/2004- AHD/Pat. dt. 24.01.04	Shri Brahmdeo Prasad, the then Chairman, Bihar State Electricity Board, Patna	Not required High Court referred case	—	Recommended for such Action
14.	RC.2/2004- AHD/Pat. dt. 24.01.04	1. Shri L.K. Lal, the then Member (Technical) Bihar State Electricity Board, Patna 2. Shri Brahmdeo Prasad, the then Chairman, Bihar State Electricity Board, Patna	Not required High Court referred case	—	Recommended for such action
15.	RC.3/2004- AHD/Pat. dt. 24.01.04	Shri Brahmdeo Prasad, the then Chairman, Bihar State Electricity Board, Patna	Not required High Court referred case	—	Recommended for such action
16.	RC.4/2004- AHD/Pat. dt. 24.01.04	Shri Brahmdeo Prasad, the then Chairman, Bihar State Electricity Board, Patna	Not required High Court referred case	—	Closed
17.	RC.5/2004- AHD/Pat. dt. 24.01.04	Shri S.P. Kochar, the then Chairman, Bihar State Electricity Board, Patna	Not required High Court referred case	—	Recommended for such action

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	RC.1/2004- ACU-I dt. 27.2.04	Shri Yuvraj Gupta, IRS, Commissioner of Customs (Inv.) Settlement Commission, Mumbai	24.11.2003	29.12.2003	Under Investigation
19.	RC.5/2004- ACU-II dt. 27.9.04	Shri Ajay Kumar Takkar, G.M. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai	16.9.2004	17.9.2004	Under Investigation
20.	RC. 2/2005- ACU-III dt. 04.4.05	Shri Ashok Kumar Dinkar, G.M. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Mumbai	22.3.2005	24.3.2005	Under Investigation
21.	RC. 3/2005- ACU-I dt. 06.6.05	Shri M.K. Ghosh, the then Joint Director (Cost.), Deptt. of Defence, Production & Supplies, M/o Defence, DHQ, South Block, New Delhi (now Joint Secretary, M/o Commerce, New Delhi	Permission was not required since he was not J.S. level officer when the case was regd.	—	Under Investigation
22.	RC. 48/2004- Kol/ACU-IV dt. 10.10.2004	Shri Prakash Chand, Chairman-Managing Director, United Bank of India & others	21.12.2004	08.02.2005	Under Investigation
23.	RC. 1/2005- ACU-IV dt. 01.2.2005	Shri Rajendra Prakash, Commissioner, Central Excise, Delhi	27.1.2005	28.1.2005	Under Investigation
24.	RC. 2/2005- ACU-VI dt. 10.2.2005	Shri Pramod Kumar Gupta, Director of Income Tax (Research), New Delhi	20.1.2005	21.1.2005	Under Investigation
25.	RC. 3/2005- ACU-VI dt. 5.5.2005	Shri B.P. Meena, IRS:80, Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeal-13), New Delhi	01.4.2005	26.4.2005	Under Investigation
26.	PE. 1/2004- EQU-VII dt. 6.3.2004	1. Shri Padmakar Mishra, IRS:68. 2. Shri V.S. Singh, IRS:83 3. Shri Subrota Das, IRS:68	16.2.2004	26.2.2004	Closed

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	RC. 2/2004- EOU-VII dt. 12.1.2004	Shri Jawahar Thakur, the then Chief Controller of Accounts, Central Government Health Scheme	9.12.2003	22.12.2003	Under Investigation
28.	PE. 1/2004- EOW/Mum.	1. Shri Padmakar Mishra, IRS: 68	3.3.2004	12.3.2004	Closed. SCN sent to Deptt.
29.	PE. 1/2004- STF/Mum. dt. 24.2.2004	Shri Rakesh Maria, IPS (MH: 81)	—	—	Enquiry completed and SCN being sent to MHA
30.	PE. 2(A)/2004- 04-GWH dt. 26.05.2004	Shri M.R. Pasrija, Director (Finance), Oil India Limited, New Delhi	26.4.2004	30.4.2004	Closed
31.	RC. 10(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 24.02.2004	1. Ms. Kalpagam Bhaskaran, Commissioner & Member-1, Appropriate Authority, Income Tax, Chennai 2. Shri Dev Verman, Commissioner & formerly Member-2, Appropriate Authority, Chennai and presently Commissioner X (Admn.), Income Tax Chennai	23.01.2004	16.02.2004	Under Investigation
32.	RC. 21(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 29.04.2004	Shri Damodar Sarangi, Commissioner of Income Tax (A) X, Income Tax, Chennai	26.03.2004	12.04.2004	Under Investigation
33.	RC 22(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 29.04.2004	Shri D. Das Gupta, Commissioner of Income tax (Appeal III), Income Tax, Chennai	26.03.2004	12.04.2004	Under Investigation
34.	RC. 23(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 29.04.2004	Shri Sushil Kumar, Commissioner of Income tax (Appeal IV), Income Tax, Chennai	26.03.2004	12.04.2004	Under Investigation

1	2	3	4	5	6
35.	RC 24(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 29.04.2004	Shri T. Goraknathan, Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals), Central Range II and Commissioner of Income Tax (A) II, Income Tax, Chennai	28.03.2004	12.04.2004	Under Investigation
36.	RC 25(A)/2004- CHN. dt 29.04.2004	Shri G.S. Kurup, Commissioner of Income Tax (A), Central Range I, Chennai	26.03.2004	12.04.2004	Under Investigation
37.	RC 26(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 29.04.2004	Shri S. Chellappan, Commissioner of Income Tax (A) III, Income Tax, Chennai Presently Commissioner of Income Tax, Tirupathi	26.03.2004	12.04.2004	Under Investigation
38.	RC 27(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 29.04.2004	Shri Paul George, Commissioner of Income Tax (A) VI, Income Tax, Chennai Presently Commissioner of Income Tax, Belgaum	28.03.2004	12.04.2004	Under Investigation
39.	RC 28(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 29.04.2004	Shri T.P. Krishnakumar, former Addl. Director of Investigation, Income Tax, Chennai presently Commissioner of Income Tax, Coimbatore	26.03.2004	12.04.2004	Under Investigation
40.	RC 29(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 29.04.2004	Shri J. Suresh, Commissioner of Income Tax (appeals) IX Income Tax, Chennai	26.03.2004	12.04.2004	Under Investigation
41.	RC 45(A)/2004- CHN. dt. 29.06.2004	Shri N.P. Tripathi, then Commissioner of Income Tax (A), Income Tax, Chennai now DGIT (Exemption), Kolkata	14.05.2004	02.06.2004	Under Investigation
42.	RC 13(A)/2004- KER. dt. 27.05.04	Shri S. Sundaresh ShenoI, Director (Marketing) Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Corporate Office, Udyogmandal, Ernakulam	11.06.2004	24.06.2004	Under Investigation

1	2	3	4	5	6
43.	PE 2(A)/2004- KER. dt. 07.08.04	1. Shri R. Sundaresh Shenoi, Director (Marketing), Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Corporate Office, Udyogmandal, Ernakulam 2. Shri D.N. Pradhan, Director (Finance), Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore, Ltd., Corporate Office, Udyogmandal, Ernakulam	05.07.2004	19.07.2004	Under Enquiry
44.	RC. 19(A)/2005- BBSR dt. 18.04.2005	Shri Durga Prasad Kar, IRS. Commissioner of Income Tax, Asansol, West Bengal	01.04.2005	06.04.2005	Under Investigation
45.	RC 31(A)/2004- Mum. dt. 7.6.2004	Shri R.K. Agarwal, Commissioner of Central Excise, Panvel, Navi Mumbai	16.06.2004	24.06.2004	Under Investigation
46.	RC. 36(A)/2004- Mum. dt. 2.7.2004	Shri P.K. Ajwani, Commissioner of Central Excise, Thane-II Commissionerate, Dadar, Mumbai	31.08.2004	2.9.2004	Under Investigation
47.	RC. 37(A)/2004- Mum. dt. 8.7.2004	Shri A.V. Duggade, the then Dy. General Manager, Mumbai City Region, Bank of Maharashtra, (Presently Executive Director, BOM)	15.06.04	23.06.04	Under Investigation
48.	RC 44(A)/2004- Mum. dt. 29.9.2004	Shri P.K. Ajwani, Commissioner, Central Excise, Thane-II Commissionerate, Dadar, Mumbai	5.10.2004	12.10.2004	Under Investigation
49.	PE. 1(A)/2004- Mum. dt. 30.6.2004	Shri Y. Radhakrishnan, Dy. Managing Director, Bank of India and others	26.05.2004	17.06.2004	Under Investigation

1	2	3	4	5	6
50.	RC 5(A)/2005-Mum. dt. 8.2.2005	Shri R.P. Kaim, General Manager (Cargo), Air Port Authority of India (IAD), Chatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai	Not required (Trap case)	—	Sanction for prosecution awaited
51.	RC 8(A)/2005-Mum. dt. 28.2.2005	Shri C.P. Kainth Retd.), Regional Director, National Small Industries Corporation, Mumbai	(Retd. person) permission under Section 6(a) is not required.	—	Under Investigation
52.	RC 21(A)/2005-Mum. dt. 6.4.2005	Shri A.K. Ghosh, Director, Bureau of India Standards, Mumbai	Not required (Trap case)	—	Under Investigation
53.	PE. 1(S)/2004-Mum.	Shri G.L. Zutshi, the then Director (Mkt), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Mumbai	Not required, since the officer had retired.	—	Closed

Telephone Connections at Homes of Army Personnel

4241. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give priority for providing telephone connections at the homes of army personnel posted at the border;

(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) Sir, in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Army Personnel are allowed to register their application for a telephone connection under priority category, *i.e.* Non-Own Your

Telephone (Non-OYT) Special category, provided they do not have any telephone working in their name. In Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), telephone connections to all categories of persons including army personnel are available on demand.

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

[English]

Cadre Review

4242. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Fifth Central Pay Commission (CPC) had recommended for holding of cadre review in every five years and inclusion of the same in the cadre rules of every service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has implemented recommendations of Fifth CPC; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission in this regard reads as under:—

"We recommend insertion of suitable provisions in the service rules of all Group A Central Civil Services so as to make the cadre review process at five-yearly intervals for the respective services mandatory on the part of cadre controlling authorities. The intention of this proposal is to make the issue of occurrence and periodicity of cadre reviews justiciable."

(c) and (d) It was decided not to accept the recommendation as it was considered that cadre review which is inter alia based on functional considerations should not be made justiciable.

[*Translation*]

Commencement of Works of Stretch of Sanctioned NHs

4243. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the works on the stretch of the sanctioned National Highways falling in district Jodhpur are likely to commence;

(b) whether the fund has since been allocated for the said project;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Two periodical renewal works has been sanctioned on National Highways falling in district

of Jodhpur during 2005-06. These works are likely to commence by September, 2005.

(b) and (c) Funds are allocated to the state as a whole and not project-wise.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Delay in Launching of Cartosat

4244. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the launch of cartosat is likely to be delayed as reported in the *Hindu* dated 25 July, 2005;

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

(c) whether ISRO also proposes to launch communication, Edusat and Telemedicine satellites;

(d) if so, the objectives thereof; and

(e) the time by which these satellite are likely to be launched?

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

(b) Cartosat-2 is currently under assembly and integration stage and the launch campaign is targeted to commence in III quarter of 2005-06. The actual launch window will be decided after completing testing of the satellite and taking into account weather conditions at Sriharikota.

(c) ISRO is currently developing five communication satellites viz., INSAT-4A, INSAT-4B, INSAT-4C, INSAT-4D/GSAT-5 and GSAT-4 approved during the Tenth Five Year Plan. EDUSAT was launched on 20th September, 2004. The satellite capacity required for Tele-medicine services is met from the existing INSAT satellites in orbit. There is no proposal to launch further EDUSAT and Tele-medicine satellites during Tenth Five Year Plan.

(d) The objective of INSAT-4A, 4B, 4C and INSAT-4D/GSAT-5 satellites is to augment the INSAT system capacity with additional C band and Ku band transponders for communication and broadcasting purposes. The

objective of GSAT-4 satellite is to develop and demonstrate advanced communication technologies in high frequency Ka band.

(e) These satellites are proposed for launch during 2005-07.

[Translation]

Performance of BSNL Landline and Mobile Services

4245. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) since when BSNL mobile tower started functioning in Mohammadi, district Khiri, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of registration of prepaid Sim Cards after the functioning of mobile tower and the dates of registration;

(c) the number of Sim Cards distributed so far after registration;

(d) whether G.M., Khiri allegedly in connivance with private companies has brought BSNL landline and mobile services to a sorry state of affairs; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the pitiable service being provided by the BSNL landline and mobile services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Mobile Tower of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at Mohammadi, district Khiri, Uttar Pradesh is functional since June, 2004.

(b) The registrations were opened on 15th July, 2004 and the numbers of applicants for Prepaid SIM cards at Mohammadi are 1340.

(c) 317 Prepaid SIM cards could be distributed till 29.09.2004 when further release of SIMs were stayed by Hon'ble Court of Civil Judge, Junior Division Mohammadi on 04.10.2004. Since the vacation of the stay in January, 2005, the remaining connections are under release. All registrants are expected to be provided connections by this month end.

(d) and (e) The Lakhimpur Kheri Telecom District has shown positive growth over the past three years

although there has been shift in the choice of subscribers to wireless services compared to landline. It has been generally in accordance with the industry trends and as such no material evidence is on record to substantiate the allegation against the officer.

[English]

Health Insurance Scheme

4246. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a Health Insurance Scheme for people living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission appointed for the purpose has submitted any interim/final report in this regard to the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Government of India have, in September, 2004, introduced a Universal Health Insurance Scheme for families/persons below poverty line. The New India Assurance Company Ltd. is implementing this scheme. The scheme has the following features:

- The scheme covers reimbursement of medical expenses for hospitalization up to Rs. 30,000/- on floater basis per family.
- Earning head of the family is covered for Rs. 25,000/- against death due to accident.
- Compensation due to loss of earning @ Rs. 50/- per day up to maximum of 15 days is also admissible under the scheme.
- Annual premium under the scheme is fixed at Rs. 365/- for individual, Rs. 548/- for a family of five and Rs. 730/- for a family of seven. Government subsidy is fixed at Rs. 200/- for individual, Rs. 300/- for a family of five and Rs. 400/- for a family of seven. Thus annual premium payable by BPL members is Rs. 165/-

Rs. 248/- and Rs. 330/- for individual, for a family of five and for a family of seven respectively.

The policy is available for persons up to 65 years of age.

During the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 (up to 30.6.2005) details of number of policies, families and persons covered under Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) are as follows:

Year	No. of Policies	No. of families	No. of persons	Premium in (Rs. lakhs)
2004-05	52,772	65,718	682611	260665
2005-06 (upto 30th June)	30,664	34,014	719299	1666251

(c) and (d) No such Commission has been constituted for Health Insurance.

[Translation]

Sports University

4247. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any sports university in the country;

(b) if so, the place where it is located;

(c) whether the Government has any scheme to set up sports university in each State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has sanctioned any grant for the purpose; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Complaints Relating to Repair/Non-Working of Codeless Phones

4248. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints of repair/non-working of Codeless Phones pending with the MTNL, Delhi since last year;

(b) the number of complaints out of them pertaining to the Government quarters at Laxmibai Nagar, Delhi;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken to rectify them; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, no such complaint is pending.

(b) Nil.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Denial of Passage of Goods Through Pakistan

4249. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan did not allow health biscuits/wheat from India to reach Afghan kids through their territory as reported in the *Indian Express* dated July 31, 2005;

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

(c) the total loss suffered on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes Sir. Pakistan did not permit transit of wheat/biscuits for World

Food Programme's school feeding programme in Afghanistan.

(b) Pakistan does not allow transit of Indian goods through its territory including for goods/material under Indian assistance programme for Afghanistan.

(c) The additional expenditure incurred cannot be calculated in the absence of the cost of transportation through Pakistan. The cost of transportation for supplying the biscuits through Iran has been as under:

First Tranche of 9526 MT of biscuits:	Rs. 11 crore
Second Tranche of 7496 MT of biscuits:	Rs. 14.29 crore
Third Tranche of 18,000 MT of biscuits:	Rs. 31.08 crore

Charging Toll Tax on Four Lane Roads

4250. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of four lane National Highways in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is considering to charge toll tax on the four lane roads in the country;

(c) if so, the States where four lane roads are already charging toll tax;

(d) whether the Government is considering to give contract to any private company for charging toll tax on four lane roads; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The State-wise details of the four lane and above National Highways in the country are enclosed as statement.

(b) As per the Section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956 as amended as per National Highways (Amendment) Act, 1992, the Central Government may levy fee for use of sections of National Highways.

(c) User fee is being charged on four lane and above sections of National Highways in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya

Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(d) and (e) National Highways Rules (Fees for the use of National Highways Section and Permanent Bridge-Public Funded Projects) G.S.R. 490(E) dated 27.8.1997 allow for collection of user's fee by the executing agency concerned departmentally or through private agency. Accordingly, the user's fee is collected by way of departmental collection or by contracting it out to private parties on the basis of competitive bidding.

Statement

Details of Four Lane and above National Highways in the country

Sl.No.	States	Total Length (km)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1173
2.	Assam	19
3.	Bihar	166
4.	Chandigarh	24
5.	Chhattisgarh	8
6.	Delhi	66
7.	Goa	26
8.	Gujarat	915
9.	Haryana	327
10.	Jharkhand	139
11.	Karnataka	448
12.	Kerala	54
13.	Madhya Pradesh	133
14.	Maharashtra	507
15.	Manipur	2
16.	Orissa	250
17.	Punjab	264
18.	Rajasthan	866
19.	Tamil Nadu	502
20.	Uttaranchal	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	653
22.	West Bengal	420

[*Translation*]

Closure of Coal Projects

4251. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to close down some coal projects in the country as published in the *Dainik Jagran* dated August 2, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the States for which such projects were sanctioned;

(d) whether the Government had made an assessment regarding the quantity of coal estimated to be mined from each of these projects;

(e) the amount spent on these projects;

(f) whether the Government has made an assessment regarding shortage of coal likely to be faced due to closure of these projects; and

(g) if so, the steps proposed to be taken 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 (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Representations against Privatisation of Major Ports

4252. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received representations from the Water Transport Workers' Federation of India against the indiscriminate privatisation of major ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has examined the representations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Organisations representing the interests of Port Labour including the Water Transport Workers' Federation of India have been representing from time to time against privatization of port services as well as handing over of existing container terminals, cargo berths, etc. to multinational companies and also permitting them to construct container terminals and cargo berths on Build, Operate and Transfer basis which, according to them, adversely affect the interests of Port and Dock Workers.

There is no indiscriminate privatization of major ports. The Government has been allowing participation of the private sector including foreign companies in development and operations in major ports, on a case to case basis which is generally limited to those areas of operations which are commercial in nature. The guidelines on private sector participation issued by the Government ensure that the interests of the existing labour in major ports are not affected adversely on account of such participation. Such participation which is within the existing statutory framework has helped in mobilization of the much needed resources for expansion of the major ports and in improving their efficiency and productivity. The Government is of the considered view that the potential which exists for flow of private investment in port sector needs to be fully tapped.

Regulation of Medical Devices

4253. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring a large number of unregulated medical devices under the purview of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act to ensure the quality of implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to Pharmaceuticals in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Drugs Technical Advisory Board, in its meeting on 2nd August, 2005 has recommended to notify sterile medical devices including stents, Catheters, Intra Ocular Lens, IV Connula, Bone Cement, Heart Valve, Scalp Vein Set, Orthopedics Implants and Internal Prosthetic replacements under Section 3(b) (iv) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of N.Hs. in Tenth Five Year Plan

4254. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the target in regard to construction of National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the roads constructed till July, 2005 in the country specially in Uttaranchal, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated and spent for renovation and repair of National Highways in the country specially in Uttaranchal from the year 2003-04 to 2005-06, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The targets in regard to construction of National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The details are enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) The details are enclosed as Statement-III.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Target for construction of National Highways during Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-2003 to 2005-2006)
1.	Widening to two lanes (Kms.)	3475
2.	Strengthening of existing weak pavement (Kms.)	9994
3.	Widening to four lanes (Kms.)	7227
4.	Improvement of low grade section (Kms.)	133
5.	Improvement of riding quality programme (IRWP) (Kms.)	14664
6.	Rehabilitation/Construction of Bridges including ROBs (nos.)	750
7.	Construction of Bypasses (nos.)	62

Statement II

Details of Roads constructed in Tenth Plan, year-wise

Sl.No.	Name of Schemes	Year			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto July 2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Widening to two lanes (Kms.)	710 (36.89)	671 (43.20)	719 (42.86)	297 (19.53)
2.	Strengthening of existing weak pavement (Kms.)	1109 (26.68)	1489 (0)	2981 (0)	557 (0)

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Widening to four lanes (Kms.)	418 (0)	799 (3)	2386 (3)	351 (0)
4.	Improvement of low grade section (Kms.)	12 (0)	68 (4.68)	42 (0)	9 (0)
5.	Improvement of riding quality programme (IRQP) (Kms.)	4894 (46.37)	3691 (53.50)	3134 (11.50)	972 (38.50)
6.	Rehabilitation/Construction of Bridges including ROBs (nos.)	143 (0)	123 (0)	105 (6)	40 (0)
7.	Construction of Bypasses (nos.)	12 (0)	6 (0)	5 (0)	0 (0)

*The figures in brackets pertain to Uttaranchal State.

Statement III

Details of funds allocated and spent, year-wise and State-wise for maintenance and repair of National Highways

Sl.No.	Name of State	Year					
		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Allocation (in Rs. crores)	Amount spent (in Rs. crores)	Allocation (in Rs. crores)	Amount spent (in Rs. crores)	Allocation (in Rs. crores)	Amount spent (upto July, 05) (in Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.42	35.39	34.67	20.65	43.78	12.65
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.31	0.16	0.41	0.10	0.32	0.02
3.	Assam	23.27	22.37	22.42	11.28	25.08	Nil
4.	Bihar	29.48	36.52	46.28	22.25	30.78	22.00
5.	Chandigarh	0.28	0.31	0.80	0.40	0.50	0.04
6.	Chhattisgarh	15.34	17.43	26.99	16.69	19.03	4.31
7.	Delhi	0.42	0	0.75	0	0.42	Nil
8.	Goa	5.03	5.01	3.80	1.75	2.55	0.09
9.	Gujarat	22.47	20.88	37.39	26.09	27.00	3.60
10.	Haryana	11.19	11.66	5.95	3.96	10.52	3.20
11.	Himachal Pradesh	13.45	10.77	16.10	13.53	14.70	6.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.54	0.46	0.44	0.05	0.42	Nil
13.	Jharkhand	15.46	13.66	23.78	7.63	17.96	2.52
14.	Karnataka	38.73	39.35	37.40	31.56	33.60	4.50
15.	Kerala	20.81	23.66	8.45	7.40	33.19	5.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	57.50	68.80	59.49	49.85	54.14	10.48
17.	Maharashtra	49.85	48.71	48.48	41.61	42.50	4.99
18.	Manipur	6.96	7.33	7.02	3.20	10.08	Nil
19.	Meghalaya	9.41	9.20	12.24	9.11	8.63	0.83
20.	Mizoram	5.55	5.44	4.56	1.90	4.33	0.33
21.	Nagaland	1.98	1.97	2.31	1.13	3.44	Nil
22.	Orissa	42.51	40.53	33.83	24.06	34.56	8.66
23.	Pondicherry	0.83	0.84	1.06	0.65	0.80	0.04
24.	Punjab	20.09	18.80	19.03	14.52	18.68	3.02
25.	Rajasthan	27.93	25.81	53.11	39.48	45.54	13.90
26.	Tamil Nadu	41.36	31.11	35.43	29.18	57.92	4.43
27.	Uttaranchal	3.66	2.62	14.60	7.99	11.60	2.71
28.	Uttar Pradesh	55.68	55.19	54.92	44.15	46.32	4.46
29.	West Bengal	23.57	27.07	25.67	15.79	21.40	4.93
30.	DRDB	17.00	17.00	17.00	16.99	22.00	4.98
31.	NHAI	133.57	133.57	91.09	91.09	50.00	88.74

*(English)***Centralizing CSS Cadre**

4255. SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided on October 3, 2003, *inter alia*, to centralize the Cadre of CSS from Grade of Assistant to Director and to operate the management of the Cadre by CS Division in DOPT;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the necessary Gazette Notification for transfer of Cadre management of CSS from EO Office to CS Division has not been issued;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when all Gazette Notifications in the said matter will be issued?

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

PACHOURI): (a) to (e) In October, 2003, Government approved the restructuring of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) and it has, *inter alia*, been decided that the cadre of CSS would be managed centrally by the CS Division of DOPT. Necessary orders in this regard have been issued vide order No. 21/1/2004-CS. I dated 20.4.2005.

Launch of Health based Satellite

4256. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of satellites launched by the country during the last three years and their specific objectives thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to launch a health based satellite in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the health based satellite is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The satellites launched during the last three years and their objectives are as below:

Satellite	Objective
1	2
Metsat-1 (Kalpana-1)	Exclusive satellite for meteorological Observations
INSAT-3A	Multi-purpose satellite for Communications and Meteorology
GSAT-2	Experimental Communications
INSAT-3E	Operational Communication Satellite with C and Extended C band transponders
Resources AT-1	Operational Remote Sensing Satellite for Natural Resource Management Applications
GSAT-3 (EDUSAT)	Operational thematic satellite dedicated for spreading Education in the country

1	2
Cartosat-1	Operational Remote Sensing Satellite for cartographic mapping applications
Hamsat	Application specific micro satellite for satellite based radio amateur services

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Special Treatment to Senior Citizens

4257. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior citizens have to wait for a longer period in CGHS dispensaries to get blood and other tests done;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to get blood and other tests of senior citizens done in priority;

(c) whether various laboratories under the CGHS panel like Dr. Lal Pathology laboratory is not collecting blood and other samples of senior CGHS beneficiaries from their residences; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against such laboratories which refuse to collect blood samples etc. from these senior citizen's residences?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been entered into by Director, CGHS with the Authorised Singatory of each of the CGHS recognised private hospitals/diagnostic centres including Dr. Lal Pathology Laboratory, New Delhi, and the said MOA does not contain any provision for collecting blood and other samples from the residence of the CGHS beneficiaries.

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

[*Translation*]

Encouraging Activities of Youth Affairs and Sports

4258. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the items alongwith the amount provided to encourage the activities of youth affairs and sports and their organisation in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed in respect of youth affairs and sports in Rajasthan during the last three years and the achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether special scholarships are given by the SAI to encourage the popular and indigenous sports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the sports and the amount provided for them during the last three years;

(f) whether the Government has implemented a 'Day Boarding Scheme' for the sports;

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms fixed for the same;

(h) the details of the places in Rajasthan where this scheme has been implemented;

(i) whether actual facts have been ignored while identifying such places;

(j) whether Union Government has received any representation in this regard;

(k) if so, the details thereof; and

(l) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) As per enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) There is no special earmarking of scholarships for indigenous sports disciplines. However, there are 39 sports disciplines in all approved under the scheme for the award of sports scholarship. All these sports disciplines (39) have been divided into two categories namely priority discipline (21 in number) and non-priority disciplines (18 in number). At least 75% scholarships are awarded to the priority disciplines.

(e) There is no specific amount earmarked for providing scholarships for the different sports disciplines.

However, in so far as Rajasthan is concerned, the total number of scholarships and the amount provided for them during the last three years is as under:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
No. of sports scholarships	205	221	449
Scholarship Amount released (in Rs.)	11,61,000/-	13,54,800/-	30,31,800/-

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Day Boarding facility is being provided by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) under various Sports Promotional Schemes such as National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), Special Area Games (SAG), SAI Training Centres (STC), and Centres of Excellence (COX) at SAT Regional Centres. The scheme is to facilitate better training opportunities at the SAI Centres. Trainee for above training Centres are selected on the basis of potential of performance through District and State level competitions etc.

(h) Day Boarding Scheme is being implemented in the following SAI Training Centres in Rajasthan:

- (i) Shri Guru Nanak Khalsa School, Sriganganagar
- (ii) Bhupal's Noolles HS School, Udaipur
- (iii) Madhyamik Adarsh Vidya Mandir, Nagwas Bandhikuien, Dhosa
- (iv) Padma Bnani DAV Public School, Binanigram, Pindwara, Sirohi
- (v) Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Teliwansi, Bhavi, Jodhpur
- (vi) Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kherli, Dousa
- (vii) Guru Hanuman Vyayamashala, Patel Maidan, Ajmer
- (viii) 61 Cavalry Centre, Jaipur
- (ix) Sports Authority of India Training Centre (STC), Alwar
- (x) Sports Authority of India Training Centre (STC), Jodhpur

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
				Number of Awareness Campaigns	90	90	90	89	177	83
				Number of Work Camps	90	90	90	87	102	81
				Sports Promotion Programmes	90	90	90	134	104	97
				Workshops & Seminars	30	30	30	41	26	24
				Cultural Programmes	90	90	90	87	87	77
				Adventure Promotion Programmes	60	60	60	97	53	43
Schemes of Sports Authority of India	1,61,00,000	1,57,37,000	2,09,54,000	State level Sports Scholarships for Students	150	150	150	205	221	449
				Other Schemes like National Talent Search Competition (NTSC), SAI Training Centre	No State-wise targets fixed	No State-wise targets fixed	No State-wise targets fixed	—	—	—

Rural Sports Programme

4259. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being run under 'Rural Sports Programme';

(b) the names of agencies through which the said programme is being undertaken;

(c) the criteria for allocation of funds for the implementation of the said scheme; and

(d) the details of funds allocated by the Government for organising rural sports programmes in Rajasthan during the last two years alongwith the name of the agency through which the funds have been allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is implementing a

Scheme of 'Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities' under which Rural Sports Programme is one of the components. This programme being implemented through Sports Authority of India (SAI), provides for grant-in-aid for organizing District level. State level and National level tournaments. For District level competitions, the grant-in-aid is placed at the disposal of SAI for allocation to State/UT Governments. Financial assistance of Rs. 30,000/- per discipline is also made available by the Ministry for Non-Governmental Organisations, including Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, for organizing District level competitions. The State/UT level tournaments are organized by SAI in collaboration with the States/UTs. Assistance for holding the State level tournaments is provided to SAI at the rate of Rs. 50,000/- per discipline. In case of UT, this assistance is restricted to Rs. 25,000/- per discipline. For National level tournament, a grant of Rs. 2,50,000/- per discipline is provided to SAI, for organizing the tournament separately for men and women in various states by rotation.

(b) The Rural Sports Programme is being implemented through Sports Authority of India (SAI) and through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in North Eastern States.

(c) The details of the Scheme are circulated to various States by SAI every year and on receipt of request for funds and Utilisation Certificates for previous grants, funds are released to the concerned States.

(d) Detail of financial assistance released to Rajasthan for the last two years is as follows:—

2003-04 — Rs. 3,00,000/-

2004-05 — No request for grants was received.

[*English*]

Youth Camps in Karnataka

4260. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received recommendations from the Government of Karnataka for sanction of funds under various schemes for conducting youth camps during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and organisation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) During the last three years financial assistance was given to eighteen Adventure. These proposals were received from Nehru Yuva Kendras/National Service Scheme.

(b) The year-wise details are given the Statement.

Statement

Scheme of Promotion of National Integration

2002-03

- (i) Karnataka University, Dharwad.
- (ii) University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.
- (iii) Dharmathama Educational & Rural Development Society, Bangalore.

(iv) Jeevan Vikas Society for Rural Development, Chitradurga.

(v) Nehru Yuva Kendra, Tumkur.

(vi) Royal Educational Social Technical Cultural Organisation, Bangalore.

2003-04

(vii) Sri Pragathi Rural Development Society, Shimoga.

2004-05

(viii) Sadhana Rural Development Trust, Kolar.

(ix) Integrated Development Trust, Mysore.

SCHEME OF PROMOTION OF ADVENTURE

2002-03

(x) Coorg Adventure Club, Coorg.

(xi) Sri Venkateshwara Educational and Rural Development Science Society, Tumkur.

(xii) Integrated Rural Development Society, Kolar.

(xiii) Gawan Education, Trust, Bidar.

(xiv) Sri Venkateshwara Youth Club, Davangere.

(xv) Kalyani Rural Development Science Society, Kolar.

2002-03

Nil

2004-05

(xvi) Firdosa Mahila Samaj, Hassan

(xvii) Al-Ameen Rural Education Development Health Society, Tumkur.

(xviii) Samaja Seva Samiti, Bangalore.

New Telephone Exchange in Pune

4261. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request/proposal for opening of new telephone exchange at West part of Rajgurunagar at Pune in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the steps taken by the BSNL to provide telephone connections to clear the waiting list in the existing telephone exchanges of Western part of Rajgurunagar Taluka in Pune?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes Sir, there is a request for opening of New Telephone Exchanges at Chikhalgaon and Dehane in the Western part of Rajgurunagar at Pune.

(b) As per BSNL guidelines for opening of new telephone exchanges, waiting list should be more than 150 within a radius of 5 Kms. Since no village in Western part of Rajgurunagar at Pune satisfies this criteria, no new exchange is proposed for opening.

(c) CDMA BTS of 750 lines each are installed at Rajgurunagar and Chakan which covers part of Rajgurunagar. It is also proposed to install One CDMA BTS at Taleghar in Manchar SDCA to cover some portion of Western part of Rajgurunagar. There is a scattered waiting list of 199 in the Western part of Rajgurunagar Taluka in Pune. It is proposed to clear most of the waiting list progressively through WLL technology by March, 2006.

[Translation]

Compensation of Gulf War Victims

4262. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian citizens who were working in Kuwait during the period of the Gulf War have received any compensation from the United Nations;

(b) if so, their number and the amount received by them so far;

(c) the amount of compensation and claimed and sanctioned per person and the details of those who have received inadequate amount in this regard;

(d) the number of such cases of compensation still pending and the reasons therefor;

(e) the action taken by the Government for speedy and fully disbursement of claimed amount to the Indian citizens;

(f) whether the Government proposes to take steps to ensure adequate compensation to them; and

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

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

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) As per United Nations Compensation Commission guidelines, the United Nations Compensation Commission list of individual approved claims is confidential and can only be revealed to the concerned individual.

It is the exclusive responsibility of United Nations Compensation Commission to scrutinize, evaluate the compensation application and decide on the quantum of payment or entirely reject a claim.

(d) United Nations Compensation Commission has sent us a list of 8,615 claimants whose claim amounts approved were returned to United Nations Compensation Commission because they could not be located within the period allowed by United Nations Compensation Commission for disbursement of a particular lot.

(e) The Special Kuwait Cell, Ministry of External Affairs has given this list to the four nationalized banks designated for the task of disbursement of Gulf War compensation. This list has also been sent to the Indian Missions in the Gulf countries, as well as to various State Governments. All concerned have been asked to give maximum publicity to this list of untraced claimants in the areas of their respective jurisdiction and such claimants have been asked to get in touch with Special Kuwait Cell, Ministry of External Affairs with their latest address.

(f) and (g) A Secretary-level delegation had gone to Geneva in May, 2005 to discuss this issue with the United Nations Compensation Commission. However, the United Nations Compensation Commission's position is that they are not entertaining any fresh applications.

Statement

(As on 16.8.05)

Total number of claims registered with Special Kuwait Cell, Ministry of External Affairs		Total amount claimed (in US \$)
Category A	110,511	\$ 424,437,500/-
Category B	386	\$ 867,500/-
Category C	39,955	\$ 771,964,457/-
Category D	999	\$ 315,125,486/-
Total	1,51,851	\$ 1,512,394,943/-
† Total number of approved claimants category-wise:		
Category A	—	104,980
Category B	—	183
Category C	—	40,486
Category D	—	841
Total	—	146,490
Total amount paid to the claimants (for all Categories)	—	US \$ 917,575,243.36
Total amount received from United Nations Compensation Commission (for all Categories)	—	US \$ 948,151,360.53

Coal Mining in Meghalaya

4263. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. has undertaken mining of coal in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not providing the data regarding coal production in Meghalaya in the reports of Coal India Limited?

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)

There is no coal producing mine under Coal India Limited in the State of Meghalaya.

(c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.

Development Schemes in Jharkhand

4264. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) the total length of National Highways in Jharkhand;

(b) whether the targeted length of the Jharkhand related development schemes has not been achieved so far;

(c) if so, the target set for development schemes of Jharkhand for the year 2004-05 and the percentage of the work completed so far;

(d) the reasons for the poor performance; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the development of National Highways Network in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The total length of National Highways in Jharkhand is 1844 kms.

(b) and (c) The details of the target fixed regarding the development projects for Jharkhand during the year 2004-05 and the percentage of works completed are as below:

Sl.No.	Name of activity/ Project	Target Length (km)	Achievement		Agency
			Length (km)	Percentage	
1.	Widening to 4-lane (Part of Golden Quadrilateral)	78.75	66.30	84.19	National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
2.	Widening to 2-lane	17	12.5	73.5%	Road Construction
3.	Improvement of Riding Quality Programme	64	87	135.9%	Department (RCD), Jharkhand
4.	Strengthening weak 2-lane	9	Nil	0	

(d) The delay in four laning projects was due to problems in acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, law and order and slow mobilisation by contractor. The work could not be completed as per schedule by Road Construction Department, Jharkhand due to poor response in tenders, projects in naxal affected areas and changes in foundation design of bridges, non familiarity with newly introduced direct payment procedure in the State and election for State Legislature.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to expedite the projects is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to Expedite the Completion of the Projects in the Country including Maharashtra

(i) The contracts are regularly monitored at various level such as by independent Engineer, Project Director, NHAI Head Quarters, State Road Construction Department and by the Ministry.

(ii) State Governments have appointed Senior Officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the NHDP such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc.

(iii) 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 (ROB) etc.

(iv) To expedite the construction of ROB, an officer of Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with M/s IRCON for implementation of some of the ROB's.

(v) Action has been taken against defaulting contractors.

Death of Children due to Diarrhoea

4265. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the number of children dying of diarrhoea every year;

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

(c) the manner in which the Government is providing assistance to the States in this regard; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) As per the percentage distribution of deaths due to specific causes under the major group "causes peculiar to infancy" for selected states, 2.4% of deaths were due to diarrhoea of the new born. No specific survey to ascertain the exact number of deaths due to diarrhoea has been carried out.

The Government of India is implementing the second phase of the Reproductive and Child Health programme under which measures are taken to control deaths due to diarrhoea. Supplies of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) as part of Kit A are made to all Primary Health Centres throughout the country for distribution free of cost to all patients of diarrhoea. Training of health care personnel on management of diarrhoea to prevent deaths and advocacy for use of ORS are ongoing activity. Further safe drinking water and improvement in sanitation services are recognized as important interventions in preventing diarrhoea. Government of India is implementing the Central Rural Sanitation Programme. Under this, the Department of Drinking Water Supply is implementing Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Government of India has sanctioned Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects in 520 districts of the country to improve the sanitation scenario in the villages. The objectives of the TSC programme are to bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, accelerate sanitation coverage and generate felt demand for sanitation facilities through awareness creation and Health Education. Further the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) recently launched by the Government of India seeks to converge health concerns with determinants of health, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition & safe drinking water.

The efforts are focused on minimizing the incidence and eliminating deaths due to diarrhoea.

[English]

Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana

4266. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of migrant Indian labourers insured so far under the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY);

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce new products with add-on features under the PBBY;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to open offices of Insurance Companies offering PBBY abroad for the convenience of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) As on 31st March 2005, 5.30 lakhs policies had been issued under the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana.

(b) and (c) The coverage under the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana has been expanded to include reimbursement of legal expenses in connection with Change in the job/employment contract to the disadvantage of the insured person and by including natural death. It is also decided to cover reimbursement of legal expenses incurred in connection with any substantive change in the job/employment contract/agreement to the disadvantage of the insured person for a sum insured not exceeding Rs. 25,000/- without payment of any extra premium.

(d) Presently, there is no proposal of insurance companies to open additional offices abroad for the convenience of Indian workers.

Meteorological Satellites

4267. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve the meteorological services by using dedicated meteorological satellites;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated expenditure incurred on such satellites;

(c) the extent to which such satellites will be beneficial for meteorological services;

(d) whether the benefits will also accrue to the neighbouring countries;

(e) if so, whether they will be sharing the cost in this regard; and

(f) if so, the time by which such satellites are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Meteorological satellites enable measurement of upper atmospheric characteristics, which form one of the many factors used for predicting meteorological phenomena. The data from the satellite and ground observations are to be synthesized in a model for meteorological forecasting. India has already launched operational satellites providing meteorology parameters besides providing the operational meteorological data services from multi-purpose satellites such as INSAT-2E, INSAT-3A. In the year 2002, an exclusive satellite named 'Kalpana' has been launched for meteorological applications at a cost of Rs. 155 crores. Another advanced dedicated meteorological satellite, INSAT-3D is scheduled for launch in 2007. The Government has sanctioned Rs. 375 crores for INSAT-3D.

(c) the INSAT-3D satellite will have the capability to provide high-resolution temperature and humidity profiles data.

(d) to (f) The data from the meteorological satellites could be of use to neighbouring countries, if they are interested. However, there is no such proposal with the Government at present.

Online Recruitment System

4268. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has introduced an online recruitment system through USPC, for some specialised jobs under fast graduate appointment system for the youths of Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce such a system in the near future in other States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shipping Service

4269. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the States between which the shipping service is available at present;

(b) whether the Government has a proposal for the expansion of shipping services in the country and also to Bangladesh in 2005-06; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The passenger shipping services are available in the following routes in the country:

- (i) Between West Bengal (Kolkata) and Andaman & Nicobar (Port Blair).
- (ii) Between Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam) and Andaman & Nicobar (Port Blair).
- (iii) Between Tamil Nadu (Chennai) and Andaman & Nicobar (Port Blair).
- (iv) Within the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar.
- (v) Between Kerala (Cochin) to Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
- (vi) Within the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

In so far as Coastal Cargo movement is concerned, it is carried by shipping companies based on commercial principles. The cargo movement through coastal shipping is possible amongst all maritime States in the country.

In addition to the above, the Inland Water Transport services on the following Inland Waterways are also available:

- (i) Between Patna and Haldia stretch of River Ganga
- (ii) Between Dhubri and Pandu stretch of River Brahmaputra
- (iii) Between Aluva and Edapallykotta stretch of the West Coast Canal

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive policy for the Maritime Sector which includes Coastal Shipping, Passenger Shipping service and Inland Water Transport is under preparation. It will lead to expansion services within the country. Government of India has already taken up with Government of Bangladesh, renewal of the existing Protocol on Inland Water Trade and transit, which would further facilitate development of shipping services between India and Bangladesh.

Performance of Nehru Yuva Kendras

4270. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Nehru Yuva Kendras have been evaluated by the Government;

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

(c) whether these Kendras have achieved the targets set for them;

(d) if not, whether the Government intends to restructure the functioning of these Kendras;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the total outlays, fund released and utilized by the Nehru Yuva Kendras in Assam and other North Eastern States during the last three years, Kendra-wise and State-wise;

(g) whether any special programme conducive to the environment of North Eastern Region has been taken up by the Nehru Yuva Kendra;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The programmes implemented by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) have been reviewed and evaluated from time to time.

(b) The Planning Commission sponsored evaluation studies of various programmes implemented by NYKS in 1991 and 2002. The programmes are being reviewed regularly at the NYKS Headquarter through a monitoring unit. Zonal Directors also review the performance of District Youth Coordinators as well as Youth Clubs, Youth Development Centres etc. through periodical inspections.

(c) The targets assigned to field units of NYKS have by and large, been achieved.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) The details are enclosed as Statement-I.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) The details are enclosed as Statement-II.

(i) Does not arise.

Statement I

Outlays, Releases and Utilization of NYKs in Assam and other N.E. States during the year 2002-03 to 2004-05

State/ NYK Code	Nehru Yuva Kendra	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
		Outlays	Release	Utilized	Outlays	Release	Utilized	Outlays	Release	Utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ASSAM										
4201	Dibrugarh	1,651,036	1,651,036	1,653,358	735,557	735,557	735,551	941,881	941,881	786,474
4202	Diphu	986,310	986,310	911,443	927,612	927,612	946,572	928,601	928,601	947,571

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4203	Dhubri	991,402	991,402	987,478	687,823	687,823	689,365	1,352,199	1,352,199	1,351,120
4204	Kamrup	4,957,402	4,957,402	5,029,651	1,568,738	1,568,738	3,291,981	2,852,822	2,852,822	1,859,121
4205	Lakhimpur	674,964	674,964	809,158	725,701	725,701	729,468	749,376	749,376	748,818
4206	Nagaon	1,992,669	1,992,669	1,942,728	802,232	802,232	796,723	1,170,287	1,170,287	1,054,087
4207	Cachar	2,186,297	2,186,297	2,072,567	946,753	946,753	925,408	1,077,437	1,077,437	1,052,757
4208	Tezpur	1,651,486	1,651,486	1,620,794	804,125	804,125	781,058	1,009,809	1,009,809	960,355
4209	Hailong	475,217	475,217	445,618	446,245	446,245	410,537	443,311	443,311	307,267
4210	Karimganj	870,910	870,910	811,536	777,836	777,836	767,854	935,824	935,824	899,601
4211	Barpeta	517,048	517,048	487,048	648,280	648,280	646,280	816,789	816,789	776,825
4212	Kokrajhar	455,000	455,000	584,640	1,976,691	1,976,691	1,976,691	595,996	595,996	594,856
4213	Jorhat	794,977	794,977	776,887	761,660	761,660	726,275	896,571	896,571	882,016
4214	Sibsagar	653,297	653,297	710,278	621,605	621,605	604,965	681,569	681,569	518,914
4215	Nalbari	1,022,468	1,022,468	3,686,241	837,937	837,937	976,698	1,943,225	1,943,225	1,399,259
4216	Goalpara	1,809,027	1,809,027	1,808,885	1,374,595	1,374,595	1,374,595	1,098,774	1,098,774	1,049,926
4217	Dhemaji	0	0	0	0	0	0	329,763	329,763	324,831
4218	Darrang	866,502	866,502	867,987	736,423	736,423	734,016	1,283,221	1,283,231	1,005,496
4219	Hailakandi	723,927	723,927	717,816	686,306	686,306	686,129	904,635	904,635	849,163
4220	Golaghat	656,688	656,688	656,388	664,668	664,668	648,978	919,567	904,567	862,182
4221	Morigaon	696,576	696,576	682,272	671,746	671,746	664,958	935,009	935,009	904,603
4222	Bongaigaon	1,264,715	1,264,715	1,264,775	980,470	980,470	980,440	967,232	967,232	942,113
4223	Tinsukia	606,358	606,358	537,461	685,553	685,553	633,829	629,017	629,017	613,017
Total		26,504,276	26,504,276	29,056,009	19,068,556	19,068,556	20,718,662	23,462,924	23,462,924	20,690,371

MANIPUR

5201	Churachandpur	887,622	887,622	881,383	1,130,229	1,130,229	1,125,585	773,183	773,183	775,265
5202	Imphal	1,397,435	1,397,435	1,304,350	1,005,081	1,005,081	970,791	973,859	973,859	820,420
5203	Kongpokpi	2,799,358	2,799,358	658,488	955,106	955,106	946,371	793,451	793,451	761,386
5204	Tamenglong	1,315,095	1,315,095	1,312,441	664,621	664,621	635,170	977,234	977,234	926,937
5205	Ukhrul	524,748	524,748	521,710	654,414	654,414	612,822	510,037	510,037	520,832
5206	Thoubal	877,184	877,184	877,037	681,714	681,714	661,312	668,651	668,651	656,548

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5207	Chandel	689,347	689,347	669,909	664,759	684,759	657,239	651,132	651,132	684,744
5208	Bishenpur	2,261,518	2,261,518	2,199,276	1,002,452	1,022,452	809,852	638,461	638,461	797,763
5209	Senapati	702,998	702,998	675,500	897,877	897,877	893,773	715,263	715,263	539,352
	Total	11,455,305	11,455,305	9,100,094	7,696,253	7,696,253	7,312,915	6,701,271	6,701,271	6,483,247

MEGHALAYA

5301	Jowai	738,621	738,621	707,280	881,106	881,106	822,471	779,803	779,803	712,250
5302	Tura	592,793	592,793	567,292	564,513	564,513	547,525	547,232	547,232	502,105
5303	Shillong	1,067,830	1,067,830	944,713	604,305	604,305	602,002	964,240	964,240	740,423
5304	William Nagar	530,200	530,200	503,195	512,984	512,984	497,892	609,445	609,445	559,052
5305	Nongstoin	448,053	488,053	489,291	402,289	402,289	398,806	554,633	554,633	481,068
	Total	3,417,497	3,417,497	3,211,771	2,965,197	2,965,197	2,868,697	3,455,353	3,455,353	2,994,898

NAGALAND

5401	Kohima	1,901,613	1,901,613	2,028,998	1,043,239	1,043,239	1,039,985	1,254,887	1,254,887	971,927
5402	Mokokchung	1,044,404	1,044,404	709,969	478,791	478,791	475,194	439,956	439,956	424,646
5403	Zunheboto	438,198	438,198	430,788	462,425	462,425	459,163	455,720	455,720	460,494
5404	Tuensang	285,217	285,217	263,985	368,672	368,672	352,131	784,770	784,770	371,778
5405	Mon	1,468,800	1,468,800	1,463,357	689,338	689,338	664,689	739,923	739,923	704,311
5406	Wokha	481,060	481,060	468,601	437,013	437,013	434,733	619,406	619,406	494,737
5407	Phek	2,938,098	2,938,098	592,429	654,498	654,498	630,758	701,345	701,345	690,988
	Total	8,557,390	8,557,390	5,958,127	4,133,976	4,133,976	4,056,653	4,996,008	4,996,008	4,118,881

SIKKIM

5801.	Gangtok	2,294,070	2,294,070	2,226,785	946,695	946,695	930,859	1,336,727	1,336,727	1,097,743
5802	Mongan	24,660	24,600	24,600	30,010	30,010	30,010	348,624	348,624	330,696
5803	Gyalshing	1,940,535	1,940,535	1,491,363	738,545	738,545	716,474	1,004,624	1,004,624	929,390
5804	Namchi	720,537	720,537	720,594	641,544	641,544	635,200	760,753	760,753	664,203
	Total	4,979,742	4,979,742	4,463,342	2,356,794	2,356,794	2,312,543	3,450,727	3,450,727	3,022,032

TRIPURA

6001	Agartala	1,106,931	1,106,931	1,073,261	902,252	902,252	828,402	1,254,246	1,254,246	1,215,581
6002	Dharmanagar	2,240,928	2,240,928	2,049,886	1,099,896	1,099,896	1,100,448	1,022,287	1,022,287	1,013,656

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6003	Udaipur	1,745,282	1,745,282	1,716,341	924,721	924,721	905,406	1,128,650	1,128,650	908,408
	Total	5,093,141	5,093,141	4,839,488	2,926,869	2,926,869	2,834,256	3,405,183	3,405,183	3,137,645
ARUNACHAL PRADESH										
6301	Along	821,009	821,009	820,131	539,560	539,560	540,206	714,506	714,506	708,780
6302	Ziro	446,966	446,966	412,183	455,492	455,492	429,931	491,711	491,711	426,371
6303	Daporijo	367,477	367,477	366,970	365,647	365,647	369,761	470,393	470,393	376,298
6304	Tezu	1,998,353	1,998,353	1,753,816	495,171	495,171	484,704	479,291	479,291	472,900
	Total	3,663,805	3,633,805	3,353,100	1,855,870	1,855,870	1,824,602	2,155,901	2,155,901	1,984,349
MIZORAM										
7001	Aizawl	798,870	798,870	1,656,241	481,932	481,932	478,132	1,180,068	1,180,068	682,217
7002	Lunglei	2,002,240	2,002,240	784,846	654,887	654,887	653,645	802,133	802,133	713,007
7003	Saiha	465,802	465,802	465,802	529,924	529,924	517,509	790,135	790,135	510,826
	Total	3,266,912	3,266,912	2,906,889	1,666,743	1,666,743	1,649,286	2,772,336	2,772,336	1,906,050

Note:- The excess utilization of funds in some of the NYKs is due to spill over/unused balance of programme fund from previous years including from special programmes of the Ministries.

Statement II

Special Programmes for North Eastern Region

- *North Eastern School Students Cultural Exchange Programme:*

During the year 2002-2003, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in collaboration with Department of Development of North Eastern Region undertook the programme entitled North Eastern School Students Cultural Exchange Programme (CULTEX). Through this programme, opportunities were provided exclusively for the school students of north eastern state to visit various parts of the country and develop a sense of national identity. In all 1485 school students belonging to various districts of North Eastern States visited other parts of the country in 45 batches.

- *DD North East Music Fest*

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, in collaboration with Department of Development of North

Eastern Region and Doordarshan jointly organized DD North-East Music Fest from 5-19 February 2003 at NE State capitals and from 25-26 April 2003 at New Delhi. The prime objective was to discover and highlight the known and lesser known cultural aspects of North-Eastern parts of the country and to recognize the talents of young people from the North-Eastern parts of the country and to honour them.

- *Utsav Purvanchal: A Unique National Level Youth Exchange in North East*

Utsav Purvanchal was organized by NYKS from 24-26 May, 2003 at Guwahati coinciding with the simultaneous arrival of youths from both North-East as well as from rest of India. The Utsav Purvanchal provided unique opportunities to the visiting youths to interact with each other in informal manner in order to understand each other's view point on various issues of national concern and explore the grandeur of the country.

Procedure for Allotment of Cadre

4271. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the procedure followed in the allotment of cadre to the officers of the All-India Service;

(b) the details of cases filed by the officers of All-India Service challenging or questioning cadre assignments in different High Courts and benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal during the last three years;

(c) the orders passed by the Courts/Tribunals thereon; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) A statement indicating the details of procedure followed in the allotment of cadre to the officers of the All-India Service is enclosed.

(b) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement***Details of procedure followed in the allotment of cadre to the officers of the All-India Service***

1. The States of the Union of India are divided into 24 cadres/Joint Cadres. Each State constitutes a cadre except the three Joint Cadres, namely, Assam-Meghalaya, Manipur-Tripura and AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories) Cadre.
2. The first stage in cadre allocation is to divide the vacancies in each cadre among general, OBC and SC/ST on the basis of prescribed percentage for each category. (The vacancies earmarked for SC and ST are taken together and percentage for both the categories are added for the purpose of cadre allocation).
3. The next stage is to divide the vacancies for each category (*i.e.* general, OBC and SC/ST) between insiders and outsiders on the basis of

30 point roster. In the said roster, the first vacancy goes to outsider, the second vacancy goes to insider and the third vacancy goes to outsider. The cycle is repeated. This 30 point roster is continuous.

4. A list of candidates allotted to the service is prepared indicating their home states and their willingness to be allocated to their home states and each candidate is assigned a SI.No. in order of merit in the said list.
5. Allocation of 'insiders' is done strictly according to their ranks, subject to their willingness to be allocated to their home-States. Allocation of 'outsiders' is done according to the roster system after placing 'insiders' at their proper places on the Allocation-chart as explained below.
6. All the cadres/joint cadres are arranged in alphabetical order and divided into four groups. These groups are devised on the basis of an average intake by each group which over a period of time is roughly equal. The groups are as below:

Group I : Andhra Pradesh, Assam-Meghalaya, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat;

Group II : Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh;

Group III: Maharashtra, Manipur-Tripura, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Sikkim

Group IV : Tamil Nadu, AGMUT (UT Cadre), Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

7. Since the number of cadres/joint cadres is 24, the cycles are 1-24, 25-48, 49-72 and so on. The candidates between SI.No. 1 and 24 who can be allocated to their home states are slotted into the first cycle (1-24) and the candidates between SI.No. 25 and 48 who can be allocated to their home states are slotted in the second cycle (25-48) and so on.
8. If there are two or more candidates who as per their SI.No. have to occupy the same cycle, they will occupy the next cycle irrespective of their SI. No. In other words, if there are three

candidates to be allotted as insiders at Sl. Nos. 3, 7, 11, then the Sl. No. 3 will occupy the first cycle (1-24), Sl. No. 7 will occupy the second cycle (25-48) and Sl. No. 11 will occupy the third cycle (49-72).

9. If a general candidate is not available to fill general insider vacancy then it is filled by an insider SC/ST candidate provided there is an SC/ST outsider vacancy available in that cadre to facilitate exchange. If SC/ST insider candidate is not available or SC/ST outsider vacancy is not available in that cadre then the general vacancy is filled by insider OBC candidate with the same condition that there must be an outsider OBC vacancy to facilitate the exchange. Similarly, the insider OBC vacancy, if not filled due to non-availability of insider OBC candidate is first filled by an insider SC/ST candidate and then by insider general candidate with the same conditions. An unfilled insider SC/ST vacancy is first filled by insider OBC candidate and then by a general insider candidate with the same conditions.
10. Even after exchange, if an insider vacancy is not filled it goes to outsider and it is not carried forwarded.
11. The candidates who could not get their home states are arranged in the order of merit and allocated to the cadres against vacant slots available in various cadres, beginning from the first cadre of the order in which they are arranged for the year. After the first cycle is filled, the remaining outsiders will be allocated in the second cycle but the second cycle will start from the next group of the States and so on. For example, in a particular year, the 1st Group which starts from Andhra Pradesh is at the top. After allocating the outsiders against the available slots in the first cycle, the next available outsider candidate will be allotted to the first available state of IInd Group and after allocating all the available outsider candidates who can be allocated in the second cycle, the next available outsider will be allocated in the first available state of IIIrd Group and so on. This ensures equal distribution of merits.
12. For the succeeding year, the Groups of States will rotate. The Group at top this year will come at the bottom in the next year. The second Group will come at the top and so on.

13. In the case of reserved categories, separate charts are prepared for OBC and SC/ST candidates with similar details and methods.
14. In the case of candidates belonging to reserved category such of those candidates who are recommended for appointment against unreserved vacancy and get allocated to the service against unreserved vacancy are given the benefit of reservation if they get their home state as reserved candidates.

Cases of Adulteration of Food Products

4272. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of cases reported regarding adulteration of food products during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has received any directions from the Hon'ble Court regarding adulteration of chilli; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) As per the latest information made available by various Food (Health) Authorities who are responsible for implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 in their respective States/U.Ts., the number of food samples found adulterated during the years 2001-2003 are as under:—

Year	Number of food samples Found Adulterated
2001*	11008
2002**	10025
2003***	9226

*Does not include the information from the State of Gujarat.

**Does not include the information from the States of Gujarat, Bihar and Jharkhand.

***Does not include the information from the States/U.Ts. of Andaman & Nicobar Island, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Gujarat, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil nadu.

(b) and (c) The Government has not received any directions from the Hon'ble Court regarding adulteration of chilli so far.

[*Translation*]

Quota of Reservation for Promotion of SC/ST Officials

4273. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota of reservation for promotion of Scheduled Castes Officers/employees is 16% and for Scheduled Tribes Officers/employees is 12%;

(b) whether in case SC/ST officer/employee is not available for promotion, the said vacant posts is carried forward to the next year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of posts of SC/ST officers/employees which were "carried forward" to the next year during the last three years, Department-wise and Post-wise;

(e) whether candidates of other castes have been promoted against reserved posts; and

(f) if so, the number of such reserved posts against which candidates of other castes have been promoted, Department-wise and Post-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) Reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is available at the rate of 15% and 7.5% respectively.

(b), (c) and (e) If no candidate belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes, as the case may be, is available for promotion against a vacancy reserved for that category in a particular recruitment year, such vacancy unless de-reserved as per the prescribed procedure, is required to be carried forward as backlog vacancy to the next year for filling up by a candidate of that category. In case of de-reservation of a reserved vacancy, short fall so caused in reserved category quota,

is required to be filled up at the earliest possible opportunity.

(d) and (f) Such Information is not centrally maintained.

Increasing Per Capita Income

4274. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India stands in the list of first ten big countries of the World in terms of Gross Domestic Production (GDP);

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

(c) the names of these countries and the value of their gross domestic production separately;

(d) whether India is amongst the 150 countries in terms of per capita income;

(e) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government will reconsider its policies in regard to industry, trade and economy to increase per capita income; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Based on the information available at the Website of UN Statistics Division, India with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US \$ 591.5 billion ranked 11th in the year 2003 in a list of 210 countries for which the information is available for that year. The names of the ten countries having larger GDP than India are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. As per the above data source, India with a per capita Gross Domestic Product of US \$ 555 ranks 161 in the world. The main reason for India's low per capita income is her large population.

(f) and (g) The Government has taken a number of policy initiatives proposed in regard to industry, trade and

economy to raise the rate of growth in order to reduce the gap in the per capita income levels of India and that prevailing in other countries. The Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), which is available in the Parliament library, has identified 59 priority areas of action in these fields, among others.

Statement

List of 10 countries having higher level of Gross Domestic Product than India in the year 2003

Name of the Country	Gross Domestic Product (2003) US \$ Billion
United States	10857.2
Japan	4317.1
Germany	2403.1
United Kingdom	1798.5
France	1757.6
Italy	1465.8
China	1409.8
Canada	853.8
Spain	838.6
Mexico	615.1

Source: Website of UN Statistics Division

[English]

Report on Corruption

4275. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has studied the recently released 'Indian Corruption Study to Improve Governance-2005' by the Centre for Media Studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the police administration tops the list as the most corrupt body with judiciary and land administration including urban bodies stand in second and the education (school) sector topping the ranking on monetary terms;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the report estimates the monetary value of corruption at Rs. 21,800 crores a year; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to check corruption in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (e) The study undertaken by Transparency International India in the alliance with Centre for Mass Studies is based on a survey done on 14,405 respondents in 20 states and covers 11 services. The key highlights of the study including ranking of various services based on Corruption Index, reasons for corruption and monetary value of the corruption estimated in the study have been published by the Transparency International India, New Delhi under the title "India Corruption Study, 2005 to Improve Governance".

(f) Several steps have already been taken in order to remove corruption; and to improve administrative functioning. Important among them are: enactment of the Right to Information Act, 2005; Notification of the Whistle Blowers Resolution 2004; the proactive involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan in Vigilance; issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting processes by the CVC; enactment of CVC Act and strengthening the CBI to discharge its anti corruption work; increased use of information and Communication Technology; introduction of Citizens Charters and simplifications of procedures and systems etc.

Products Manufactured by Drug Companies

4276. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the products manufactured by the Indian Drug Companies have been permitted as reference for Bio-equivalence Studies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Products manufactured by the Indian drugs companies as well as innovator's products have been permitted as reference for bio equivalence studies.

Saving Children from Diarrhoea

4277. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of children could be saved from diarrhoea by making available safe drinking water and improvement in sanitation services according to World Health Organization and UNICEF as reported in the Hindustan (Hindi Edition) dated 4 June, 2005;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Safe Drinking Water and improvement in sanitation services are recognized as important interventions in preventing diarrhoea. Government of India is implementing the Central Rural Sanitation Programme. Under this, the Department of Drinking Water Supply is implementing Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Government of India has sanctioned Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects in 520 districts of the country to improve the sanitation scenario in the villages. The objectives of the TSC programme are to bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, accelerate sanitation coverage, generate felt demand for sanitation facilities through awareness creation and Health Education. Further the National Rural Mission (NRHM) recently launched by the Government of India seeks to converge health concerns with determinants of health, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition & safe drinking water.

[Translation]

Slow Progress of Construction Works of NHs

4278. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether some contractors engaged in the construction of National Highways have been blacklisted;

(b) if so, the details in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether several inefficient and unskilled contractors were awarded works in 2003 and 2004;

(d) if so, whether the Government has conducted any review of their construction works;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the World Bank has also pointed out the slow progress in construction works of NHs particularly in Bihar;

(g) if so, whether the reason for the same has been attributed to awarding of contracts to inefficient contractors; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) List of contractors blacklisted by National Highways Authority of India during the last three years is enclosed as statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The progress of works of all contracts is reviewed regularly.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement

List of contractors blacklisted by National Highways Authority of India during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name of the company blacklisted during last three years
1	2
1.	M/s P.T. Sumber Mitra Jaya Ltd.
2.	M/s Maharaia-Raj (JV) and its partners (i) M/s Maharia Re-Surfacing & Construction Pvt. Ltd. (ii) M/s Raj & Associates Construction Division

1	2
3.	M/s You One*-Maharia (JV) and its partners (i) M/s Maharia Re-Surfacing & Construction Pvt. Ltd. (ii) M/s You one Engineering & Construction Company Ltd.*
4.	M/s Rana Projects International Ltd.

*M/s You One Engineering & Construction Company Ltd., Seoul, Korea has now merged with M/s Ultra Construction and Engg. Co. Ltd., Seoul, Korea.

[English]

Pending proposals for Construction of By-Passes in Kerala

4279. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala had submitted eight works including land acquisition work of Kothamangalam by-pass and L.A. of Muvattupuzha By-pass on NH-49 (with a total estimate of Rs. 160.82 crores) for administrative sanction;

(b) if so, the status thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has also requested for enhancing the annual allocation to Rs. 100 crores during the current year;

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

(e) the current status of construction of Tripunithura By-pass in Ernakulam District on NH-49 including the time by when the work is likely to be completed; and

(f) the details of proposals of other Bypasses on National Highways on Kerala under consideration of the Government and the status of each one of them as on date?

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

(b) The details of 8 estimates received and their status is enclosed on Statement-I. Out of 8 estimates,

4 estimates amounting to Rs. 67.83 Cr. including estimate for land acquisition for Muvattupuzha bypass on NH-49 have been received during the current financial year. Out of the 4 estimates received, 1 estimate amounting to Rs. 24.35 Cr., which is not included in the current year plan, has been returned to the State Government. In case of estimate for land acquisition for Muvattupuzha bypass amounting to Rs. 12.30 Cr., clarifications have been sought from the State Government. The estimates for improvement of riding quality and paved shoulder amounting to Rs. 31.18 Cr. are considered subject to technical adequacy, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

The other 4 estimates amounting to Rs. 92.99 Cr. including estimate for land acquisition for Kothamangalam bypass were received during previous years. Out of the 4 estimates, 2 estimates amounting to Rs. 57.12 Cr. could not be considered for sanction as they were not included in the respective Annual Plans. The remaining 2 estimates amounting to Rs. 35.87 Cr. could not be sanctioned due to constraint of funds.

Four estimates as per details annexed as Statement-I pertaining to NH-17 are now included under National Highway Development Project (Phase-III) for 4-laning on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala have requested to enhance the current year allocation from Rs. 51 Cr. to Rs. 100 Cr. Additional allocation is dependent upon the pace of expenditure by the State PWD subject to the availability of funds.

(e) The Government of Kerala have recently submitted the realignment proposal for construction of Thripunithura bypass on NH-49. The construction work of this bypass can be started only after finalisation of alignment and completion of the land acquisition. Therefore, it is too early to indicate the time of completion of the construction work.

(f) There are 6 other bypasses on National Highways in Kerala. The construction work of these bypasses has been taken up in phased manner due to high cost of land and construction. The detail of these bypasses along with their status is annexed as Statement-II.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the work	NH No.	Amount Rs. in Cr.	Received during the year	Status
1.	Land acquisition estimate for Thalassery Mahe Bypass-Illrd reach	17	24.59	2003-04	Could not be sanctioned due to constraint of funds.
2.	Land acquisition estimate for realignment from Km. 407/900 to 412/235 of Kodungaloor bypass (North approach to Kottapuram bridge)	17	11.28	2003-04	-do-
3.	Construction of Thalassery Mahe Bypass from Ch. 0/00 to 4/150	17	44.40	2003-04	Could not be sanctioned as not included in the Annual Plan 2003-04
4.	Land acquisition for Lothamangalam bypass	49	12.72	2004-05	Could not be considered as not included in the Annual Plan 2004-05.
5.	Land acquisition for Muvattupuzha bypass	49	12.30	2005-06	Clarifications sought from State PWD
6.	Construction of new road from Muthakunnam to Cheriappally from Km. 414/630 to 424/000	17	24.35	2005-06	Returned as not included in the Annual Plan.
7.	IRQP of reaches of various National Highways	—	100.00	2005-06	To be considered subject to technical adequacy, inter-se priority and availability of funds.
8.	Paved shoulders of reaches of various National Highways	—	21.18	2005-06	-do-
Total			160.82		

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of Bypass	NH No.	Length in Kms.	No. of Phases	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kozhikode Bypass	17	28.124	4	Land acquisition completed in entire length. Construction work has been completed in 7.25 km. Construction work in 9 km. is in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Kollam Bypass	47	13.141	4	Land acquisition completed in entire length. Construction work completed in 4.74 km.
3.	Allapuzha Bypass	47	7.58	2	Land acquisition completed in entire length. Construction work has been completed in 3.73 km. Construction work in 3.85 km. is in progress except two ROBs.
4.	Thiruvananthapuram —Neyyattinkara Bypass	47	44.253	2	Land acquisition has been completed in 25.87 km. and in progress in 5.47 km. Land acquisition in balance portion is yet to be taken up. Construction work in 22.6 km. has been completed.
5.	Thalassery-Mahe Bypass	17	18.031	2	Land acquisition completed in 9.14 Km and in balance portion yet to be taken up.
6.	Kollandy deviation	17	11.213	2	The land acquisition has been completed in entire length.

These 6 bypasses on NH-47 and NH-17 are covered under NHDP Phase-III. Therefore, the balance works on these bypasses are proposed to be taken up along with four laning of NH-47 and 17.

**Delay In Completion of Golden
Quadrilateral Project**

4280. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether CAG in its report has reprimanded NHA for the delay in the completion of the Golden Quadrilateral Project;

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

(c) the main reasons pointed out for the delay as well as the suggestions made by the CAG for completion

of the Golden Quadrilateral Project during the 2005-06; and

(d) 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) to (c) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for the year ended March 2004, Union Government (Commercial), Public Sector Undertakings, National Highways Development Project of National Highways Authority of India (NHA), No. 7 of 2005 has been laid on the Table of the House on 11th May 2005. In the report among other observations, the Audit have also commented upon the delay in execution of the Golden Quadrilateral Corridor of National Highways Development Project.

The CAG has inter-alia commented that NHA could complete works of Golden Quadrilateral to the extent of 1,846 km. (29 per cent) upto June, 2004. The corridor-wise achievement in completion of work in respect of

Delhi-Mumbai, Mumbai-Chennai, Chennai-Kolkata and Kolkata-Delhi upto June, 2004 including partially completed stretches was 82 percent, 46 percent, 45 percent and 25 percent respectively. The balance works are expected to be completed by December 2005. The corridor concept as envisaged was yet to emerge.

The effective target for completion of NHDP Phase I mainly Golden Quadrilateral was 2005. Substantial completion of Golden Quadrilateral is expected by December, 2005. Despite impediments to the progress such as delays in land acquisition, environmental clearance, utility shifting etc. the progress of such large infrastructure was significant. While calculating the completion of only 29%, the Audit have only taken into account the completed stretched in fully completed projects ignoring completed portions in ongoing projects. In fact as on 30th June, 2004 the total length of 2892 kms *i.e.* 49.46% in Golden Quadrilateral had been four laned. As on 31st July, 2005 total road length of 4944 kms *i.e.* 84% in Golden Quadrilateral has been four laned.

The suggestions made by CAG are as under:

- NHA I may strengthen planning regime and follow mechanism to remove bottlenecks.
- NHA I may ensure standardization and uniformity in contract provisions and approval process.
- NHA I may include and invoke a stringent provision in contract agreements against erring consultants.
- NHA I may devise vendor development policies and framework so that better competition in terms of cost as well as technology transfer could be generated.
- NHA I may improve monitoring of the quality of work done by civil contractors.

(d) Some of the Action Taken by the Government are as under:

- 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.
- A number of policy guidelines have been issued by NHA I to standardize and streamline the

procedure to bring in uniformity and to strengthen the system, procedure and internal control etc.

- 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.
- 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 Railways, Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited.
- Performance of the contractors are being closely monitored and non performing contractors are identified.

Re-Organisation of Urban Primary Health Care Institutions

4281. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether there was a ninth Five Year Plan recommendation regarding re-organisation of urban primary health care institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has incorporated these recommendations in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to re-organize urban primary health care institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Ninth Plan envisaged the development of a well structured network of Urban Primary Health Care Institutions providing health and family welfare services to the population within one to three km. of their dwellings by reorganizing the existing institutions and linking them to existing secondary and tertiary care institutions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To improve the health status of urban poor, the Govt. of India has prepared a Project Implementation Plan (PIP) which is included in National PIP under the Reproductive and Child Health-II project, to provide integrated and Sustainable Primary Health Care Service Delivery in urban areas mainly focusing on Urban Slums. For this purpose, a two Tier service delivery model has been considered, namely, Tier I to develop and maintain a link between the Health facility and Community and Tier II as referral services to be provided through District Hospitals, Maternity Homes and Nursing Homes/Hospitals being run under Public Private Partnership component. Besides this, a Task Force to advise the National Rural Health Mission on Strategies for Urban Health Care has also been constituted.

Instructions by TRAI on Refund of Fees

4282. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has asked the phone companies to ensure that fees are refunded within 60 days of surrender of phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith other instructions recently issued by the TRAI to the telephone companies;

(c) the number of landline telephone connections of the BSNL/the MTNL surrendered during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the number of cases in which refund of fees has been made so far; and

(e) the reasons for delay in the rest of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) vide memo No. 301-30/2003-TRAI-Econ dated 1st Sept., 2003 has directed Telecom Operators to refund security deposit within 60 days after disconnection of telephone. The service provider has also to pay interest at the rate of

10% per annum for any delay in making refund within the stipulated period. TRAI vide No. 303-1/2004-Eco dated 8th July, 2005 has also directed all Telecom Access Providers to strictly follow the guidelines dated 1st Sept., 2003.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal Linkage to M/s. Sterlite Industries

4283. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Coal is giving coal linkage to M/s Sterlite Industries on CPSUs terms and conditions even after Strategic Sale & Management Control entrusted to a Private Company with a total stake of 51 per cent share equity;

(b) if so, the total Quantity of coal linkage released since March 2001 to M/s Sterlite Industries in the name of BALCO to M/s Sterlite Industries; and

(c) if not, the details for the last four years of the actual rate of coal linkage provided to other CPSUs and the rate at which coal Linkage is being given to M/s Sterlite Industries in the name of BALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The BALCO unit of M/s Sterlite Industries has a long-term coal linkage as a captive power producer. There is no separate arrangement for grant of coal linkage to Central Public Sector Undertakings or private consumers in the power sector.

(b) The total quantity of coal linkage released to the captive power plant of M/s Sterlite Industries in the name of M/s BALCO since March, 2001 is given below:—

Period	Quantity in Lakh Tonnes
March, 2001	01.70
2001-02	19.78
2002-03	17.28
2003-04	18.18
2004-05	18.00

(c) Does not arise in the view of reply given at part (a).

[*Translation*]

Cases Filed by CBI

4284. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed by the CBI before Hon'ble Court(s) during the last three years;

(b) the number of such cases disposed of by the Hon'ble Court(s) and the details thereof;

Year	No. of cases sent up for trial	No. of cases disposed of from trial	No. of cases out of Col. 3 ended in conviction	No. of cases out of Col. 3 ended in acquittal/discharge	No. of cases out of Col. 3 otherwise disposed of
2002	721	673	430	196	47
2003	718	692	391	181	120
2004	814	549	329	167	53

(c) CBI has reported that in four cases, trial courts have awarded sentence of one month imprisonment and fine.

(d) On completion of investigation, CBI files charge sheets in the competent courts, in cases where sufficient evidence is available for launching prosecution of the accused. During trial, the courts weigh the evidences before deciding whether the charges are proved or not.

(e) According to the directions of Supreme Court contained in W.P. 340-343 of 1993 Central Government has set up an accountability mechanism vide O.M. No. 201/5/2000-AVDII dated 9th July, 2001, where in every important case which results in acquittal, CBI analyses the reasons for the acquittal and fixes the responsibility for any failure/shortcoming in investigation or prosecution.

(c) the number of cases in which one month sentence and fine was imposed on the charged persons;

(d) whether in some cases the CBI could not produce sufficient evidence as a result of which the charged person were let off by the Hon'ble Court; and

(e) if so, the reaction of 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) and (b) Year-wise number of CBI cases sent up for trial, disposed of by pronouncement of judgements by the trial court and out of them the number of cases convicted and acquitted/discharged or otherwise disposed of during last three years are as under:—

Agreement on LOC between India and Pakistan

4285. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has signed any agreement in regard to Line of Control;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the number of occasions when the agreement had been violated during the last three years; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Non-indenting of Medicines by CGHS Dispensaries**

4286. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether certain CGHS dispensaries in Delhi have stopped indenting medicines to the beneficiaries;

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

(c) whether the beneficiaries are facing severe hardship due to this particularly those of Laxmibai Nagar and Dev Nagar Dispensaries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to alleviate their hardship?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) There are 87 Allopathic dispensaries functioning under CGHS Delhi (the working of dispensaries at Moti Nagar, Shakurbasti and Pulbangesh have been temporarily suspended) of which the following dispensaries are currently not having Authorised Local Chemist for the period indicated against each of them:—

Sl.No.	Name of dispensary under CGHS Delhi	Date from which Authorised Local Chemist not available
1	2	3
1.	R.K. Puram, Sector-III	1.6.2005
2.	R.K. Puram-XII	1.6.2005
3.	Kalkaji-II	1.6.2005
4.	M.B. Road	1.6.2005
5.	Andrews Ganj	1.6.2005
6.	Kidwai Nagar	1.6.2005
7.	Laxmibai Nagar	1.6.2005
8.	Ali Ganj	1.6.2005

1	2	3
9.	Netaji Nagar	1.6.2005
10.	Chankyapuri	1.6.2005
11.	Timarpur dispensary/Hospital	1.6.2005
12.	Kalkaji-I	More than one year
13.	Faridabad	More than one year

The CGHS have sent letters to the Authorised Local Chemists of the nearby CGHS dispensaries for obtaining their willingness to supply Local purchase indent medicines to the above dispensaries.

(c) and (d) In the case of CGHS dispensaries (including Laxmibai Nagar dispensary) 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. As regards CGHS dispensary Dev Nagar, the authorised Local Chemist is supplying medicines to the dispensary.

The Govt. has already approved an ad-hoc 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.

Raising of Donations by IFRC

4287. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of donations in cash raised during each of the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 by the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), Geneva through global appeals at the request of International Red Cross Society (IRCS) in support of its programmes of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction for the Gujarat earthquake;

(b) whether the total amount so collected has been received by the IRCS;

(c) if not, the amount received by the IRCS from the IFRC during each of the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(d) the manner in which the difference between the amount collected by the IFRC and the amount released to the IRCS is accounted for;

(e) whether the Union Government has been duly informed about this; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) The national Headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi have informed that based on the assessment done by a team, International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC & RCS), Geneva issued a situation report to support Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) to help the earthquake victims of Gujarat. IRCS is not aware of the funds raised by IFRC&RCS. As per the system of Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement, working advance was given to IRCS for Relief and Rehabilitation which was accounted for by IRCS, and then only the next instalment was transferred into IRCS's account. Red Cross Movement consisting of 181 National Societies throughout the world constitutes the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies, whose headquarters are in Geneva. In times of calamity in any part of the world the Sister National Societies, International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies, and the International Committee of Red Cross are offered assistance by individuals, Governments and other donors which are processed and then are used in the area needing relief and rehabilitation. The amount received by the IRCS during the year 2001-02 to 2003-04 is as under:—

2001-2002	Rs. 37943194/-
2002-2003	Rs. 48899874/-
2003-2004	Rs. 104828288/-

The Disaster Mitigation Committee, Finance Committee and the Managing Body of IRCS have approved all the Federation supported programmes and audited accounts have also been ratified by the Finance Committee and Managing Body. The Annual General Meeting of the Society took place on 13.10.2004 in which all the projects in Gujarat were dedicated to the nation by the President of the Indian Red Cross Society.

[Translation]

Coal Linkage for Captive Use

4288. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to amend the present policy of providing coal for captive use through coal linkage;

(b) if so, whether the new policy is to be applicable to the companies which are already getting coal linkage;

(c) if so, whether coal is likely to become costlier for small companies; and

(d) if so, the manner in which small companies are likely to compete with the big companies having coal block?

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 (d) Do not arise in view of reply given in part (a) above.

[English]

Criteria for Appearing in Civil Services Examination

4289. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that persons holding different ranks in Engineering and Medical Services are not permitted to appear in the Civil Services Examination etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reconsider this decision and permit them to appear in these examinations as before; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

PACHOURI): (a) The Civil Services Examination Rules do not prohibit a member of Engineering or Medical service to appear in the Civil Service Examination provided he fulfills the eligibility conditions.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Grant for Sports

4290. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grant provided by the Government for sports activities is only Rs. 400 crores;

(b) if so, whether the sum is adequate for the Sportspersons to compete in the international level;

(c) if not, whether any request has been made for more funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The plan allocation of the Ministry for 'Sports and Physical Education' during 2005-06 is Rs. 305.95 crores.

(b) to (e) 'Sports' is a State subject under the Constitution and promotion of the same at State level is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, the Government of India, through its own Schemes and Schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments in promotion of sports for improving sports performances at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior level. Constant efforts are being made by the Ministry to seek more funds as per the requirements. The budget allocation for sports and

Physical Education which was Rs. 236.40 crore in 2003-04 has increased to Rs. 252.00 crore in 2004-05 and Rs. 305.95 crore in 2005-06.

[Translation]

Road Projects Proposals from State Governments

4291. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala in regard to repairing, widening, strengthening, improving the surface development and maintenance of various National Highways and converting certain roads as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial allocation sought by the State Governments for the said proposals, state-wise;

(d) the time by which the Union Government will accord its approval to these proposals?

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

(i) Details of proposals for repairing, widening, strengthening, improving the surface development and maintenance of National Highways received from State Government are as under.

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl.No.	Work head	Madhya Pradesh		Uttar Pradesh		Kerala	
		No.	Approx. cost/ allocation proposed by State	No.	Approx. cost/ allocation proposed by State	No.	Approx. cost/ allocation proposed by State
1.	Widening	12	71.35	6	25.83	4	16.86
2.	Strengthening	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Improvement of riding quality	5	14.4	41	139.6	6	14.98
4.	Periodical Renewal	39	68.36	28	38.94	2	6.04

(ii) Details of proposals received from State Government for converting certain highways to National Highways are as under:

Sl.No.	Work head	Madhya Pradesh		Uttar Pradesh		Kerala	
		Nos.	Length in km.	Nos.	Length in km.	Nos.	Length in km.
1.	Proposals for declaration of new NH	Nil	Nil	7	1044.177	1	164

(d) The works included in the Annual Plan, are processed on the basis of technical acceptability and inter-se-priority. Considering the need for improving the existing National Highways to prescribed standards, no State Highway is being declared as National Highways at present.

Pending Applications for Allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths

4292. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications lying pending with the Government for allotment of the STD/ISD/PCO booths under the physically handicapped category in various cities/places in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the norms prescribed for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths under the said category; and

(c) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths sanctioned and allotted in the State during the last three years, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, as on 31.07.2005, no application is lying pending with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths under the physically handicapped category in Chhattisgarh.

(b) PCOs are liberally allotted to all the applicants of 18 years of age or above without any restriction and are on demand in feasible areas. However, where there is waiting list of STD/ISD/PCOs, preference is given in allotment of PCOs to handicapped alongwith other categories in the following order:—

- (i) War-widows/dependants
- (ii) SC/ST
- (iii) Handicapped persons
- (iv) Ex-Servicemen.

(c) The number of STD/ISD/PCO booths sanctioned and allotted in the state during the last three years, Secondary Switching Area (SSA)-wise are given in the Statement.

Statement

Number of STD/ISD/PCO Booths provided during the last three years viz. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 in Chhattisgarh

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	Name of the District	Number of PCOs provided during the last three years (under all categories)		
			Local	STD/ISD	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bilaspur	Bilaspur Korba Jangir-Champa	188	1014	1202

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Durg	Durg Kawardha Rajnandgaon	59	428	487
3.	Baster	Baster Kanker Dhantewada	72	542	614
4.	Raigarh	Raigarh Jashpur	115	452	567
5.	Surguja	Surguja, Korea	217	392	609
6.	Raipur	Raipur Mahasamund Dhamtari	82	733	815
Total			733	3561	4294

Funds for Health & Family Welfare Programmes

4293. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated/released by the Union Government to various States under the Health and Family Welfare Programmes for the current year, 2005-06, State-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments have sought additional funds particularly Rajasthan for the programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by when the additional funds are likely to be released;

(e) whether the Government has imposed any ban on allocation of such funds; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Statements I and II are enclosed.

(b) to (d) Request received from Jammu and Kashmir for ACA of Rs. 4.59 crore was not agreed. Request received from Uttar Pradesh for ACA of Rs. 20 crore has been agreed and sanction letter issued by Planning Commission in June, 2005.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise Allocations under major disease control and RCH programme for the year 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

States/UTs	TB*	Leprosy*	IDSP*	IDD*	Blindness*	NVBDCP*	AIDS	RCH*
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	286.56
Andhra Pradesh	1100.00	102.50	610.00	4.50	528.76	852.37	7511.66	24572.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arunachal Pradesh	55.31	50.03	—	13.00	21.00	1063.66	566.9	1434.99
Assam	1337.50	54.45	—	13.00	115.00	3035.10	1395.18	20249.11
Bihar	1270.28	409.21	—	3.50	284.52	4736.19	1757.78	33207.01
Chandigarh	15.16	10.65	46.00	6.00	29.00	69.62	438.84	152.42
Chhattisgarh	740.21	238.80	305.00	3.50	271.78	2114.72	916.54	8213.75
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	3.37	9.35	—	5.00	4.50	50.09	90.8	131.25
Daman and Diu	3.37	10.04	—	6.00	11.00	11.66	158.94	104.56
Delhi	232.42	63.41	177.00	5.50	63.00	42.51	2273.02	2554.64
Goa	19.92	17.05	59.00	4.00	68.44	21.13	604.78	447.1
Gujarat	775.35	114.90	440.00	5.00	521.44	838.84	4163.1	27990.56
Haryana	200.00	33.94	283.00	6.00	184.52	122.76	724.35	6106.8
Himachal Pradesh	93.47	35.97	360.00	4.50	122.18	31.72	908.45	3711.35
Jammu and Kashmir	154.76	52.46	—	3.50	216.35	50.96	597.74	4710.87
Jharkhand	957.30	346.80	—	3.50	183.74	2179.14	634.15	12160.81
Karnataka	807.30	80.42	620.00	9.00	462.08	385.99	2071.35	16427.04
Kerala	487.27	24.07	330.00	5.00	270.19	91.53	2251.61	10535.53
Lakshadweep	1.68	6.52	—	5.00	6.00	8.27	125.59	94.23
Madhya Pradesh	925.51	364.52	900.00	3.50	549.50	1897.77	1779.61	23507.59
Maharashtra	1483.27	148.23	890.00	3.50	351.07	768.09	5202.27	27501.2
Manipur	120.68	32.09	172.00	12.00	30.00	531.37	1576.5	2465.26
Meghalaya	115.65	33.15	164.00	12.00	15.50	729.00	328.71	2147.32
Mizoram	45.25	35.07	149.00	13.00	23.50	677.82	761.6	2177.51
Nagaland	100.56	78.57	164.00	12.00	20.50	732.23	1405.36	1934.23
Orissa	300.00	292.58	425.00	7.00	326.64	4027.67	1563.29	14372.84
Pondicherry	16.84	11.28	—	2.50	24.00	31.77	200.08	181.35
Punjab	372.35	47.38	55.00	4.75	148.39	140.70	924.24	6741.59
Rajasthan	865.75	73.16	500.00	5.50	554.79	1661.86	1280.72	22783.64
Sikkim	25.14	23.92	—	13.00	13.50	24.65	391.92	692.69
Tamil Nadu	951.56	80.81	760.00	4.50	1294.39	358.60	4329.04	17843.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tripura	160.90	21.12	151.00	12.00	61.00	1616.65	345.9	3036.33
Uttar Pradesh	2545.16	449.94	—	5.00	1061.06	1121.00	1267.83	69580.1
Uttaranchal	302.49	108.93	300.00	6.75	164.77	58.44	1542.66	4279.98
West Bengal	1228.91	267.09	290.00	3.50	390.41	1231.17	4301.47	24402.41
Total	17819.74	3739.60	8150.00	232.00	8410.02	31552.00	54681.10	396738.39

*Subsumed under NRHM

Statement II**Central Assistance through State Plan
for Health Sector**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2005-06
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43269.24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NF
3.	Assam	5687.00
4.	Bihar	12721.80
5.	Chhattisgarh	14287.44
6.	Goa	NF
7.	Gujarat	43494.00
8.	Haryana	10200.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18476.60
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	21061.70
11.	Jharkhand	15000.00
12.	Karnataka	33239.29
13.	Kerala	10035.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	20587.00
15.	Maharashtra	77874.10
16.	Manipur	351.00
17.	Meghalaya	4484.00

1	2	3
18.	Mizoram	3480.00
19.	Nagaland	2263.00
20.	Orissa	14348.19
21.	Punjab	2743.13
22.	Rajasthan	18605.59
23.	Sikkim	1840.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	26874.17
25.	Tripura	2813.10
26.	Uttar Pradesh	85421.00
27.	Uttaranchal	8790.92
28.	West Bengal	40207.80
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3321.00
30.	Chandigarh	3392.00
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	400.00
32.	Daman and Diu	350.00
33.	Delhi	60600.00
34.	Lakshadweep	242.00
35.	Pondicherry	5635.00

NF—Not Finalised

*[English]***Kerala Project on Health System**

4294. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala regarding Kerala State Health System Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is contemplating to provide financial assistance to the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The project proposal received from the Govt. of Kerala for State Health System Development Project for World Bank funding has been examined, in consultation with Department of Economic Affairs, Planning Commission and World Bank. Deptt. of Economic Affairs has communicated that the World Bank has not included the proposed Kerala Health System Development Project in their operations program for the period 2005-08 since the various health indicators of Kerala are above national level and current priority of World Bank funding in health sector is towards large and poor states where health indicators are the lowest.

Construction of Bridge on River Torsa

4295. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has got the approval of the competent authority for the 2nd revised Cost Estimate for the bridge which is being constructed over River Torsa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when the approval is likely to be received and work of the said bridge completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The note for second revised cost estimate amounting to Rs. 6172.17 lakh for realignment of NH-31 from Falakata to Pundibari including construction of Torsa bridge was circulated to concerned Ministries for appraisal. Comments of the appraising Ministries have been received. The decision of the competent authority will be taken on the basis of the comments of appraising Ministries. The balance work can be taken up after sanction of the 2nd Revised Cost estimate. The time of completion will be known after the award of the balance work.

[Translation]

Department of Post venturing into Banking Sector

4296. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Post is contemplating to venture into Banking Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a 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) The Post Office Savings Bank provides various instruments of small savings as an agency function on behalf of the Ministry of Finance. The proposal for a Postal Bank is in a conceptual stage and such it is not feasible to indicate a time frame.

Co-operation with other countries in the field of IT

4297. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established/proposes to establish any co-operation with other countries in the field of information technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is emerging as an attractive market for providing services relating to information technology;

(d) if so, the names of the countries who are willing to be benefited from the expertise of India in this field; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Department of Information Technology is regularly interacting with the foreign Governments and agencies and our Missions abroad for establishing synergies between the countries for bilateral cooperation in the IT sector and also for providing technical assistance to other countries for development of IT projects. In pursuant, India has signed MoUs with several countries, who have come forward for bilateral cooperation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The major beneficiaries of experience & cost competitiveness of India in the field of IT are USA, EU member countries, Japan, Korea etc.

Increase in Uterus and Breast Cancer Patients

4298. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there has been an increase in the number of patients of uterus and breast cancer in comparison to patients of Lung Cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such patients during the last two years, State-wise;

(d) whether any countrywide awareness programme has been initiated for treatment of such patients in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) As the data on occurrence of cancers is not being collected throughout the country, the exact number of cancer cases is not available. However, authentic information on cancer

occurrence is available from the population based cancer registries functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of ICMR. As per the "Atlas of Cancer in India" on the basis of population based cancer registries, by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the cancer of Uterine Cervix and Breast were the two leading sites in females. Cancer of uterine cervix was the leading site in Bangalore, Barshi, Bhopal and Chennai. While the Cancer to breast was the leading site in Delhi and Mumbai. These two sites together constituted over 40% of cancers of all sites in females in the Urban Registries and over 65% of cancers in the Rural registry at Barshi. In females also, the cancer of lung was one of the 10 leading sites in 4 of the 6 registries at Bhopal, Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) The exact reasons for change in incidence rate of these cancers are not clear. The main risk factors associated with breast cancer include hyperestrogenism, estrogenism administration, high-fat diet, lack of physical activity, menarche at an early age, late onset of menopause and first pregnancy after 30 years of age. Major risk factors associated with the cancer of uterine cervix include, infection with human papilloma virus (HPV), multiple sexual partners, early marriage, sexual hygiene, smoking. Smoking is the main causative factor for lung cancer with other factors being occupational exposure to ionizing radiations, radon, coal tars, petroleum, chromates, nickel, arsenic and mustard gas.

(c) As the data on occurrence of cancer is not being collected throughout the country, the state-wise number of cancer cases is not available. However, as per the National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR, at any point of time there are 2-2.25 million cancer cases in India. 7-9 Lakhs new cancer cases are reported every year in India.

(d) and (e) A note on National Cancer Control Programme is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

National Cancer Control Programme

Cancer has become one of the ten leading causes of death in India. It is estimated that there are nearly 2-2.5 million cancer cases at any given point of time. Over 7 lakh new cases of cancer and 3 lakh deaths occur annually due to cancer. Data from population-based registries under National Cancer Registry Programme

indicate that the leading sites of cancer are oral cavity, lungs, oesophagus and stomach amongst men and cervix, breast and oral cavity amongst women. Cancers namely those of oral and lungs in males, and cervix and breast in females account for over 50% of all cancer deaths in India. WHO has estimated that 91 per cent of oral cancers in South-East Asia are directly attributable to the use of tobacco and this is the leading cause of oral cavity and lung cancer in India.

National Cancer Control Programme was started in 1975-76. Its Goals & Objectives are:-

1. Primary prevention of cancers by health education regarding hazards of tobacco consumption and necessity of genital hygiene for prevention of cervical cancer.
2. Secondary prevention *i.e.* early detection and diagnosis of cancers, for example, cancer of cervix, breast cancer and of the oro-pharyngeal cancer by screening methods and patients' education on self examination methods.
3. Strengthening of existing cancer treatment facilities, which were inadequate.
4. Palliative care in terminal stage cancer.

Scheme under National Cancer Control Programme (till 2004):

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations:

This scheme is meant for IEC activities and early detection of cancer. Under the scheme financial assistance upto Rs. 5.00 lakh is provided to the registered voluntary organisations recommended by the State Government for undertaking health education and early detection activities in cancer. A linkage with the Regional Cancer Centre (or Medical College if there is no RCC) is now mandatory by the NGO concerned.

District Cancer Control Scheme: It is known that a large number of cancer cases can be prevented with suitable health education and early case detection. Accordingly the scheme for district projects regarding prevention, health education, early detection and pain relief measures were started in 1990-91. Under this scheme one time financial assistance of Rs. 15.00 lakh is provided to the concerned State Government for each district project selected under the scheme with a provision of Rs. 10.00 lakh every year for the remaining four years of

the project period. The project is linked with a Regional Cancer Centre or an institution having good facilities for treatment of cancer patients. The patients are provided treatment at the concerned Regional Cancer Centre or the nodal institution.

Financial assistance for Cobalt unit installation:

To strengthen the cancer treatment facilities, the financial assistance of Rs. 1.0 crore for charitable organisations and 1.5 crore for government institutions is provided for procurement of teletherapy and brachytherapy equipments etc. This is one time grant as at present.

Development of Oncology Wings in Govt. Medical College Hospitals:

This scheme had been initiated to fill up the geographical gaps in the availability of cancer treatment facilities in the country. Central assistance is provided for purchase of equipments, which include a cobalt unit beside other equipments. The civil works and manpower are to be provided by the concerned State Government/Institution. The quantum of central assistance is Rs. 2.00 crore per institution under the scheme. The scheme provides one time grant only.

Assistance for Regional Research and Treatment Centres:

There are 20 Regional Cancer Research and Treatment Centres recognised by Government of India receiving annual grant. The list of Regional Cancer Centres is enclosed.

Evaluation of the programme was done in year 2002 and accordingly National Cancer Control Programme was revised.

Reasons for revising the schemes

- Funds for DCCP were not made available to the DCCP societies by the State Government.
- RCC and Oncology Wing Scheme funds were less than the requirement.
- Private grantee institutions were not providing the benefits to the needy & poor.
- Finance Ministry objected to the indefinite funding of the RCCs.
- Need for recognising more RCCs specially 2nd RCC in populous States.

Revised National Cancer Control Programme (since 01.01.2005). The following are the changes in different sub schemes:

1. **Cobalt Unit Scheme**—This is discontinued in view of the findings of the evaluation report that grantee NGO institutions are not providing the benefit to poor people. The well developed Govt. institutions would henceforth be covered in the Oncology Wing Scheme.
2. **Oncology Wing Scheme**—In view of the recommendations of the evaluation report as well the working group for 10th Plan strategies, the financial assistance under this scheme is enhanced from the present Rs. 2.00 Crores to Rs. 3.00 Crores. There are several district hospitals which are comparable to Medical Colleges in terms of facilities and need enhanced financial assistance, which are covered by this scheme.
3. **Regional Cancer Center**—In view of the recommendations of the evaluation report and the EFC meeting held in March, 2003 unlimited funding of the RCC is discontinued after invoking the sunset clause. Assistance to RCCs is at the rate of not exceeding Rs. 3 crores for existing RCCs and financial assistance of Rs. 5.0 Crores to new RCCs based on action plan for developing infrastructure of the institution including equipments for cancer treatment to bring them to a particular level.
4. **District Cancer Control Programme**—The scheme is revised with more focus on prevention, early detection etc. The financial assistance is proposed to be released to the nodal agency (RCC/well developed Oncology Wings in Medical Colleges) instead of to the State Government in earlier schemes. Funding about Rs. 90 lakhs per district (including funding for 2 congruent Distt.) for 5 years.
5. **NGO Scheme**—The NGO scheme for cancer awareness, prevention etc. is proposed to be decentralized and entrusted to the RCC/Govt. medical Colleges as nodal agencies as compared to being operated centrally as at present in order to remove complaints.
6. **New Components**—New components of IEC and Research is made for the first time to be operated at central level.

National Cancer Registry Programme 1981-2001

- 97.8 (Bangalore) to 121.9 (Delhi) cancer cases per 1,00,000 Population-Urban Males (age adjusted incidence rate)
- 92.2 (Bhopal) to 135.3 (Delhi) cancer cases per 1,00,000 Population-Urban Females (age adjusted incidence rate)
- 46.2 (Barshi) cancer cases per 1,00,000 Population-Rural Males (age adjusted incidence rate)
- 57.7 (Barshi) cancer cases per 1,00,000 Population-Rural Females (age adjusted incidence rate)
- One in about 15 men and one in about 12 women in the Urban Areas could develop cancer in their lifetime
- Cervical cancer and breast cancer rate commonest in Females. The latter is more than former in Mumbai and Delhi
- Cancer Lung is commonest out of all tobacco related cancers in men
- Age adjusted incidence rate of Oesophageal Cancer in women of Bangalore is one of the highest (8.3 per 1,00,000) in the World
- Cancer of Tongue in Males at Bhopal (8.8 per 1,00,000) is highest in all continents
- Cancer of stomach is one of the main cancer in Males in Southern Registries
- Gall Bladder in Delhi women is one of the highest (8.9 per 1,00,000) in the World
- 75-80 patients are in advance state of the disease at the time first attendance
- New cancer patients in India are estimated between 7-9 lakhs

[English]

Broad Band Services at Tehsil Headquarters

4299. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether broad band services are made available at district headquarters only;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make available this service at Tehsil headquarters throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the time by which this service is likely to be made available at Tehsil headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and other Authorised Telecom Service Providers are providing Broadband services in major cities in the country. BSNL has planned to extend Broadband services to all District Headquarters during 2006-07.

(b) and (c) Government has announced Broadband Policy 2004 which visualizes accelerated growth of Broadband services in the country envisaging 3 million and 20 million Broadband subscribers by 2005 and 2010 respectively. Broadband services can be provided by Authorized Services Providers after meeting the licensing and regulatory requirements. Specific timeframe for roll out of broadband services at Tehsil Headquarters by different service providers may not be easily defined as the same depends upon their rollout plans based on technical, commercial and other aspects.

Implementation of Health Care Scheme

4300. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the names of the scheme sponsored by the Centre to provide health care to the poor people;

(b) whether these schemes are not being implemented effectively in some States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to monitor the implementation of such schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Most of the schemes of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are meant to cater to the health needs of the poor people. These include the schemes supporting public health care infrastructure, interventions under Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) Programme, National Disease Control Programme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Health Minister's Discretionary Grant and Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.

(b) and (c) The implementation of the Schemes varies across States mainly due to weak health infrastructure, systemic and governance issues.

(d) and (e) The Government has recently launched a National Rural Health Mission. The Mission shall focus on 18 States to improve the implementation of existing schemes and programmes by strengthening primary healthcare services and by undertaking systemic reforms.

Transfer of Technologies

4301. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various technologies developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has been transferred to industry during 2004-05;

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

(c) whether the Department of Atomic Energy gets royalty in lieu of transfer of its technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith royalty received by department during 2004-05; and

(e) the details of the various technologies likely to be developed during 2005-06?

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

(b) The following nine technologies were transferred to 15 different industries:

1. FDK-Fluoride Detection Kit
2. Lascan Dia Gauge

3. Banana Juice Extraction Process
4. Vibro-Thermal Disinfector
5. On-lone Domestic Water Purifier based on Ultrafiltration Polysulfone Membrane
6. Low background Gas Flow Beta Counter
7. Acceleration-deceleration Control Valve and circuit for Hydraulic Lift
8. Kitchen waste based Bio Gas Plant
9. Cobalt-60 Teletherapy Machine

(c) The transfers are on a non-exclusive basis generally for a lump sum technology transfer fee and without any royalty. The Department of Atomic Energy gets royalty in some past cases of technology transfer.

(d) The royalty received by the department during the financial year 2004-2005 is Rs. 2,11,130/- for Boron Carbide Technology.

(e) The list of technologies likely to be developed during the financial year 2005-2006 are:

1. Filmless digital Medical Imaging System
2. Micro propagation of Banana Plants
3. Medical Analyzer
4. High purity Gallium
5. High purity Arsenic
6. Radiation Processing of Urban Sludge
7. USB based multi channel Analyzer Card
8. Multi Channel Acoustic Emission Analyzer
9. Charge Sensitive Pre-amplifier

Right to Information Bill

4302. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bill regarding 'right to information' had been presented to the Hon'ble President for his assent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the presidential assent has since been received;

(d) if so, the date thereof;

(e) whether correspondence between certain high government functionaries has been kept out of the purview of this legislation;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the justification thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to keep the issues pertaining to the interests of the country out of the purview of this legislation; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) 'The Right to Information Bill, 2005', as passed by the Houses of Parliament, has received the assent of the President on 15th June, 2005.

(e) to (h) Correspondence between government functionaries pertaining to the exempted categories provided in sections 8 & 9 of the said Act would not be required to be disclosed under the Act.

[Translation]

Allocation of Coal Blocks

4303. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the coal blocks allocated to private/public sector companies for captive use alongwith the coal blocks allocated to private sector for commercial production;

(b) whether any policy/rule/guideline has been formulated for the said purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is slow progress in starting mining activities in these mines;

(e) if so, mine-wise details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(f) the company-wise and mine-wise details of the amount earned from the allocation of these coal blocks;

(g) the mine-wise and company-wise details of persons employed in these mines alongwith their condition of service;

(h) whether any complaints have been received regarding alleged irregularities in regard to allotment of coal blocks or the alleged irregularities committed by private companies in these mines; and

(i) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken 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) As on date, 86 coal blocks from the list of coal blocks identified for captive use have been allocated/decided for allocation. Out of these 86 blocks, two small and isolated reserves in Gollitoria (East & West) have been given to a company in the private sector for mining and disposal of coal to the specified end-users within the territory of the State of Madhya Pradesh without any rail transport under section 3(3)(c) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

(b) and (c) Captive mining of coal is permitted under section 3, Sub-Section 3, clause (a), sub-clause (iii) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Ministry of Coal has laid down guidelines for allocation of coal blocks for captive mining in furtherance of the provisions for captive mining under the said Act. These guidelines are updated from time to time, both to facilitate the working of the Screening Committee, which receives and decides upon the applications for allocation of captive coal blocks before recommending to the Central Government for its decision, and for the guidance of the applicants. These guidelines are also placed on the website of the Ministry. Allocation of coal blocks is done by the Screening Committee which is an inter-ministerial inter-governmental body. The Committee has representatives from the Central Ministries of Steel, Power, Industry & Commerce, Railways and Coal; representatives from the State Governments of the coal producing States, States where the end-use

project is proposed to be located and representatives from Coal India Ltd., Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited and the concerned CIL subsidiary in whose area the sought coal blocks is located. The Committee decides on allocation of coal blocks after mutual consultation and after giving an opportunity to the applicants to present their case.

(d) and (e) Mining operations have begun only in 8 mines. Slow progress in starting mining activities has been mainly on account of delay in setting up of end-use projects; time taken for obtaining various clearances for mining and land acquisition and possible speculation by allottees anticipating opening up of the coal mining sector for commercial mining.

(f) The Central Government does not earn from allocation of captive blocks. Royalty on coal removed from the mining lease area is paid by the least-holder to the State Government concerned.

(g) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(h) and (i) No specific complaint of irregularities in regard to allotment of captive blocks has so far been received in the Ministry of Coal. However, complaints of irregularities committed by private companies are received and are dealt with on merits. In one such case, the irregularities were found to be correct and the mining lease was held to be void by the Central Government in exercise of its revisionary powers under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

[English]

Increasing Tele-Density in India

4304. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the telecommunications has a crucial role in infrastructure development and growth of economy in the country;

(b) if so, whether the tele-density is very low in India as compared to other developing countries;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the tele-density in the country?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the available information, tele-density in India is very low as compared to some of the following developing countries:

	Country	Tele-density
i.	India	9.37 (as on 30.06.2005)
ii.	Iran	27.14*
iii.	China	43.32*
iv.	Brazil	41.88*

*Tele-density as on December 2003.

The main reasons for low tele-density in the country are:

- (i) Socio-economic conditions.
- (ii) Low per capita income.
- (iii) Low literacy rate.
- (iv) Difficult terrain in specific states/areas such as North Eastern Region and J&K.
- (v) Further, lack of infrastructure such as poor availability of power impairing the reliability of telecom services and scattered human habitations which make provisioning of telecom services techno-commercially less viable.

(d) Following are the major steps taken by the Government to increase the tele-density in the country:

- (i) About 150 millions additional phones are planned to be provided during April 2005 to December, 2007 by both public and private operators. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)

taken together have planned to contribute about 52% (78 million) of these additional phones.

- (ii) The USO Fund Administrator has finalized the agreements with four telecom service providers [BSNL, Reliance Telecom Limited, Tata Teleservices and Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra)] for provision of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive SDCAs. Under this agreement, the service operators would provide at least 100 rural DELs by September, 2005 in each of the Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) comprising these SDCAs. As far as the remaining net cost negative (viable) SDCAs are concerned, market forces are expected to take care of the emerging demand in these areas.

- (iii) Additionally, BSNL has relaxed the distance for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Km to 5.0 Km for landline exchanges. This would facilitate larger coverage in the rural areas from existing exchanges.

[Translation]

Voluntary Organisations/LIC Agencies run by Officers' Wives

4305. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Voluntary Organisations and LIC agencies being run in the names of the wives of the officers of Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service in the country;

(b) whether the officers whose wives are running Voluntary Organisations or LIC agencies have not been discharging their duties with dedication; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 provide that a member of the All India Services shall report to the Government if any member of his family (including wife) is engaged in a trade or business,

manages an insurance agency or employed with a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). The data in this regard is not maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) The All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 clearly stipulates that every member of the Service shall at all times maintain absolute integrity and devotion to duty and shall do nothing which is unbecoming of a member of the Service. Violation of this rule attracts disciplinary action.

Corruption Cases Pending with the Courts

4306. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of cases of corruption against several officers have been lying pending with the courts for more than ten years;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against corrupt officers; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the expeditious disposal of the cases pending with the courts and the extent of success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) CBI has reported that as on 31.7.2005, 773 cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act were pending under trial for more than 10 years after filing of the charge sheet.

(c) Action is taken against the officers against whom cases are registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as per the relevant provisions of the Law/Rules.

(d) For expeditious disposal of cases at the request of the Central Government, many State Governments have set up Special Courts under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 to try exclusively the cases registered by the CBI. The Government of India

meets the recurring and non-recurring expenditure of such Special Courts. Since these courts try CBI cases exclusively, the cases registered are disposed expeditiously.

[English]

Research on Alternative Systems of Medicine

4307. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the alternative systems of medicine has great potential in India because of biological diversity and traditional knowledge;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes Sir, Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy are not alternative systems but trace their antiquity to pre-historic period.

(b) to (d) During the last 3 years the Central Research Councils of the Department of AYUSH have taken up 48 research projects and got three drugs and 2 processes patented.

Strengthening of Statistical System/Data Collection

4308. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up 8 special technical committees to draw a roadmap for implementing the Rangarajan Commission recommendations seeking to strengthen the statistical system and data collection in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made;

(c) the steps taken for the expeditious implementation of the recommendations; and

(d) the time by when the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has constituted 8 internal technical committees to prepare base papers for delineating roadmaps for the implementation of some recommendations of the Ranjarajan Commission.

(b) The Ranjarajan Commission in its report made a total of 623 recommendations covering administrative and technical requirements for improvement in the Indian Statistical System.

(c) The steps taken to expedite the implementation of the recommendations include reviewing and guiding the implementation process by an Empowered Committee; monitoring the implementation process through an inter-ministerial co-ordination mechanism; discussions in meetings of Central and State Statistical Organisations; and the setting up of the aforesaid 8 Technical Committees.

(d) The responsibility of implementing the recommendations lies with the Ministries and Departments concerned of Government of India and the State Governments. Within one year period decision on all the recommendations of the Commission would be taken.

[Translation]

Setting up of Medical Colleges

4309. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) the total number of medical colleges in the country and the number of recognised medical colleges out of them;

(b) the number of medical colleges in backward districts at present;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to open medical colleges in backward areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to promote the private medical colleges which are being set up on co-operative basis; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) At present there are 242 medical colleges in the country out of which 170 medical colleges are recognized. The Central Government is giving permission for opening of new medical college based on the Essentiality Certificate given by the respective State Government and availability of infrastructural and other facilities as per the norms of Medical Council of India Regulations. As such, it is for the State Government concerned to decide whether they need a medical college at particular place in the State. However, Central Government, based on socio economic factors, availability of medical colleges, is in the process of establishing AIIMS like institutions in six underserved States, of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan & Uttaranchal under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna.

(f) and (g) There is no such proposal with the Government at present.

[English]

Afforestation of Mine Areas

4310. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the afforestation around coal mine areas is undertaken by the CIL on a large scale to maintain the ecology of the mine areas;

(b) if so, the details of the areas where plantation was done in each of the last three years;

(c) the percentage of the Eucalyptus and the fructiferous trees planted in the coal mine areas;

(d) whether the Government is aware that Scientists and Botanists have declared Eucalyptus tree as agent of 'cancer' and 'asthma' diseases;

(e) if so, the reasons for plantation of Eucalyptus trees in the said areas;

(f) whether contracts have been given to outside agencies for the implementation of afforestation programme neglecting the local displaced people;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) if not, the details of priority given to the local displaced people in the said programme?

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) The Subsidiary-wise details of the plantation of number/hectares in each of the last three years are as under:—

Subsidiary of (CIL (State))	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	No. of Plantation	Area (In hectares)	No. of Plantation	Area (In hectares)	No. of Plantation	Area (In hectares)
BCCL (Jharkhand & WB)	695,000	278	6,000	2.4	10,400	4.16
CCL (Jharkhand)	526,250	210.5	622,500	249	563,000	225.2
ECL (Jharkhand & WB)	190,600	76.24	212,500	85	119,000	47.5
MCL (Orissa)	216,000	86.4	75,000	30	243,768	97.51
NCL (MP & UP)	602,450	240.98	414,750	165.9	348,853	139.54
NEC (Assam & Meghalaya)	48,500	19.4	50,000	20	35,981	14.39
SECL (MP & Chhattisgarh)	575,000	230	620,000	248	622,452	248.98
WCL (Maharashtra & MP)	650,000	260	630,000	252	510,000	204

* ECL-Eastern Coalfields Limited, BCCL-Bharat Coking Coal Limited
CCL-Central Coalfields Limited, MCL-Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
NCL-Northern Coalfields Limited, SECL-South Eastern Coalfields Limited
WCL-Western Coalfields Limited

#MP-Madhya Pradesh,
WB-West Bengal,
UP-Uttar Pradesh

(c) to (e) Eucalyptus trees are not being planted for last few years. Fructiferous plants are planted up to 10% of total plantation depending on the conditions prevailing in the areas.

Apprehensions of adverse effects of planting eucalyptus trees have been expressed in some quarters but nothing is reported to have been proved conclusively.

(f) to (h) In most cases the contracts have been given to State forest Departments and corporations for the implementation of afforestation programme. Local displaced persons are engaged by these agencies, according to suitability of available persons for type of jobs.

Expansion Programme of UCIL

4311. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) has a massive expansion programme to construct new mines and plants in various parts of the country during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the targets fixed for such new mines and plants and the progress recorded so far in each case;

(d) the details of the mines and process plants pending for environment clearance as on date since when each of such proposals were pending;

(e) the reasons for delay in getting clearance in each case; and

(f) the steps taken for the expeditious clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a public sector undertaking of this Department had initiated action to undertake following projects for mining and milling of Uranium ore in various parts of the country during 2004-05.

(i) Banduhurang opencast mine in Singhbhum (E) district of Jharkhand.

(ii) Bagjata mine in Singhbhum (E) district of Jharkhand.

(iii) Mohuldih mine in Kharawan-Saraikela district of Jharkhand

(iv) Turamdih Mill in Singhbhum (E) district of Jharkhand

(v) Kylleng-Pyndengsohlong, Mowthabah mining & milling project in West Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya
(Formerly known as Domiasiat uranium mining & milling project)

(vi) Lambapur-Peddagattu uranium mining and milling project in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh

(vii) Tummalapalle uranium mining and milling project in Kadappa district of Andhra Pradesh

(c) Details of targets & progress so far:

(i) **Banduhurang opencast Mine**

Zero date: 17.04.05 and target completion period : 2 years. Work is in progress as scheduled.

(ii) **Bagjata Mine**

Zero date: 01.04.05 and target completion period: 3 years. Work is in progress as scheduled.

(iii) **Mohuldih Mine**

Project has been approved by AEC. Expected zero date: 01.04.06 and target completion period: 4 years. Work will commence after receipt of Environmental Clearance from MOEF.

(iv) **Turamdih Mill**

Work is in progress as scheduled and the plant is expected to be commissioned in March, 2006.

(v) **Kylleng-Pyndengsohlong, Mowthabah mining & Milling Project**

Project has been approved by AEC. Project has been planned for 3.5 years completion period, but zero date is yet to be fixed for want of clearance from the Govt. of Meghalaya.

(vi) **Lambapur-Peddagattu mining & milling Project**

Project has been approved by AEC. Expected zero date: 01.04.06 and target completion period: 3.5 years.

(vii) **Tummalapalle mining & milling project**

Exploratory mining has been carried out to produce ore for pilot scale study to establish process flow sheet. The ongoing pilot scale study has been showing encouraging results.

(d) Details of the mines and process plants—pending for environmental clearance:

(i) **Mohuldih mine:**

Jharkhand Pollution Control Board has notified for Public Hearing to be conducted on 29.08.2005.

(ii) **Kylleng-Pyndengsohlong, Mowthabah mining & milling project:**

Application has been submitted by UCIL to Meghalaya Pollution Control Board on 14.10.2004 for obtaining NOC.

(iii) Lambapur-Peddagattu mining & milling project:

For Mines: Application was submitted by UCIL to A.P. Pollution Control Board on 26.5.2003. Environmental Public Hearing was conducted on 19.8.2003. Secretary, Ministry of Env., Forest, Sc. & Technology, Govt. of A.P. has forwarded the proposal to MOEF on 03.01.2005 without issuing 'NOC' to UCIL. UCIL has submitted application to MOEF on 12.3.2005 for environmental clearance.

For Process Plant: Application for new site of process plant at Seripally was submitted by UCIL to A.P. Pollution Control Board on 03.12.2004 and Environmental Public Hearing conducted on 03.03.2005. Queries raised during public hearing have been replied by UCIL on 23.07.2005.

(e) Reasons for delay in obtaining environmental clearance:

Mohuldih Mine - There is no delay. Jharkhand Pollution Control Board has notified for Environmental Public Hearing to be conducted on 29.8.2005 as per statutory requirement.

Kylleng-Pyndengsohlong, Mowthabah - It is under consideration of the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board. New NGOs like Khasi Students Union (KSU), Meghalaya Human Rights Council (MHRC) are opposing the proposed uranium project.

Lambapur-Peddagattu Mine - Some NGOs are opposing uranium mining at Lambapur-Peddagattu.

(f) Steps taken to get such clearance:

Kylleng-Pyndengsohlong, Mowthabah— Number of awareness programmes are being conducted to allay fear on radiation. Independent report on radiation prepared by BARC has been submitted to the State Government on its request. Visits of villagers, landowners, ministers, State Government officials, NGOs, Journalists were arranged at Jaduguda to gather first-hand information regarding mining and milling of uranium ore and other related issues like

radiation, health hazards etc. UCIL is pursuing with the State Pollution Control Board for conducting Environmental Public Hearing. UCIL is also pursuing with the State Government for favouring UCIL's proposal of setting up uranium project.

Lambapur-Peddagattu - UCIL has been pursuing with the State Pollution Control Board as well as MOEF for early environmental clearance enabling UCIL to commence project construction activities as per schedule on 01.04.2006.

Collection of Toll Tax

4312. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

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

(a) the number of Toll Bridges on the National Highways in the country collecting toll tax, State-wise;

(b) whether the rate of toll tax imposed on N.Hs. varies from State to State and also from toll tax bridges to bridges specially in Haryana and Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the rate of toll tax for single and multiple trip is different as per Multi Axle Vehicles (MAV) Act;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard and found any discrepancy;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether some private agencies are also collecting toll tax at Bata bridge in Faridabad, Haryana and some other places in Rajasthan;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against them?

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

K.H. MUNIYAPPA: (a) State-wise numbers of bridges on National Highways on which users' fee (Toll) is being collected are annexed as statement.

(b) and (c) The rate of users' fee per km. for section of National Highways is uniform as per provisions of the National Highways (Rate of Fee) Rules, 1997. The rates of users' fee for bridges on the National Highways depend on the cost of the bridges including approach roads. The rates of users' fee on the sections of National Highways are linked to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which are reviewed after every five years based on variation in Wholesale Price Index.

(d) and (e) The rate of users' fee for single and multiple trips within 24 hours is determined as per Rule 7(4) of the National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highways Section and Permanent Bridge-Public Funded Project) Rules, 1997. As per this Rule, when the same vehicle has to cross the National Highways Section

or bridge more than once in a day, the user have the option to pay one and half times of rate notified while crossing such section or bridge on the first trip itself, or if the vehicle has to use the section or bridge frequently the vehicle owner can have a monthly pass on payment of charges equal to 30 (thirty) single rates.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) and (i) Bata bridge in Faridabad, Haryana is not located on National Highways. This is a State road and the responsibility for collection of users' fees on the same, is that of the State Government. Details of bridges on National Highways in Rajasthan on which the users' fee is being collected by the private agencies engaged by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the State Public Works Department are as under:—

National Highway No.	Bridges on National Highway on which Users' fee is being collected	Agency
NH-8	Kishangarh (ROB)	NHAI through Society of Ex-servicemen
NH-11	Reengus (ROB)	PWD through contractor
NH-11A	Dausa-Manoharpur (Bhanganga)	PWD through Contractor
NH-12	Chambal bridge	PWD through Contractor
NH-12	Chandrabhaga Bridge	PWD through Contractor

(j) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise number of bridges on which users' fee (Toll) is being collected

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	Number of Bridges where users' fee (Toll) is being collected
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Assam	2

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	6
4.	Chhattisgarh	2
5.	Gujarat	5
6.	Karnataka	5
7.	Kerala	10
8.	Madhya Pradesh	6
9.	Maharashtra	12
10.	Manipur	2
11.	Orissa	3

1	2	3
12.	Punjab	2
13.	Rajasthan	9
14.	Tamil Nadu	5
15.	Uttar Pradesh	19
16.	Uttaranchal	3

[Translation]

Irregularities in National Institute of Biologicals

4313. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding ignoring of rules in the appointments to senior posts and other irregularities in the National Institute of Biologicals;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for checking such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some court cases were also filed challenging the appointment to some of the senior posts of the National Institute of Biologicals in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and further before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The Hon'ble courts were pleased to uphold the appointments of these senior posts after hearing the learned counsels of the petitioners challenging these appointments and the learned counsels of the Union of India and the Institute as no irregularities in process of making these senior appointments were observed by the Hon'ble Courts including the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(c) The National Institute of Biologicals has followed the due procedure for appointments to senior level posts in the Institute. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India did not find any irregularity in the process of marking these appointments.

Hence, the question of checking any irregularities in the process does not arise.

[English]

Resentment Over Service Matter Decisions

4314. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that over the years there has been a wide resentment in bureaucracy over some decisions of the Government in regard to promotion, transfer and posting;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which came to the notice of the Government in which officers went on long leave as protest in States as well as the Centre;

(c) whether it is a fact that in some cases the prescribed rules were not followed in appointment, transfer and promotion of bureaucrats particularly IAS and IPS and officers of some autonomous bodies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to have a clear cut policy on these matters?

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) There are rules governing appointment to the All India Services as well as the Central Civil Services. There are also the IAS, IPS & IFS Promotion Guidelines for promotion of All India Service officers which have to be followed uniformly by the State Governments. Similar Guidelines Exist for various Central Services. These rules and guidelines are required to be complied with in regard to appointment and promotion in the Services. As far as transfer and posting are concerned, these are a part of the service conditions of the officers and are made in public interest as and when required by the Government. There is no question of a member of the Services expressing resentment or going on long leave in protest.

(d) The Government has initiated a proposal to provide stability of tenure on certain posts. This requires consultations with the State Governments before necessary provision is made in the relevant rules.

*[Translation]***Construction of Telephone Exchange Buildings**

4315. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of buildings constructed for telephone exchanges in each State especially in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) the year-wise building-wise details of the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the names of States in which construction of buildings for telephone exchanges is under progress;

(d) the expenditure being incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Raising Standard of Sports**

4316. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme was launched in 1986 to raise standards of sports at school level and to encourage participation in inter school competitions;

(b) if so, the financial grant given to each State during each of the last three years;

(c) whether not inter school competition took place in rural areas of Tamil Nadu during the last three years and grants remained unutilized;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps the Union Government proposes to take to encourage sports particularly in rural areas of Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme titled 'Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools' was launched in 1986 with a view to raising the standard of sports in schools and to encourage participation in inter-school competitions. The scheme has been revised since then.

(b) Financial assistance is given to the States on receipt of proposal for conducting District and State level Inter-School Competitions. Based on viable proposals received from the State Governments, the following assistance was released during the last three years:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Maharashtra	19.50	—	—
Tripura	4.00	4.00	—
Manipur	6.50	—	—
Uttaranchal	8.50	—	—
Orissa	17.00	—	—
Assam	—	13.50	—
Sikkim	—	4.00	—
Nagaland	—	6.00	11.25
H.P.	—	8.00	—
Daman and Diu	—	3.00	—
Chandigarh	—	—	3.00
Tamil Nadu	—	—	21.40
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	12.00
Tripura	—	—	6.00

For the year 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 1.31 crore has been released to Sports Authority of India (SAI) for disbursement to 13 states. Releases to the remaining eight states shall be made after receipt of certain clarifications sought from the State Governments.

(c) In Tamil Nadu, inter-school competitions are being conducted regularly for more than 20 (twenty) years for boys and girls in sports disciplines such as athletics, basketball, football, hockey, volleyball kho-kho, kabaddi,

ball badminton, table tennis, badminton, etc. at Zonal, District/Divisional and State level. There has been no gap in the conduct of these competitions. During the year 2004-05, a grant of Rs. 21.40 lakhs was released to Government of Tamil Nadu.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) These competitions are regularly being conducted in the rural areas of Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu also in order to raise the standard of sports at school level and to encourage participation in inter-school competitions. During 2004-05, the State level inter-school competitions for the higher secondary schools *i.e.*, Bharathiar Day Sports was conducted at Villupuram where more than 3000 boys and girls took part in various disciplines.

Schemes for Youth

4317. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes for youth have been formulated by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to expand youth activities at the university and school level;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has formulated the following schemes and programmes for youth:—

- (i) The Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities and Training.
- (ii) The Scheme of Financial Assistance to Rural Youths and Sports Club and Evaluation.
- (iii) Scheme for Financial Assistance for Development and Empowerment of Adolescents.
- (iv) The Rashtriya Sadbhavana Yojana.
- (v) National Service Volunteer Scheme.
- (vi) Scheme of Promotion of National Integration.

(vii) Scheme of Promotion of Adventure.

(viii) Programmes of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan (NYKS).

(ix) Rural Sports Programme.

(x) Scheme for Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools.

(xi) National Sports Festival for Women.

(xii) North East Sports Festival.

(xiii) National Service Scheme (NSS).

(xiv) Sports Promotion Programmes run by Sports Authority of India (SAI).

(b) and (c) The Ministry's proposal to expand & deepen the National Service Scheme is under active consideration of the Planning Commission.

(d) Does not arise.

Ties with European Countries

4318. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25 European countries have sought strategic partnership with India;

(b) if so, the names thereof and the areas identified for a joint action plan; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to India therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir, the fifth India-EU Summit held in The Hague, the Netherlands on November 08, 2004 launched the Strategic Partnership between India and the EU, in recognition of the growing stature of India as a major regional and global player.

(b) and (c) The 25 member countries of the European Union include: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom.

The two sides are presently working together on finalizing an India-EU Joint Action Plan which envisages strengthened dialogue and cooperation on a wide range of issues of mutual interest. The Joint Action Plan is expected to be finalized in time for the 6th India-EU Summit to be held in New Delhi next month.

Trivalent Vaccine for Polio

4319. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that children are getting affected by Polio belonging to P3 viruses even after receiving three doses;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to revert to Trivalent vaccine in the next phase of immunization; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Out of total 26 cases detected so far during 2005, three are Polio Type 3 cases reported from the districts of Rampur, Shahjahanpur and Moradabad of Western Uttar Pradesh. The last P3 case was from Mordabad in the month of June, 2005. In the districts of Rampur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Badaun and Shahjahanpur, trivalent vaccine has been reintroduced since end of July 2005. The second round with the trivalent vaccine has been planned to be implemented in the last week of August, 2005. Efforts to improve quality of the immunization rounds in these districts have been intensified. Intensive monitoring of the programme in these districts is being undertaken by the highest level of officials of Government of India and Government of UP.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has already reverted to trivalent vaccine. Monovalent Type 1 Polio Vaccine was used in 3 rounds in the month of April, May and June 2005 in the highest risk areas namely Western UP, Bihar and Mumbai, Monovalent type 1

vaccine was also used for 2 rounds in Central/Eastern UP, Delhi and four districts of Uttaranchal. This has resulted in a suppression of Polio Type 1 Virus circulation in the country. The Government has already reverted to the trivalent vaccine during the round conducted in July and will be used in the round to be held in the last week of August, 2005.

[Translation]

Miserable Condition of Deptt, in Lakhimpur-Khiri

4320. SHRI ILYAS AZAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the miserable condition of the telecom department in district Lakhimpur-Khiri, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Lok Sabha Members of the district had sent letters to remove the G.M. district Khiri and improve its condition;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether reply of that letters has been given to the concerned Members of Parliament; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, in general, the telecom services in District Lakhimpur-Khiri, Uttar Pradesh are satisfactory.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The General Manager Telecom District (GMTD) Lakhimpur-Khiri has been directed to be more vigilant and cautious in maintenance of telecom services.

(e) and (f) In one letter written by Hon'ble MPs to Hon'ble MOS (C&IT), the reply has been issued on 19.8.2005. In case of the other letter written to Hon'ble MOC&IT, reply is being sent.

*[English]***World Bank Support for Computer Education**

4321. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised any project with the support from the World Bank for computer education and supply of computers to schools;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down to provide computers to schools in villages and remote areas;

(c) whether the Government has identified schools where these computers will be supplied; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Spread of Hemophilia

4322. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that hemophilia is spreading in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of persons suffering from this disease till date;

(d) whether the Government has undertaken an in-depth study of this disease;

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

(f) the measures taken by the Government for combating this disease;

(g) whether the Government is aware that the medicine for its cure called anti-Hemophilia factor (AHF) is very expensive and not available in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) there are estimated to be approximately 60,000 patients with severe Hemophilia in the country. However, only a total 8000 cases are registered with Hemophilia Federation of India.

(d) and (e) A task force study was conducted by ICMR to assess the magnitude of the problem of haemophilia both by the retrospective and prospective studies in the hospital setting, to obtain uniformity and standardization for the laboratory techniques used for diagnosis of the disease and to make efforts to augment the production of blood components in particular cryoprecipitate and to ensure its quality control. The study was done at three centres—Delhi, Vellore and Mumbai. The factor VIII deficiency was observed in 41% case in Delhi, 27.1% in Mumbai and 31.9% cases in Vellore out of a total number of 295 cases. The recommendation of the study was that there is need for sufficient and special facilities for diagnosis, management, education, research and quality control for laboratory methods, and blood banking and quality control of therapeutic material within the healthcare system of the country.

(f) ICMR have informed that no curative treatments are available for Haemophilia A and B except for liver transplantation. Currently, the standard of care is intravenous replacement of the deficient factor. Factor replacement therapy has increased life expectancy from an average of 1.4 years in the early 1900s to approximately 65 years at present. The strategies for care of Haemophilia include education of patient and his family, health care workers and community; laboratory diagnosis; treatment by physiotherapy and coagulation factors and offering genetic services for carrier detection and antenatal diagnosis.

(g) and (h) The Drugs Controller General (India) (DCGI) has issued import licences to six importers in the country for the import of Anti Haemiphilic Factors (AHF) from various countries.

Nehru Yuva Kendras in Uttaranchal

4323. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nehru Yuva Kendras are functioning properly in Uttaranchal, district-wise;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints regarding irregularities committed by these Kendras during the last three years and the current year;

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

(d) the action taken against the guilty officials?

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

The Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) are functioning in nine districts of Uttaranchal. The NYKs in these districts have by and large, achieved their physical and financial targets.

(b) Yes, Sir. Three complaints were received regarding irregularities committed in Nehru Yuva Kendras *i.e.*, Pithoragarh, Dehradun and Nainital.

(c) and (d) The details of the complaints and action taken in the matter are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Officer against whom the complaint was received	Nature of allegations	Action Taken
1.	Shri Harihar Prasad, District Youth Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Pithoragarh	Financial irregularities	An amount of Rs. 24,430/- was recovered alongwith penal interest
2.	Shri R.K. Kundu, Regional Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dehradun	Misappropriation of Programme funds	Procedural lapses found and a recorded warning issued
3.	Shri Yatish Chandra Kandpal, District Youth Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Nainital.	Recommending project proposal of a fake NGO	NGO was found genuine-case was closed.

Sports Training Centre

4324. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to set up a new sports training centre at Jamnagar district of Gujarat;

(b) if so, by when the same will be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 'Sports' is a State subject and promotion of the same at State level is the primary responsibility of the

concerned State Government. However, the Government of India, through various schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of State Government in promotion of sports at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior level. For starting new Sports Training Centre by SAI, the State Government has to submit proposal as per the requirements of SAI's Scheme.

Non-Utilisation of Medical Equipment

4325. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that sophisticated medical equipment worth several crores of

rupees donated to Lady Harding & Medical Hospital, Delhi by a foreign company are gathering dust;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for effective utilization of these medical equipment;

(d) whether there is huge shortage of staff in the above hospital; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADASS): (a) to (c) The equipments worth Rs. 19.00 crores were donated by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the year 1998-99 to Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, an Associated Hospital of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt. SK Hospital, New Delhi. Most of the equipments are all functional and are being utilized properly. However, some of the equipments e.g. 3 ventilators, sterilizers, 2 vital sign monitors are at present not functioning because of lack of accessories and spare parts. This problem has arisen because of change of Japanese appointed agents for the JICA supplied equipment. The Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital is in touch with JICA India Office and Mitsubishi corporation, the supplier of the equipment for the maintenance of the equipment.

(d) and (e) It is not correct to state that there is huge shortage of staff in this Institution. The Government has recently exempted the Technical posts under the Ministry from the applicability of Govt. order under which only 1/3 of Direct recruitment posts subject to 1% of total sanctioned strength in the Ministry could be filled. Necessary steps have been taken to fill up the vacant technical posts as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

**Agreement on Ballistic Missile Tests
between India and Pakistan**

4326. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have signed an agreement regarding prior notification of ballistic missile tests as reported in the *Times of India* dated August 7, 2005;

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

(c) the details of discussion held with Mr. Tariq Osman Hyder during his recent visit to India;

(d) whether India has handed over a draft agreement to Pakistan on reducing nuclear risks;

(e) if so, the response of Pakistan thereto;

(f) whether India also proposes to hold talks with Pakistan on issues like terrorism and smuggling of narcotics;

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

(h) the time-frame decided to hold such talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The third round of India-Pakistan Expert Level Dialogue on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures was held in New Delhi on 5-6 August 2005. The two sides held wide-ranging discussions including on their respective security concepts and nuclear doctrines. An understanding on the proposed Agreement on Pre-Notification of Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles was reached. The proposed Agreement commits both sides to pre-notify in a structured format flight testing of ballistic missiles, with the objective of enhancing mutual confidence and engendering predictability and transparency of intent. Both sides recommended the agreed text of the proposed Agreement to the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan for formalization.

In pursuance of the MoU of 21 February, 1999 which *inter alia* provided for undertaking national measures to reduce the risks of accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons under their respective control, India handed over a draft of a proposed agreement to Pakistan. The two sides also discussed technical parameters relating to operationalization of the hotline link proposed to be established between the Foreign Secretaries, through their respective Foreign Offices, to prevent misunderstandings and reduce risks relevant to nuclear issues. Details about implementation and testing schedules were exchanged. It

was agreed that the hotline link will be established in September, 2005.

(f) to (h) Discussions have been held between the two sides on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking. These issues will be discussed further at the Home Secretary level talks between the two sides scheduled to be held on 29-30 August 2005 in New Delhi.

[English]

Definite Cadre Strength in Higher Grades

4327. SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided on October 03 2003, inter alia, to fix definite cadre strength in the Grades of Deputy Secretary and Director for CSS as well as the officers of AIS and Group-'A' officers coming on deputation to the Central Secretariat through Central Staffing Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the officers of CSS and the Group-'A'/AIS under deputation holding regular posts of Deputy Secretary and Director Grades as on July 01, 2003, Ministry/Department-wise; and

(c) the details of the officers of each service of Group-'A' and AIS holding the posts of Deputy Secretary and director as on 01.01.2005?

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) While considering the proposal to restructure the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) in October, 2003, Government had, inter alia, decided to fix the definite cadre strength in Selection Grade (Deputy Secretary) and Senior Selection Grade (Director) for CSS. The Government also decided that the posts of Director, Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary will not longer be available to the CSS officers under the Central Staffing Scheme. In the above proposal, fixation of the strength for officers of AIS and Group 'A' Services coming on deputation to Central Secretariat through Central Staffing Scheme was not a subject matter for consideration.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Roads and Related Infrastructure of International Standards

4328. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Delhi has sought the aid and advice of the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) for the development of roads and other related infrastructure to match with the international standards for the ensuing Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount estimated/released so far for the same; and

(c) the time by which development of roads and related infrastructure is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. As reported by the Govt. of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) no such aid and advice has been sought by Govt. of NCT, Delhi from CRRI.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Infrastructure Development in Karnataka

4329. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has formulated a comprehensive scheme for infrastructure development in the State with Central assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(d) the amount proposed to be provided by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Formation of National Statistics Organisation

4330. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to form 'National Statistics Organisation' by merging 'Central Statistics Organisation' and 'National Sample Survey Organisation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the 'National Statistics Organisation' is likely to be accorded the constitutional status of a Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As per the resolution of the Government of India dated 1st June, 2005 regarding constitution of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) will be merged into a single entity called the National Statistical Organisation (NSO). This decision has been taken in accordance with a recommendation of the Rangarajan Commission which was set up by the Government of India to review the statistical system of the country.

(c) There is no proposal to make the aforesaid 'National Statistical Organisation' a constitutional Commission.

Delay in Disposal of Pending Cases by WCL

4331. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mass movement was organized in WCL areas by Public Representatives and displaced families against the delay in disposal of the pending cases related to their resettlement, employment and monetary compensation;

(b) if so, the details of the issues raised by the displaced person and their representatives during this mass movement; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the disposal of the said pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As reported by CIL, a gate meeting was organized on 23rd July, 2005 by Shri Haneraj G. Ahir, Hon'ble Member of Parliament demanding resettlement of land oustees.

(b) and (c) The details of issues raised and action taken by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) management are as under:

- (i) Employment to the land oustees of Sripur Village acquired for Makardhokra-II OC of Umrer Area:

The land measuring 75.64 hectares was acquired during 2001 under Land Acquisition Act, 1894 vide notification dated 20.7.2001. There are total 98 landowners. So far only 18.78 hectares of land is under possession of Umrer Area. Special Land Acquisition Officer has been making all efforts for disbursement of awarded money to land oustees, but so far 34 persons have accepted the compensation. The remaining land oustees are demanding employment in addition to compensation.

Employment can be considered within the confines of Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy of Coal India Limited.

- (ii) Land acquisition and rehabilitation of Yakona and Marda Project of Majri Area:

The land for Yakona and Marda has been acquired but the same is yet to be taken into physical possession. The villagers are demanding that entire land may be acquired and employment should be provided. 651 hectares of land in Yakona village and 852 hectares of land in Marda village has been acquired from State Government. Area notified under 9(1) for Yakona-II OC and area notified under section 4(1) for Yakona-I OC under Coal Bearing Areas (A&D) Act, 1957 has been acquired as under:

Village	Notified u/s 9 (1) of CBA Act for Yakona-II OC	Notified u/s 4(1) of CBA Act for Yakona-I OC	Likely requirement of land
Yakona	187.37 hectares	50.17 hectares	237.54 hectares
Marda	234.33 hectares	40.65 hectares	274.98 hectares

WCL acquires land as per requirement of the project and endeavour is made to acquire bare

minimum land. Resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected people are under taken as per R & R Policy of CIL.

(iii) Valuation of Trees of Dhorwasa OCP of Majri Area:

It was contended out that the valuation of trees standing in the acquired area under plot number 101, 103, 104 and 105 within Dhorwasa OCP has not been done properly.

It has been clarified by WCL Management that valuation of trees of Dhorwasa OCP has been done by Horticulture and Forest Department of Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

Phasing out Mercury from Hospitals

4332. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any plan to phase out mercury from all Government and Private Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) There are no known cases of health problems resulting from the involvement of mercury in hospitals. The breakage of mercury thermometers may lead to spillage of some mercury but the same is supposed to be collected as a part of the hospitals health and safety practices and mercury bearing waste, irrespective of the source of generation containing mercury and mercury compounds equal to or greater than 50-mg. per kilogram is required to be disposed of only as per the requirement of the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules as amended in May 2003. While Mercury thermometers/sphygmomanometers used traditionally for measuring body temperature/blood pressure have been replaced in some countries due to environmental concerns, there are also concerns in many countries about the availability, affordability and accuracy of alternative devices. At present there is no proposal to phase out the use of mercury based instruments in Government Hospitals as also in private health facilities.

Purchase from Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF

4333. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary has decided that purchases upto Rs. 10,000/- will be made directly from the Kendriya Bhandar and the NCCF without inviting quotations/tenders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for non-implementation of the said decision;

(d) whether there is any proposal to enhance the limit from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- regarding purchase of goods from the Kendriya Bhandar and the NCCF; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (e) The Committee of Secretaries considered the question of purchase preference for Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF and made certain recommendations. However, the Ministry of Finance, after extensive review, has issued new GFR 2005 modifying provisions of GFR 1963. Rule 145 of new GFR 2005 provides that purchase of goods up to the value of Rs. 15000/- only, on each occasion, may be made without inviting quotations or bids on the basis of certificate to be recorded by the Competent authority in the prescribed format. The provisions of the rule do not preclude such procurement from Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF up to Rs. 15000/-.

Upgradation of Dispensaries as PHCs

4334. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any instructions to the State Governments for upgradation of existing dispensaries as Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the dispensaries which have been upgraded location-wise particularly in the remote rural areas of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No such specific instructions have been issued to the State Governments.

(c) Does not arise.

India and European Union Dialogue on Energy

4335. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the European Union held a wide ranging dialogue on energy to identify areas in which they can work together;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main agreements reached between India and European Union in this regard;

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to India therefrom; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The inaugural meeting of the India-EU Energy Panel was held in Brussels on 29 June 2005 as per the decision taken at the 5th India-EU Summit in November, 2004. The panel discussed the various possible strategies for development of secure and sustainable energy supplies.

(c) to (e) India hopes to obtain transfer of technology, hold joint research projects and share best practices in energy sector. The Energy Panel decided to set up three Working Groups in the areas of Clean Coal technologies, Energy Efficiency & renewable energies and Fusion energy to carry forward bilateral cooperation in energy sector.

Norms of BIS for Soft Drinks

4336. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the norms prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) are being violated by the Soft Drinks Manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government against these manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The norms prescribed by BIS are voluntary in nature. It is not mandatory for the soft drinks manufacturers to comply with them unless they have obtained BIS Certification for their product.

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

Funds from CRF to Madhya Pradesh

4337. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released by the Union Government to Government of Madhya Pradesh from the Central Road Funds (CRF) during the last three years and till date;

(b) the length of roads constructed in the State, District-wise;

(c) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has forwarded some new proposals for construction of roads in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of funds released under Central road fund during last three years and till date are as below:—

Year	Release in cr.
2002-03	80.65
2003-04	42.5
2004-05	52.01
2005-06 (till date)	35.60
Total	210.76

(b) The length of roads constructed district-wise is given below:—

District	Length in km
Balaghat	23.6
Chatarpur	42.3
Darnoh	46
Hoshangabad	48.2
Indore	235.8
Jabalpur	120.4
Katni	175
Mandsaur	7.6
Raisen	48
Ratlam	133.3
Rewa	10
Seehore	76
Shajapur	45.2
Teekamgarh	62.2
Ujjain	72.81
Vidisha	30
Grand Total	1176.41

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The State Government had forwarded twenty nine new proposals during the current year which, however, were returned on the request of State for updating on the basis of current Schedule of Rates. Fifteen proposals were resubmitted by the state on the basis of current schedule out of which ten

proposals have already been sanctioned. Further sanctions will depend on the inter-se priority and utilization of funds on sanctioned works.

Location of Cargo Terminal

4338. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received representation from the Government of Kerala and other organization to reconsider the location of cargo terminal at Alappuzha along the waterways-III, as it interferes with the conduct of Nehru Trophy Boat Race and emerging House Boat Tourism in Alappuzha;

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

(c) whether the Committee appointed by the Union Government to study the feasibility of relocation of the cargo terminal has submitted the report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by when the report is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) The issue has been examined and it is felt that the construction of terminal at original site, *i.e.*, Mullakkal would not pose any hindrance to the conduct of Nehru Trophy Boat Race or any tourism activity including house boat tourism.

Further, issue of relocation of terminal had been contested by State Government before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has since disposed of the case upholding Government of India's views in the matter and have directed the State Government to hand over the land at Mullakkal to Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for construction of Inland Water Transport (IWT) Terminal.

(c) No such committee has been constituted.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Inspection of Passport Offices**

4339. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regular inspections of the passport offices are carried out;

(b) if so, the dates on which the inspections were last carried out RPO-wise and the outcome thereof;

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government based on the outcome of the said inspection; and

(d) the details thereof, regional passport office-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The Passport Offices all over India are regularly inspected at various levels to monitor their activities and also to devise ways and means to improve their functioning. The Passport Office in Delhi was last inspected by the Foreign Secretary and other senior officials on 16.8.2005. A separate regular counter to attend to the Senior Citizens, the physically challenged and Government Officials has been opened at Passport Office, Delhi with immediate effect.

The details of inspections carried out in the last few years are indicated in the statement. These have led to a better and speedier passport issuance system and related services.

Statement*Inspection of Passport Offices since 2003 till date*

Sl.No.	Passport Office inspected	Inspected by	Date of inspection
1	2	3	4
1.	Ghaziabad	JS (CPV. II)	2002
2.	Kozhikode	APO (inspection)	1st to 4th January 2003
3.	Mumbai	(Director (PV)	22nd and 23rd February 2003
4.	Chandigarh	Secy (PCD)	11th 12th March 2003
5.	Lucknow	Secy (PCD)	2nd & 3rd April 2003
6.	Hyderabad	Secy (PCD)	24th, 28th April 2003
7.	Visakhapatnam	Secy (PCD)	24th, 28th April 2003
8.	Ahmedabad	JS (CPV. II)	26th to 27th June 2003
9.	Surat	Secy (PCD)	15th & 16th August 2003
10.	Chennai	JS (CPV. II)	24th & 27th August 2003
11.	Bangalore	JS (CPV. II)	24th to 27th August 2003
12.	Hyderabad	JS (CPV. II)	24th to 27th August 2003
13.	Ahmedabad	Secy (PCD)	25th to 26th September 2003
14.	Kolkata	JS (CPV. II)	8th to 10th October 2003

1	2	3	4
15.	Chennai	JS (CPV. II)	12th to 18th October 2003
16.	Trichy	JS (CPV. II)	12th to 18th October 2003
17.	Trivandrum	JS (CPV. II)	12th to 18th October 2003
18.	Jalandhar	Director (PV)	30th to 31st October 2003
19.	Bhopal	Director (PV)	9th to 11th November 2003
20.	Ahmedabad	JS (CPV. II)	1st to 3rd December 2003
21.	Chennai	Secy (PCD)	24th to 25th December 2003
22.	Chandigarh	JS (CPV. II)	8th to 10th February 2004
23.	Chandigarh	Secy (PCD)	10th February 2004
24.	Ahmedabad	JS (CPV. II)	20th February 2004
25.	Ahmedabad	Secy (PCD)	20th to 21st February 2004
26.	Guwahati	FS	Jan-05
27.	Delhi	AS (ER)	16th February 2005
28.	Kozhikode	JS (CPV)	25 to 29 April 2005
29.	Delhi	JS (CPV)	1st June 2005
30.	Delhi	FS, AS (AD & ER) & JS (CPV)	16th August 2005

[English]

Declaration of Road as Part of National Highway

4340. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road from Kharagpur to Ranigunj of West Bengal has been declared as part of National Highway-60;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose;

(c) whether the work on the project has started; and

(d) if so, the target fixed for completion of the said work?

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

(b) Funds are allocated State-wise and not National Highway-wise.

(c) and (d) The development of National Highways is a continuous process and is undertaken in a phased manner depending upon the availability of funds, traffic, volume and inter-se priority of works. Since the declaration of the above road as NH-60, work of widening to 2-lane has been completed in 5.0 km and work is in progress in a total length of 19.5 km. Improvement of riding quality is completed in a total length of 70 km and periodic renewal completed in a total length of 91 km.

Protective Works in Coal Mines

4341. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had asked the coal companies to chalk out a programme for solving the resettlement and rehabilitation problems on a priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sand stowing and protective works in coalfield areas of many coal companies are yet to be done;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether less than 40 per cent funds allocated for the protective works during the first three years of the Tenth Plan have been utilised by the coal companies;

(f) whether the Government had directed the coal companies to implement all the schemes approved by the Committee constituted for the purpose in a time-bound manner; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the coal companies 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) and (b) Resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected people is a continuous process in which rehabilitation of displaced families is done in phases in accordance with Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Policy of Coal India Limited.

(c) and (d) Sand stowing associated with coal extraction is a continuous on-going process and is taken up alongwith coal production from depillaring districts. Protective works are taken up mainly for conservation of coal coupled with safety in coal mines. Before the beginning of a financial year, each coal company prepares and submits the proposals for protective work to Coal Conservation and Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) for approval and assistance. Initially 100% expenditure is to be incurred by the coal companies and after actual job is done reimbursement as per guidelines is made to the coal companies. However, the yearly achievements made by different coal companies are less in some cases as compared to what were proposed due to fund constraints and administrative reasons.

(e) No, Sir. The budgetary allocation is made for "Stowing and Protective Works and R&D" under the head Assistance to Coal and Lignite Companies in the Tenth Plan and actual reimbursement under this head is as follows:

Year	Allocation of funds (Rs. crores)	Actual reimbursement (Rs. crores)
2002-03	66.05	66.05
2003-04	64.00	64.00
2004-05	100.03	100.03

(f) and (g) CCDAC is constituted under Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Rules, 1975 and approves only firmed up schemes for protective works which are to be completed within a definite time frame. The programme approved by the CCDAC and actual work undertaken by the coal companies for the last three years are as under:

Year	Programme approved by CCDAC (Rs.)	Actual works undertaken by the Coal Companies (Rs.)	% Achievement w.r.t. approved programme
2002-03	99,858,371	82,547,981	82.67
2003-04	62,879,408	50,869,230	80.90
2004-05	114,164,540	94,547,895	82.82

[*Translation*]

Mobile Service in Rajasthan

4342. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL proposes to introduce mobile service in several parts of Rajasthan particularly in Chittorgarh area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the mobile service is likely to be introduced;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any survey has been conducted by the BSNL in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) having provided mobile services in all the District Headquarters has planned to cover upto Tehsil Headquarter in the State of Rajasthan. The roll out of the network is presently in progress and BSNL has targeted to provide mobile services in thirteen new towns of the Chittorgarh district.

(c) to (f) After having completed technical survey of all the thirteen towns, mobile services have already been made operational at five of the towns viz. Bari Sadri, Begu, Badesar, Chhoti Sadri and Kapasan. In the remaining eight towns, the services are likely to be available progressively during the current financial year.

CBI Raids

4343. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducts raids against suspected/corrupt persons in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of raids conducted against such persons during the last three years;

(c) the total number of persons charge-sheeted during this period; and

(d) the number of persons out of the above against whom action has been taken including the nature of action?

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. CBI has conducted 7 nationwide Special Drives involving 1257 searches during the last three years *i.e.* 2003 to 2005 (upto 30.6.2005) as a part of the Programme of Vigilance and Anti Corruption work.

(c) and (d) CBI has reported that out of the above, as on 30.6.2005, chargesheets have been filed in 29 cases, while sanction for prosecution is awaited in 12 cases. CBI has recommended regular departmental action in 15 cases. CBI has recommended such action as

deemed fit in 2 cases while it has closed 9 cases. Investigation has not been completed in the remaining cases.

[English]

Opening of New Telephone Exchanges

4344. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in Maharashtra particularly in Pune district during the Ninth Plan period and the first three years of the Tenth Plan and functioning at present;

(b) whether all the exchanges have been provided with STD/ISD facilities and internet services;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any demands for opening of new telephone exchanges are pending with the Government; and

(e) if so, the present status of such demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of telephone exchanges set up by the Government PSUs in the Maharashtra including Pune district during the 9th Five Year Plan and first three years of 10th Five Year Plan and functioning at present, is as follows:

Plan Period	Year	Maharashtra Telecom Circle [BSNL (a)]	Pune (also included in (a))	MTNL, Mumbai
9th	1997-2002	2148	135	85
10th	2002-2005	153	52	29

(b) Yes, Sir. All the exchanges in Maharashtra have been provided with STD/ISD facility and Internet Services.

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

(d) There is demand for opening of 32 new telephone exchanges in Maharashtra Telecom Circle of BSNL.

(e) The waiting list is not sufficient to justify opening of new telephone exchanges. Therefore, waiting list is cleared by BSNL by providing phones on WLL technology.

National Rural Health Mission

4345. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the National Rural Health Mission benefit is not reaching in the Naxalite and Insurgency hit areas of the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated strategies to implement the mission in naxalite and Insurgency hit areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such reports have reached the Government of India. The National Rural Health Mission has been launched on 12th April, 2005. The Mission is for entire country including Naxalite and Insurgency hit areas. It is too early to assess the benefits reaching in different parts/ areas of the country. Funds have recently been released to States/UTs for implementing various strategies under the Mission.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

Production of Nitro-Glycerin based Explosives

4346. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has banned the possession, sale and use of nitro-glycerin based explosives in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) A Notification was issued on 21.1.2004 prohibiting the possession, sale and use of Nitro-glycerine bases explosives with effect from 1.4.2004. Subsequently a notification was issued on 20.8.2004 extending the time upto 1.12.2004 for disposal of stocks of Nitro-glycerine based explosives existing as on 1.4.2004. A further Notification G.S.R. 191(E) was issued on 24.3.2005 granting exemption to M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Eastern Coalfields Limited and Central Mining Research Institute for possession, sale and use of P-3 type Nitro-glycerine based explosives (Belgex Coal-R) and Units having licence to manufacture P-3 type Nitro-glycerine based explosives (Belgex Coal-R) for possession, sale and transport of P-3 type Nitro-glycerine based explosives (Belgex Coal-R) for use in Blasting Gallery method in underground mining, for a period of one year from the date of publication of the Notification, subject to certain conditions specified in the Notification.

[Translation]

Outsourcing Policy of CIL

4347. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of outsourcing is being followed by the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the details of the services outsourced regarding transportation, production of coal and other related works of the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries;

(c) the service-wise and item-wise details of the amount paid by the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries for the outsourced services, import of machines and appliances for production during each of the last three years till July, 2005; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries and make them profit making units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Outsourcing of some of the activities have been undertaken by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries in some of its mines to build up additional capacity of production, to avoid initial capital investment and to reduce cost of operations.

(b) and (c) Major activities outsourced by CIL and its subsidiaries are production of coal in some mines and isolated patches, removal of overburden in some mines and isolated patches, transport of coal and sand etc.

The amount paid by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries for the outsourced services and import of machineries during each of the last three years till July, 2005 is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Particulars	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Prov.)	2005-06 (upto July 05) (Prov.)
Transport of Coal	257.25	265.59	390.82	122.62
Hiring of Equipment	51.68	42.42	46.95	8.91
Surface Miner	55.66	40.52	54.37	21.75
Contractual OBR	75.42	118.08	273.41	127.18
Total	440.01	466.61	765.55	280.46

(Rs. in crore)

Particulars	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Prov.)	2005-06 (upto July 05) (Prov.)
Import of machineries (CIF+Customs duty+Transport)	41.69	Nil	8.31	Nil

(d) CIL as a whole is earning profit but two of its subsidiaries, viz. Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) & Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) are incurring loss. The revival plans of ECL & BCCL have been referred to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE).

Vacant Posts in Udaipur Division

4348. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts created in the post offices and telephone department in Udaipur Division of Rajasthan Circle alongwith the category-wise and district-wise details thereof;

(b) whether all the sanctioned posts have been filled up;

(c) if not, the numbers of posts lying vacant;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

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

(b) to (e) Recruitment to fill up vacant posts is a continuous process. At present, 19 posts of Postal Assistant 13 posts of Postman and 1 post of Group 'D' are lying vacant in Udaipur Division. Action has already been initiated to fill up them. The recruitment process is likely to be completed within next two months.

Department of Telecom:

(a) DOT has no establishment in Udaipur Division of Rajasthan Circle. However, information pertaining to Udaipur SSA of Rajasthan Circle, BSNL (PSU of DOT) is as below:

Sanctioned posts in Udaipur SSA

Group 'A'	19
Group 'B'	158
Group 'C'	777
Group 'D'	187
Total	1141

(b) and (c) Posts laying vacant in Udaipur SSA

Group 'A'	04
Group 'B'	70
Group 'C'	116
Group 'D'	00
Total	190

(d) Creation and filling of posts are continuous administrative processes. Keeping in view the fast changing business as well as technological scenario, strictly need based promotions as well as recruitments are made.

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

National Level Sports

4349. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the sports played at the national level;

(b) the criteria laid down for recognition of a sport as a national level sport;

(c) whether Judo and Karate are the national level sports; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The names of the sports for which National level Sports Federations/Association have been recognized by the Government are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Important criteria considered by the Ministry for recognition of the Sports Federations at National level include its recognition by the International and Asian Federations as well as by the Indian Olympic Association, its legal and apex status, its role and contribution in promoting and developing Sports in India and its internal financial, management and electoral practices. Apart from this, the Sports Federation seeking recognition should have actively existed for more than three years on the

date of application for recognition and should also have affiliated units in at least two thirds of total States/Union Territories of India.

(c) Judo Federation of India (JFI) and All India Karate-Do-Federation are the Apex National Level Sports Federations recognized by the Government for the game of Judo and Karate.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Categorisation of Sports Disciplines

SPORTS DISCIPLINE

1. Archery	Priority
2. Athletics	Priority
3. Badminton	Priority
4. Billiards and Snooker	Priority
5. Boxing	Priority
6. Chess	Priority
7. Football	Priority
8. Hockey (Men)	Priority
9. Hockey (Women)	Priority
10. Kabaddi	Priority
11. Rowing	Priority
12. Shooting	Priority
13. Tennis	Priority
14. Cycling	Priority
15. Wrestling	Priority
16. Weighlifting	Priority
17. Swimming	Priority

GENERAL (B)

1. Basketball	General
2. Kayaking & Canoeing	General
3. Equestrian	General
4. Fencing	General

5.	Golf	General
6.	Gymnastics	General
7.	Handball	General
8.	Judo	General
9.	School Games (SGFI)	General
10.	Squash	General
11.	Table Tennis	General
12.	Volleyball	General
13.	Yachting	General
14.	Winter Games (WGFI)	General

OTHERS (C)

1.	Aero Club	Others
2.	Atya Patya	Others
3.	Ball Badminton	Others
4.	Baseball	Others
5.	Body Building	Others
6.	Bowling	Others
7.	Bridge	Others
8.	Carrom	Others
9.	Cricket	Others
10.	Cricket (Women)	Others
11.	Cycle Polo	Others
12.	Karate	Others
13.	Korfball	Others
14.	Kho-Kho	Others
15.	Mallakhamb	Others
16.	Motor Sports	Others
17.	Netball	Others
18.	Polo	Others
19.	Power lifting	Others
20.	Roller Skating	Others
21.	Sepak Takraw	Others
22.	Softball	Others

23.	Shooting ball	Others
24.	Sports for the Deaf	Others
25.	Taekwondo	Others
26.	Tenni-Koit	Others
27.	Tennis ball Cricket	Others
28.	Throwball	Others
29.	Triathlon	Others
30.	Tug of War	Others
31.	Ten-Pin Bowling	Others
32.	Wrestling (Indian Style)	Others
33.	Wushu	Others

[English]

Creation of Separate Productivity and Employment Centre Division

4350. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate productivity and employment centre division has been created under the existing e-infrastructure; e-learning group;

(b) if so, whether the division will play a nodal role in identifying the various sectors where the information communication tools can be extended to enhance productivity of the sectors and consequently generate more employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) some more proposals being considered by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which it will be able to generate employment?

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

(c) to (e) The division has identified a sectoral approach to enhance productivity and consequential employment generation.

Development of Backward Areas in Assam

4351. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes for the development of backward areas in Assam approved by the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount released during the above period for each district;

(c) the details of the schemes submitted by the Government of Assam for financial assistance; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The schemes for the development of backward areas of Assam are being implemented in the backward districts of Kokrajhar, North Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong through the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

(b) Details of the funds allocated and released for each district are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the district	Amount allocated for three years	Amount released in 2003-04	Amount released in 2004-05
Kokrajhar	45.00	5.00	2.50
North Lakhimpur	45.00	5.00	2.50
Dhemaji	45.00	0.00	7.50
North Cachar Hills	45.00	0.00	7.50
Karbi Anglong	45.00	0.00	7.50

Note: The scheme was approved in Annual Plan 2003-04.

(c) The schemes proposed by the State Government/district authorities are meant to fill critical gaps in various sectors like agriculture, education, roads, irrigation, power, health, etc., and vary from district to district.

(d) The District Plans of all the five districts covered under the scheme have been approved. As per the scheme, a sum of Rs. 45 crore is to be provided to each district over a period of three years for implementation of schemes included in the District Plans. So far, only one instalment of Rs. 7.50 crore has been released for each district. Further funds are to be released keeping in view the progress of financial and physical progress made under the District Plans.

[*Translation*]

Re-employment of Retired Persons

4352. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons holding the posts of Joint Secretary and above retired from service during the last three years;

(b) whether many of these persons have been re-employed in Government posts;

(c) if so, the total number of such persons re-employed; and

(d) the details of each such persons alongwith the date of their re-employment in Government service during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Assistance for Fighting Diseases**

4353. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any assistance from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to fight HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details of assistance received during 2004-05 from each of such donor agencies;

(c) the details of assistance allocated to various States during the said period; and

(d) the extent to which the National Disease Control Programme has achieved its aim?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The National AIDS Control Project-Phase II is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme, being implemented all over the country through 38 State AIDS Control Societies. An outlay of Rs. 1941.91 crore has been provided for the National AIDS Control Project-Phase II. The break-up is as follows:-

1.	Government of India (Including World Bank Assistance)	—	Rs. 1155 crore
2.	USAID assistance for AVERT Project in Maharashtra.	—	Rs. 166 crore
3.	USAID assistance for APAC Project in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	—	Rs. 64.58 crores
4.	DFID assistance for PSH Project	—	Rs. 487.40 crore
5.	CIDA assistance	—	Rs. 37.81 crores
6.	UNDP assistance	—	Rs. 6.47 crores
7.	Aus AID assistance	—	Rs. 24.65 crores

Aus AID assistance has been dispensed with before the launch of the project.

Further, Global Fund assistance for Rs. 122.74 crores for two years has been approved as an additionality to X Five Year Plan provision for the project.

Apart from the actual Government of India contribution, the entire money for this Project is first made available by the Government in the budget, and then reimbursement is claimed from the external funding agency after expenditure is incurred.

(b) The assistance received during 2004-05 is as follows:—

	(Rs. in crores)
World Bank assistance	107.92
USAID assistance (APAC & AVERT)	19.64
DFID assistance	31.47
CIDA assistance	Nil
UNDP assistance	4.20

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) The aim of the National AIDS prevention and Control Programme is to effective containment of infection in general population so as to achieve Zero rates of

growth of new infection by 2007. In this regard, HIV burden is estimated on an annual basis through sentinel sites for different risk groups. The year-wise estimates for the last 3 years are as below:

Year	Estimates in millions
2002	4.58
2003	5.106
2004	5.134

Statement

*National AIDS Control Project—Phase II
Position of release of funds*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Release During 2004-05
1	2	3
World Bank		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1692.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	285.50
3.	Assam	1214.50
4.	Bihar	1079.50
5.	Goa	163.50
6.	Gujarat	565.00
7.	Haryana	266.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	423.50
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	279.50
10.	Karnataka	1664.50
11.	Kerala	553.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	855.50
13.	Maharashtra	1625.50
14.	Manipur	1847.75
15.	Meghalaya	15.50
16.	Mizoram	571.50

1	2	3
17.	Nagaland	1065.25
18.	Orissa	430.00
19.	Punjab	371.50
20.	Rajasthan	867.50
21.	Sikkim	179.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	2043.50
23.	Tripura	221.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1070.80
25.	West Bengal	2028.00
26.	Delhi	604.00
27.	Pondicherry	114.00
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	180.50
29.	Chandigarh	228.50
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	76.00
31.	Daman and Diu	101.00
32.	Lakshadweep	29.50
33.	MDACS	775.00
34.	Ahmedabad MC	208.30
35.	Chennai MC	157.45
36.	Uttaranchal	298.00
37.	Chhattisgarh	429.50
38.	Jharkhand	256.00
Total		24837.00
DFID assisted PSH Project		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1360.00
2.	Gujarat	992.00
3.	Kerala	551.00
4.	Orissa	100.00
5.	Ahmedabad MC	232.00

1	2	3
6.	West Bengal	365.00
7.	Bihar	150.00
8.	Uttar Pradesh	200.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	150.00
Total		4100.00

USAID Assisted Projects

1.	APAC Project in Tamil Nadu	1684.00
2.	AVERT Project in Maharashtra	885.00

CIDA funded Projects

1.	Karnataka	200.00
2.	Rajasthan	0.00

Widening of Narrow Stretch on NH-206

4354. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Highway No. 206 is very narrow between Tumkur and Tiptur;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to widen the said stretch for smooth plying of vehicles;

(c) if so, the time by when the work on the stretch will commence; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) National Highway No. 206 between Tumkur to Tiptur is not very narrow and has 2 lane standard carriageway width.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Computers Installed in BSNL, Uttar Pradesh (W)

4355. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computers installed in BSNL, Uttar Pradesh (W) using oracle based DOTSOFF;

(b) the number of licences of oracle based DOTSOFF provided in Uttar Pradesh BSNL (W);

(c) whether there is any discrepancy in providing these licences; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) At present the total number of computers working for DOTSOFT on Oracle Database in Uttar Pradesh (W) Telecom Circle is 719. Some more computers are likely to be installed using Oracle based DOTSOFT in future.

(b) Total number of licenses taken for Oracle based DOTSOFT in Uttar Pradesh (W) Telecom Circle is 801.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Encroachment on Land of Telecom Department

4356. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that on a large scale illegal construction is going on the land of telecommunication department in the country;

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

(c) the number of such cases which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise; 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) Sir, there is no large scale illegal construction on the land of telecommunication department. Out of more than 10,000 lands the

Department possesses, there is illegal construction on 38 lands.

(b) and (c) Details of encroachment noticed during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Action is taken to remove encroachments in co-ordination with the local bodies and the law enforcing agencies. To ward off such encroachments on other lands, following measures are taken:

- (i) Boundary wall/barbed wire fencing/chain linked fencing around the plots.
- (ii) Regular inspections.

Statement

State-wise number of cases of encroachment of land of the department noticed during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of cases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Gujarat	1
3.	Madhya Pradesh	9
4.	Maharashtra	8
5.	New Delhi	8
6.	Orissa	3
7.	Punjab	2
8.	Goa	2
9.	West Bengal	2
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1
Total		38

[English]

Import of Blood

4357. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) the details of the sources and the amount of blood collected by blood banks in one year in the country;

(b) whether blood is also imported from foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the amount spent thereon;

(d) whether the imported blood is found infected with virus;

(e) if so, the details thereof and its adverse impact; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check import of infected blood?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) In India, blood is collected only from voluntary and replacement blood donors by all licensed blood banks. The annual collection of blood in the year 2004 was 44,11,428 units. Of this, 23,12,871 units (52.24%) were collected from voluntary blood donors and 20,98,557 units (47.76%) were collected from replacement blood donors.

(b) No, Sir. Blood is not imported from foreign countries. However blood products (blood fractions) are imported.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

Sports Technology Development Mission Programme

4358. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted Sports Technology Development Mission Programme to develop sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure that would be incurred for the purpose?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Stem Cell Research

4359. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:
SRHI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) the number of companies in the country doing Stem Cell Research, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has allocated any money for the above research;

(c) whether the State Government are participating in the research work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) only two companies are involved in Stem Cell Research viz. Reliance Life Sciences, Mumbai and Life Cell, Kilakottiyur near Chennai. Reliance Life Sciences established south Asia's first Umbilical Cord Blood Repository in June, 2000. Recently Asia Cryo-Cell Pvt. Ltd. based at Chennai in collaboration with Florida based Cryo-Cell International has set up its first Umbilical Cord blood Stem cell Bank "Life Cell" which has its collection centres at Ahmedabad, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai, with plans to set up more centers in 24 cities in next 24 months. ICMR has also reported that as per media reports Cryo-Cell in Bangalore has recently signed agreement with Malaysia. Apollo Hospital, Chennai is also reportedly in the process of signing an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Histo Stem Inc. Delavare, US. Government has not allocated any money to these centers.

Installation of Mobile Tower in Distt. Khiri

4360. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request for installing a Mobile Tower in Mitoli town, district Khiri (U.P.);

(b) if so, the time by which said tower is likely to be operational;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the difficulties faced by the people of Mitoli in the absence of a Mobile Tower;

(d) whether G.M., BSNL, Khiri has allegedly connived with private companies and caused loss to the Government;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct a high level investigation into the said matter; and

(f) if so, the time by which the said investigation is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Having planned the cellular coverage of all the District Head Quarters, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is now in the process of extending coverage of the cellular mobile services up to Tehsil Head Quarters based on Techno-commercial viability. The project, accordingly, is under roll out. However, there is no plan at present to provide Mobile Tower at Mitoli town, district Khiri (U.P.) as it is not commercially viable.

(d) There is no material evidence available on record to substantiate the allegation against General Manager, B.S.N.L. Khiri.

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

World Bank Assistance for Health Projects

4361. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned funds as loan for health projects during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of the above sanctioned funds likely to be provided to different States, State-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. World Bank has not sanctioned any fund as loan for any Health Projects in the country during the current year.

(c) The question does not arise.

Development of Indigenous Immunodiagnostic Kits

4362. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare has developed indigenous immunodiagnostic kits for the estimation of hormones;

(b) if so, whether this is likely to reduce the cost of the said kits by 90 per cent; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for commercial production of the kits?

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

(b) It is expected that the cost will be substantially lower than the prevailing market price.

(c) Steps are being taken to transfer the technology and licensing to suitable partner for commercial production and marketing.

Indo-US Space Agreement

4363. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed a space launch agreement with US to allow India to launch US made satellites not only from US but also from other countries as reported in the *Times of India* dated 2 August, 2005;

(b) if so, the extent to which ISRO is likely to be benefited as a result of this agreement;

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to be signed;

(d) whether after signing of this agreement all the bans put on ISRO by US are likely to be lifted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Production and Requirement of Vaccines

4364. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the requirement of DPT, DT and TT vaccines and their production by public and private sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, company-wise particularly Serum Institute of India, Pune;

(c) the details of export of the said vaccines by the Serum Institute of India the said vaccines in the country;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to make the said company to sell the said vaccines in the country;

(e) whether the Serum Institute of India exported the total production and did not supply any stocks of the said vaccines to the domestic market during 2004-05 resulting shortage of vaccines in the country; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir. The assessment of the requirement of DPT, DT and TT vaccines is done on annual basis and their production capacity was last assessed by the DCGI in the year 2000-01.

(b) The details of production for last three years by different Public and Private Sector Manufacturers of DPT, TT & DT and the requirements for last three years are given in Statement-I & II.

(c) The details of export of DT, DPT and TT vaccines by M/s Serum Institute of India, Pune for last three years are given in Statement-III enclosed.

(d) Currently the Govt. is able to meet the entire requirement of the vaccines from the Departmental Units, PSUs and Private Manufacturers. Supply orders are placed depending on their capacities and quoted price.

(e) M/s. Serum Institute had participated in the bid for DPT in the year 2004-05 and based on

recommendation of the Tender Purchase Committee, an order of 46 lakh doses was placed with them.

(f) The Supply Orders for procurement of the DPT, DT and TT Vaccines required for the year 2005-06 have already been placed.

Statement I

Production details of Public and Private Sector Manufacturers of DPT, TT & DT for last three years

(in lakh doses)

Firms	Name of the Vaccines	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
PIL, Coonoor	DT	71.61	85.44	250.00
	TT	60.00	105.24	181.52
	DPT	99.59	234.27	162.80
CRI, Kasauli	DT	113.14	111.01	154.91
	TT	142.78	218.026	329.77
	DPT	73.87	253.654	218.77
HBPCL, Mumbai	DT	97.90	30.00	72.02
	TT	277.84	136.61	229.51
	DPT	188.51	116.36	84.48
SII, Pune*	DPT	1234	1740	1777
	DT	2.8	11.4	56.8
	TT	848.00	1710.00	1268.00
B.E., Hyderabad	DT	14.00	55.00	70.00
	TT	374.00	820.00	1310.00
	DPT	519.00	245.00	580.00
KIPM, Chennai	TT	5.50	Nil	Nil
SVI, Patwadnagar	TT	2.08	Nil	Nil
PI, Shillong	TT	0.58	0.61	Nil
Bio-Vaccine, Hyderabad	TT	103.30	68.51	114.33
Dano Vaccine, Hyderabad	TT	744.92	516.50	770.67

Statement II*Requirement of vaccines for last three years*

(in lakh doses)

Sl.No.	Name of the Vaccine	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	DPT	1661.27	1723.5	1667
2.	DT	391.51	439.30	409
3.	TT	1832.60	1834	1866

Statement III*The Export of DPT, DT and TT vaccines by M/s Serum Institute of India Ltd., Pune for last three years*

(in lakh doses)

Sl.No.	Name of the Vaccine	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	DPT	1140.50	1217.60	1648.60
2.	DT	16.60	18.70	48.30
3.	TT	898.60	654.40	1422.90

Ad-hoc Appointment in Department of Statistics

4365. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of officers in Grade IV of I.S.S. in the Department of Statistics were appointed on ad-hoc basis in December 1997;

(b) if so, whether these officers who were appointed on ad-hoc basis in 1997 were regularised in December, 2004 and put on probation for a further two years' period in spite of their already having worked for seven years on the said post;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the rules regarding ad-hoc appointment and regularization in the above grade of I.S.S. in the Department of Statistics; and

(e) the corrective steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Government appointed 41 officers in the Junior Time Scale of Indian Statistical Service (Grade-IV) on ad-hoc basis in December, 1997 due to exigencies of work.

(b) and (c) Officers appointed in December 1997 on ad-hoc basis were appointed on regular basis on the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committees convened by UPSC during the period from 2001 to 2004 as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Number of persons promoted	Number of persons retired before promotion	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	2000*	—	4	
2.	2001	8	3	

1	2	3	4	5
3.	2002*	—	1	—
4.	2003	1	—	—
5.	2004	24	—	—
Total		33	8	41

*No DPC was held in 2000 and 2002.

As per ISS Rules, persons appointed on regular basis to Junior Time Scale (JTS) of ISS, undergo probation for a period of two years. Accordingly, these officers on appointment to JTS of ISS were put on probation.

(d) The Government followed relevant instructions of Department of Personnel and Training subject to the fulfillment of prescribed conditions in the Indian Statistical Service Rules while making ad-hoc or regular appointment of JTS level.

(e) The prescribed procedure is being followed.

Reprocessing of Seniority List by SSC

4366. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Staff Selection Commission (SCC) has taken action to reprocess the seniority list of Stenographers Grade-D of various SSC Batches who are working in various departments;

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

(c) the criteria for fixing the seniority list of Stenographers Grade-D, of various SSC batches;

(d) whether seniority list has since been reprocessed by the SSC;

(e) if so, the details alongwith the reprocessed seniority list thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the reprocessing of seniority list is likely to be completed by the SSC?

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 (g) Staff Selection Commission (SSC) only ranks candidates in the order of merit, who qualify in Stenographers Grade 'D' Examination of a particular year. Preparation of seniority list or reprocessing thereof is not its function.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.01 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Cancellation or Suspension of Certificate of Competency) Amendment Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 403 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2737/2005]

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) (i) correcting the reply given on the 27th July, 2005 to Unstarred Question No. 611 by Shri Parsuram Majhi regarding Amount Collected by Major Ports and (ii) giving reason for delay in correcting the reply.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2738/2005]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to lay on the table—

- (1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Council of Medical Research and National Institute of Homoeopathy for the year 2003-2004 and Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited for the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2739/2005]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, (earlier known as National Illness Assistance Fund), New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2740/2005]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Medical Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Medical Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2741/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2004,

under sub-section (3) of section 14 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2742/2005]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (On behalf of Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 510 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2005 prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of the drug mentioned therein, issued under section 26-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2743/2005]

- (2) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Third Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 339 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2005 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 423 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2744/2005]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 31 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003:—

- (i) The Prohibition on sale of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products around Educational Institutions Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 561 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2004.

- (ii) The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 345 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2005,

together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 496 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2005.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) of (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2745/2005]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2746/2005]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2747/2005]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2748/2005]

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 Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry Communications and Information Technology, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2749/2005]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): On behalf of Shri K.H. Muniyappa, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:-
- (i) S.O. 642 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 556 (E) dated the 7th June, 2000.
- (ii) S.O. 637 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building of bypass of Sangamner on National Highway No. 50 in Ahamednagar district in the State of Maharashtra.
- (iii) S.O. 294 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation

- of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari section) in Tirunelveli District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (iv) S.O. 338 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building of National Highway No. 76 in Baran District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (v) S.O. 339 (E) and S.O. 340 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 76 on different stretches in Kota District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vi) S.O. 580 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 2 (Raniganj-Panagarh section) in Burdwan District in the State of West Bengal.
- (vii) S.O. 596 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 8 (Surat-Manor Tollway Project) in Valsad District in the State of Gujarat.
- (viii) S.O. 610 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Trichy section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ix) S.O. 611 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 96 (E) dated the 25th January, 2005.
- (x) S.O. 612 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in Vellore District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xi) S.O. 613 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1301 (E) dated the 25th November, 2005.
- (xii) S.O. 641 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 205 in Tiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiii) S.O. 656 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 141 (E) dated the 4th March, 1999.
- (xiv) S.O. 657 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xv) S.O. 1010 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 76 in Udaipur District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xvi) S.O. 1011 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2005 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of different stretches of National Highway No. 4 and 4B in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xvii) S.O. 1016 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2005 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of four-laned National Highway No. 5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xviii) S.O. 1019 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 in East Godavari District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (xix) S.O. 1020 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 5 in West Godavari District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xx) S.O. 1021 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 5 (Vijaywada-Visakhapatnam section) in East Godavari District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxi) S.O. 403 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (Widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow to Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border) in Barabanki District in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxii) S.O. 404 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow to Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border) in Lucknow District in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxiii) S.O. 553 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow to Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section) in Lucknow District in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxiv) S.O. 609 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad section) in Medak District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxv) S.O. 646 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2005 regarding levy of fee to be recovered from the users of four-laned stretches on National Highway Nos. 7 and 46 (Krishnagiri to Ambur) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxvi) S.O. 647 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2005 notifying levy and collection of fees from the users of National Highway No. 4 in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxvii) S.O. 648 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2005 regarding levy of fee to be recovered from the users of four laned stretches on the National Highway No. 7 (Hosur-Krishnagiri section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxviii) S.O. 523 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2005 regarding levy of fee to be recovered from the users of four-laned stretch on National Highway No. 5 (Gundugolanu to Bommuru) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxix) S.O. 697 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in Tiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxx) S.O. 748 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1012 (E) dated the 2nd September, 2003.
- (xxxi) S.O. 749 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-UP/Bihar Border section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxxii) S.O. 750 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-UP/Bihar Border) in Barabanki District in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 752 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31 in Uttar Dinajpur District in the State of West Bengal.

- (xxxiv) S.O. 815 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Belgaum to Maharashtra Border) in Belgaum District in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxxv) S.O. 851 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1121 (E) dated the 29th September, 2003.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 852 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 25 in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 853 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway Nos. 25 and 76 in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxviii) S.O. 857 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 368 (E) dated the 26th April, 2001.
- (xxxix) S.O. 946 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 Lucknow to Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border) in Faizabad District in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xl) S.O. 497 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow to Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section) in Deoria District in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xli) S.O. 948 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for Construction of Gorakhpur bypass on National Highway No. 28 in Gorakhpur District in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xlii) S.O. 949 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow to Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border) in Basti District in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xliii) S.O. 951 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad section) in Wardha District in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xliv) S.O. 976 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 5, including construction of bypass (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar section) in Khurda District in the State of Orissa.
- (xlv) S.O. 983 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of National Highway No. 45 in Kancheepuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlvi) S.O. 984 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in Vellore District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlvii) S.O. 985 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in Tiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlviii) S.O. 698 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No. 45 (Tambaram-Tindivanam section) in Kancheepuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (xlix) S.O. 699 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No. 45 (Chengalpattu-Tindivanam section) in Kancheepuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (i) S.O. 700 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 78(E) dated the 17th January, 2005.
- (ii) S.O. 706 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building of National Highway No. 25 in Datia District in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (iii) S.O. 735 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 (Chennai-Vijayawada section) in Nellore District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (liii) S.O. 742 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1097 (E) dated the 24th September, 2003.
- (liv) S.O. 743 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1-A (Jalandhar-Pathankot section) in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- (iv) S.O. 751 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1206 (E) dated the 16th October, 2003.
- (lvi) S.O. 892 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No. 14 and 76, in Sirohi District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lvii) S.O. 893 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building of National Highway No. 76, in Udaipur District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lviii) S.O. 894 (E) and S.O. 895 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No. 76 in different stretches in Udaipur District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lix) S.O. 898 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirapalli section), in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ix) S.O. 899 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Mansar-Nagpur section) in Nagpur District in the State of Maharashtra.
- (lxi) S.O. 1096 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2005 entrusting National Highways to all State Governments superseding all Notifications issued earlier.
- (lxii) S.O. 1059 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2005 authorizing the Sub-Divisional Officer, Sangamner, Division Sangamner, District Ahmednagar, Maharashtra to acquire land for construction of Minor Bridges on National Highway No. 50 in the State of Maharashtra.
- (lxiii) S.O. 1060 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2005 authorizing M/s VHCPL-ADCC Pingalai Infrastructure Private Limited or its legal representative to collect and retain the fee on mechanical vehicles, at the rates specified therein, from the users of bridge across Pingalia river (Nagpur Edlabad road section) on National Highway No. 6.

- (lxiv) S.O. 858 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 539 (E) dated the 2nd, July 1999.
- (lxv) S.O. 859 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in Tiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxvi) S.O. 860 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in Krishnagiri District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxvii) S.O. 872 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No.765 in Chittorgarh District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lxviii) S.O. 874 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building of National Highway No. 76 in Bundi District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lxix) S.O. 875 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No. 76 in Bundi District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lxx) S.O. 891 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building of National Highway No. 45B (Tiruchirappalli-Viralimalai-Madurai section) in Tiruchirappalli District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxi) S.O. 988 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building and widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section) in East Godavari District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (lxxii) S.O. 986 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in Vellore District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxiii) S.O. 992 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1118 (E) dated the 14th October, 2004.
- (lxxiv) S.O. 995 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1119 (E) dated the 14th October, 2004.
- (lxxv) S.O. 998 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1116 (E) dated the 14th October, 2004.
- (lxxvi) S.O. 1008 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway Nos. 14 and 76 in Sirohi District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lxxvii) S.O. 1009 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of National Highway No. 76 in Udaipur District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lxxviii) S.O. 965 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 382 (E) dated the 3rd May, 2001.
- (2) Eight statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i to xiv and xxi to xxviii) of (1) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 2750/2005]
- (3) A copy each of the Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:-
- (i) S.O. 854 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 entrusting the

stretch mentioned therein of National Highway No. 2 (Panagarh to Kolkata) in the State of West Bengal to the National Highways Authority of India.

- (ii) S.O. 1097 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2005 entrusting various stretches of National Highway Nos. 1A, 3, 4, 6, 11, 34 and 58 to the National Highway Authority of India.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2751/2005]

- (4) A copy of the Central Motor Vehicles (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 349 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2005 under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2752/2005]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) Sir,
I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2753/2005]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2754/2005]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2755/2005]

- (7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Uranium Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2756/2005]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2757/2005]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2758/2005]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Rare Earth Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2759/2005]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the budget at the end of the first quarter of the financial year 2005-2006 (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003,

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2760/2005]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2005 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 2005."

2. Sir, I also lay on the Table the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August, 2005.

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM
THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Fourth Report presented to the House on 23rd August, 2005

have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each:-

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| (1) | Shri Basanagouda R. Patil | 25.02.2005 to 22.03.2005 |
| (2) | Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair | 25.02.2005 to 24.03.2005 |
| (3) | Shri Atiq Ahamad | 25.02.2005 to 24.03.2005
and
19.04.2005 to 13.05.2005 |

It is the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.02³/₄ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Thirteenth Report

[English]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03. hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Statements

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Statements showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports of the Public Accounts Committee:

- (1) 56th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha) on "Customs Receipts—Non-verification of end use";

- (2) 19th Report of PAC (11th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (1992-93)" and Action Taken on 60th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha);
- (3) 10th Report of PAC (12th Lok Sabha) on "Union Excise Duties—Provisional Assessment";
- (4) 11th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on "Appropriation Accounts of Union Government for 1993-94";
- (5) 43rd Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on "Lower categorization leading to loss of Rs. 352.30 lakhs";
- (6) 45th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriation (1995-96 & 1998-99)";
- (7) 59th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on "Acquisition of SU-30 Aircraft";
- (8) 2nd Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Purchase of residence for Consulate General of India at Frankfurt";
- (9) 3rd Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Avoidable import of high capacity diesel powered break down cranes"; and
- (10) 5th Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Non-adjudication of demands and inordinate delay in the recovery of confirmed demands".

12.03¹/₄ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED
TRIBES**

Fifth and Sixth Reports

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports:—

- (1) Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi

and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto on the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) regarding "Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Sixteenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha)—Examination of orders pertaining to reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services"; and

- (2) Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the committee relating thereto on the Ministry of Tribal Affairs regarding "Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Twenty-third Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha)—Working of Integrated Tribal Development Projects in Rajasthan".

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Statement

[English]

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Pune): I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies to the recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the Twenty-First Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) regarding action taken by the Government on recommendations contained in their Nineteenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

12.03³/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Thirteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to present Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of

the Standing Committee on Railways—(2005-06) on 'Procurement of Wagons'.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

One Hundred Sixty-sixth Report

[*English*]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the One Hundred Sixty-sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Action-Taken by Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in its 153rd Report on Gender Budget Analysis.

12.04¹/₄ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(I) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 81st Report of Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay both the Statements on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

*In pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and direction 73A issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—part II dated September 1, 2004, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the 81st Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2761/2005.

The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture had held its meeting on 12th August 2004 to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Department of Shipping for the year 2004-05. The Committee had also taken the Oral Evidence of officers of the Ministry. The Committee analysed the Demands for Grants of the Ministry with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements and presented its 81st Report on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) (Demand No. 86) of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Department of Shipping. (The Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 26.08.2004 and also laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 26.08.2004).

Sir, the Standing Committee in its Report made sixteen Recommendations in all. Out of these sixteen Recommendations, eleven Recommendations have been accepted and position regarding the other five have been explained in the Statement. The Action Taken Report on Recommendations of the Committee has been furnished to the Rajya Sabha Sectt. vide. O.M. No. G-20017/9/2004 Dated 01.12.2004.

I am also laying on the Table of the House a Statement giving the status of implementation of each recommendation.

12.04¹/₂ hrs.

(II) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 82nd report of Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

*In pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and direction 73A issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated September 1, 2004, I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the 82nd Report of the

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2762/2005.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture had held its meeting on 13th August 2004 to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Department of Road Transport & Highways for the year 2004-05. This Committee had also taken the Oral Evidence of officers of the Ministry. The Committee analysed the Demands for Grants of the Ministry with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements and presented its 82nd Report on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) (Demand No. 79) of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Department of Road Transport and Highways. (The Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 26.08.2004 and also laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 26.08.2004).

Sir, the Standing Committee in its Report made fifteen Recommendations in all. Out of these fifteen Recommendations, twelve Recommendations have been accepted and position regarding the other three have been explained in the Statement. The Action Taken Report on Recommendations of the Committee has been furnished to the Rajya Sabha Sectt. vide. O.M. No. H-11011/9/2004-Parl. Dated 22.12.2004.

I am also laying on the Table of the House a Statement giving the status of implementation of each recommendation.

12.04³/₄ hrs.

(iii) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 2nd and 5th Reports of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA):
Sir, I beg to lay the following statement on the Table of the House.

*Sir, As per the information received from the Government of Orissa, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Government of Orissa and M/s POSCO of the Republic of Korea on 22nd June, 2005. The Korean company has proposed to establish an Indian company to invest in Orissa in (a) steel manufacturing (b) infrastructure necessary for the Integrated Steel Plant and related Projects, and (c) related mining of iron ore and other ores. The proposed investment as envisaged in the MOU will be around US\$ 12 billion or Rs. 51,000 crores (approximately).

2. The Project will result in development of infrastructure in the region. POSCO will construct a dedicated railway line from mine site to steel project. POSCO also has the option to build a minor port and/or a berth at Paradeep Major Port. The Company will be made available land at cost for developing a township with water supply, housing and power supply.

3. From the MOU, it is observed that the Company will need the equivalent of 600 million tonnes of iron ore of an average Fe content of 62% to meet the requirements of the proposed Steel Project of 12 million tonnes per annum. The Company may swap certain quantities (not exceeding 30% of the total requirement for the Paradeep Plant annually) of such iron ore which have high alumina content with equal quantity of imported low alumina content iron ore of equivalent or better Fe content for blending, in order to produce better quality steel in the Paradeep Project and conserve energy. It has also been clarified in the MOU that no export of iron ore will be allowed from the captive mine except by way of full replacement through import of equal quantity of high grade ore and within the limits mentioned above. Government of Orissa has agreed to grant prospecting licenses and mining leases for 600 million tonnes of iron ore to the Company after following prescribed procedures and completion of required milestones.

4. All mineral concessions i.e. Mining Lease, Prospecting Licence, Reconnaissance Permits are granted by the State Governments. The Ministry of Mines grants prior approval in respect of scheduled minerals under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Thereafter, the State Governments grant the mineral concessions. Iron ore being a scheduled mineral, Government of India's prior

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library, See No. LT 2763/2005

approval will be required. However, the Ministry of Mines is yet to receive any proposal for grant of Prospecting License or Mining Lease to M/s POSCO from the State Government of Orissa.

5. The Ministry of Mines will examine the proposal in detail, in accordance with law and in consultation with concerned Ministries when an application is received duly forwarded by the State Government. The views expressed by the Honourable Members of Parliament will be given due consideration.

12.05 hrs.

- (iv) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the first and third Report of Standing Committee on Energy**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

*I am laying this statement on the present status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First, Third and Fifth Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of direction 73A of Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 1st Sept., 2004.

The First, Third and Fifth Reports of the Standing Committee on Energy (14th Lok Sabha) were presented to the Lok Sabha on 19.08.2004, 02.03.2005 and 21.04.2005 respectively. The First and Third reports relate to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Power for the year 2004-05 and Fifth report relates to Demands for Grants of Ministry of Power for the year 2005-06.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Energy on 17.01.2005, 27.07.2005 and 05.08.2005 respectively.

There were 24 recommendations made by the Committee in the First report, of which 22 had been accepted. The Third report had 12 recommendations, all of which have been accepted by the Government.

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2764/2005.

All the 30 recommendations in the Fifth report have also been fully accepted by the Government.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee in the said reports is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.06 hrs.

- (v) **Statement correcting reply to Unstarred Question no. 3968 dated 20th April, 2005 regarding local call dialling facility**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3968 on 20th April, 2005 regarding "Local Call Dialling Facility", a mistake had crept in inadvertently.

Replies given in respect of part (a) to (d) of the answer may be amended to read as under:

(a) to (d) Sir, Inter Service Area connectivity between access providers in the State of Maharashtra comprising of Mumbai Metro and Maharashtra Telecom Service areas, Tamil Nadu comprising of Chennai Metro and Tamil Nadu Telecom service areas, Kolkata comprising of Kolkata Metro and West Bengal Telecom service areas and Uttar Pradesh comprising of UP East and UP West service areas has been permitted with effect from 20th May 2005. This means that "fixed to mobile and mobile to mobile calls" within the same State will not need '0' to be dialled. Such calls between UP and Uttaranchal can also be made in the same way because Uttaranchal is part of UP (West) Service area.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2765/2005]

12.07 hrs.

(vi) **Statement correcting reply to Unstarred Question No. 2679 dated 10th August 2005 regarding quality of medical diagnostic kits**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, I invite attention to the reply given to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2679 for 10th August 2005, regarding Quality of Medical Diagnostic Kits. The name of the institution in the reply to the parts "e" and "f" of the question has been inadvertently shown as Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC). The institution, which has been appointed for procurement of diagnostic test kits is Hindustan Latex Ltd. (HLL). The correct reply is reproduced below:

"(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Since 1.4.2005, NACO has appointed Hindustan Latex Ltd. (HLL), a Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as procurement Agent."

As soon as this came to notice, steps have been taken to correct the reply.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2766/2005]

12.08 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on Public Undertakings

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Jibon Roy, retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Jibon Roy, retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.09 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

***Re.* Reported observation made by Chief Justice of India advising the Government to exercise self-restraint in criticising Supreme Court's Judgement**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Before we come to the Calling Attention, there is a concern from almost all sections of the House about certain observations that have come from the highest Court of this country, which seem to concern almost all Party Leaders. I have decided to give brief opportunity to all the Party Leaders here to make submissions. I would request all of you, considering the sensitivity of the matter you should be speaking in a manner which does credit to both, us and to the great institution, namely, the judiciary.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Sir, I have given a notice of Privilege Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down and consult your leader in this regard.

[English]

Shri Rawale, it is also necessary that you should listen to the Chair; otherwise, you are committing breach of privilege yourself.

Now, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Supreme Court made certain observations yesterday which have attracted various reactions. I would like to make it clear that this issue was discussed both in the meeting of the leaders of all the parties and the House too was unanimous on this that considering social parity and social justice, the law should be amended so as to pave way for reservation in private educational institutions, and a consensus was reached in this regard. In this connection, we also propose to constitute a Committee to look into the modalities of formulating a new law in this regard. The Committee would give its decision on the basis of which a legislation would be put in place. As far as the Hon. Supreme Court, the Judiciary or the Parliament are concerned, I must say that the President, the Parliament and the Supreme Court—all are supreme in their own right within their respective jurisdictions but the Constitution is paramount. We have the right to amend the constitution retaining its basic features, therefore, all the three pillars of our democracy should keep this in mind that they act in accordance with the Constitution. We do not want any confrontation between the Supreme Court or the Judiciary and the Executive or the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say that we would like to protect our rights in the Parliament and it should be so. The hon. Supreme Court has said that we should formulate a new and sound law and it should be properly implemented. I do not find anything objectionable in it but several other things have happened in the past. I would like to make clear that there should be no reservation on the basis of religion; it began with it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ILLYAS AZMI (Shahabad): On the basis of religion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody has a right to speak. You would also get a chance to speak but please sit down right now. We should listen to other Members also.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We should learn to be patient.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Azmi, nothing is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what goes against the spirit of the Constitution. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Azmiji, please sit down.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Naturally the courts have a right to intervene if any such law is formulated which goes against the spirit of the Constitution. We are in favour of reservation from the point of view of social justice and social equality and a law would be formulated here in this regard. We would extend our full support to that but after this issue came up, the IMDT Act was brought forth. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: In Bihar the Legislative Assembly was dissolved even before it was formed. Afterwards, several such cases came to light like that of Jharkhand, Goa, etc. Sir, I only want to say that. ...(*Interruptions*) Our Constitution is supreme. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[*English*]

Let me regulate the House, Malhotraji, I request you to speak on this subject. Otherwise, it will become difficult.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the matter, I am on my legs, you should sit down.

[*English*]

You will have to sit down, Shri Azmi.

[*Translation*]

You do not listen to him.

*Not recorded.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding. I just wanted to submit that we should not give room to any confrontation between the Supreme Court and the Parliament.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I made an appeal to you. This is a very sensitive matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: On the last occasion, the entire House made certain observations, showing their concerns about a particular issue on which some observations appear to have been made by another very respected institution of this country, namely, the judiciary.

[Translation]

I request you to please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I am requesting you to please concentrate on this issue. Please refer to that matter only.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I believe that this issue cropped up when there was a demand that dalit Christians should be given the benefits of reservation and other benefits enjoyed by the SCs. They have a right to intervene if somebody goes against the spirit of the Constitution. But the Supreme Court and the Parliament, both enjoy certain rights and privileges and both institutions should protect and respect them so that there is no overlapping of jurisdictions and there is no confrontation. But they have asked us to legislate on this matter. We would do so and give our full support to it so as to ensure social justice and equality.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia to speak. Please restrict yourself only to that and please do not go beyond this. I made an appeal that you should be cautious in making your submission.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we have seen that there was unanimity in this House when the Supreme Court gave verdict against the reservation being provided in the private educational and professional institutions. The whole House was unanimous and we all demanded that the Government should bring a legislation and that if the amendment of the Constitution is necessary, that can also be done.

Yesterday, as desired by the Leaders of this House, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh, convened a meeting of Leaders of all the political parties.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): He had not invited all the Leaders. We have not been consulted.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the main point. The point is that there were efforts to bring a new Bill.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I wanted to make it clear.

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly, you have made your point.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In that meeting also, a unanimous opinion emerged that the Government should bring a legislation and amend the Constitution to provide reservation for the backward sections of our country and also the *dalits* of our country.

MR. SPEAKER: We are not going into the merits of the matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is unfortunate that when this House expressed a unanimous opinion, yesterday the Supreme Court of India made an observation that if the Government of India goes against their advice, then there is no necessity for having any court. The Government can do anything they like. This is most unfortunate. The Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislature all have their own functions.

Sir, we all congratulated you when that situation arose. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: No mention please. There is no need to raise it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It should not be raised again.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not raise that. Of course, I was right and I am still right. I would request everybody not to cross the *Lakshman rekha* that I have imposed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We do not want any confrontation. Why should there be any confrontation? The Legislature has its own powers to enact the legislation. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can say that let us all restrict ourselves to our respective jurisdiction.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is against the basic structure of the Constitution. What we feel is there in the Constitution. The reservation to the weaker sections of our country and to the *dalits* is there in the Constitution. That is in the basic structure of the Constitution.

The Parliament has the right and the authority to enact laws and the Judiciary has nothing to do about that. We have every respect for the Judiciary, but the observations made by the Supreme Court yesterday was unfortunate. What we want is that there should no confrontation and we should function within our respective domains. The Government should enact legislation to provide reservation to the weaker sections of the society.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, there is neither any question of confrontation between the Parliament and the Judiciary nor has the Supreme Court made any observation against the Parliament yesterday. Through you, I would like to tell the Hon. Members that when there was recession all over the world during the years 1930, 1931 and 1932, the U.S.A. had framed certain laws to tackle the situation which are known as D-laws. When the Supreme Court of America repealed these laws, the U.S. President, Roosevelt said that he would fill all the posts in the Supreme Court with his own men. Everyone is aware that without the approval of the Senate all powerful U.S. President can not appoint any Judge. The Senate did not pay heed to this warning and an occasion never arose when there was any interference in the Judiciary.

Everyone is aware that when the first Zamindari Abolition Act was repealed by the Patna High Court, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had stated in this very House that once it happened then

[*English*]

the haves will remain haves and the have-nots, the have-nots,

[*Translation*]

But nothing of the sort happened. There was nothing like confrontation. Verdict and opinion have always been independent. You are a very renowned advocate and many Members sitting here are legal luminaries. They all know that largest number of suits filed in the courts involve Fundamental Right to Property under Article 31—be it Golaknath case, nationalization of banks or substituting 'amount' for 'compensation' under Article 31. When this did not serve the purpose then, ultimately Article 31 was repealed. When it was challenged then, right to over-ride the Fundamental Rights was given on the plea that

[*English*]

Fundamental Rights are over-riding the Directive Principles in certain case.

[*Translation*]

When even this was challenged, then Justice H.R. Khanna gave his verdict that we can not change the basic structure of our Constitution. That still stands. The Preamble to our Constitution resolves to provide social, economic and political justice to all the citizens. We consider it the basic structure. That is why the Supreme Court in its verdict never observed that we can not frame laws. It is under our jurisdiction to frame laws while the right to review the law has been conferred on the Judiciary by the Constitution. Supreme Court has not stopped us from enacting laws. We can make any kind of law but if somebody challenges that law

[*English*]

then the Supreme Court has got the Fundamental right to review it.

[*Translation*]

When it is felt that one part of a law or the entire law is unconstitutional then the Judiciary has the right to

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

repeal it. Therefore, the people should not be made to understand that there is any confrontation between the Supreme Court and the Parliament.

The House may legislate and provide for reservation. This is also one of the basic structures of the Constitution. The people belonging to Minority Community, dalits and backward class should not interfere with the functioning of institutions governed under Article 30. We also want that this law should be framed. The Judiciary has never put restrictions against it. The Supreme Court has reprimanded, but no observation has been made against Parliament.

It has commented against the Executive. When a case is to be heard, what is the need to enact a law or issue an order just a day before? If the Government takes action on the eve of Supreme Court's hearing then it is natural, that it will be hauled up. So my submission is that the Hon. Members represent the entire country. They are the masters of the country. They can enact any kind of law and bring about amendments in the Constitution. They can formulate any kind of law. They can restore a law repealed by the Judiciary. Everyone knows what happened in the case of Shrimati Indira Gandhi or in Justice Jag Mohan Lal Sinha's case. The judgement given by the High Court was virtually annulled by this Parliament.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, we are concentrating on a simple issue. Then other hon. Members also will start saying many other things.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: My contention is that this message should not go down to the masses that there is any conflict between the Parliament and the Judiciary. The Parliament may bring any legislation. A consensus was reached yesterday in this regard that legislation should be brought without evoking any tension or conflict. It is not in the interest of the country.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, today several hon. Members have deliberated on a very sensitive issue in the House. In my opinion the Hon. Members should not have used the word 'conflict' while making their submissions. I feel it is highly objectionable. We have democratic form of

government. In the history of Indian Judiciary and in my whole political career, I have never come across such remarks, such observations being made by any court or the Judiciary or by any hon. Justice. The observation made by the hon. Chief Justice is not only unprecedented but unnecessary as well.

Sir, it is unnecessary because it was not desirable. In which context this observation was made? Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra raised the issue of Christians and Dalits. The concern brewed up day before yesterday when a calling attention motion was brought at your direction. The fact is that the population of educationally and socially backward category is 54 per cent, while the percentage of S.C. and S.T.s is 24. So, why an issue is being made of 78 per cent population known as backward classes in the Constitution, It has been clarified in section 15(4) of the Constitution that the Government, the Parliament or the Judiciary do not have a right to change the basic structure of the constitution. Section 15(4) of the Constitution reads:

[English]

"Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

[Translation]

What is the meaning of advancement? For the development of socially and educationally backward people constituting 78 per cent of population in the country. The higher educational institute, be it technical institute. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are not going into the detailed merits.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, a Calling Attention Motion was moved in the House, and with the concurrence of the Government it was passed. When the entire House was unanimous that a central law should have been enacted then why this objection is being raised? That is why an

all-party meeting was convened. It is a different thing that an hon. member might not have attended the meeting but we all seriously deliberated on the issue till 9.00 p.m. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh and it was unanimously accepted that a central law should be enacted to maintain social justice. Secondly, I don't agree with the views expressed by hon'ble Malhotraji. The minority institutions mentioned in Article 30. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, leave it, now it is not so.

[*English*]

You have said that you do not agree with him.

[*Translation*]

O.K.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I was also saying that yesterday it was unanimously accepted that protection should be given to minority institutions and a central law should be enacted wherein educationally and socially backward classes. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We do not agree.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not go into this. I will request all the hon. Leaders not to go beyond what has been agreed to meet this phase, because these are very debatable issues.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: He was not present in the meeting on behalf of his party. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue is so serious that a clear opinion should be given in regard thereto. The objection raised by the Supreme Court is unfortunate, as no one has any right to violate the basic spirit of the Constitution, enshrined in the preamble to the Indian Constitution. Our constitution is Supreme and in the capacity of the Speaker of Lok Sabha, you are the custodian of our parliamentary democracy. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that you should give a ruling in this regard. I also feel that we should not have any

confrontation in respect to the remarks made by the Judiciary recently. We don't want to convey any wrong message through this House as hon'ble Ram Gopalji has said but we also want that the Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislature should function within their respective jurisdictions and should not cross the 'Lakshman Rekha' or else it would give birth to a new situation in the country which would be very hard to resolve. There is no proper forum through which this problem could be solved. The House is the only highest forum for this and since you are holding the Supreme Chair of parliamentary democracy, we want your ruling so as to avoid confrontation and maintain balance and harmony between Judiciary and Legislature in future. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. enough.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough. Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): First of all confrontation between the member and the Speaker should be addressed.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, the Supreme Court says. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded, Shri Swain.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Shri Gurudas Dasgupta's submission.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, this is not fair. We have evolved a procedure today because many hon. leaders wanted to express their views. It was very, very seriously and pointedly done on the last occasion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do this. I appeal to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Otherwise, I will stop this discussion if you go beyond this procedure. After all, we are also entitled to our rights. Let us not try to create dissension between the two.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are all conscious of our obligations. I made a request at the beginning that we have also to respond in a manner which does keep with maintaining dignity of ours and also the dignity of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the highest forum of our country so far as the judiciary is concerned.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that. Please request him not to interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly do not interrupt and give up this habit of interrupting.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not the way to do it. You are a senior Member now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Shri Gurudas Dasgupta's submission.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we, in this House, are deeply distressed across the political line. We are deeply and grievously hurt because of some remarks that have been made. Most respectfully, I may submit that the remarks are uncalled for and it is extremely unfortunate. While responding to the judgement on reservation in private institution, there was no word of confrontation uttered in this House.

There was no reflection at all. Let us recall the discussion. There was no reflection at all on the wisdom of the Judiciary. What was felt was that the principle of social justice has to be safeguarded and, for that, a Bill needed to be brought forward in this House for its approval. We feel so because social justice is considered to be a fundamental foundation of the Indian Constitution.

Let me recall that in 1969, the Bank Nationalisation Act was struck down by the Supreme Court. In 1970, the abolition of Privy Purses was also called *ultra vires* of the Constitution. In 1986, the famous or infamous, whatever you may call, Shah Bano case judgement was there. On all those occasions, Parliament opted to respond to the judicial pronouncement. Kindly remember that on all those occasions, Parliament responded and we made laws. My point is that when Parliament responded on those occasions, not a word of confrontation was ever uttered by any member of the Judiciary. The Supreme Court opted to declare a particular Act as *ultra vires* and Parliament responded to it by enacting a new law. There was no word of animosity.

What is new in the situation? This situation has developed over 57 years after the adoption of the Constitution. We did our job. The judiciary did its job. I agree with Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav that the Judiciary has a right to take a view of the decisions of the Parliament. They have a right and they should exercise that right fearlessly because the Constitution enjoins upon them that right. Equally, Parliament has a right to respond to the situation by making a new law. But what is the newness of that thing? Never before has such a caustic remark been made on the deliberations in Parliament. This is the new thing. Because of the new thing, because of the utterance of animosity, because of intolerance, because of uncalled for remarks, we feel hurt. Why do we feel hurt? We feel hurt because Parliament must be allowed to do its job. The Judiciary must be allowed to do its job. ... (Interruptions) There should not be any animosity.

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Who has stopped you? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There is. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: This is an element of intolerance which we must take note of. I am only saying that never before was such a remark made by the Judiciary. This is the method of alarming. The Indian Constitution provides for the harmonious functioning of the different organs of the State. An element of animosity, element of intolerance, element of transgression by one arm into the functioning of another will put the Indian Constitution into peril. That is where the danger of democracy is. That is where the Constitution seems to be undermined.

Therefore, I plead that the animosity should end. I plead that harmonious functioning should be encouraged. Parliament is respectful. We are respectful to the Judiciary. We expect the same from the Judiciary. That is why I plead for sanity, constitutional sanity. I plead for constitutional propriety. I plead for the sanctity of the Indian Constitution. Thank you.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been very much deeply shocked by the development. The three organs of democracy should function within their jurisdiction. Whatever right and power that the Constitution has given us, we should function within our limitation.

So, we should not cross the *Lakshman Rekha*. I am hundred per cent one with what you have mentioned that we should not cross the *Lakshman Rekha*. This is the wisdom of this august House. We are the representatives of the people. The constitutional law is not static; any law is not static. We must reflect the opinion and the aspirations of the people. So, we have rightly adhered to this principle of social justice in the Constitution. It is because at that time it was the need of the hour to keep the country united. If this reservation

policy would not have been adhered to or accepted in the Constitution, it would have been difficult to keep the country united at that time. So, we must look back the historical background that how the founding fathers of the Constitution have discussed it in detail. To keep the country united, we have accepted this principle of social justice. We cannot go away beyond the principle of social justice.

Those who are economically, educationally and socially backward, we must give them justice. Now it is the requirement in the private sector in higher education. Educationally and economically backward boys and girls must be given justice. It is the wisdom of this House. It is the aspiration of the people of this Country. We must go ahead for legislation. We will give 100 per cent support to the Government to bring the legislation. Therefore, my earnest request to you is that we must see that there should not be any confrontation with Judiciary. The judges of the Supreme Court in their wisdom have given this judgement. There was no law at that time. So, they have intervened as the guardian of the law of the land. Now, the requirement of the time is that we must have some law so that the Supreme Court cannot interfere and this law will stand in the country. Now, this is the requirement. We must go ahead for some constitutional amendment. We must go for certain law. It will help both the country and all the organs of the democracy to see that the law is completely implemented.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may also be given an opportunity to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down for now. Generally we call the Leader but since neither your Leader nor Deputy Leader is present and you are representing your party in the capacity of the Leader today, I will call you to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Nalanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you deserve kudos for giving opportunity to hon'ble Members of all the parties to express their view point on such an important issue. This is a very sensitive issue and we are fortunate to have a colleague as our Speaker who is a leading lawyer also. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, you have an understanding of the functioning of both legislature as well as judiciary. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is over now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: That is why you have given opportunity to everyone to express their view point on this issue.

Shri Ram Gopalji has said correctly and I too agree with him that this question does not relate to any confrontation between Judiciary and Parliament and nor any such development has taken place. Whatever I came to know through newspapers is that the hon. Supreme Court has issued some directions to the Government. The Government have its own law officers and it is the duty of the Government to see how their law officers are presenting their view point. Fortunately, the Minister of Law is sitting here who is also a leading legal luminary. He should also see as to which are the cases in which decisions are kept pending for months together as a consequence of which sometimes controversial situation arises. It is a separate issue. Therefore, the Government should advocate its stand properly and the judiciary should extend its co-operation to the Government while performing its function. It is the Government's responsibility. In my opinion, no situation of confrontation between judiciary and legislature has arisen.

There are two aspects in this. Parliament has its own jurisdiction while the constitution is Supreme. The Constitution has bestowed certain powers both upon Judiciary and Legislature i.e. enacting a law is the function of the Legislature. That day we had expressed our view point. Yesterday also, an all-party meeting was held in which the issue of ensuring the implementation of safeguards of social justice was discussed. Members of all the parties have also endorsed it and the Government should come forward to enact law in this regard. The Government always shirks from its responsibility in this regard. Later, on the advice of the members during the All Party Meet, the government takes some initiative. It is all right. That day I had also suggested that an all party meeting should be held. That meeting has been held and it was unanimously suggested that action should be taken on it. However, there should not be any confrontation between the Parliament and the Supreme Court or the judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would certainly like to mention one thing. Yesterday, a discussion was being held on Dalit Christians. Mr. Speaker, Sir how long shall we defer

a decision in this regard? In this country, conversion does not change the caste of a particular person. It has also been said by Bapuji. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are not going into the merits of the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I will conclude my speech in three sentences, otherwise, I shall have to seek an appointment to meet you separately. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: that is a better option.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It will save your time only. Since a discussion is being held on this topic, I would like to mention it here. This issue is concerned with our Christian as well as Muslim brethren. Like there are scheduled castes in Hindu religion, in Muslim religion too there are similar castes but they do not get the benefits of scheduled castes which is unjust. They have been victimized from every angle. They pursue a uniform vocation. So, there are equivalent castes in Muslim society as well. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying? You should have some tolerance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This is such an issue. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of my friends are objecting to it. This is a question of principles and of ideology and I repose faith in the ideology which is alien to them. So, I would like to submit that the Dalit castes among the Muslims should also be included in the list of scheduled castes. This is an issue that must be addressed. Gandhi ji has also expressed his views in this regard and I would like to cite. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nitishji, please cooperate.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, simply pushing the issue under the carpet will not do. I would like to reiterate that religious conversion does not change the caste status of a person. All are aware how the population of Muslims and Christians has registered an increase in the country. It is on account of conversion. In such a situation, their original castes do not change. Whether they convert to Christianity or Islam, they are neglected everywhere and their social status does not change. ...(*Interruptions*) The principle that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this should not be confined to any particular religion. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a question of faith. The Government should take the initiative to move a legislation for providing scheduled caste status to those castes in Muslim society who deserve to be declared as scheduled castes and on that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, why are you standing? Are you the Speaker? Merely by speaking you do not become the Speaker. I have started with your party leader although he has not given any notice. Therefore, I am trying to regulate it and last time we had a very dignified response to certain matters.

Mr. Nitish Kumar, please conclude. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while you were on your legs issuing instruction to the hon. Members, meanwhile some one from the other side said that I am saying so to attract vote bank. Excuse me, they might be doing so for that purpose. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take note of it? That is not being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is a question of principle. They are not aware of our background. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Goel, you will be in trouble one day very soon.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. I am hurt today. I made an appeal to everybody in pursuance of your request. I thought it was an important request and I allowed it so that a reference could be made.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Manvendra Singh, one day you will also meet the same fate.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You are in power, why do not you do it? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Don't bother. That has not been recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Now I am concluding. No message of confrontation should be given from here. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with it.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The country has witnessed many confrontations and clashes. Emergency was imposed in the country. The issue of a Committed judiciary has also been advocated. Today again they are holding the reigns of power. Lest they should once again use this Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nitish ji, you are an articulate Member.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: So, there should be a neutral judiciary and we can not interfere with the powers of the Supreme Court or judiciary bestowed upon it by the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No more, please. Now, Shri Dhindsa, Only what Shri Dhindsa says will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Dhindsa Ji, you please be brief and speak to the point. You made such a dignified speech that day. So, I request you to please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Sir, today also I shall not deviate from my past practice. Sir, I would like to express my views in brief. For the last few days a discussion has been going on here regarding the apprehension of a clash between the judiciary and the legislature. Today, all the hon'ble Members have unanimously submitted in the House that there should not be any confrontation between the two. As far as the question of law is concerned, there is unanimity among the Members, however, I would like to put forth two points. First of all I would like to submit that when the issue of reservation arises in Punjab, one section says that 98 percent of the reservation is captured by the people other than the real beneficiaries and the other sub castes or cults in a religion, like Ramdasia or others do not get

the benefit of reservation. So I would like to submit that this issue should be left to the states as different types of sub-castes are found in the states who are not properly benefited by this. So, I would like to suggest that the Government should conduct a survey to ascertain whether benefits of reservation reach the real beneficiaries for whom it is meant? The Government and the Parliament should ensure that the benefits of reservation are not hijacked by a select group of elite families.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I said 'Professor'. I do not know on which subject you can be a Professor!

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Hon. Speaker, Sir, our discussion in the Parliament should have only a limited purpose, and the purpose is of conveying to the Supreme Court that the Parliament has not done anything to encroach upon the powers and functions of the Judiciary. The purpose should be to tell the Supreme Court that we have not caste aspersions or any motives on the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court in response to a number of Special Petitions has given its judgement by interpreting the Fundamental Rights guaranteed in articles 19(1)(g) and 19(6), and they were right in their interpretation. They have told the Government that the Government should bring a comprehensive legislation.

Now, from our point of view, as representatives of the people, we felt that the judgement was attacking the very foundation of the Indian Constitution, namely, social justice, which is of prime importance for the people's representatives. This social justice is at stake. Therefore, we took up that for discussion. Unfortunately, there seems to be a communication gap between what we discussed and what the Judges have understood. The Judges should not have overacted on the deliberations of the Parliament. Therefore, we should convey through the Parliament, to the Supreme Court and the Judiciary that there is no confrontation. We are doing our job, they are doing their job and everything is in the right perspective.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, very much. It was a dignified speech..

*Not recorded.

Now, Shri Ilyas Azmi. I will treat you only temporarily today as leader! You should be very brief and no confrontation and provocation please.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how did you presume that I would cause any confrontation?

MR. SPEAKER: You don't do that! It is your record.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, nothing indicates that there is any confrontation between the Legislature and judiciary. This....."

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, that would not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: It is not right to talk about confrontation when there is no such thing. We have utmost respect for the judiciary and these days even those people have started respecting it who have never done so in the past. Parliament is unanimous when it comes to giving the judiciary its due. Both judiciary and legislature are free to discharge their constitutional obligations independently without interference of each other. There is no question of confrontation between them. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure social justice. It is the responsibility of every Government to ensure that the people who have been subject to injustice for centuries, get justice. Repeatedly saying that there should be no reservation on the basis of religious affiliation is tantamount to misleading the Parliament and the entire country.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you frequently mentioning the word 'misleading'.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Initially the benefit of the provision of reservation was provided to the people belonging to the scheduled caste section of the Hindu Community only. Sikhs and Buddhists were included later on but Muslims and Christians have not been included till date.
...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Allright, you have said your bit, now please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your kind co-operation. Please take your seat now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me finish.
...(Interruptions) The entire concept of reservation was based on religion and till date it continues to be so. A dhobi belonging to Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist community gets the benefits of reservation but the one belonging to the Muslim or Christian community doesn't.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know this is not the point right now. All right, you have presented your view, now please sit down.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Weavers, scavengers, sanitary workers belonging to other religions get the benefit of reservation but muslims do not. That is why it is not right to say that there should be no reservation on the basis of religion. When reservation has been provided on the basis of religion only, what is the problem in continuing with this trend. ... (Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Azmiji please cooperate. Please sit down.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Please let me speak. You have been asking me to sit down since I started speaking.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying?

*Not recorded.

[English]

If you again make imputation, I would not allow you to speak at all. This is your habit.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Better give up that habit.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: You have given more time to the parties with only 2-3 Members. I am speaking on behalf of 20 Members, please listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow you any longer. Lets be serious.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, I would conclude with this remark that you would not listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, what you have said has gone on record.

[English]

It was decided that only leaders would speak. I have allowed you to speak today but you are again raising issues which are confrontational in nature.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: It is not confrontational when it is said that muslims should not get reservation and when I talk about doing away with reservation on the basis of religion and maintain that religion should not form the basis of providing reservation, it is termed as confrontational. Mr. Speaker please be fair. You are occupying the seat of justice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please co-operate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Shri Ramdas Athawale

and Dr. Manda Jagannath had given notices for raising this matter under what are called 'raising important matters after the Question Hour'. Since we have agreed, I believe, all of their names would be associated with this discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we gave our names. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, please sit down. Your leader has already delivered a speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened to the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Owaisi, please co-operate.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very serious matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know that you are a very serious Members. I also respect you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have listened to the observations made by the hon. Members on a very sensitive issue. As you have very correctly pointed out that we should restrain ourselves in making our observations, I am not going into the details. Many comments have been made which are, to my mind, outside the purview of the scope for which you have allowed the hon. Members to speak on.

So far as the position of the Government is concerned, I would like to make it quite clear that the independence of judiciary is the foundation of our democratic republic and rule of law. Ever since the adoption of Constitution, the executive, legislative and the judiciary have been, by and large, functioning within the demarcated areas. This goes to the credit of our parliamentary system. We are proud that we have

independent judiciary which has been assigned the task of interpreting the laws and the Constitution. The Government recognises that proper respect is to be shown to the judicial pronouncements.

We also recognise that legislature has a perform its duties to translate into action the programmes of the Government. On occasions where the interests of the nation demand that laws should be enacted to carry forward social, economic programme, the legislature has enacted laws keeping in view the various judgements of the apex Court. There has been no confrontation of any kind and there is no occasion to express anguish on account of any legislative action. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The hon. Minister of Law should say something. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He does not want to say anything. The Leader of the House is here.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not yet the leader. You are a leader on your own right, but not of this House.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I would like to know from the Government about their intention towards the question of making reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes in the private educational institutions. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you allow the Speaker to say something? Will you allow the Chair to say something? Thank you for your kind cooperation.

I allowed the hon. Leaders to make some observations, not comments on the observations of the Supreme Court because hon. Members and Leaders felt that such observations may be allowed to be made here. Therefore, a special procedure has been adopted only for today. But, as I said earlier, this is a matter which should be dealt with, with great caution. We should not say something which may be misunderstood.

On what has appeared in the newspapers, I only wish to say that during the last occasion, the House unanimously expressed its views. That was also a glory of this institution that when occasion arises, the House forgets about its differences and in one voice expresses its views which concern the people of the country as a

whole and that what was precisely done. All the sections of the House had expressed their views. As I said, we are obliged to act according to the Constitution. Legislature has its own rights and Parliament, as the supreme legislative body, surely will act according to its rights under the Constitution. Similarly, the courts have their own rights to function in their own sphere without any interference; and nobody can interfere. Now there is undoubted right of the court to construe the laws passed by this Parliament. Therefore, many laws passed by the Parliament have been declared *ultra vires* and it is binding on everybody. Therefore, what is important is that there should be a harmonious relationship between the major constitutional organisations like the legislature and the court, and nothing should be done or said which may create an avoidable controversy. The only thing which strikes me is that the observations which the Supreme Court kindly made yesterday were not part of any judgement.

It is not in deciding a matter before the Supreme Court but it was an expression of certain views of the Supreme Court with regard to what may have happened inside the House. Therefore, we are only requesting ourselves that we should not do or say anything which may be misunderstood. But we are also not giving up our right to make laws according to the constitutional provisions which the Supreme Court will have power, no doubt, to construe at the appropriate time.

The unanimous view of the House that a law is necessary, I hope, will be translated into action as soon as possible.

13.06 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (1) Situation arising out of recent agreement of Orissa Government with Korean Steel Major POSCO allowing them to export mineral wealth of the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up item no. 24—Calling Attention. We shall come to the other important matters after this.

There will be no luncheon recess today.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Mines to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of recent agreement of Orissa Government with Korean Steel Major POSCO allowing them to export mineral wealth of the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[*Translation*]

*THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): Mr. Speaker, Sir. As per the information received from the Government of Orissa, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Government of Orissa and M/s POSCO of the Republic of Korea on 22nd June, 2005. The Korean company has proposed to establish an Indian company to invest in Orissa in (a) steel manufacturing (b) infrastructure necessary for the Integrated Steel Plant and related Projects and (c) related mining of iron ore and other ores. The proposed investment as envisaged in the MOU will be around US\$ 12 billion or Rs. 51,000 crores (approximately).

13.07 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

The Project will result in development of infrastructure in the region. POSCO will construct a dedicated railway line from mine site to steel project. POSCO also has the option to build a minor port and/or a berth at Paradeep Major Port. The Company will be made available land at cost for developing a township with water supply, housing and power supply.

From the MOU, it is observed that the Company will need the equivalent of 600 million tonnes of iron ore of an average Fe content of 62% to meet the requirements of the proposed Steel Project of 12 million tonnes per annum. The Company may swap certain quantities (not exceeding 30% of the total requirement for the Paradeep Plant annually) of such iron ore which have high alumina content with equal quantity of imported low alumina content iron ore of equivalent or better Fe content for blending, in order to produce better quality steel in the Paradeep Project and conserve energy. It has also been

clarified in the MOU that no export of iron ore will be allowed from the captive mine except by way of full replacement through import of equal quantity of high grade ore and within the limits mentioned above. Government of Orissa has agreed to grant prospecting licenses and mining leases for 600 million tonnes of iron ore to the Company after following prescribed procedures and completion of required milestones.

All mineral concessions i.e. Mining Lease, Prospecting Licence, Reconnaissance Permits are granted by the State Governments. The Ministry of Mines grants prior approval in respect of scheduled minerals under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Thereafter, the State Governments grant the mineral concessions. Iron ore being a scheduled mineral, Government of India's prior approval will be required. However, the Ministry of Mines is yet to receive any proposal for grant of Prospecting License or Mining Lease to M/s POSCO from the State Government of Orissa.

The Ministry of Mines will examine the proposal in details, in accordance with law and in consultation with concerned Ministries when an application is received duly forwarded by the State Government. The views expressed by the Honourable Members of Parliament will be given due consideration.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam chairperson, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Orissa and POSCO of South Korea will facilitate* of such scarce mineral iron ore of Orissa. You will be surprised to know that a huge concession is being given to this particular company. They will set up a steel plant at Paradeep.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Madam, I would like to draw your kind attention to this words. The hon. Member, while speaking has said that 'it will facilitate ... of mineral wealth'. Will it go on record? No Government, whether the Central or State, will. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is not unparliamentary. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: He has used the words. ... (*Interruptions*)

*Also placed in Library, See No. LT 2767/2005.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is not unparliamentary. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Who will. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Let me explain. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: He can say. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): The people of Bengal cannot tolerate the progress of Orissa. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Let me explain. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Madam, please delete it from the record. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I will see whether there is anything objectionable.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If there is anything, I will look into it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): If Shri Basu Deb Acharia is going to suggest what should be the MoU to be entered by the Government of Orissa, let him come up with the proposal. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Why these people advise us, as to what we should do in Orissa. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, I have every right to say. If I have used any unparliamentary words, you can expunge them. I have not used any unparliamentary word.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KHAREBELA SWAIN (Balasore): In last Municipality election, they had their own candidates and MP bashed up. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They will set up steel plant with capacity of 12 million tonnes and captive iron ore mines will be given to POSCO.

They will extract 600 million tonnes of iron ore from the captive mines. The Steel Plant will be set up after 33 months from the day of the company getting the licence. Why such favour is being given to this particular company? They will start extracting iron ore immediately after the issuance of licence, although the permission and approval of the Central Government will be required in it.

Out of 600 million tonnes of iron ore, 30 per cent will be exported to Brazil as the iron ore in Orissa has high percentage of Alumina. On the other hand, they are being allowed to import similar quantity of iron ore from Brazil, which has lower percentage of Alumina. Over and above 600 million tonnes, this company will be permitted to export 400 million tonnes of iron ore for their own steel plant in South Korea. It means that 600 million tonnes per 1,000 million tonnes of iron ore this company from South Korea would get from Orissa.

Madam, we have 18 billion tonnes of iron ore in our country, and Orissa has 4.5 billion tonnes of iron ore. Nearly 36 MoUs were signed with various steel manufacturing companies prior to this MoU. The total capacity for it would be about 40 million tonnes of iron ore. What was the price at which they were permitted to purchase iron ore from the Orissa Mineral Development Corporation at the time of signing these 36 MoUs? They were permitted to purchase iron ore today? It is Rs. 2,000. But in the case of POSCO, the cost of extraction or the total cost of production per tonne of iron ore would be only Rs. 400. Why is there such a difference in it? Why this particular company is being permitted to take iron ore at a much lower price? How much will be the loss to the State of Orissa as a result of the lower price that has been fixed in the MoU? The loss for the Government of Orissa would be about Rs. 1.20 crore.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Moreover, the steel plant would be set up in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), and it would mean that this company would enjoy concessions in income tax, excise duty and other taxes. How much would be the loss for the Government of Orissa on this account?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, please be brief. I am saying this because there is another Calling Attention to be taken up after this. Therefore, please put your question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am coming to the question, Madam.

This company first tried to have an MoU with the Government of Brazil. Brazil has the largest deposits of iron ore. With the same conditions, which the Government of Orissa has agreed to, the company went to Brazil, But the Government of Brazil did not agree to those conditions. They agreed to provide iron ore at the market price. The Government of Orissa has signed an MoU to supply iron ore at a much lower price. Madam, what will be the benefit for the people of Orissa? A thousand acres of tribal land will be acquired. Total employment will be only 13,000 as per the statement of the Government of Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: This is totally wrong information. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I will give time to your leader and he will have his say.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: There is no tribal there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In the MoU, rehabilitation and resettlement of tribal people has not been provided.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): He has absolutely no fundamental idea about what he is talking about.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Acharia, now there is no point. Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Shri Acharia had himself migrated from Orissa. He should not forget that fact. I am just reminding him of his ancestors.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: The learned Member should have a fundamental idea of the point before speaking on it.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Acharia, please conclude now. There is another Member to speak from your own party. Within two minutes, you will have to conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, the Koreans are being given this iron ore despite India not having enough iron ore reserves even to last for 50 years. Our per capita consumption is the lowest among the developing nations; it is only 32 kgs. However, the per capita consumption in China today is 270 kgs. This will not remain at this. Our per capita consumption will increase. Our demand also will rise. If 30 per cent of the reserves are given to this particular company, what will happen to the other steel manufacturing companies?

SHRI B. MAHTAB: In China?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Already 36 MoUs have been signed. They require huge quantities of iron ore. I would like to know from the Minister of Mines or the Minister of Finance, whosoever replies. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The Minister of Mines will reply.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): I will give the reply.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Acharia, put your questions please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how the future requirement of our country will be met. Why such a concession has been given to this particular company? Why POSCO was not offered market price, as has been offered to the other 36 companies who will set up the steel plants in the State of Orissa? The capacity will be about 40 million tonnes. Why in their case it is market rate of Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000, but in the case of POSCO it is only Rs. 400?

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Who will give this answer? The Minister of Mines is not capable to answer this question.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He will say something. I am giving him chance. It is all right.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: This question can only be addressed to the Orissa Government. This question has no scope to be answered by the Minister of Mines.

Now, there is a need for mines policy. Should not there be a detailed discussion? There should be a detailed discussion on mines policy before MoUs are signed. ...(*Interruptions*) Before it is exhausted, the Government of India should announce the mines policy.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Keep something for your own party Member. Now, please conclude.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): According to the rules, he can be given only 10 minutes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am looking into it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Minister of Mines has stated in his statement that the Ministry of Mines will examine the proposal in detail because the Government of Orissa has not sent the proposal for approval in accordance with law and in consultation with the concerned Ministry. When an application is received duly forwarded by the State Government, the views expressed by the hon. Members here in this House today will be given due consideration. I would like to know from the Minister, in view of the widespread criticism in the country in regard to the MoU signed by the Government of Orissa and POSCO. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: All newspapers supported this MoU. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Apprehensions have been expressed here about the favour shown to a particular company and the financial loss for the Government of Orissa as well as the Government of India. Will the Government of India before approving this proposal. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Madam Chairman, my point is. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You will get time.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: My point is that whenever any subject concerning the State Government comes before the House, the same is not allowed. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But people are complaining. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have only half a minute left. Otherwise, I will call Shri Rupchand Pal.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not fair.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: People of our country should be protected and the scarce mineral should not be...*. Thank you, Madam. ...(*Interruptions*)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: This should not go into the records.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Such words should not be used. Please delete them.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Madam Chairman, I shall be very brief.

There cannot be any conflict of interest between the development of a State and the nation development. After all, it is all national resource and if Orissa prospers, the nation also will be benefited. It is a national prosperity. So, there cannot be any dispute about Orissa's prosperity and the national prosperity. But the issue is that the basic national resource is limited. We should use it judiciously and carefully taking into account particularly our per capita steel consumption. What is the projection of demand in the perspective plan for the coming 20 or 50 years or so when India is emerging as the fast growing economy? Finance Ministry is always claiming that we are emerging as a very fast growing economy. We are the fastest growing economy. ...(*Interruptions*) Steel is the key sector carefully protect your legal interest, your constitutional interest and your economic interest. But what I want to know from the Union Government is this. According to Section 5 (1) of the Mines and Mineral Development (Regulation) Act, 1957, the Union Government had given the prior approval.

On what criteria was the approval given? Did they know that there was going to be a clause of a swap? If that clause of a swap was taken into consideration, whether the technology concerned was also taken into consideration? It is because, the technology being brought in our country is not the latest one. ...(*Interruptions*) I am one with the claims made by our steel majors. I am not naming them.

*Not recorded.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Why are you not naming them?
 ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Many of our public sector and the private sector steel majors have stated that they are capable of providing this technology but they are not being given equal status and there is no level-playing field. What is being given to the multinational company, had it been given to our steel majors, they could have provided Orissa a new steel plant with the latest technology. But it is not being done, and it is being denied to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Deo, you should not intervene like this. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rupchand Pal says.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The hon. Minister will give the reply. I am asking the Union Government.
 ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the submission of Shri Rupchand Pal.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Madam, I am asking the Union Government whether there has been a level-playing field or not.

There was a story about the high alumina content and the technology involved in the process, what is called the Fenic Process. Does it suggest that we, in the process of our development of the steel technology, are not at a stage where we could match the technology and resources that are being provided by the current steel major, who badly needs our precious underground process, which the world over is yet not planned in a judicious manner, which is being given a go-bye by the Orissa Government and approved by the Union Government?

I charge the Union Government whether they have applied their mind before giving prior approval.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Madam, I am very much thankful to the hon. Minister of Mines for narrating, in

detail, in his statement about the MoU that has been signed recently by the Government of Orissa with the Korean steel major, POSCO. The statement of the hon. Minister reveals everything. It also clarifies whatever allegations or points have been raised here. This particular MoU could be possible only because the Government of India—the hon. Finance Minister is present here—have allowed 100 per cent FDI in the mining sector. In consequence of this particular announcement, this MoU could be possible. Otherwise, no such MoU could be possible. So, only after the policy decision of the Union Government to allow 100 per cent FDI in the mining sector, the MoU was signed between POSCO and the Orissa Government.

Madam, the statement of the hon. Minister of Mines specifically says: "However, the Ministry of Mines is yet to receive any proposal for grant of prospective licence or the mining lease to M/s. POSCO through the State Government of Orissa."

I am simply astonished that incidentally all the hon. Members are from West Bengal. Fortunately or unfortunately, we do not pull your West Bengal. This is the history. ..."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not being recorded. You all please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Arjun Charanji, this is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: One minute please. This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I will delete it. It will not go on record.

Arjun Charanji, you should not lay any charge against anyone. You speak on the subject only.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Madam, my point is that the Orissa Government is very much competent, with the approval of the Central Government on policy matter, to enter into MoUs provided those MoUs do not go against the policies of the Central Government. If this is so, why are they so much worried? Nothing has yet been achieved. The Orissa Government has not yet sent the proposal to the Central Government. As has been stated here by the Government, they will look into the details. They will have consultation on everything. Why are they still so much agitated about this particularly MoU? When the Government of India has declared that hundred per cent foreign direct investment is very much there, why are they very much opposed to it? If there is anything—I won't go into the details—the Government of Orissa is competent enough to discuss that with the Government at the Centre. At that point of time, the Central Government can decide everything on merit. So, there is no point in saying that it has gone against the interests of the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Arjun Charanji, you know that, as a leader, if you want to ask anything from the Union Government, you can do so by putting questions.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If you have some questions, just put them. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Madam, I would like to know whether the lease would be governed by the Minerals and Metals (Regulation and Development) Act. If so, will the hon. Minister assure the House that the Government would grant licence to the Government of Orissa as well as the steel major when it conforms to the provisions of this particular Act?

Madam, it has been said that some amount of minerals will be exported to other countries, that is, Korea and Brazil. It has been pointed out here and incorporated in the MoU that swap will be permitted up to 30 per cent provided the POSCO equally imports 30 per cent of the minerals.

Moreover, it has also been mentioned in that particular MoU that after having gone into the details etc., if it is found that it has alumina content to the permissible limit, then there will be no need of exporting or importing. It has been mentioned there.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. If you have any questions, you may ask questions.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I do not want to go any further. The hon. Members from this side will also put questions. I ask only these questions to the hon. Minister and I hope that he would address them.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Jual Oram. You may put only questions.

If you have got any questions, then, you can put those questions only.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No cross-talking please.

Shri Topdar, you are a senior Member. This type of cross-talking is not allowed inside the House. Please control yourself so that I can control the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Madam, through you, I would like to ask some questions to the Government and I hope the hon'ble Minister will give reply to those questions.

Madam, an MoU has been signed between the Government of Orissa and POSCO. I welcome the investment made by POSCO in Orissa, but I raise objection to the conditions on which it is being done and I have also written a letter in this regard to the hon'ble Chief Minister. Is it true that POSCO is working in joint venture with two mining companies, BHP Bilton in Australia and CVRD in Brazil and iron ore is being supplied to them under a long term agreement? I would like to know the terms on which it is working? This knowledge is essential for us. POSCO has not only signed MoU over there, but it has signed MoU in my State also. I have studied it for one month. Since the year 2000, they are taking iron ore from Belari-Hospet, Karnataka area through MMTC, NMDC and Shesa-Goa. If POSCO is taking iron-ore from here and using it in companies of South Korea, then on what terms it is taking iron-ore? What is the market price of it?

When hon'ble Dharmendra Pradhan ji asked the hon'ble Minister of Finance as to whether POSCO had submitted application for FDI, the hon'ble Minister replied that no application had been received. But he replied, that there was no FDI, but MOU has been signed.

[*English*]

I would like to know this from the hon. Finance Minister.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can not address the Finance Minister. You can seek clarifications from the hon'ble Minister of Mines.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: This matter is related to FDI. POSCO will invest Rs. 51,000 crore. It is being called the biggest FDI in the country. I would like to know the amount that is proposed to be drawn by it from the Financial Institutions of our country and in return the extent of capital it would take away from our country. The Government should give us complete and clear information in this regard.

Secondly, before this, Orissa Government had signed 36 MoUs. Now, as per the production shown therein, why is there a difference of more than double in their budget. I had asked a Starred Question No. 220 on 25th July. I had not mentioned POSCO in that question. I had asked about the process to be used by the iron ore Companies coming to Orissa, whether it is COREX, FINEX or Blast Furnace Process. The hon'ble Minister had replied that they would use FINEX process, and he further added that they would use cheaper iron-ore and low-ash coal, which are available in abundance in India. If they will use it, then why this swapping clause is there?

I would like to ask as to why they would indulge in swapping of 30 percent? They will export 30 percent of it. Why it is required? This is my question. In reply to a letter written by me to the hon'ble Chief Minister, he replied that it will not be swapped to Brazil, it will be supplied to POSCO of South Korea. Now, one billion tonne. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You may ask your question.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I am speaking totally relevant thing. I am asking a question to which the Government of India must give a reply. They will take one million tonne. We have four-five million tonne deposit in Orissa. Now agreement has been signed for the production of 38 million tonne. From where they will be given mines. I have come to know that the State Government is about to recommended Malangtoli and Gandhi Mardan mines under Orissa mines. Now will they do it? What will happen

to the Rhotindo agreement already reached? Before that they made an agreement in regard to Khannadhar and Kuturmukhi iron ore mines which is a Government of India Undertaking. My question is which specific mines are likely to be handed over? How much is the deposit? Whether there has been any negotiation in this regard? I would like to know about the agreement even if no applications were received.

I would like to make one more submission. The other day, the Vice-Chairman of Paradeep Port wrote a letter to the Transport Secretary saying that the Government of India has invested huge sum of money on the modernization of Paradeep Port which would be complete by the year 2007 thereafter it will be capable to handle all the import-export, then why another port at a distance of seven kilometres is being developed? These letters have also been written. What impact it would have on Paradeep Port. He knows that Paradeep Port suffered maximum loss during the super cyclone in the year 1999. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Finance Minister reply to it?

SHRI JUAL ORAM: The Government has to give the reply. I do not know whether the Finance Minister will reply or not but the Government of India has to reply to all these things.

[Translation]

It was the biggest natural calamity. ...*(Interruptions)* My question is what will be its impact? What will happen to the coastal regulation zone? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamiluk): Madam, I have also given a notice.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing anybody.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam, I have also given notice.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate. I have allowed your leader to speak. Otherwise, I will have to give time to others also. Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I am neither praising nor criticizing any Government. It is not the question of government but that of the mining policy. ... (Interruptions) If Mines and Minerals Regulation Act is to be applied here, then would he be amending MMDR clause? When agreement with POSCO was signed then Congress Party's PCC President, Orissa welcomed it, but now Congress is opposing it. So, I would like to say that. ... (Interruptions)

What is their role in making this agreement? How many people would be displaced? I have gone through the BHP Milton's website, they require eight hundred people for their 80 million tonne production. How can they render so many people jobless? They are saying that 13-15 thousand people are required for the job. How is it possible? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You will have to conclude now. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: We are not prepared to accept it on this condition. It is neither in the interest of the country nor the State of Orissa. I hope that he would formulate a suitable policy and then take final decision.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Please allow me to ask one question only.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing anybody.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swain, you will have to cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Please allow me to speak.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Then I will have to allow others also.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Madam Chairman, I feel the submissions made by the hon. Member Shri Achariaji and other hon. Members are out of context. What can we do unless we receive MoU and the proposal from the State Government seeking approval? When the Government of India receives MoU from the Government of Orissa we will discuss it in detail and take a decision thereon giving due consideration to the views expressed by the hon. Members. Shri Achariaji says that it has nowhere been written in the MoU that 400 million tonnes iron-ore will be exported to South Korea from the lease area. It is not at all so. Open market is the only option.

Secondly, thirty per cent iron ore containing 62 per cent iron content will be exported by way of full replacement through import of equal quantity of high grade ore. The only difference would be that the iron ore being imported would contain low alumina content while the one being exported would contain high grade Alumina since it is used for the purpose of blending in order to produce better quality steel. We are not exporting one-quintal iron ore. ... (Interruptions) Let me speak. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Shri Sish Ram Ola ji please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Please listen to me first. ... (Interruptions) It is upto you, I have given the reply. Please let me speak. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: My only submission is that hon. Members were concerned that the export of iron ore was not necessary. I would like to assure the House that it is written in the MoU that the quantum of iron ore which is being exported, the same quantum would be received which is 30 per cent.

Secondly, the Central Government has not. ...*(Interruptions)* Listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* My submission is that the quality of alumina is not that which is required by the company, low alumina content iron ore is being sent and good quality is being received. First, we shall receive that iron-ore thereafter we will send it and not otherwise.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you please address the Chair.

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Madam Chairman, the Central Government have not received any proposal for approval. As I have stated earlier, no proposal with regard to lease has been received from the Government of Orissa. As and when we receive it, we would consider it from every aspect and would respect the sentiments of the hon. Members.

13.56 hrs.

- (ii) **Situation arising out of proposed closure of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation resulting in retrenchment of employees and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto**

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I call the attention of the Minister of Shipping,

Road Transport and Highways to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of proposed closure of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation resulting in retrenchment of employees and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

*THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC), Kolkata has been making losses since its inception on 22nd February, 1967. A revival package for it was approved by the Government in June, 2001. This envisaged assistance to the tune of Rs. 139.55 crore besides write-off of Government loan. The source of funding and other details are as under:

- (i) Rs. 76.55 crore through Budgetary support and remaining amount of Rs. 63.00 crore to be funded through the sale proceeds of Rajabagan Dockyard (BRD) and other assets.
- (ii) The Budgetary support released in excess of Rs. 76.55 crore (i.e. Rs. 39.67 crore) during the first two years was to be refunded by CIWTC from sale proceeds. The assistance envisaged in the first two years was Rs. 116.22 crore.
- (iii) Write off of the Government of India loan (Plan and non-Plan) together with interest accrued thereon, amounting to Rs. 425.20 crore as on 31.03.2000.

The revival package also envisaged downsizing the manpower to 1400, closure of Deep Sea Ship Repair Division, closure of Rajabagan Dockyard and disposal of land and assets thereof, disposal of other surplus assets etc. and utilization of sale proceeds estimated in the region of Rs. 85 crore to Rs. 95 crore for implementation of the revival package.

As against Budgetary support of Rs. 116.22 crore envisaged the Government has extended Budgetary support in excess of Rs. 145.00 crore in last four years, even though closure and disposal of Rajabagan Dockyard alongwith other surplus assets did not materialise. However, CIWTC has failed to turnaround and it continues to incur losses.

*Not recorded.

*Also placed in Library, See No. LT 2768/2005.

A meeting was taken on 22.08.2004 to review the functioning of the CIWTC and to decide about its future. It was felt that condition in CIWTC is indeed critical and its revival does not appear to be a viable proposition. Keeping this in view, the following decisions were taken:-

- (i) The possibility of take over of the Corporation by the State Government of West Bengal to be explored. In case there is no response from the State Government within three months, disinvestment option to be pursued; and
- (ii) Pending a definite decision on this, non-Plan funds should be provided to the Corporation for payment of salary/wages.

Accordingly, the matter was taken up with the State Government of West Bengal. State Government did not respond positively to the suggestion. Therefore, the only option available was to disinvest the Corporation.

In pursuance of the above, the Ministry approached the Cabinet. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 24th February, 2005 decided to refer the matter to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE). Accordingly, the case of CIWTC was referred to BRPSE in March, 2005.

BRPSE recommendations have been made available *vide* Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) O.Ms dated 4.7.2005 and 26.7.2005. The Ministry will approach the Cabinet again for deciding the future of CIWTC after firming up its views on each recommendation as per DPE's instructions in the matter.

The Ministry does not envisage any retrenchment in CIWTC, if they (the employees) come forward for Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

14.00 hrs.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Madam Chairman, with all humility at my command I must say that the statement made by the hon. Minister is far from convincing. It smacks of blasé approach to the importance of this age-old sector, including its unsavoury implications. Hon. Minister is a dynamic person. I would request him to first see everything through his eyes and not through his ears. He ought not to be impressed upon by the bureaucratic sophistry. Secondly, the UPA Government does not agree that only divestment could act as a panacea to remedy

the economic ills of this country. Thirdly, the hon. Minister should not inherit the legacy of the NDA Government.

From the statement it appears that this age-old Organisation is going to be either closed or disinvested. It is said:

"The possibility of take over of the Corporation by the State Government of West Bengal to be explored. In case there is no response from the State Government within three months, disinvestment option to be pursued..."

Accordingly, the matter was taken up with the State Government of West Bengal. The State Government did not respond positively to the suggestion. Therefore, the only option available was to disinvest the Corporation."

However, I would make a last ditch effort to save this Organisation so that it is restored to its pristine glory. The State Government of West Bengal has long been suffering from financial bankruptcy. Till date the State Government of West Bengal has incurred a mind-boggling amount of Rs. 1,10,000 in debt burden. So, it is next to impossible for that kind of State Government to revive this sector on its own resources. It is said:

"Non-plan funds should be provided to the Corporation for payment of salary/wages."

That means salaries or wages have not been paid. In the statement it has been further stated:

"BRPSE recommendations have been made available. The Ministry will approach the Cabinet again for deciding the future of CIWTC."

From the statement it has not been clear as to what recommendations the BRPSE had made. It is not clear whether the BRPSE had recommended closure of this Organisation. It has been envisaged to raise funds through divestment and sale proceeds in order to turn it around. Is it an assistance? It cannot be an assistance. First of all, the Ministry should delve into the crux of the problem. It is true that this Organisation has been incurring loss since 1967. But what are the reasons? It is because over the years inland water transport system has been subject to severe negligence and indifference. For the convenience of the hon. Minister I would refer to the observations made in the Tenth Plan Approach Paper on inland water transport. It mentions that repairing facilities available at CIWTC, Kolkata should be fully utilised.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

The second thing is that the CAG report clearly observed that without attending the core issue of infrastructural facilities of IWT, the CIWTC failed to achieve the target as was stipulated in the revival package. During the NDA period, the revival package envisaged to deflect the employment strength and to close the Rajabagan Dockyard which is essentially a very significant fulcrum of IWT services.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Madam can you imagine that still the Rajabagan Dockyard holds the assets, namely, Dockyard of 33 acres of land with 600 metre of river front? The salient features of this Dockyard are jetties, shipways, five dry docks, unique workshop facility for shipbuilding and repairing including shipbuilding berth to construct 100 metre long vessel. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude. Put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I know that the same yardstick is applied to all. Madam, as far as CIWTC is concerned, it was taken over by the Government of India in the year 1967 because during the war that took place between India and Pakistan, most of the vehicles belonging to IWT were impounded. Naturally, this organisation started incurring losses since that period. The CIWTC was envisaged for two services. One, for river services, and the other, for Rajabagan Dockyard. You will be astonished to note that even Goa Shipyard and the Garden Reach Shipbuilding, under the Ministry of Defence, very recently appreciated the potentiality, viability and importance of this national requirement.

Madam, the river service plays a greater role in Indian economy. It is not confined to West Bengal, etc. The States like West Bengal, Assam, North Eastern Region, Bihar, UP—and all eastern India including North Eastern India—will have been benefited by the service of IWT sector. But the fact is that this sector has not been properly attended to. That is why, this sector has been incurring losses.

Madam, under the National Waterways-I & II, river services possesses hundred vehicles of IWT mode to carry cargo from Sagar to Allahabad. This Sagar to Allahabad is under National Waterways-I. Kolkata to Sadiya is under National Waterways-II. We have three National Waterways.

Madam, Rajabagan Dockyard used to undertake statutory docking survey repair on four yearly intervals. I can just show you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. If you have any question, then put it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I can understand it.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Madam, you will certainly appreciate that as far as modal sharing is concerned, now the inland water transport system shares only 0.15 per cent whereas 100 billion metric tonnes of cargo market is available. The hon. Minister is in charge of the Road and Transport sector which is now constructing the asset of our country worth Rs. 65,000 crore. Even the Civil Aviation, which was proposed earlier for divestment, now has been injecting fresh fund to the tune of Rs. 10,249 crore.

Fleet acquisition has been approved. Thirdly, insofar as the Railway Sector is concerned, even the dedicated freight corridor has been proposed. To that, a Task Force has been set up with the involvement of fund to the tune of Rs. 42,000 crore. This sector has an inherent potentiality to cater to the various services. Insofar as the Water Transport System is concerned, for your information and for the information of the hon. Minister, I would just quote one figure which may help him to realise the importance of this sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has all the statistics with him. If you have your question, please put. It is high time that you concluded now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): That is only a programme of action. ...*(Interruptions)* That is most unfortunate. He is going in for disinvestment only. How is it acceptable? He is not taking care of it. He wants to throw it away. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You need not interfere now. This is not the way to do things.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Insofar as the capital cost is concerned, it is only five to ten per cent equivalent to the road sector. So far as fuel efficiency is concerned, it is fuel efficient and environmental friendly let alone the tourism potentiality inherent in this sector.

You will be astonished to note that to carry one metric tonne of cargo, if it is carried by the road sector, one litre of fuel can move 24 metric tonne kilometre. In respect of Railways, it is 85 metric tonne kilometre. But for water transport, it is estimated that 105 metric tonne kilometre can be moved. So, it is cost effective. It is fuel efficient. It is eco-friendly. It is less accident-prone. It has a potentiality of generating tourism which may ultimately help the employment potentiality especially in Eastern India. West Bengal now holds the largest chunk of employment potential in the country. There are 70 lakh unemployed youth in West Bengal.

14.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing a very serious aspect with regard to the Inland Water Transport System in India. In this connection, I would like to quote the Asian Development Bank Report which says:

"The annual cargo moved by Inland Waterways Transport in 2000 was about 1.5 million tonne kilometre out of total cargo market of 1000 billion tonne kilometre, that is, a modal share of only 0.15 per cent. This Tiny modal share is because of several reasons..."

The reasons should be noted.

"The infrastructural facilities for Inland Water Transport (IWT) are poor; most of the waterways suffer from navigational hazard like shallow waters, narrow width of channels during dry season, siltation, bank erosion and inadequate navigational aids to permit 24 hours a day operation. There is also a lack of supporting infrastructure like adequate and properly equipped terminals and warehouses. Another constraint in using

inland waterways as a viable transport mode is the lack of adequate vessels. The existing availability of vessels for inland waterways transport in the public and private sectors put together is less than 400 vessels including tankers, bulk carriers, barges and other vessels with an average capacity of 600 T."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more than 15 minutes. Please conclude now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: The hon. Minister has taken up an ambitious project in Tamil Nadu called the Sethusamudram Project. It is a pride of our country. The 145 years dream of Tamil Nadu people has now come true. But what is the reality? The reality is that the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is of 170 years old. The reality is now going to be transformed into a dream. The sectoral imbalance is very much palpable. Some vested interests may misconstrue it as a regional discrimination.

It is because in so far as Sethusamudram is concerned, there, the Government is investing.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, it is not a matter of Tamil Nadu State only. It is a matter of national pride. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I am not contradicting. ... (Interruptions) It is a matter of national pride and I have already mentioned it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: As far as Sethusamudram project is concerned, there Rs. 2,249 crore is going to be invested but here to earn the sale proceeds, this Government is going to divest this sector only against Rs. 69 or Rs. 70 crore or mostly Rs. 90 crore. For recreation of the same passage it will cost Rs. 1,000 crore. That is why I would urge upon this Government and hon. Minister to pay a visit to assess on this own and make a comprehensive plan to revive this sector and to restore its pristine glory.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to request the hon. Members to only put the question. I will allow only if you ask the question.

Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Adhir Chaudhary has drawn the attention of Government to the situation arising out of retrenchment of employees of CIWTC consequent upon proposed bandh declared by them and the steps taken by the Government with regard thereto. I am grateful to him on this account.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know when an employee goes home after he is retrenched. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would put a direct question to hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Our Minister is so intelligent that he understands each and everything.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, you are aware that when an employee is retrenched he becomes jobless and his family faces threat of starvation. Secondly, hon. Minister should provide a package for revival of the said corporation. I think its revival would boost cargo and passenger service and tourism as well. This mode of transport is less accident prone and is fuel efficient.

Secondly, there was a proposal to start Sagar-Allahabad via Patna and Kolkata-Sadia waterway service. Through you, I would request hon. Minister to introduce VRS for retrenched employees and provide them with adequate funds so that they can start some work and earn bread for their family.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, I would request Shri Lakshman Sethji. Please put only the question and not speech.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the connectivity among road, water, rail and air is very much necessary for the growth of the economy. So, a multi-model transport system is very such necessary for the growth of the economy. That is why the Ministry of Shipping, Road, Transport and Highways has given more emphasis on road transport and inland water transport. The Government of India, Ministry of Shipping, they have drafted a national policy on maritime. I think it will be placed before the Cabinet for approval very shortly. It will also be placed to the Consultative Committee and various other committees for their observation. Finally, I think the Minister will finalise policy on the maritime.

In the proposed Maritime Policy, Inland Water Transport System has been given new emphasis. That is why, the Ministry is thinking of declaring many rivers and canals as National Waterways.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put the question.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, I am putting my question.

There is a National Waterway from Allahabad to Haldia and it is likely to be extended up to Sundarban. The Minister has also assured to take up the matter to declare it as a National Waterway. But my question to the Minister is this. If the Government gives emphasis to Inland Water Transport System, who will be the service provider? If the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is dismantled, who will be the service provider? In place of a public sector service provider, a private party will be brought in. This is against the National Common Minimum Programme. So, I would request the hon. Minister to revive the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation so that it can play a key role as a service provider in inland water transport.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have requested you many times to put only questions. Please put only questions.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: The hon. Minister has stated that his Ministry has requested the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, I just want to mention that pointing a finger at the hon. Deputy-Speaker is unparliamentary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, this is not unparliamentary.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It is part of the English traditions which we have been following. I just bring it to the attention of the hon. Member.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, I could not follow what the Hon. Minister has said.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You are pointing your finger at the hon. Deputy-Speaker.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: I am sorry. I beg apology if I am wrong.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that he has asked the Government of West Bengal to take over the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation. The CIWTC may be located in Kolkata, but it is rendering service throughout the nation. How will the State Government take over the responsibility of the CIWTC? So, I would request the hon. Minister not to dismantle the CIWTC, but revive it so that it can play the role of a service provider in inland water transport.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I would request the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue and the Minister himself has admitted that he is going in for disinvestment of CIWTC. That will be most unfortunate. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not given any notice. It will not go on record. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I would request the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to Shri Adhir Chowdhury, for raising this matter.

I am also thankful Shri Shailendra Kumar and Shri Lakshman Seth who have taken part in this discussion and who have given ample opportunity to have a review and rethinking on this matter. At the same time, I would like to inform that the Government is not keeping quiet. The Central Inland Water Transport Corporation, ever since its inception in 1967, has been incurring losses, from day one it has been incurring losses. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the Minister. Whatever is spoken by anybody without my permission will not go on record. Please ask the Chair first and then start speaking.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, no capital is infused into CIWTC. That is why it is incurring losses. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat now.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: From day one, this particular organisation has been incurring losses for the past 38 years. If it is a private organisation and if it is incurring losses consecutively, year after year, for 38 years, will anybody keep quiet? It is a public sector undertaking. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, this is not allowed. What are you doing?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First you should ask the Chair and then you should speak.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Anybody who has got certain responsibility will not keep quiet.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You also should not address that side. You address the Chair.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I am answering, Sir. In 2001, we have infused certain funds. The Government has not kept quite. It has come forward to infuse Rs. 76.55 crore as a budgetary support in the form of a revival package. It has advised the organization to dispose of Rajabagan Dockyard, and its assets so that the sale proceeds of about Rs. 95 Crore could be used to settle the dues.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

But it has not shown any sign of positive progress. So, once again the Government came forward to infuse Rs. 39.67 crore. Then, what happened? The Government has also written off Rs. 425.20 crore in the year 2002. By the year 2002, the Deep Sea Ship Repair Division was closed. The other two Divisions, the River Service Division and the Rajabagan Dockyard are still existing. I have gone to the extent of saving these two Divisions with the help of the Cabinet. The Cabinet has advised me to go back to the BRPSE, get their advice and recommendations and then come before the Cabinet. They have given recommendations. One of the recommendations is that Rajabagan Dockyard should be handed over either to Goa Shipyard or Gardenreach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata. Both Shipyards are under the domain of the Defence Ministry.

The second recommendation is that the surplus assets should be sold at the value of Rs. 36 crore. At the same time (3rd recommendation), labour strength has to be reduced from 1080 to 200. VRS is to be given. By using sale proceeds of Rs. 35 crore, VRS can be tackled (4th recommendation). If the amount is not sufficient, the Government will have to infuse Rs. 17 crore.

The fifth recommendation is conversion of a loan of Rs. 120 crore into equity. The sixth recommendation is regarding waiver of Rs. 160 crore interest on 31.3.05. The seventh was that after the implementation of these recommendations, disinvest CIWTC minus Rajabagan Dockyard. At the same time, salaries and wages should be paid. These are the recommendations by the BRPSE.

We are not keeping quiet. The Government and the particular Organization's management are having interaction with the Defence Department to see that the Rajabagan Dockyard is to be handed over to the Defence Department—either to the Goa Shipyard or the Gardenreach Ship Builders and Engineers Limited. These are under the roof of the Defence Department.

Talks are going on. I can only say that the manpower along with the particular unit could be parted to the Ministry of Defence. At the same time, the River Services Division, after having some restructuring, has to be disinvested. That is the point of view of the Government. As far as the Government is concerned, we are not interested in retrenching anybody. At the same time, if anybody comes to us for VRS, definitely, we have to extend the facility. To extend the facility, the Government would provide funds. That is all. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Hon. Minister, is this the solution? *...(Interruptions)*

The National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, has been appointed by the Inland Waters Authority of India for study of economic gains of cargo movement through IWT mode in National Waterways-I and II. The ship sailing between Haldia and Patna has been taken up as a case study. The scope of study also includes comparative model costs of IWT vis-à-vis road and rail costs and SWOT analysis.

The Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, has been appointed by the IWAI to take up a study on this subject. What is the report of that study?

In answer to question No. 26, in the Standing Committee, it has been admitted by your Department that there is a need to strengthen R&D facilities, especially in the design of vessels, night navigation facilities and identification of economically viable routes. Good progress has been made since last year in installing night navigation facilities in all three National Waterways. For night navigation, the special lights have been installed but we do not know what is the outcome. We do not know the contents of the Report of the Task Force. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. The hon. Minister has already given the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Your Department has committed. *...(Interruptions)*

Please listen to me, Mr. Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing would be recorded now.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, nothing is being recorded. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on records, why are you speaking?

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing would be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already replied. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have to take up Special Mentions. Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the Calling Attention is on the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation but the hon. Member is talking about the Inland Waterways Authority of India. That is not the subject under discussion.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, during the last 38 years, nothing has been done on behalf of the Government.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given the reply. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anil Basu, please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record, so why are you speaking?

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I have already assured that if the labour force wants to have VRS, we would provide the funds. We cannot keep the options open. At the same time, there would not be any retrenchment. That is what I would assure. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will have Special Mentions.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please sit down. The hon. Minister has given the reply. Now we will have Special Mentions. Shri Suresh Chandel to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the speech of Shri Suresh Chandel.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anil Basu, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, I have called Shri Suresh Chandel. Now please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me. I am saying, please listen to me. Now please sit down. You are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House. If you do not stop, then I will have to adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I would request Shri Suresh Chandel to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister cannot be compelled to give a reply. Now please sit down. I have called Shri Suresh Chandel.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very sensitive issue.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the House to a very sensitive issue. Earlier too, the House has held a discussion on flood. While taking part in said debate, I had drawn attention of the House to the devastation caused by Parichhu. Said devastation caused loss to the tune of Rs. 800 crore. I had, at that time requested the Government to use its diplomatic channel and send a team to China so that information about frequent rise in water level of said lake which causes floods in Himachal Pradesh time and again and loss to the tune of billions of rupees could be gathered. I feel the Government have not made any serious efforts in this regard. Recently, there was a news of rise in its water level and consequently the tribals of Kinnour and Bilaspur got scared as it may again cause same type of havoc.

Sir, I request the Government to send a team of experts to China so that they can inspect the spot and can apprise the Government of India of the ground realities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the rehabilitation work started recently is not going on well. The loss caused by the floods has not been properly compensated. Though,

some relief has been provided, whereas it had caused a loss of Rs. 800 crore. I am afraid, un-repaired roads and bridges may again face the fury of floods. Therefore, I urge to Central Government to use its diplomatic channel and send a team of experts to China. Also, the Government should allocate adequate funds so that rehabilitation work can go well and also take appropriate steps to dispel fear of the people.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, the India Investment Centre was working as a very important centre in the matter of investments from abroad. The NRIs have been particularly getting support and help in the matter of channelising their investments in our country. In spite of this vital role being played by this India Investment Centre under the Ministry of Finance, a decision was taken a wind it up for reasons best known to the Government. It was in October, 2004.

Subsequently, the Government had a relook at it and a Group of Ministers was constituted to look into the whole issue because in a country like India with large number of very important NRIs who are capable of investing in our country such an organisation could deliver the goods in the matter of augmentation of our investments. But the Group of Ministers, after long deliberations, recommended that although this particular organisation may be wound up, but the other Ministry, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs could absorb these people who have the skill and capability and long experience to attract investments from NRIs particularly in the rural areas. Unfortunately, this Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs did not pay heed to the recommendation of the Group of Ministers. What happened ultimately was that on 31st July the services of these capable, skilled and experienced people have been terminated.

Now, my plea to the Government will be that when this Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs requires such skilled and experienced people, the Government, on the basis of the recommendation of the Group of Ministers, should prevail upon this Ministry so that all the skilled, experienced and capable people who were working in the erstwhile India Investment Centre could be absorbed forthwith without any further delay and the services of these skilled people should not be terminated as has been proposed and done.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up item no. 26—Matters under Rule 377. If the House agrees, can we take them as laid on the Table of the House?

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): No, Sir. There are a few of them. Please allow them to read.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will take too much of time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, as you like. First of all, I would like to request Shrimati D. Purandeswari to speak. She is not present.

Shri M. Sreenivasulu Reddy to speak now.

14.45 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Smt. D. Purandeswari—
not present.

(I) Need to sanction Kanigiri Water Supply Scheme in Ongole parliamentary constituency, Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY (Ongole): Sir, I would like to bring to the kind notice of this august House that the percentage of fluorine content in the 234 habitations of seven Mandals in Kanigiri assembly segment of Ongole parliamentary constituency in Andhra Pradesh is higher than in any other place in the world. We have been following up this matter since long with the concerned Department of Government of India for sanction of a drinking water scheme to provide protected drinking water to those who are badly affected physically on account of the high percentage of fluorine content. But unfortunately, the scheme has not been sanctioned.

I, therefore, request the Government to kindly sanction the Kanigiri water supply scheme as was sanctioned for Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh on priority basis to safeguard the interests of the 2,00,00 people who are suffering physically due to high percentage

of fluorine content in the water in Kanigiri constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

(II) Need to raise an Ahirwal Regiment in Indian Army

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, infantry regiments in the Army are based on respective castes and are designated as Sikh, Jat, Dogra, Rajput, Maratha etc. The other regiments are based on provinces and regions, for example, Madras, Punjab, Bihar, Naga, Ladakh Scouts, J&K Light Infantry etc. The only major marshal community left out by the British was Ahir/Yadav perhaps because of their major role in the war of independence in 1857.

Ahirs/Yadavs comprise more than 15 per cent of country's population and this race has given good account of themselves in various battlefields. Honorary Capt. Umrao Singh was awarded Victoria Cross in World War II and Cdr. Yoginder Singh the Pramveer Chakra in Kargil War. The Battle of Razangla in Ladakh in 1962 fought by brave Yadav soldiers is one of the great examples of bravery.

It is, therefore, urged upon the Minister of Defence to name a regiment as Ahir or Ahirwal Regiment in the Indian Army.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Smt. Krishna Tirath—not present.

Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi—not present.

(III) Need to take suitable steps to check recurring floods in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, floods, earthquake and drought like national calamities every year cause large scale loss of life and property in the country. Flood is different from other national calamities such as earthquake and cyclone and it is difficult to forecast anything about it. Gorakhpur, Sidharathnagar, Maharajganj etc. districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and certain other parts of Bihar every year fall prey to serious onslaught of floods. Areas falling in foothills of Himalayas early fall prey to the floods caused by rainy waters of tributaries Saryu, Rapti, Rohin, Gandak, Narayani. If geographical survey of said area is conducted

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

and the Government spend a little amount over the amount spent every year on relief, a permanent solution to this problem can easily be found. Immediately after independence, a Ganga Water Commission was set up for optimum exploitation of river water and to save people of Uttar Pradesh from the fury of flood. The Commission suggested that dams at the originating place of rivers Karnali, Pancheswar and Bhalu in Nepal should be built and need based water can be reserved by constructing a water reservoir in Nepal itself. But said suggestion could not be materialized owing to political reasons.

In the end, I urge the House to ponder over this issue and further, I request hon. Prime Minister to take effective measures in this regard so that great loss of life and property being caused by such national calamities could be prevented.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Singh Kaswan—
Not present.

(iv) Need to introduce a Metro Rail service in Jaipur, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the traffic problem in Jaipur is becoming serious day by day. Parking of very large number of vehicles on roads passing through bazaar creates hurdles in smooth flow of traffic. The State Government proposes to take measures to ease traffic problem but it would take enough time and also it involves huge expenditure. Introduction of Metro Rail in Delhi has solved traffic problem and enabled commuters to travel larger distance by paying less fare. Now, since Jaipur has gained the status of a metro city, so I urge the Central Government to introduce Metro Rail in Jaipur so that easily available transport facility could be provided to the people.

(v) Need to conduct a study by National Institute of Environmental Engineering on the phenomenon of rising temperature in coal mining belt of Talcher and Brajarajnagar in Orissa

[English]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Sir, in the past few years the temperature of coal mining areas

of Orissa, namely, Talcher and Brajarajnagar are soaring. Last summer, Talcher recorded a temperature of 52-degree Celsius. One could well imagine the plight of the people in those days. Due to coal mining, massive trees are being cut and the compensatory forestation is far behind expectation in these areas. Reclamation work is also not being taken up after mining. This also has adverse bearing on the temperature.

I request that an environmental study of both the cities may be conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Engineering to suggest measures for environmental protection.

(vi) Need to ensure supply of Gas by GAIL from Jagdishpur to Haldia in West Bengal

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, Gas is the lifeline of the economy in the context of challenge of globalisation. No source of gas has been discovered in West Bengal till today. Due to non-availability of gas, Haldia Fertiliser Plant of HFC has been closed.

Haldia is a leading industrial hub concentrated with Chemical Industries such as Petrochemicals, PTA Plant of Mitsubishi, Detergent Plant of Hindustan Lever, DAP of TATA Chemicals, etc., which need gas. Haldia may be developed as a mega chemical hub through backward and forward linkage. Besides, gas-based power plant is felt highly necessary in West Bengal.

It is an admitted fact that Eastern India has lagged behind economically in comparison to other parts of the country. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to take steps, so that GAIL may supply gas through pipeline from Jagdishpur to Haldia. Gas supply should also be made available from other sources such as from Myanmar and Reliance Industries in West Bengal.

(vii) Need to provide stoppage of Howrah-Bhubaneswar Dhauil Express at Contal Road Station under Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railways

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (Jhargram): Sir, there is a long standing demand of the people of Belda, Narayangarh, Khakurda, Keshiary and Dantan for providing stoppage of 2821 and 2822 Howrah-Bhubaneswar Dhauil Express at Contal Road Station under Karagpur Division of South-Eastern Railway. Contal Road Station popularly

known as Belda is the gateway of Orissa. It is mostly a business centre of Paschim Medinipur district. Each and every day, hundreds of people go to Cuttack and Bhubaneswar from these places. Many of them are patients. There is no other express train towards Cuttack and Bhubaneswar from Kharagpur and Howrah in the morning except Dhauli Express. So, I urge upon the Minister of Railways to consider the demand in the greater interest of these people.

- (viii) **Need to implement 'Swajaldhara' Project in Chail Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh with a view to solve drinking water problem in the region**

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Chail Parliamentary Constituency under Allahabad (U.P.) is in the grip of acute shortage of drinking water. The Government should make efforts to solve said problem under Swajaldhara Yojana. It can easily be solved by arranging a water-tanker at Panchayat level. Simultaneously, hon. Minister of Water Resources should get the whole affected area surveyed and chalk out a comprehensive action plan to solve the said problem.

- (ix) **Need to check production of liquor from foodgrains, with a view to pre-empt shortage of foodgrains in the country**

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra): Sir, liquor manufacturing companies have switched over to the use of foodgrains for making liquor in place of molasses. It may result in shortage of foodgrains at anytime and in that case the Government will have to import foodgrains by doling out precious foreign exchange. If said companies continue making liquor even when crop yield has been poor because of flood and drought in the country, it would result in steep increase in the price of foodgrains which will ultimately put the burden on poor people of the country. It has also been noticed that wheat and rice meant for allotment to the poor people are sold out to such companies clandestinely.

Sir, through the House, I would request the Central Government to put a ban immediately on use of grains for liquor manufacturing in public interest and this matter should be got inquired by CBI.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajaram Pal—not present;

Shri Anant Gudhe—not present; Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

- (x) **Need to ensure strict compliance of rules enacted for regulating lottery business in Maharashtra and other parts of the country**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Several State Governments in the country, especially the Government of Maharashtra, have entered into an agreement with agencies engaged in the business of Lotteries. The same agencies are causing loss to the exchequer clandestinely. It is a serious issue leading to large scale corruption. The agencies appointed by the Government of Maharashtra for online lottery and internet lottery are eating into the Government revenue. I had requested in writing, the officers who are entrusted with the regulation of this business to provide information about this matter but they refused to do so. It creates doubt therefore, I urge hon. Minister of Home Affairs to instruct said agencies the comply with the rules and regulations framed in this regard strictly.

- (xi) **Need to take suitable steps to check spreading of Criophydmite, a coconut disease in coastal areas of Orissa**

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Coconut farmers in the coastal districts of Orissa re facing a serious problem because of the Criophydmite, which has been spreading its tentacles around the coconut plants. As a result, coconut plants which are considered as an asset are on their way to become a liability for the coconut growers. There was a time when coconut growers and copra was being sent to far off places. But the business today is in doldrums as many coconut plants have failed to bear fruit this year due to the pest attack.

Even if the coconut grows on the affected plants, they become dry and get covered with black spots. Besides, their size and quality get affected. According to

[Shri B. Mahtab]

reports, hybrid coconut plants are most prone to the mite attack.

After the super cyclone in 1999, many plants had been uprooted for which the Government and other organisations had provided thousands of hybrid coconut saplings from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. But Orissa farmers' expectations have now been shattered. Kochi based Coconut Development Board is aware of this problem. Last year the Union Government had sanctioned around Rs. 1.6 lakh to combat the problem, but the fund has not been utilised to find a solution to the problem.

The Government should come forward with sufficient fund and provide expertise to find a solution to the problem of coconut farmers of Orissa.

(xii) Need to provide funds and implement 'the Hogenakkal Integrated Drinking Water Project' in Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu with a view to solve acute drinking water problem in the region

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Dharmapuri district is one of the most backward districts in India. This district receives very low rainfall and has always been suffering from water scarcity. The people of this district depend on agriculture and with such low rainfall, the agriculture does not generate sufficient income for the people. Hence, they migrate to nearby Karnataka, Bangalore in particular for their livelihood. But the most important problem is drinking water itself. The ground water is at a very low level. The State Government spends money on digging bore wells. But most of them are failures and are losses. Digging wells are also of no use.

The only option for drinking water for this district is 'The Hogenakkal Integrated Drinking Water Project'. The project was planned more than 40 years ago. It was about to be started in 1999, with Japanese aid. But following Pokhran nuclear experiment, Japan withdrew its aid. Hence it could not be started.

The cost of the project is Rs. 1,060 crore. The Tamil Nadu State Government is not committed to this project. Hence, I request the Government of India to consider the plight of the people of this district and execute the project from its own funds. The Government of India has sanctioned funds for the 'Desalination Project' in Chennai. In a similar fashion, the Government could fund this very

important project. We request the hon. Minister of Rural Development to consider our request.

15.00 hrs.

(xiii) Need for Construction of Four-Lane Road-cum-Rail Bridge at Saraighat over River Brahmaputra in Assam

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the City of Guwahati being the gateway of North-East India, deserves highest priority in the matter of communication infrastructure in link not only the States of the North-East region but also as the link to South-East Asian countries. A proposal for a three-lane road bridge at Saraighat over Brahmaputra is in the process of finalisation as a component of the four-lane East-West Corridor under the National Highways Development Project. The existing two-lane rail-cum-road bridge at Saraighat constructed in 1960-61 is not only outdated in the present context but also is unable to even accommodate the double-line broad gauge track causing a permanent problem of railway traffic congestion. It is otherwise illogical to construct a three-lane bridge to connect a four-lane highway of national connectivity by jeopardising the future growth of connectivity to this landlocked area.

I, therefore, urge upon the Prime Minister to review the proposal and get it modified for a four-lane road-cum-rail bridge, which will be able to accommodate the national and international rail and road traffic for the next 100 years. Shortsighted policy like the present proposal will harm the future growth of the region in total compromise with the security of India being a very strategic and sensitive zone of the country. If this matter is not taken care of now with utmost sincerity, the loss thereby will be irreparable.

(xiv) Need to Declare Giripar area of Sirmour District and certain areas of Kullu and Shimla Districts of Himachal Pradesh as Scheduled Tribes Areas

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of Government of India that 65,317 persons out of 1,89,968 persons residing in 392 villages under Rajgarh and Shilai, two tehsils of district Sirmor and in some parts of Tehsil

Renuka and Panwati, known as Transmountain areas are Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. People living in said entire area are culturally, economically, socially and linguistically backward. Therefore, said area should be declared as a tribal area.

Further, Gram Panchayat Pali in distt. Kullu and Chhuara development block in tehsil Rampur and Gram Panchayat Kinnu (6/20) in tehsil Rohdu of district Shimla should also be declared a Tribal area as these areas are inaccessible and culturally, economically, socially and linguistically very backward.

(xv) Need to Safeguard the Interest of the Country from Patenting of Rice by Certain Foreign Companies

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): Sir, I apologise for not being present when you called me.

Sir, Swiss biotech giant Syngenta is trying to have a monopoly control over rice seeking global patents over thousands of gene sequences. It claims to have discovered that a single grain of rice contains 37,544 genes, roughly one-fourth more genes than in a human body.

These patents have been filed before the European Patent Office, US Patent and Trademark Office and World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation. If conceded, it will have serious consequences for India and Third World countries. All patent applications need proper scrutiny and India should fight back to safeguard her interests. Needless to mention that under Indian Patent laws, genes are not patentable.

Sometime back Monsanto made similar inroads into our cotton cultivation by claiming a trait value of Rs. 1250 per packet of 400 grams of Bt Cotton seeds in addition to its normal value and fleecing our cotton cultivators.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had already divided to go late.

(xvi) Need to review the decision making use of seat belt compulsory to front sitters in vehicles in Delhi

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the fact

that there is no need to fasten seat belts in a city like Delhi where there is so much traffic on roads that vehicles move at a very slow speed. Belts prove to be useful when vehicles move at a very fast pace on highways where there is risk of accidents and head injuries or when full brakes are applied suddenly. But in Delhi, it is a problem particularly for the women more so in cases of pregnant women. The traffic police never consider these things and note down the number of the car and send the challan at the home address of the owner of that car.

Sir, through you I would like to say that this decision of making use of seat belt compulsory should be withdrawn.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In future I would like to request you also that only the text, which is already given to the Notice Office, will go on record.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: I have already given the text.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But you have not read from the text.

15.06 hrs.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL, 2005—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take Item No. 27—the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005.

The time allotted was four hours. Time taken so far—1 hour 32 minutes. Balance time left with us is two hours 28 minutes.

Shri Alok Kumar Mehta was on his feet when the House was adjourned last. Now, I would request him to continue his speech.

Shri Mehta, keep in mind that you have already taken 10 minutes.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, I have taken just four minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am here with records, which shows that you have taken seven minutes. Please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, continuing my speech regarding protection of women from domestic violence bill, 2005, I want to say that all the great leaders and social reformers of the country have advocated for equal status for women. Man and Woman are like two wheels of a vehicle. It is an often repeated statement but at practical level the discrimination is due to manuvadi ideology. In Manuvadi system, animals, lower castes and women were kept in the same category. The society has retained all those wrong traditions for long and is still continuing with them. Manuvadi system is to be blamed for this. We would have to look beyond this system. A revolution is taking place in the country and entire world in this regard. Recently I participated in a youth festival organized in Venezuela where this subject was discussed at length. I would like to say that it should not be taken as a confrontation between man and woman. It is a struggle for a different kind of system. It should be taken as a struggle from psychological point of view. Project Raksha has been launched in Delhi. It deserves appreciation. This project should be implemented all over the country. Women should be given training for self protection in educational and other institutions so that it might help them in an emergency. Voluntary organizations need to be active in this field. This issue is rooted in social evils and conservative mindset therefore, there is a need to create awareness among people. Reliable voluntary organizations should be involved in such programmes. There is a need to create awareness in the society so as to check atrocities against women. Entire society should rise in protest if there is any such incident. The Courts always give verdicts on technical grounds. But the House should formulate laws for such cases because there are certain incidents regarding which it is difficult to present concrete evidence. There is a need to consider the case from a human angle in such situations. Women belonging to the poor classes suffer in silence. CrPC Act and other provisions under various Acts are meant for the rich only. Violence against women is an everyday story if we take a look at the poor sections living in socially and economically backward areas and villages. This act should make a provision to facilitate lodging of complaint by economically and socially backward women because women hesitate to go to police stations. They

should be provided with free advocacy also because in a male dominated society, money and power are concentrated in their hands. Women who are victimized do not have money to fight their case in the court. The Government should look into this aspect also. It should be ensured that guilty are punished and no scope should be left for manipulations in the proceedings. This Act should be amended while considering all these points. This Act should be formulated in such a way that it is not misused, otherwise the House may have to enact protection of men act in near future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to thank the hon. Minister, Shrimati Kanti Singh for bringing forward this Act in the House that would give a new direction to the entire society. With these words I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]

15.14 hrs.

[English]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to say a few words on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005.

Sir, there is a saying in Tamil: *Mangalyarai Pirappadharke Nalla Madhavam Seidhida Vendurumamma.*

The patriotic poet of the pre-Independence days, hailing from Tamil Nadu, Thiru Kavimani Thesiya Vinagagam Pillai has rendered this couplet, which means that 'one should have been blessed by the Almighty, the creator to be born as woman.'

I happily say that the UPA Government, under the able leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has honoured the womenfolk by bringing forward this Bill, and of course, I support this Bill on behalf of our DMK party.

At the same time, we have to admit the fact that some points mentioned in the Bill should be given more seriousness. Then only the genuine aim of this Bill can be achieved by the UPA Government.

Though the Bill clearly states all the protective measures against domestic violence, we feel sorry to say that in practice it is not so. We all very well know that in ancient times women were given very honourable position and were treated with great respect. They even worked as ambassadors and advisors in the Courts of various Kings—for example, female poets like Avvaiyar and Kakaipadiniyar in Southern part of our country. But in the middle period, women were ill treated. They were used only as enjoyable objects for men folk. They were actually slaves in rich people's houses and in the houses of their husbands. Usually their husbands would bow with both hands folded in front of Goddesses and pray for their welfare. At the same time, with the same hands, they would beat their wives at homes. At some places, women were compelled to burn themselves when their husbands died. At that time, our great Rajaram Mohan Roy protested against this practice of burning ladies when they lost their life partners. Even now it is happening but for different cause, that is, dowry—the most unacceptable crime prevailing in our society. Great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Rajaji, Ee.Ve.Ra. Periyar fought very much against the social evils committed against ladies by men-folk. In spite of all the efforts made by our leaders, the mental make-up of our people has not changed as it should have.

In the Bill, it is clearly stated that, information about any domestic violence should be immediately passed on to the concerned protection officer. But, the people—both learned and illiterate—try to hide the occurrence of any domestic violence and thus women folk would be prevented from getting the protection from this Act.

Though the Bill at the documentary level is very good, implementation is the only key to get an assured success of this Act. To get this assured success, I would like to suggest a concept based on three 'As'. These three 'As' are: Awareness, Authority and Action. Our UPA Government should earmark a good budget to promote awareness among women through video, media and solid campaign by voluntary services. Secondly, with the co-operation of the State Governments, our Central Government should create specific authority legally empowered to rescue the women whenever atrocities against women are reported. Special police force should be formed exclusively to look into the difficulties caused to the women due to domestic violence.

I would also like to suggest that persons, who have made special and notable contributions in liberating

women socially, should be honoured at the national level. This award could be of a high stature like Bharat Vibhushan or Bharat Ratna or like that. This will go a long way to motivate all those individuals and NGOs who are interested in women's welfare. This award could be considered for officers and other Government employees also who make singular contribution in the matter of protecting women against domestic violence.

Sir, empowerment of women is the real shield which can protect women against domestic violence. Forming of self-help groups is an appreciable way in empowering women economically and socially. I proudly say that in our Tamil Nadu, our great leader Dr. Kalaignar formed a self-help group first in 1989. During his regime only, he brought an Act to appoint only lady teachers in elementary school level, that is, first standard to fifth standard. This Act also was implemented in getting Government posts also. Thus the women are empowered in Tamil Nadu. In spite of all these efforts made by various leaders and all the protective measures stated in this Bill, women are suffering from dowry demands; women suffer if they give birth to female babies; women employees suffer eve-teasing and physical and mental harassment by their officers.

This pathetic position should change.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tamil Nadu is governed by a lady!

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: The Tamil Poet Bharati, who inflamed the spirit of freedom from the foreign yoke has rendered this couplet:

"Maadhar Thammai Izhivu Saiyum Madamaiyai Koluththuvom".

It means, we should totally demolish the evil practice of disgracing and demeaning the womanhood.

So, I insist that the Government should form a committee at the village level for the successful implementation of this most important Act, to save women from domestic violence.

Our UPA Government, under the appreciable leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, has passed the Bill for giving equal share in the property for women. Self-Help Groups are encouraged by our Government. When the Rural Employment Guarantee Bill was passed here, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has very well spoken about 33

[Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

per cent reservation in employment. We further hope that the Bill giving 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures will be brought forward in this House very soon.

By all means, we, from the DMK Party, support this Bill with the hope that it will surely help the women to protect themselves from domestic violence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Archana Nayak.

You can come to the front, if you find difficulty in speaking from there.

Anyhow, ladies are giving the front place! The Bill also gives such a position; and so, you can come to the front.

All women Members who speak on this Bill can come to the front and speak; their speeches will be recorded from the front seats.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the much-awaited discussion on Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005. On behalf of the Biju Janata Dal and our leader and the Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Naveen Pattnaik, I rise to support the Bill.

It was the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who said that 'a society should be judged according to the way in which it treats its women and its minorities'. Therefore, the problem that this Bill addresses is very fundamental.

Domestic violence against women happens not only in the slums but also in the apparently civilised homes of the educated middle class families as well as in the well-protected mansions of the rich and the powerful. Such violence mostly takes place the closed privacy of a home and the victim is often silent about her suffering due to family pressure or fear or ignorance or the absence of any help or support. In a condition of helpless loneliness the victim loses her voice to articulate her suffering, she loses her courage to protest, to complain and to resist. Even her natural will power for self-protection fails to assert itself.

Domestic violence against women is not confined to marital relationship alone. Young girls, sisters, spinsters, widows, deserted and dependent women living on the

margins of the family, are often subjected to violence in various forms, most of them publicly invisible. So far as marriage is concerned, we are generally more worried about the sanctity of its form rather than the reality of its content. And this is one of the reasons why many women are constrained to tolerate the intolerable.

This Bill is a strong step in the right direction. It has many new provisions. For me, the most significant point concerns the definition of domestic violence. Now, domestic violence includes physical and sexual injuries as well as verbal, emotional and economic abuse. We all know that language can be a very destructive weapon of violence. The acidity of abusive language can be as painful and damaging as aggressive physical behaviour. So, it gives me deep satisfaction to note that the Bill addresses this aspect of domestic violence, which had not been properly dealt with in the past.

While supporting the Bill, I want to make certain suggestions. There have been instances where the parents and the brother force the grown-up unmarried girl in the family into prostitution to earn money. The helpless girl then becomes a commodity in the hell of the flesh-market. I suggest that stringent provision should be made in the present Bill to punish such culprits.

Disabled women suffer from a double disadvantage. Apart from their being women, they are also physically or mentally challenged. Such women constitute a special category. Many women, who are physically or mentally challenged, have been sexually abused by close relatives. For example, many of the disabled women in Orissa, who constitute 50 per cent of the 40 lakh disabled population in the State, are increasingly becoming victims of domestic violence. I, therefore, suggest that there should be a special provision in the Bill to award maximum punishment to such perpetrators of violence.

The Bill is silent on violence committed on a maid servant, living within the four walls of the family. There should be some provision in the Bill for such cases.

Clause 8 of the Bill states that the expenditure with regard to the appointment of Protection Officers in each district shall be the responsibility of the respective State Governments. I want to suggest that the Central Government should also contribute towards this expenditure because many State Governments may not be in a position to take this financial responsibility on their own. Financial provision is an important aspect for

the practical implementation of law. Therefore, the concerned expenditure should be the joint responsibility of both the Central and the State Governments for successful implementation of the present Bill.

Laws alone are not enough to counter domestic violence. What would the law do with regard to Imrana's Father-in-law who raped her, though she is the mother of his five grand children? Probably, not much. We need to strike at the root cause of such violence, which is: the feudal mentality of patriarchy.

As a society we need to internalise the basic moral idea that human relationship is not a form of property ownership. For this to happen, both women and men have to work together to create the right kind of social atmosphere in which respect for the individual becomes a fundamental value in practice. Therefore, more and more men should be encouraged to get involved in cooperative efforts to counter domestic violence. The Government can and should patronize such efforts. Gender ethics should be made a compulsory course in our school curriculum.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Law and Justice to give enough strength and accessibility to the new law to deal with domestic violence against women effectively. The new law should create a mechanism under which women in any part of the country and belonging to any social or economic group can readily get access to legal redress.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. On behalf of the Bhartiya Janta Party, I support the Bill and I am pleased that you gave me opportunity to speak. I request you to give such opportunity in future also. ...*(Interruptions)* Presently we are in the forefront here, no body is ahead of us.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am fully aware of the consequence that is why I have allowed it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: I want that you should always give opportunity to women. I am glad to

note that the discussion is being held in the House regarding the protection of women against the domestic violence and during the course of discussion, many of our male colleagues, who are present here supported the cause, however, I am sorry to say that the male Members did not participate in discussion as much as the women Members. ...*(Interruptions)* It can not be possible that they did not get opportunity. Regarding the Protection of Women from the Domestic Violence Bill, I would like to submit that I come from an area which is a tribal belt of Southern Rajasthan where several types of atrocities are committed against women and several incidents of domestic violence have been reported from that area. We are very worried about such incidents. There is need to protect the women from the domestic violence which is day by day increasing and the decision to formulate laws to protect women from the domestic violence for which the Bill has been moved is very much commendable. I honour his step.

The domestic violence is widely prevalent in our society. However, by and large it is unreported. Whenever husband or there relatives commit atrocities against a sick women, he is criminal under section 498 (A) of the Indian Penal Code. However, this legal procedure is not the solution to this problem. Further, the domestic violence is not symbol of a civilized society, however, it is a reality of the present civilized society where our women are exposed to domestic violence on large scale and it is wrong notion that such incidents occur in rural area or in tribal areas only. If we go through the data, we find that this phenomenon is prevailing more in cities than I villages, as a new type of the modern mindset has developed in the cities that advocates the equality of gender leading to domestic violence as I feel. This is the land of Sita and Draupadi where women living in a male dominated society have never raised their voice against domestic violence. They have always taken it as love of their husband's. If she is bashed up by her husband she thinks that he has done it out of the affection. That is why she does not raise her voice against it. The domestic violence was never treated as violence in this country. Now when it comes to modernity, we are forced to consider it as violence in the modern atmosphere, as it is the demand of the situation. It has been stated in the Bill that,

[English]

"Provided that an aggrieved wife or female living in a relationship in the nature of a marriage may also file a complaint against a relative of the husband or the male partner."

[Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari]

[Translation]

I would like to draw the attention to the fact that there is a need to be cautious in this matter, because the wife has achieved that status under the Hindu Marriage Act because women go to their husband's house after the solemnization of marriage according to traditional Hindu Rites. If there is domestic violence in the family and there is relationship other than husband and wife in a family then it will be a kind of promotion to the modern environment, where men and women live together without marriage and it would be treated as the domestic violence, and in that case it will be called a kind of attack on the right of the wife. It is different thing in what way it is taken. I am of the opinion that provision should be made in the Bill that it is not misused. We should also take into account this aspect also.

Many a provisions have been made in the Bill however, there is need to ensure that provision of the Bill are not misused. Next thing that has been mentioned in the Bill is that protection officers will be appointed. It has also been mentioned that as far as possible the protection officers will be women. But this provision should be implemented in letter and spirit. Only then the problems of women can be understood easily and it would facilitate their empowerment. The hon'ble Minister has mentioned quite ingeniously as I had also quoted that the women who are victim of actual ill-treatment or living or have been living in relationship and are victim of physical, emotional or financial threat should be included in this Bill and these crimes have been covered under the IPC for which action is taken.

It has also been mentioned about shelter homes. It is a good proposal. When women are forced to leave their houses to escape from domestic violence do not have any option—neither they can go to their father's home nor anywhere else. If there is provision of shelter homes they may get protection. I liked this provision. Shelter homes must be set-up for women. In a state like Kerala where literacy rate is 100 percent and the maternal and infant mortality rate have declined due to improvement in health quality, despite that the incidents of domestic violence are kept on rising in the State. I would like to put figures before you to substantiate my observation in this regard. The domestic violence against women in Kerala includes mental torturing, economic exploitation and sexual torturing. 40 percent of the women included in the survey admitted that they faced domestic violence while

11 percent of the women were sexually exploited since childhood. 12 per cent daughters of the mothers admitted that they were also sexually exploited since childhood. Regarding the domestic violence, most of the women confessed that atrocities were committed against them by non other than husbands.

The major reason of domestic violence is alcoholism, doubting the character of wife, financial crunch and the demand for dowry. Very surprising fact have come out of the survey. Nearly one third of the women covered under the survey opine that their husband have right to bash them up while some of them are of the opinion, that if their husband bash them they should be questioned for this. Some women are of the opinion that concrete action should be taken to stop domestic violence. So, the Bill that has been moved is quite essential. This Bill has provision to protect the women against whom atrocities are committed either by a relative or by a family member.

I would like to request him to ensure that this provision is not misused. The women of entire world are subjected to domestic violence, but in our country situation is alarming. Figures provided in this regard suggest that despite economic progress, the incidents of domestic violence are increasing. As such it is essential that not only Union Government, but State Governments should also agree to enact legislation in this regard. 12 years ago, an official definition of misconduct based on gender discrimination was given in the charter of United Nations General Assembly. With regard to the proposed Bill, I would like to submit that it is very good that all political parties are supporting it. The Women Members of the parties have praised this bill while expressing their views and there is consensus to bring in such bill through which protection could be provided to women against domestic violence. Alongwith it, I would like to say one more thing, the bill being presented by the Government would definitely be passed, similarly we should also support the bill providing 33 per cent reservation to women so as to facilitate empowerment of women and to protect them against domestic violence. I would also like to appeal that Women Reservation Bill should be brought forward at the earliest and all parties should support it because women and men are both essential components of society, as one of my colleagues said that they supplement each other. Either of them cannot lead prosperous and happy life without mutual cooperation. Therefore, it is necessary for the upliftment of society that both should work together in the society, only then, the empowerment of women can be ensured. In Indian

scenario, it is always said that it is a male-dominated society, however, instead of a competitor; women should come forward as companion in such society. That is why it is a good sign for the society to bring in a bill regarding empowerment of women. Similarly, Women Reservation Bill is also a commendable step.

I respect this bill wholeheartedly and fully support it but alongwith it I hope that hon'ble Minister will also take into account suggestions of amendments to bring farther improvement in this Bill. I think you for giving me an opportunity to speak on protection of women.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. lady Members, I won't restrict the time for you. You will be given sufficient time. There will be no time restriction for lady Members because the Bill is passed on their words. It must be on record that this Bill was passed on the words of our hon. lady Members.

Now, Shrimati Krishna Tirath, if you want you can come to the front bench and speak. I have no power to compel you.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. I am comfortable speaking from my seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As you please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005. This is a very good bill and very essential in present time. yesterday also, my female colleagues, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan and Shrimati D. Purandeswari spoke very well and today Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari has also given a good speech, they have spoken in favour of this Bill. Hon'ble Members have thrown light on benefits likely to accrue to women from this bill. Atrocities and violence against women begins at home. Women are safe nowhere, neither at home nor outside, therefore, the need to bring this Bill arose.

Yesterday, my colleague Shri Shallendra Kumar ji was speaking on this topic. He stated as to why he is not in favour of this Bill. He talked about Indian culture

and said as per Indian culture there was no need to bring this Bill, because if women becomes more powerful at home, they will try to dominate males. I understand that it reflects his patriarchal attitude. We do not have any such intention while bring this Bill and neither we spoke in favour of such thinking. As per Indian history and Indian culture, women have been worshipped as goddess of wealth and strength i.e. Durga and Laxmi over the ages; despite she has been subjected to atrocities. As per Hindu mythology, Goddess Durga fulfils all the wishes when she is worshipped as Mother, Mahishasurmaidini is known as mother for bringing on end to tyrannical rule of Mahishasur, the demon. I rise to support the Bill moved by Shrimati Kanti Singh to protect the women who have fallen prey to domestic violence. Today, both man and woman worship the Goddess Durga that is why this bill will empower women so that they are respected inside and outside their home because women work with full sincerity and honesty at both these places.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the modern age the women have immense strength, therefore, they should be given fair treatment. On the one hand it is said that women carry forward generations on other hand, they are not respected. It should not happen. Women gives birth to a child, looks after him properly and even thereafter she devotes herself in his service. In this way they serve man with full sense of devotion, despite she faces such atrocities, it is not good.

Sir, today itself I read in newspaper that acid was thrown on a woman, pressurizing her to bring money from her parent's home. This bill has been brought in to protect women from such incidents. The Indian Constitution has given equal rights to men and women. Since we play a vital role in the creation of human being. We should establish a healthy tradition. It is essential to empower women to fight against the atrocities being committed by husband and other family members. Such a legislation should be enacted for their so that they could get protection.

Sir, Information to Protection Officers and exclusion of liability of informant, Duties of police officers, Service providers and Magistrate, Duties of Shelter Homes, Appointment of Protection officers, Duties and Function of Protection Officer, Duties of Service Providers, and Government etc. have been clearly mentioned in chapter III of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005. All these provisions have been made in this Bill to providing protection and power to women.

[Shrimati Krishna Tirath]

Sir, in ancient times due to helpness of women, it was said:

"Abala Jeevan Hai Teri Yehi Kahani,
Anchal mein hain doodh our ankhon mein pani"

We want to prove this poem wrong. We want to empower the women through this bill, so that the said poem may not prove true in their context. It is true that a woman should be loving and keenly perform her domestic duties, but I fully agree with hon'ble Members, Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari that brutalities against women should be stopped. This bill will help in checking domestic violence against the woman.

Sir, alongwith it, I would also like to suggest that not only domestic violence, but non-domestic violence against women should also be checked. This bill will pave the way for women to get rid of violence committed by husband and other family members, but besides that women are exploited in many other ways also, it includes dowry harassment, sexual exploitation and many other kinds of exploitation, that should also be checked. If we glance through the figures of last two years in regard to crimes against women, we find that 1,43,795 cases have been registered in the year 2001-02, and 1,43,034 and 1,40,601 cases have been registered in the year 2003 and the current year respectively. Crimes against women in Delhi have not decreased at all. Just now, an example of Kerala was cited, which has maximum number of literate people, but violence against women is committed over there also, but in the capital of India, Delhi, recently, 15-20 days back, a women who was married only one year ago, was beaten to death in Bhajanpura, for not fulfilling the demand of dowry and her body was hanged with a ceiling fan. Probably, the Police was about to register to case of suicide, but due to prompt action by the parents of the deceased girl, they were not able to do so. Women are being harassed this way. The amendments and provisions made in this Bill should be strictly implemented to check this menace. The women who go missing are later on forced into prostitution, it should also be checked; it should be banned. In addition to it, in tribal areas, women are declared witch and are killed by pelting stones at her. Such kind of atrocities should be checked and more provisions should be added to this Bill to check such crimes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the incidents of gang rape of women are taking place in moving trains. Recently such an incident took place in Mumbai. The incidents of rape

in moving car took place in Delhi. The case of Imrana is also an example of domestic violence. In such cases, ruling should be given by the court, justice or injustice should not be delivered to women as per Fatwa. There might be many women who do not dare to speak in public. There are many such women like Imrana, who do not dare to speak in public, but tolerate injustice at home. It seems to me, that this bill will benefit them and they would be able to raise their voices and injustice would no longer be there. Last year, many rape cases came to light in various parts of the country. In Delhi, 525 rape cases were registered. A student of Maulana Azad Medical College was also raped. Similar incident took place with a nurse of Shanti Mukand Medical Hospital.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, I have given you unlimited time. There is no restriction for ladies!

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: I will conclude in a minute. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, but nobody learnt a lesson from that punishment of life imprisonment. Just two days after that, a student of Delhi University was raped in a moving car. Nobody learns lesson from punishments of life imprisonment, it means provision of capital punishment should be there, then only people will think twice before committing such crimes. Gang rape often takes place with women. Women are not safe in their home, offices, fields, cars, buses, trains or their residential localities or anywhere else. It appears to me that a Bill has been brought to check all these things, I support this bill.

Issue of foeticide has also been included in it. Soniaji, who is the chairperson of UPA, takes special note of all such cases and wanted that we should bring a bill for all-round empowerment of women, whether it is physical, psychological, economic or educational. They should also get protection in politics. Such a Bill is being brought at present. I would like to say only two-three things in the context of this Bill, which are my suggestions.

My suggestion is that the women should get free legal aid, because when an atrocity is committed against the women neither a person from maternal home nor husband's home comes forward for help. Therefore, free

legal aid should be given to them by the Government. Rehabilitation Centres should be set up for the old women who are thrown out of their homes by their children and Government should give them stipend and look after them till they get justice. Rehabilitation Centres should be set up for them on the lines of Working Women Hostel and they should get full maintenance.

With these words, I support the bill presented by our hon'ble Minister, Shrimati Kanti Singh. This bill will be passed after taking into account suggestions. The entire House will pass this Bill. Alongwith it, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let us hear a husband-Member Shri Mitrasen Yadav to speak now. A male Member is speaking. Afterwards, I will call the women Members. Shri Yadav, you can speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Chairman Sir, my name is perhaps misspelt, kindly correct it. I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on such an important Bill and extend my support to this Bill.

We will have to ponder over this thing that whether we need a legislation even for our family relations, be it the relation of husband wife, brother and sister. We have several social relations in which not law but the fraternal, maternal love are the guiding force. We will not find any father here who would tolerate torture on his daughter. When a girl is young she is treated as flesh and blood of the family and when she grows up she is married away under the protection of her husband. There also she gets the same love and affection and protection. When she bears children and becomes a mother she is respected by her children and elders alike. Then where from this question of protection from harassment arises. I wonder what their fault is if they were not given this choice by the Providence to take birth as a male. Had the Providence given them this choice they would have definitely opted for the form of male. My submission is that though law should certainly be formulated for their protection but we cannot do everything with the help of law. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Chairman, these words should be deleted from the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): Sir, that word should be removed. ...*(Interruptions)* Without women where is this world. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Khiri): They are not following his intent. His party leader is also a woman. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: We are proud to be women. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will tell you one thing. You can use only parliamentary words. Those words which are unparliamentary will be expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: There are people practising all kinds of religion in our country. During riots Hindus kill Muslims and Muslims kill Hindus. What is their fault. The Providence had not asked a Muslim whether he would prefer to take birth in a Muslim's or a Hindu's family. We are not at fault. The woman is not at fault. Hindu Muslims are not at fault. There are vices, weaknesses in our society and we fall an easy victim to it. It is our duty to remove those social evils. We will have to ship shape our society with the help of law. I know the reasons why women are victims of exploitation. They are victims of economic exploitation, financial dependence, discrimination in their share of patrimony, illiteracy, malpractices, foeticide, desertion etc. Legislation alone can not save them from all these vices and malpractices but we will have to bring awareness in our society and take resort to best ethos of our civilization, culture and humanity. We should train such organizations and social reform institutions which could work towards checking the inhuman, cruel treatment and discrimination

[Shri Mitrasen Yadav]

against women and could help generate a feeling of love and affection towards them.

My submission is that laws should be made but there are certain people with devilish intent in the society who inflict tortures on women taking advantage of the lacuna in the existing laws. Be it sexual harassment or domestic exploitation of harassment of any kind. But what will be the definition of law against domestic violence and how evidences will be collected? What will be the punishment under the criminal act? It will also have to be decided. Thus, we need to exercise a lot of caution and seriousness while formulating this law lest there be bitterness in brother, sister, man-woman and mother-son relation and our society is drifted towards more evils. We want our society to head from evil to good.

16.00 hrs.

It will not happen with legislation alone but with social relation. The culture which has been worshipped since Vedic ages, Mahabharata, Ramayana and which is the very foundation of our Hindu Society that culture should not be tarnished. so, we will have to be very vigilant while bringing this Bill. I extend my support to this Bill. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I support the Protection of Women from domestic Violence Bill, 2005. This is a very important Bill. It can even be termed as a historic Bill. As I understand, there is no legislation in our country which so far explains or defines what is domestic violence. This legislation, for the first time, gives a very wide definition on domestic violence. I think that will help to protect the rights of the women when they are attacked even in the privacy of their homes.

It is reported that there are 31 per cent of the cases registered related to domestic violence. It is also reported that a very few cases are reported because women are afraid or social taboos are attached to that. So, they will not report all the crimes that are committed at home. This Bill enables women to protect their rights, to seek the help of the legislation and also to take the perpetrators of crime to the courts. These are the positive signs so far as the law is concerned. This is a legislation for which all the women organisations in the country were always fighting for. Probably, the Left Parties always extended support to this cause. Therefore, Sir, I support

this Bill. But when we are supporting this legislation, we have to think also whether the legislation is enough to protect the rights of women. The constitutional provisions are mentioned in the aims and objects of this Bill. They are there. It is a fact that women are shabbily treated. We have been discussing the other day about the problems of children—the child labour. There are innumerable laws to prevent the child labour but child labour is very much prevalent. So, a law is good; it is enabling the concerned people to go to the courts and seek remedy. But the more important thing is perhaps the social awareness, particularly the social awareness of the concerned sections. Women should themselves be aware of the fact that they are oppressed—they are socially and economically oppressed—and if they are aware of that, then this law can be utilised. It is another fact that there should be political will on the part of the rulers to support the women and those who are suffering. If these three things are combined, namely, the social awareness, the political will, the awareness of the concerned sections that they are victims of certain circumstances, then probably this legislation will be more effective in protecting their rights.

Sir, ours is a traditional Indian society. We always say that women are our goddesses, many of them are 'devis'. If you look into the *Puranas*, for example, all those *devis* were oppressed in the conditions of the domestic situation prevailing then. The women characters in our *Puranas*—whether it is Sita, Panchali or Rukmini or anybody else—spoke not Sanskrit but they spoke Prakrit. Why was it? It was because according to the ancient law of Manu, the women as well as the *Shudras* were told that—'You are not supposed to learn Sanskrit'. So, even the *devis* in the Indian *Puranas* were speaking Prakrit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Gargi was speaking Sanskrit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandrappan, do not look behind. You address the Chair.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Gargi was not a *devi*. She was one of the outstanding women intellectuals who could compete with the male intellectuals of that time. I am talking about Indian *devis*. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandrappan, do not look behind. You are addressing the Indian Parliament.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Sir, Draupadi was speaking Prakrit. ...(*Interruptions*) That was the traditional society's influence. That is perpetrated by feudalism and the society which is traditional, which is feudal and which is also patriarchal, will not easily allow to implement this legislation just because the legislation is adopted.

You see what had happened. *Sati* was perpetrated in Rajasthan. We had seen the case of Roop Kanwar. It had been reported that she was killed by a certain section of people who wanted to build a temple for *sati*, though there was a legislation against *sati*.

What I am trying to say is we support this legislation wholeheartedly. We want the Government to show sufficient political will to implement it. It is a very difficult thing. We wanted the womenfolk in the country to be aware of the fact that they would be enabled by this legislation to get their rights protected. If all these things are going together, then this legislation will make a meaningful change in our society.

With these few words, I extend my wholehearted support to this legislation.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE (Ichalkaranji): Mr. Chairman, domestic violence and maltreatment of women is an important subject. I extend my heartiest support to the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005 brought by the Government and extend felicitations to Kanti Singh ji. Women constitute around 50 per cent of the total population but it is regretful that their condition has never been good despite so many laws. Their life has always been full of struggle. They are victims of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and financial harassment. Despite playing a key role they do not enjoy a good position. The physical and mental violence towards women is one of the most burning issues of contemporary times. A woman is the biggest sufferer in any kind of violence be it domestic, social, communal violence or that resulting from war and strifes. The mindset and attitude of that society to which women belongs, is responsible for these forms of violence. It is a matter of concern. Violence in a women' life begins at the foetus stage itself. Although the desire for son has always been there in our society but in the wake of globalization it has further deepened. The desire for son has resulted in increased cases of female foeticide. Institutionalisation of Foeticide has been taking place. A sort of campaign is

going on to nip in the bud the idea of giving equal participation to the women in the development of the society by resorting to female foeticide. A slogan used to be raised across the country that had this message that spending Rs. Five hundred today will result in saving rupees five lakhs tomorrow. Although this practice is not restricted to our country only rather the same conditions is prevailing in countries like China and our friend U.S.S.R. and the world over. It appears as if the desire for baby boy has become a global phenomenon. The sex ratio in Pahnala Tehsil in Kolhapur district, to which I belong, is quite adverse and these are only 725 females behind every thousand males which is a matter of serious concern. This trend of declining sex ratio is really a matter of concern for all of us. That is why we will have to see this Bill in larger perspective. As I have stated earlier that although there are several laws in force for the protection and development of women but they fall short in compliance. It takes several years to bring someone to task. We will have to change this system and provide for justice and punishment. Merely enacting law would not solve the problem. Rather we have to ensure that it is strictly implemented and a provision of stringent punishment within a prescribed period should be made for those who violate law as we all are worshipper of women. All hon'ble Members and lady members have accepted it. Industrialists worship Goddess Lakshmi and those who are doctor, lawyer, engineer and professor worship Goddess Saraswati. Politicians worship Goddess Durga. All people treat woman as Goddess and bow their head before her then why do we face this problem? This is the point which needs consideration. I had read in the newspaper that a father raped her daughter, this thing has to be taken seriously. If a person commits such kind of crime then the government should take strict action against him and in that case this law would prove very useful.

Today it is essential that women should stand shoulder to shoulder with men in the society and should not consider themselves inferior to men in any respect. Men should also change their mentality towards women. Women is the backbone of family, society and nation. Liberty to women for taking their decision and expressing their views independently reflects the ideology of a nation. Women is the honour of a family. This Bill will make her more strong mentally and psychologically. Progress of women would lead to progress of family as well as the country. She can perform well if she is given legal protection. Out of this ideology, our party president of N.C.P. Shri Sharad Pawar as the Chief Minister of

[Shrimati Nivedita Mane]

Maharashtra in 1994 had waived off the court fee for the women in the family matters like divorce. Consequently, women could have moved the court without any hesitation and it had greatly benefited the women.

Sir, it has become essential today for the Government to work more in the field of education, health and social justice for women. I feel that an educated self-reliant and healthy women need no such legal protection.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards one more important issue, namely media. The manner in which the women is depicted in media, that is radio, television, newspapers and magazines needs to be changed. The Government have to take strong measures in this regard. In entire world, women are subject to the domestic violence but the situation in our country is more serious. It is evident from the figure that despite economic progress in the country violence against women has increased. I wholeheartedly support this Bill which has been brought in to check domestic violence against women. For this, I would like to thank chairperson of U.P.A., Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Shrimati Kanti Singh and demand that women should have equal participation in politics. I would like that the Government should present Women Reservation Bill in parliament as early as possible. I welcome the Bill, awaited for more than two decades, meant for checking domestic violence against women. I support this Bill. I myself and on behalf of my party, N.C.P. welcome this Bill.

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to mention that sufficient time is being given to all the hon. lady Members to speak on this issue. They are being given as much time as they like, and there is no restriction on it. Next is Shrimati Jayaprada.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Sir, I would like to lay my speech on the Table of the House. I am making a request because permission has not been given to do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can lay your speech on the table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jayaprada, you can come to the rows in the front and speak.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Sir, with your permission, I would like to come to the rows in the front to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want, you can come to the very first row also.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

[Translation]

Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005. I am in dilemma as to from where I should start and where I should conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jayaprada, you can start from your home itself.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, I am trying to do it.

[Translation]

Sir, right from our childhood we think that when we grow up we will do something for society. I am very happy that I have been elected as an M.P. to this House. When I was a member of Rajya Sabha, at that time too, I had called parliament as 'Temple of Democracy'. When we come here, we find a couplet inscribed on gate:

"Na sa sabha yatra na santi vridha, vridha na te yo na vadanti dharmam. Dharmaha sa no yatra na satyamasti, satyam na tadyachalamabyupaiti".

Sir, Draupadi had uttered these words in the full view of assembly while she was being dishonoured.

It is irony that women is considered as commodity. I would like to say that atrocities are always committed on weaker sections of the society. Atrocities are committed more on those who are weak, helpless and dependent on others. I am not in the favour of discrimination between men and women. This is very important issue and eminent personalities have also advocated it. When a woman gets pregnant, the gender of child in the womb, becomes a issue of discussion whether it is a baby boy or baby girl.

A girl always desires to serve her family in every manner. A woman always serves her family in every form of relations, namely as a mother she showers affection upon her family members, as a daughter adds laurel to her family, as a wife renders her service to her husband and children and as a sister respects her elders in the family. I do not understand why people do not pay proper attention to the girl child while they have so much affection for their pet animals. When girls go to their in-law's house after marriage they devote themselves to their service. The parents of the girls marry their daughter off with the hope that she will be happy in her in-law's house, however, in reality such thing is not happening there. The moment she goes to her in-laws house her expectation is shattered and she is subject to torture. She goes there after leaving her parents brother and sisters behind and she is quite unknown to the new environment where she is tortured and attempts are being made to kill her. The worth of her life is not even comparable to petty things like motorbike and scooter and her life is considered cheaper than these articles, since, she is tortured for arranging these. I do not understand what type of injustice it is that we are doing with her. We have formulated and are formulating laws to check such incidents. All provisions have been made in the law but we could not change the mindset of our society. Unless the mindset of the society is changed, atrocities against women will continue to take place.

Karyeshu Dasi, Karneshu Mantri
Shayneshu Rambha, Bhojayeshu Mata,
Grihneshu Lakshmi.

We call women as Lakshmi and the mother. We call our land as mother land and women as creators. However, the women that sustains progeny of to human species are tortured and attempts are made to kill them. If we eliminate the women then there will be no society and the entire creation will come to an end. If we do not pay due regard to women, how shall we survive. For that we need independence. A Woman will become independent only when she acquires an identity of her own.

Today women want to go out and work. We are finding women in new role in the society. She is making efforts to become self dependent in the society. However, the society is not allowing her to do this. So, education is very essential for girls. I am not talking about towns and cities. If one goes to villages, we all know that even today there is not a single Girl's Inter College in villages.

There is gross illiteracy there. Sir, unless education is provided to them, they will be dependent on others and will nurture the impression that boys are important. So, they are to be educated and provided more food. They do not think it is necessary to pay attention to the girls as they think that after marriage she will go to other person's house as she is other's property. Sir, please tell us as to how this mentality will be changed. Sir, I would certainly like to submit that when a woman is pregnant all people in her in-laws house want to know the gender of the unborn child and advise her to go in for gender determination test. If a survey is conducted in Rajasthan, it will be clear that there was 'marriage function (Barat)' there after 115 years. That means that there is no need of girls. The people have such type of mentality. I would like to submit that girls go to their in-laws houses after marriage with so much expectation but they are killed for dowry. Sometimes, they are burnt alive in the name of 'Sati' which is still practised. Such type of treatment is illegal; however, such things are being practised. It is very essential to bring about improvement in it.

I would like to know one thing in this context. Are the girls secure at their education institutions at their work places? They travel by bus and they are raped there. They approach police station for help but they are victimized there. The policemen torture them and rape them. Where will she go in such a situation? We all know that police officer does not provide protection to that woman and does not register her case. Where will she go in such a situation? I would like to submit that there is need to change the legal and police system of the country. Strict action should be taken against those police officers who commit atrocities against the woman and exploit her. Such officers must understand that if atrocities are committed against women and they are found guilty of exploitation of women, they will be severely punished and there should be no delay in it. I do not want to blame any one, however, there is need to streamline the law and order situation because if one court case goes on for 16 to 21 years, the accused will be acquitted and plaintiff will get disappointed. I would certainly like to mention one more thing. As I have been given sufficient time to express my views, it would be worthwhile to say something on the institution of marriage.

[English]

Sir, in marriage there are two individuals who have to keep respect for each other. Marriage has to be maintained with respect and decorum in the society.

[Shrimati Jayaprada]

[*Translation*]

Unless that decorum is maintained no law can serve any relationship. I would certainly like to say one thing. Why do people go to seek divorce in contravention of the institution of marriage women never willingly go for divorce? It is very painful for her to seek divorce at the cost of her children and the family. However, I would like to submit that our country is the only country where the members in every family of the society like to live in close bondage. Such thing is not found in western countries where grownups often fail to recognize even their parents. They do not believe in the institution of marriage. Every girl want dreams about her marriage but she is tortured after marriage. She is tortured for dowry, property. It is essential to punish such persons. I support the Bill and I would certainly like to say that the positive points of the Bill are to be adopted.

It is a very sensitive Bill. So there is a possibility of its misuse as well. I would like to submit that since we respect our family, marriage, household and the institution of marriage, so we should not misuse it. Rather it should be properly utilized. We all should make efforts to ensure that the benefits of the said Bill reaches to the targetted group. The entire society should support women for their upliftment. We are not weak. We want to see every woman as strong as 'Jhanshi Ki Rani'. If the persons who commit atrocities against women, who are the reflection of Jhansi Ki Rani, are punished by the society, such thing will not happen. ...(*Interruptions*)

Lastly, I would like to submit that it is a matter of serious concern to call women weak or 'Abla' who are born in a country like India. We are self dependent in this society and do not intend to depend on others. I would also like to submit that women should not be considered so weak. The administrative system should be streamlined so that the provisions contained in laws may be effectively used to provide justice at the earliest.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): What has happened ...(*Interruptions*) to them? Will she not allow me to speak. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Member has said about the atrocities on girls only in Rajasthan, it should be expunged, it is wrong.

[*English*]

*SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): As our Hon'ble Minister mentioned in his inaugural speech, "every five

years a million women are being elected to the Panchayats of our country. This large-scale mobilization of women in the public life of our country is an unprecedented event and it is the most important political intervention aimed at the empowerment of women anywhere in the world. We should salute Rajiv ji for launching this great journey of women's empowerment in India."

On one side, women are surging forward to reach greater heights everywhere in the world, in every sphere of life. But again on the other hand, we see violence targeted against women not only in our country but also in every corner of the world. According to USA statistics, every year approximately two million women are physically and sexually assaulted or stalked by an intimate partner in the USA.

In the United Kingdom, the police receive 1300 calls everyday for assistance from domestic violence. In any one day nearly 7000 women and children are sheltering from violence in the U.K.

Today I wish to discuss about domestic violence, the possible solutions and the required laws to be enforced.

Domestic violence which involves physical abuse such as hitting, punching, kicking, sexual abuse and psychological abuse like intimidation, threats, mind games, harassment, damaging property to hurt someone, allowing children to see or hear any domestic violence, controlling someone's money etc., are all serious crimes against society. Not only women but also children under 17 should be protected against domestic violence.

Thousands of people, especially women, are regularly beaten, tortured and in some cases killed by their spouses or co-habitants. Domestic violence occurs in all segments of social and economic backgrounds. There is a positive co-relation between spouse abuse and child abuse and even if children are not directly assaulted, they suffer deep and lasting emotional effects from exposure to domestic violence. Female foeticide, dowry death or harassment, mental and physical torture, sexual trafficking and public humiliation are also some other forms of violence against women.

Though widely prevalent, domestic violence is rather neglected in our country. Section 489—A of the IPC, 1860 deals with offence, where a women faces cruelty from her husband or his relatives. But legislation should

*Speech was laid on the Table.

be brought to provide protection of victims of domestic violence and also at the same time preserve the family under civil law.

Marital violence mostly takes place in the privacy of the home, behind closed doors. A woman can not call upon any independent witnesses to testify in her favour and prove her case "beyond reasonable doubt".

With the increase of nuclear families in cities, and apartment mode of living no assistance or security is available to a city-based woman, who suffers behind the closed doors of her flat. The city scenario is worst than that of rural areas where there are Panchayats, or village elders who come to rescue or negotiate in case of acute domestic violence. Rural domestic violence is open and seen whereas the life of a battered women behind their doors in city doesn't come out as everybody lives in isolation. Educated and career focused women fear for their dignity and reputation, lack of elderly assistance and moral support.

In New Delhi, India, a brilliant doctor tries to commit suicide after her husband slaps her for contradicting him in front of his friends.

A former beauty queen tells police she was coerced into "entertaining other men" after being locked in a room without food for days by her husband.

In Bombay a neighbour responded to distress calls from a woman battered by her husband for refusing to let him watch a particular TV program in front of the children.

The wife of a highly placed bureaucrat finally speaks up after enduring years of physical and mental abuse for being unable to bear a child.

While the findings are not new, the study has incubated a new round of debate about the cultural underpinnings to domestic violence, especially in India, where the study found a woman's risk of being beaten, kicked or hit rose along with her level of education.

Of the women reporting violence, 50% were kicked, beaten or hit when pregnant. About 74.8% of the women who reported violence have attempted to commit suicide. Educated women are aware to their rights. They are no longer willing to follow commands blindly. When they ask questions, it causes conflicts, which, in turn, leads to violence.

In India, men have always been taught to perceive themselves as the superior sex, and nourished with a thought that they have to control their wives, especially if they are considered disobedient.

But, surprisingly incidence of sexual violence is found among highly educated men. 32% men with zero years of education and 42% men with one-to-five years of education resorted sexual violence. Among men with six-to-10 years of education—as well as those with higher education, this figure increases to 57%. In the lowest rungs of the socio-economic ladder—migrant labour, cobblers, carpenters, and barbers—sexual violence rate is 35%. The rate almost doubled to 61% among the highest income groups. Researchers have not determined why men with higher incomes and educations are more likely to be violent towards women.

Similarly, a study, based on police records, to evaluate the functioning of sections of the Indian Penal code, conducted by a group of women activists associated with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, indicated that 40 per cent of women were dead by the time their families came to lodge complaints against their violent husbands.

Thus, numerous women continue to suffer humiliation and battering, many even to the point of death, despite the existence of stringent laws in their favour.

On the other hand, there is a growing and widespread feeling that these laws are being used by most police officers and lawyers to help unscrupulous daughters-in-law to hold their in-laws to ransom.

All these amendments placed draconian powers in the hands of the police without adequate safeguards against the irresponsibility of the enforcement machinery. The truth is that there were adequate provisions in the IPC Section 323, 324, 325 and 326 for use against anyone who assaults a woman or causes her injury. But the police would, in most cases, not register a complaint against a husband under these sections, even where there was clear evidence that the wife's life was in grave danger. This was partly because, as habitual users of violence, policemen, more than any other section of our population, find it easy to condone beatings and even murder of wives by husbands.

The basic problem with the present laws dealing with domestic discord and marital abuse is that instead of

[Shri L. Rajagopal]

providing effective remedies through civil laws, the whole matter has been put under the jurisdiction of criminal laws, with every draconian provisions to make their implementation stringent.

This is what scares many women from approaching the police or the courts for protection, because once they put their husband behind bars, they know then that they are in a fight to the finish.

One of the tragedies of independent India is that we have not yet learnt to distinguish between reasonable and unreasonable laws, between implementable and unimplementable laws, just as we have failed to create a law-enforcement machinery capable of providing genuine recourse to all those whose rights have been violated.

However, if instances of manipulation of such laws become common, we will get less and less sympathy for the plight of women in our society. Those of us who are concerned about expanding the horizons of women's freedom and strengthening their rights, both within the family and in the public domain, ought to be taking note of these developments as they arise.

To bring down domestic violence the police force should play a vital role and for this purpose the individual police person should possess knowledge of the Act and an understanding of the process of domestic violence.

However, this Govt. under the able guidance of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, UPA, has brought relevant law today which address the lacuna in the existing Law for Domestic Violence.

Finally, I conclude by quoting Mahatma Gandhi's words that "Real Swaraj will come not only by acquisition of authority by few, but acquisition of capacity by all to resist the authority when it is abused". I am sure this new law will tackle and punish the perpetrator of heinous crimes against women and will provide the required capacity to women to resist any kind of abuse to home or outside.

16.32 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that today in the meeting of the Business

Advisory Committee, it was decided that in order to provide sufficient time for completion of essential Government business, the House might sit on Monday, the 29th and Tuesday, the 30th August, 2005. There will be no Question Hour on those days. I hope the House would agree to this.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

16.34 Hrs.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL, 2005—*contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati C.S. Sujatha. If you want to make speech from the front row, you are welcome. You are a fighting lady. You should make speech from the front row.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Thank you, Sir, I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Minister. It is a very important Bill. I rise in support of the Bill. This Bill is comprehensive in defining domestic violence—physical, mental, verbal, economic and sexual.

For the first time, marital rape has been recognised as violence against women. I feel that the introduction of this Bill is a timely step taken by the Government, and almost all women organisations in the country welcomed the Bill. This Bill, indeed, is a sigh of relief to the lakhs of women across the country who suffer.

Sir, the term 'domestic violence' is not defined under the Indian laws. Remedies under the existing laws are only available to married women. The remedies that are available in the civil laws of divorce on the grounds of cruelty and the criminal laws that are directed towards the punishment of offenders, are both inadequate. There is no law in India that provides relief to women in situations of violence. This Bill is directed towards fulfilling this lacuna.

Researches reveal that more than 60 per cent of women face domestic violence at some point in their married life. But it is a fact that though domestic violence is prevalent and rampant, it still remains invisible. There

is no effective legal mechanism through which the victim could seek redressal of her grievances. In most cases, the victim suffers the pain and humiliation mutely for the fear of being rendered homeless. In wide range of cases, the women are blackmailed into withdrawing the cases on the question of custody of the children. On these aspects, the new clauses, which are added in the Bill making the perpetrator liable for ensuring accommodation of the victims and also granting temporary custody of children to the aggrieved woman, are laudable.

The proposed measures in ensuring adequate financial protection to the aggrieved is a positive step. There are instances that women are denied the legal help in cases where the formalities of marriage are not complied with. In many cases, women are induced to marry men who deliberately conceal their previous marriage. But this Bill effectively tries to plug this lacuna.

Sir, although the Bill is comprehensive and will benefit the women in the country in a big way in dealing with domestic violence, it is doubted that some of the provisions in the Bill would not be in the best interest. The appointment of Protection Officer will not bring the desired effect. There are apprehensions that this position of a third party is liable to be misused. It is possible that the position of the officer could provide space for corruption. So, while appointing the Protection Officer, the House should be assured that sufficient care will be taken so that the Protection Officer might not be a person of corrupt background, and he should be gender sensitive.

Another lacuna in the Bill is that only the registered NGOs are granted rights to provide services to the aggrieved women. But there are numerous women organisations dealing with the issue. In fact, it is the result of the consistent efforts of these organisations in making awareness among the people to struggle for such a legislation that the Bill has now been introduced. It is, therefore, essential that such organisations too are considered for providing services to the victims.

Sir, our experience is that merely making a legislation would not make much difference in the ground realities. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure sincere implementation of the law to prevent such atrocities and also to take steps to spreading awareness among the general masses to get the real effect of this law.

With these few words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Sir, the Bill that has been brought in, to protect the women from domestic violence is undoubtedly laudable provided it is implemented in its letter and spirit, offer protection to the women from domestic violence and it does not remain confined to paper alone.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while coming to the House, I happened to glance through a book and two lines in the book caught my eyes "band hothon ka tha sabab, koi waqt aaya hai, ab hum bhi bolenge". I feel that the said lines opting sums up the like of women. Sir, a daughter is told at the time of marriage that she has to leave her parental home to enter into matrimony and she would have to stay in her conjugal home till her death. She goes through the entire journey of life silently fulfilling her duties and performing household chores. There is nobody to share her anguish and feelings. The Government has sent a message by bringing in this bill to prevent domestic violence that this matter is not confined to the precincts of house, the Government has an eye on it also.

16.41 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been listening for two-three days about domestic violence, so it came to mind who is the perpetrator of this violence? A father takes care of his daughter when she is a child and envisages happy life for her, a brother is taught right from his childhood that he has to protect and help his sister and on every 'Raksha Bandhan' he is reminded of this resolution. Likewise a husband cooperates with his wife at every step of his life and the son loves his mother the most and takes it to be his duty to look after her in her old age. In this way, our Indian Society believes in the importance of relationships and traditions but aping the western civilization, has thrown the culture of our society out of gear. I have just presented one aspect of our society which is very beautiful but there is another aspect too which is equally disturbing. Women are neither safe in their own homes nor public places. Nature has endowed women with some qualities. Women have been placed on a high pedestal as they have the qualities of mercy, pity, love, sacrifice and courage. A woman wants to make her family happy even at the expense of her own comfort. As mother, sister, wife and daughter, a

[Shrimati Neeta Pateriya]

women feeds other family members even if she has to go without food. Women have given birth to such great people like Shri Ram and Shri Krishna. As mother she teaches the child to take his first step and utter his first word. Mother is the first teacher; however her offspring assumes himself to be superior to her is society after growing up. How could male dominated society come into existence and how could he start perpetrating violence against women. It is true that violence against women is a stigma on the civilized society. It is unfortunate indeed that half of the population in the world is living in the shadow of various kinds of violence. The society would have to change its mindset to keep a woman's dignity secure and free her from the grip of violence. We would have to change the mindset about male supremacy in the society. It is also a misconception that poverty, illiteracy or lack of awareness is the root cause of violence against women or such incidents happen more in rural areas only. The data of violence against women shows that such incidents are prevalent more in urban and middle class families. Highly educated persons, persons from rich families and eminent officers have been found to be involved in such incidents. The data reveal that Delhi which is the heart of India is the scene of maximum number of incidents of violence against women.

Mr. Chairman, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Neeta Pateriyaji, the condition of women is very bad in Gujarat. Please speak about that also; ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: I am projecting the condition of women all over the country, I am not making a speech of a particular region. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mistry, you are a senior Member; please do not disturb.

Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Neeta Pateriya.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, most of the hon. Members have emphasized the point

that women should be educated and aware of their rights but what have we done to ensure that women get education. In rural areas there are middle schools and high schools at no less a distance of 5 kilometers and 8 kilometers respectively. there is such a rule in this regard. Most of the girls leave school after studying till 5th standard. Some of the girl students manage to cover the distance of 5 kilometers to study till 8th standard. It is not possible for them to continue their studies till high school as they can not trek 8 kilometers through forests to get education. So before we talk about education we need to set up schools for them. It is easy to make speeches but how can girls get educated when there are no schools in rural areas.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday hon. Sumitra Mahajan ji was saying that men take away all the money that women earn through hard labour and come back in inebriated state. One may not find schools, hospitals or clean drinking water in villages but one is sure to find a wine shop in villages because the Government earns revenue through them. Everybody is aware what a negative impact wine shops have in villages but still they are opened. As the shops exist, wine is sold too and men go back to their homes in drunken state and ill-treat women and children. Wine not only harms the body, it also leads to ill-treatment and torture of children and women. It is a very unsavoury fact.

Mr. Chairman Sir the Government may claim to have freed the women from the atrocities of men by bringing in this law but the fact remains that atrocities against women are increasing in the country; it is a matter of shame for us. Women are safe nowhere be it their homes, public place, police stations, hospitals, schools, buses and colleges. Earlier there used to be 3500 case of atrocities against women every month, now the number has risen to 5300 cases per month. 4900 cases of rape are pending in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, violence against woman begins when she is in the womb itself. It is wrong to say that atrocities begin after her birth. Cases of female foeticide show violence is perpetrated on women even when she is in the womb. Female foeticide shows the negative attitude that the society has for women. Exploitation of women and atrocities against them are not something new. There is a long history of violence against women. Be it the era of Draupadi or the present one, women have always faced atrocities. Sita suffered for no fault of hers, Draupadi was humiliated in full view of the court of

the king and Ahilya was transformed into stone. Presently, when the House was deliberating upon enactment of a law for prevention of violence against women, the rape of Imrana by her father in law made headlines. Imrana was punished. The punishment was—she was asked to stay with her husband as his sister i.e. wife and husband were asked to live together as brother and sister. The society denounced women as 'witch', treated widows as ominous and insinuated them as barren. Cases of bride-burning for dowry are taking place day in and out.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Madhusudan Mistry ji may get annoyed and say that I am referring to the cases of Delhi only. I have come to Delhi after having been elected as an M.P. Early morning when I go through newspapers I read several stories relating to Delhi only as newspapers of my area are not available in the morning.
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mistry, you are a senior Member. Please sit down. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Neeta. Peteriya.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI NEETA PETERIYA: When in Delhi, I get Delhi's newspaper in the morning as newspaper of my area is unavailable here. In the morning when I go through the paper, I find it full of news relating to rape, atrocities, exploitation and violence. I get fed up and do not like to read it further. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, you are a senior Member. Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

You are a senior Member.

[*English*]

Nothing, except Shrimati Neeta, will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

Mistryji, you are quite a senior Member, why do you stand up in between. Alright you may speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NEETA PETERIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill. ...(*Interruptions*) "Duniya Ke Dustoor Badlenge Yaha Ham Sabhi Jante the, Par Is Tarah Kahar Barpa Kar Badlenge, Yaha Kisi Ne Nahin Socha Tha." Every body knew the world would change but none had dreamt of even that things will take such a nasty shape." Even media has not lagged behind in distorting the image of woman. What type of literature one reads, leaves an indelible effect on her mind. Now a days, the serial depict distorted and vulgar image of woman. Even in advertisement, image of woman is wrongly projected. Women are harassed by sending vulgar SMS or MMS. This aspect should also be addressed in the Bill and stringent provisions should be made to tackle this menace and book the culprits. It is a positive aspect of the proposed Bill that it ensures the protection of woman from domestic violence outside the scope of IPC and CrPC. I find a weak point in the Bill: who shall be the Protection Officer, has not been made clear in the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude.

SHRIMATI NEETA PETERIYA: Give me two minutes more. I am about to conclude. Efforts should be made to see that the Protection Officer acts honestly and effectively and that the law is not misused. A lady Member of Panchayat may also be designated as Protection Officer, but let us not forget what fate Bhanwari Devi had met? The Bill provides that an aggrieved woman can file a case against her husband or her relative but, no other lady of the family of an aggrieved woman is allowed to file a case against aggrieved woman. My submission is that injustice should not be done to the other woman. Provision should be made to protect her interests also.

[Shrimati Neeta Pateriya]

She also should have a right to be heard. The Bill also provides that despite the ongoing dispute between husband and wife, they can still live in a shared household. But, how it would be possible in small one room dwelling units? It sounds impossible.

In the end, I would say that our country was attacked by invaders and they did not spare even women, they were insulted. The women even had to resort to Jauhar, *i.e.* collective-death by setting themselves afire to escape ill-treatment from invaders. Gradually, women got confined to their houses and their role in social affairs came to naught. Now, things have changed. Now they are making progress in every field. So, such laws should be enacted whereby it can be ensured that they are empowered, well-educated and such law should be strictly implemented. Such laws should unite the families and not break them, as man and woman are indispensable to each other. They are partner in everything and the society can't sustain without their unison. They are complementary to each other. So a good law should be enacted in this regard.

Finally, I would like to say:

'Nari Durga, Nari Laxmi, Nari, Se jahan hai,
Nari Ki garima se, sara Hindustan hai.'

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura):
Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, as an educated woman I feel very proud to stand here as a Member of Parliament representing 27 lakh voters from Kanakapura where most of the people are illiterate, farmers and slum dwellers. Their education level is very low but still their social and political awareness is so high that they elected a journalist to this highest forum. I would like to remember them today.

With this humbleness, I would like to start my speech for my sisters who have been deprived of their rights. They are divorcees, single women, victims of dowry death, etc. The fathers have lost their beloved daughters and the brothers have lost their beloved sisters in this nation. We call this nation as the 'Mother India'. We do not call it 'Father India'. We call the Father of the Nation to Mahatma Gandhi, but when we address the nation, we call it Mother India. When someone is in pain, he calls *Amma* and not *Appa*. So only the mother is the symbol of strength and hope.

I would like to take you back to *Puranas*. When this universe came into existence, it was called *Satyayuga* and *Kritayuga*. At that time, the Vishnu, the Maheshwara and the Brahma realised the power of the woman. They respected and recognised it. That is why, they had given the finance portfolio to Maa Lakshmi, *Gyna* portfolio to Maa Saraswati and the home portfolio to Maa Parvati. Even today we address Lord Shiva as Uma-Maheshwara. We say Lakshmi-Vishnu. It shows that even in the earlier age, the *dharma* recognised the woman but in this age of *Kalyuga*, *dharma* lost his three legs. Now *dharma* stands on one leg.

I would like to congratulate Soniaji, the Chairperson of the UPA for taking an initiative for passing the Women Reservation Bill in Parliament. Under her guidance, this Government brought the Domestic Violence Bill. Not only that, even a gender-biased Budget in favour of women was presented in this House. That is the power of women. This nation was ruled by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. There is Uma Bharatiji and there is Rabri Deviji who represent different political parties. I would like to appreciate that cutting across party lines, women have risen to this level due to their confidence and will power. Today, women are in minority in this House as the elected Members. I would like to appreciate my dear senior colleague Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan who has given us so much encouragement by saying that please come forward.

I would like to see this positive attitude tomorrow also when the Women Reservation Bill comes up in this House. I would want this Bill to pass through. We will not harm you. We are traditional Indian women. We do not take pride in exploiting and humiliating men. We are Indian women. I would like to say on behalf of my sisters that we are guided by certain values, ethics, traditions and culture. One poet has said, *Nari jivan ki yahi amar kahani, anchal men hai dudh aur ankhan me paani*. But now it won't do.

We are not there to cry. We have come here to fight for our rights. We are proud to be women. Even though Shrimati Rabri Devi is a housewife but look at her strength today. She is capable of ruling Bihar, whatever may be the shortcomings. In a democracy, we have every right to criticise my Government. It may be negative or positive.

17.00 hrs.

But I would like to appreciate the very fact that as a woman she is ruling a State. Take the case

Ms. Mayawati, or for that matter any other women Chief Minister in the country, they all have comparatively either ruled or is ruling their States with a greater degree of confidence in dealing with situations and have been able to deliver good governance. I am not criticising anybody here. I am only talking in a comparative sense.

Sir, if we go back to the times of the *Mahabharata* or the *Ramayana* we would find the characters of Draupadi and Sita. Sita was the wife of Lord Rama, but she too was subjected to domestic violence when Lord Rama knew for himself what Sita was. She accompanied her husband to *vanavas*, but then after returning from exile she was left alone to fend for herself with her two little children—Luv and Kush. She had to walk through fire in order to prove her chastity. Was it not a case of domestic violence against Sita at that age? Still she did not compromise with her husband; she did not compromise with her self-respect and finally decided to alienate herself from this world. But she never again came back to live with Lord Rama. I have admiration for Lord Rama, whatever may have been his helplessness for having to take such a step against Sita, I am very proud of her. She proved to the world her right as a woman and that women should never compromise as far as their dignity is concerned.

Draupadi was another such instance from our Epics. I am very proud of her too. From times immemorial our society has been cited to be male dominated. But I would say it was a female dominated society then. Sita had the choice to decide about her husband. What is the meaning of *Swayamvara*? Lord Rama had to prove his worth to be her husband by participating in the *Swayamvara* and by breaking the bow meant for that purpose on that occasion to prove that he was the most capable to marry her. But today to get a son-in-law, the fathers of eligible daughters would have to run from pillar to post and run around for days together. This is a great shame in this *Kaliyuga*. In this age when women are achieving great heights in every field, do you not think that he would-be husbands of today also need good wives? The husbands expect their would-be wives to be Miss Universe in their bedrooms; a good cook in the kitchen and a master of everything. Could the wives, in turn, not expect that their husbands too would be master of all and their husbands would be good? Crores of rupees alone do not bring happiness in a family. It is the women who share the agony of a loss when it occurs in a family. No wife would leave her husband at times of his distress.

In the event of a couple not having a child, even if the husband is a professor, or a scientist or an MP, how many husbands would remain loyal to their wives? I would like to pose this question today. How many husbands would go for medical tests in case of a couple not having any child? Our fellow sisters are suffering. Everybody will understand this agony.

Sir, one of the most happy and joyous occasions in a family is marriage. Everybody will be happy. Every effort would be made by all to make this occasion memorable and happy.

[*Translation*]

When a daughter leaves her father's home for going to bridegroom's in house, her father weeps more than her mother.

[*English*]

It is the father who cries more than the mother when the daughter leaves for her in-laws house. But when the same daughter comes back to his parental home after six months with heaps of complaints, the same father tells her

[*Translation*]

Dear daughter, please adjust, it is a matter of prestige of the family.

[*English*]

At that point of time she does not know where to go, what to do. She, by that time, does not have the right either to go back to her husband or to her father.

I would like to congratulate Shrimati Kanti Singh, who is a Minister in this UPA Government, for having brought forward this Bill which would help in giving some consolation to our women folk.

When a mother gives birth to a child, it is a good and innocent child. Then, how it becomes a criminal or a terrorist or a naxalite? As fathers, can they not share the responsibility? Can you blame the mothers only? What powers do mothers have? Mothers do not have any powers. Men rule this nation. They are the policy makers. What is our percentage in policy-making bodies today? For that matter, what is our percentage of participation in

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

any other field today? Representation of women is very very low. That is why men cannot run away from the responsibility in today's world. They have to own the responsibility in today's world.

I would like to reveal certain facts. In 2002, NCRT Report says that 36.1 per cent crimes against women pertain to domestic violence. NFHS Report says that one out of five married women in India have experienced domestic violence since the age of fifteen. We know that there are many who do not report these things because of certain social beliefs and compulsions. Many cases do not come to the notice of the police or anybody else. Many women do not have the option to leave their violent homes and they have to suffer in silence. Women in India do not have the right to reside in their natal or matrimonial homes.

According to me, common forms of violence against women include female foeticide, that is abortion of based on gender or sex selection of child, domestic violence, dowry death or harassment, mental and physical torture, sexual trafficking and public humiliation. Children are also affected by domestic violence at home. When violence takes place at home, children also get physically abused or hurt. Witnessing violent action can be mentally damaging for the children. All this time many innocent girls and our sisters were sitting in the gallery. When husband and wife are quarrelling at home, naturally children try to interfere to settle it. But they also get hurt physically. Children also copy the violent behaviour as they grow adults; they also develop stress related problems; they lose self-confidence and blame themselves for what is happening; they feel guilty; they grow with vengeance. This leads them to become violent criminals.

Women are asked to prove these incidents beyond doubt. They are asking witness for this. How can we produce that? If a husband is torturing his wife, can we bring some one to witness that incident? It is something inhuman. There must be some remedy for that. It is because we cannot prove that. In rape cases also this happens. The culprit rapes the girl. In the name of interrogation, she is asked to narrate the entire incident as to how he raped her. He has raped her once, but the system, in the form of interrogation, rapes her ten times. She has to narrate the whole story. This should be stopped. This is not only physical torture but also mental torture. Then, forever she would become a mentally-challenged human being. That is why these things should

be addressed properly in this Bill. Now, let us see the violent incidents in rural and city areas. In the cities, because of the increase in nuclear families, because of the increasing compulsion of having to live in the flats, if something happens in the flat, the neighbours will not come to help. In death cases and criminal cases we see daily in newspapers that only after two days the neighbours would come to know what has happened in that particular flat. But in the rural areas they have panchayats and elders will interfere. Even rural women are bold enough to face them though they do not have any economic or social support. If we provide them with social and economic strength, rural women are capable of facing these atrocities in a brave manner. These educated women are vulnerable to this type of violence because they think that it is the question of respect and honour of their families. If they go to police station and if their husbands are arrested, then they have to fight to the finish. So, they need greater moral strength to fight these cases. In this way, even it is related to income groups also.

Now, I come to a study which speaks about how the Indian women are subjected to violence. This study tells about slapping, kicking, hitting and beating cases. It says that in 2002, 45 per cent of the Indian women were slapped, kicked or beaten by husbands. India has also the highest rate of violence during pregnancy. During pregnancy, they were subjected to domestic violence. After these pregnant women who reported this violence, 50 per cent of them were beaten. Sir, 74.8 per cent of women who reported violence have attempted to commit suicide. Do you not think that the situation is very alarming? That is why, educated women are aware of their rights. They know that they are aware of it. But the thing is that they are no longer willing to follow the commands of their violent husbands blindly. When they ask questions, it causes conflicts. This in turn leads to violence. In many Indian States, working women are asked to hand over their pay cheque to their husbands. They have no control over their own finances. If they stop doing so and start asserting their right, it is bound to cause friction. That is why, the society must guarantee them social security.

When I went to Athens, I observed that those beautiful girls believed in happiness of the society, and every handsome boy was running behind the girls. That is, girls were more important. Afterwards, I came to know that the social security that they have is from the

Government for their own existence. When they have this social security, they can take any decision boldly. Otherwise, where will they go? It is the question of their existence. Every State Government or the Central Government should empower the women.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: My another colleague was telling about *Manu* sayings. How were they insisting some sort of a psychological thing from the beginning? For example, we should be like *Mata*; we should excuse everything. Actually, I would not like to repeat those words. But *Manu* says that in bedroom you should be like this. They made us to believe those things. It is not correct. Our education and progressive thoughts should progress or should reform the society.

There is another perception—super sex. Man always believes that if she is questioning him, okay, start confronting or control her. They always believe in super sex. That is why, I would like to give a few examples. In New Delhi, one brilliant doctor committed suicide after her husband slapped her for contradicting her husband's views in front of some friends. A former beauty queen told the police that she was coerced into entertaining other men after being locked in a room without food for days together by her husband. In Mumbai, a neighbour responded to a distress call from a woman battered by her husband for refusing to let him watch a particular TV programme along with the children. How can you subject woman to this kind of brutal violence? A wife of a highly placed bureaucrat finally spoke up after enduring years of physical and mental abuse for being unable to bear a child. That is why, I would like to appeal to this House that we must rise above party line to protect the women of India. This Bill provides a lot of security and protection to women. This Bill is an addition to other Bills relating to women. I am not going into details due to paucity of time.

Sir, this Bill will allow complaints against violence to be filed by wives or women in relationship that is in the nature of marriage. Mothers and daughters can also file. Today, women have become a laughing stock. Yesterday, my brother Shri Shailendra Kumar was speaking. Who are producing these serials?

[*Translation*]

A man has four wives. Sir, where is these happening? Is there any such law in our Constitution? After watching

the serial what kind of impression the children would be getting? Who are the people engaged in trading of women? Who is responsible for the commercialisation of women.

[*English*]

Dance bars are there. Who are the people who run the dance bars? Who earns that money? That is why, we are not going to take it back here. We are all one in fighting against the domestic violence. We know how to protect our sisters in these things. That is why, I would say that this Bill ultimately cannot be misused.

There is an apprehension in the minds of some of my brothers. They are all human beings. This is a battle between not women and men. This is a battle between the good and the evil. That is why, I would say that there are some particular laws to take care of these things. When they are killing the daughter-in-law, is there any law except fixing a murder case on them? When you fix a person in a criminal case, if you think it is the misuse of law, we will not agree with you. That is why, I would say that even though our daughters-in-law are dying in their houses, do not subject them to the mental agony, emotional crises. When it comes to protecting the son, who is misusing the mother-in-law? Who is misusing the daughter-in-law? It is the police. There is some lapse on the part of the police. If you bribe the people in the police station, they will not register the case. That is why, we must correct the system. Do not abuse women. Do not abuse the mother.

[*Translation*]

A woman plays the role of mother and a mother-in-law at the same time, naturally the mother wins and mother-in-law loses.

[*English*]

Women are helpless human beings in this world. That is why, I would request you to correct the system, empower women with economic and social strength. Then only, we can bring equality and end all the violence that is perpetrated on the women. That is why, I would like to support this Bill.

Once again, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): She has justified her name Tejaswini. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Sir, all my female colleagues have found fault with patriarchal system of our society in India. At the outset, I would like to say that I support this Bill. In our country, whereas on the one hand there has been the practice of polygamy in vogue in some religions and classes, on the other, there have also been sporadic cases of polyandry. There are some people in our society who perpetrate atrocities and injustice against the women, due to which the whole society earns a bad name. But the statistics of last few years reveal that atrocities on women have been showing a constant increase. Our heads virtually hang in shame, when atrocities are committed against women for the sake of money. When a woman is brunt for not fulfilling the demand of dowry, it really gives a shock treatment to the society. I hail from Maharashtra. There was a time when women did not dare to move out of their homes in Mumbai after 6 p.m. Rape and many other crimes were committed against women in local trains of Mumbai and at other places. There was a time, when it became difficult for women to come out of their houses after 6 p.m. At that time, Shiv Sena Supreme, Shri Bal Thackareyji had said that gone were the days, when women used to keep lipsticks or combs in their purses, now instead they should keep pistols in their purses. At that time, Shiv Sena party extended its all out cooperation to the women and created such an atmosphere in the city of Mumbai, that today if a woman goes out of her home even after midnight, nothing untoward happens. This is being noticed over there.

Today, atrocities against women are committed for the sake of dowry. When she lodges her protest, her in-laws try to burn her alive. Many such incidents come to light in the form of news items published in newspapers. It has also been witnessed that a woman is behind the atrocities committed against another woman. Atrocities are committed on them for dowry and they are burnt. Many cases in regard to involvement of mother-in-law in burning the bride or committing other kind of atrocities are filed in various courts. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention on this aspect in the said Bill.

We enact legislations in the Parliament to check all these things and we are doing so. It has also been observed that men of a particular community in our

country can marry only one women, but men of the other community can have four wives. It is also wrong. ...*(Interruptions)* We can not do so. Therefore, the enactment and implementation of uniform civil code in the country has been a long pending demand. When all the citizens of the country are equal and there is a uniform law to govern them, then a man, is respective of what religion or community he may belong to should not have the right to keep more than one wife. If he marries a second wife, he should be imprisoned. This has been a long standing demand for enacting such kind of legislation in the country.

On the one hand we are giving the slogan of 'Hum Do, Hamare Do' but on the other, certain sections of the society seem to follow the contrary and have five or more children. There is a need to change this policy. Today, this perception has been prevailing in society that men are responsible for committing atrocities against the women. But in most of the TV serials being telecast on private channels, atrocities against women are being shown. Cinema and TV are the mirror of society, which influence and shape the public opinion in the society and people get inspired to do such acts in future. Therefore, the demand for setting up separate police stations for women and recruitment of women in police force is being made for many days. But if we look at statistics, we find that nothing of the sort is happening. I shall cite the example of Maharashtra. There are 1,50,000 police personnel over there, but there are only 5,000 women police personnels. Though the State Government has said many times that there should be one women Sub-Inspector and one Inspector in every police station. There should be a separate court of women. But in reality, this is not happening. If we are unable to give protection to women in this way, then how would we be able to protect them by enacting this Bill. Therefore, the Government should direct all the State Governments to set up at least two women police stations in each district, where the investigation of cases related to atrocities against women should be conducted and action should be taken in this regard. There should be a court in every district. Where cases related to atrocities committed against women should be heard in camera and there should be a women lawyer to fight such cases. At present, the victims of rape are asked by the male lawyers in the presence of male officials of court how the rape took place. which is a source of embarrassment for not only the victim but for others as well. When male lawyers question the rape victims, they have to undergo through such a mental agony and trauma which is no less than

committing atrocity against them. Bringing this legislation without implementing all these things would serve no purpose our rhetoric in the House is not going to give any protection to the women. There goes a saying in Marathi which means that a woman is a wife for short term, but a mother for eternity. Women play the role of a daughter, sister, wife, mother and grandmother; therefore she should get the respect and protection of entire society. Till we work for their protection, they will not get protection.

Through this bill, the responsibility for this should be entrusted to the citizens also. Otherwise we cannot stop atrocities on women by merely holding discussions in the Parliament.

The T.V. serials depicting atrocities on women should be put off the air. Until, a ban is imposed on these serials, we will not be able to check atrocities on women.

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to talk on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005. I am very proud to be here on this very historic day wherein a very historic Bill is being discussed. Various hon. lady Members have assiduously spoken about the status of women in the country and various forms of violence they have been facing. So, I will confine myself just to the Bill and give a few suggestions on that. This is a very significant day as this Bill is introduced after very prolonged and persistent efforts by various women's organisations in the country. I should record my thanks to the All-India Democratic Women's Association and the Lawyers Collective for women's right who have been doing extensive work on this for years and have actually brought a model legislation which was a prelude for this.

A similar Bill was introduced on the 8th March, 2002 during the NDA regime. Unfortunately, the Bill was virtually rejected by various women's organisations because it did not have all the required components. The Lawyers Collective said that it needed substantial amendments. One group commented that the Bill that was introduced in March, 2002 was flawed; the intent was confusing and the contents were superficial. Hence, this Bill. This Bill, as hon. Members have pointed out, had very comprehensively defined violence. It says about all kinds of violence, including physical violence, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse and all

under one roof. But one thing they have not mentioned, and I would like to mention it now. Forcing a woman to undergo abortion—a selective abortion—that has to be considered as violence. The reason I am stating is because it does not come in one of these phrases. So, I believe that we must add a clause to include forcing a woman for abortion, especially a selective abortion. Again forcing a woman to have a sterilisation operation against her will—this happens in a very peculiar situation—is not right. For example, in my place—it is a backward place—the husband re-marries after the death of his wife. Suppose, he has some children with his previous wife, he is trying to force her second wife to have a sterilisation operation even before she has any child. It is a very peculiar situation. I think this should also be included forcing a woman to have a surgery or any contraception charge against her will. This Bill has been universally accepted by all. The Director of the International Centre for Research on Women has certified that the Bill has taken into consideration all the recommendations of women's movement. I personally congratulate the hon. Minister, Shri Arjun Singh, who had extensive deliberations with all the women's organisations and had accepted all the recommendations.

Sir, the Bill recognises a woman's right to violence-free life and offers the right to stay in the matrimonial home or a shared household. One of the hon. Members asked as to how a woman can stay in a house where she had already fought with other members of the family when the house is small. But let us imagine a situation where she is not given that right to stay in a shared household. Where will she stay? She will be in the street. So, I think, this Bill provides for protection and, at the same time, for monetary relief. We should welcome these provisions.

Then, the Bill says that all the Protection Officers have to be women. I think this is also very welcome because they have to be women. Then only they will be sensitive to the problems faced by women. Clause 10(1) of the Bill says that the service provider has to be a voluntary association registered under the Societies Act. One of our hon. Members said that it need not necessarily be a voluntary association, but it can be any association. I would like to add that it can even be women Self-Help Groups because there are remote villages in our country where this type of registered voluntary associations are not available, but women Self-Help Groups are available even in remote villages. The women Self-Help Groups have revolutionised rural development in our country and, I believe that they have to be given a role in this.

[Dr. R. Senthil]

17.31 hrs.

[SHRI AJAY MAKEN *in the Chair*]

Sir, educating, employment and empowering women is not an answer to prevent them from sexual or any type of violence against them in domestic circumstances. As we have seen, violence against women, particularly domestic violence, is prevent even in developed countries in spite of education, employment and empowerment. But education, employment and empowerment will empower them, at least, to face the violence, seek help and know that they can actually stand on their own if the marriage breaks up. So, I think, we should be totally concentrating on empowering women. In this connection, I would like to congratulate the UPA Government because they are now coming up with the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Bill. This is a revolutionary piece of legislation which gives powers to women to inherit their father's property. They are also trying to get reservation made for women in Parliament and State Legislatures. These are the ways in which we can empower our women so that they can face the violence in a domestic situation.

Many of the Members mentioned that law is not the only answer to domestic violence against women. It is true. For example, if there is domestic violence, then we punish the husband, separate the woman and give monetary relief to her. But what happens after that? Should they not go back and start a family again? Should they not go back and near their children so that they can become responsible citizens? Who should do this? How will this be done? This is a situation where the society should play a role, the religion should play a role and we have to be very sensitive to this issue.

Finally, I just want to caution that nobody should think that domestic violence against women is a simple law and order problem. It is not a law and order problem at all. We should concentrate and make sure that the so-called protectors mentioned in the law and the service providers should all be extremely sensitive to this issue. They should not mechanically approach this problem and they should know that after the quarrel, women have to go back and start a family again. So, there is a provision for giving counselling to them. The counselors have to be extensively trained. Similarly, the health care providers, doctors and other para-medical staff have to be trained in counselling those women who are subjected to domestic violence. We must also train our health care

providers to identify women who are suffering from domestic violence because this is often missed. A woman who is coming for an abortion may have actually been assaulted and so the doctors must be very sensitive and identify domestic violence.

With these few words, I conclude and, on behalf of the *Pattali Makkal Katchi*, I welcome this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar.

Before he starts his speech, I want to make a small announcement. The time allotted for all parties is over. There are only two women-MPs who are left now and who want to participate in the debate. They are Shrimati Jayaben Thakkar and Shrimati Sathedeivi. So, I will allow only these two women-MPs to speak after Shri Veerendra Kumar completes his speech.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Sir, I stand here in support of this Bill. I want to remember a small piece of literary work written by Snehalata Reddy during Emergency. She wrote on Sita. When we talk a lot about tradition, I want to remember what she wrote about Sita. Sita waited for Rama in the Ravana's palace, after Ravana was killed by Rama; Vashishta asked Sita to do '*agnipravesha*'. Vashishta never asked Rama to do '*agnipravesha*'. So, we always adore women but we have always subjugated them. Traditionally, there was domestic violence on women from time immemorial. When Panchali was pawned by Pandavans when they gambled, it was domestic violence. When Kunti asked Panchali to be shared as a gift by all her five sons, it was domestic violence. So, it was always there. Take the example of '*sati*' in Rajasthan or elsewhere in India. When Wife jumps into the pyre of her husband and dies, she becomes a Goddess. Why should husbands not jump into the pyre, and become God? So, whenever these issues come, our tradition is that we always adore women but we subjugate them also.

It is true that there is domestic violence on women in all castes. It crosses all the boundaries. Women are always subjugated. It is a mindset. There is a perception that if women have to be subjugated to men, then only they become virtuous. If a women just says to her husband: "I want to go to work, why do not you share with me the kitchen work?" Then, it is said that she is questioning her husband. So, it is always one sided. This is the mindset in India. Women are always subjugated and faced violence. I do not want to quote statistics. It

was quoted by many members here. In the household the way the women are subjected to various types of tortures—mental, emotional and economic, which are listed in the Bill—is beyond our comprehension. Sometimes there may be exceptions. That is a different question. Even in this mindset women are also involved. Some mother-in-laws are always very cruel to their daughter-in-laws. They feel that their daughters-in-law should bring dowry. Not only the male members but also the female members are responsible for dowry deaths. So, this mindset has to be changed.

Whenever we talk about liberation, it is not mere words that will give women liberation; there should be some content also. All these concrete issues must be defined. We cannot simply say that women have to be liberated. They could be liberated when they are given equal rights of property, and also when they are protected from gender discrimination. They should have equal opportunities like their male counterparts. Then only the society can consider that men and women are two wheels of the same dimension. One small wheel and one big wheel in the society can never function, and it can never roll on. This is the history of our country. So, against the domestic violence there must be a law, and I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this law.

It is true that probably in some areas it may be misused. It may be the other way round. Even the Protection Officers may sometimes be gender biased. That also could happen. So, we have to ensure that it is not the mere law which can liberate women or stop this violence, but we have to have a campaign also. It should be a part of the social campaign. The political parties must take this task. Many of us talked against castes. But when it comes to our own households, we are always caste-biased. We but say that the other man's daughter go in for inter-caste marriage. When it comes to my own daughter, I would never allow her to marry a person from another caste. Firstly, we have to change our own house and self. All those men who talk about liberating women on caste, and on violence, have to change themselves. Only with such a mindset this violence could be stopped.

I do not want to dwell much on this. Before I conclude, I would like to quote the United Nations framework for model legislation on domestic violence.

Sir, the United Nations Framework for model legislation on domestic violence states:

"All acts of gender-based physical and psychological abuse by a family member against women in the family, ranging from simple assault to aggravated physical battering, kidnapping, threats, intimidation, coercion, stalking, humiliating verbal use, forcible or unlawful entry, arson, destruction of property, sexual violence, marital rape, dowry or related violence, female genital mutilation, violence related to exploitation through prostitution, violence against household workers and attempts to commit such acts shall be termed 'Domestic Violence'."

So, all these could be included in the ambit of the law. There is nothing wrong in that. There is a wide range of assault on women. When we consider the historical facts and also what is existing now, I think, this law will do some justice.

I congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government for bringing this Bill and I fully and whole-heartedly support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill which seeks to provide protection to the women from domestic violence has been brought here to voice our support and lay the foundation for mitigating the sufferings of those women who had borne silently all the torture, harassment and sufferings like dumb dolls and did not raise their voice against it. I express my gratitude to the hon. Minister Shrimati Kanti Singh for that. This Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha in the year 2002 and was placed on the table of the Lok Sabha to which we are giving a concrete shape. Though, it is even better not our society shaped in such a manner that there is no need for bringing such a Bill. When a section of the society has to face unhealthy social set up, sick mentality and violators of law then one has to think about the unprotected lot. When one is faced with such a situation, one has to think of such measures.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, modesty and character are decorations of a woman. She does not need any gold, silver, pearls or jewels. Since modesty is her decoration she is called Sushila. She is sincere and so much aware about her duties that she is called 'capable/competent'. She makes adjustments in all walks of life. But when the fence starts eating the grass or when her brother, father,

[Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar]

husband or a relative views her as a commodity, then these tortures begin.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite an incident. A few days back I visited a camp where I met a girl. She greeted me and as I touched her hand I felt as if it were embers. I asked her if she was not well; if she had visited any doctor. She said that it was not so and she was well but her body temperature was like that, so she did not require to visit any doctor. It was not a question of physical ailment but a mental one. From what she told me I could gather that it was her brother who constantly harassed her. I asked her whether she told her mother about that. She answered me in the negative and told me that her mother was in service and came home only on Saturdays and Sundays. They had only brother who was considered by her mother to be the successor of the family lineage. He might do whatever he felt like doing as per his whims and fancies and she was sure that only his side of the story would be listened to. Discrimination is a tragic reality of our society. When I asked her why she did not get any treatment done, she told me that her body got used to that torture. She used to suffer from constipation for 15 days. I would submit that it is a living example of the effects of torture on the health of the women.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite another example. Just now our colleague said that none of the Members sitting here would have ever indulged in such a heinous act of incest involving his daughter. I would appreciate it. We all want that not only in this House but in entire country no incident of this kind should take place.

I would like to cite another incident of violence and incest before the House. When a mother observed some biological changes in her deaf and dumb daughter she questioned her asking what had happened. The girl started crying since she was deaf and dumb she could not speak. Who could be responsible for that? The mother thought either it was someone in the house or someone in the neighbourhood. She started beating her daughter, asking her who was responsible for this. The daughter caught hold of her arm and pointing towards her bangles and bindi indicated it was her husband. The mother was stunned and petrified. She hugged her daughter and tried to gather entire information from her daughter. Thereafter, she even gave her protection. She understood everything and sought separation from her husband. That is another

issue. If her mother would not have understood her sordid story where would the girl have gone? We are making several provisions for women to combat such situations under this Act for which I would like to thank the Government and welcome the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please conclude now, you have taken more than four-five minutes.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Just now, Hon. Shailendra ji was saying that we should make women highly educated, so that these kinds of incidents do not occur. I agree that if we give high education to women, such incidents would not occur. But that is not the fact of life and that is what pains us.

I would like to cite another example. Once a woman from the slums came to me and asked me to call the police immediately. I asked her what the matter was? She told me to hurry up; the police had arrested her husband. I asked her why the police had arrested her husband? Then she said that her husband was loitering in a drunken state. I told her not to worry and added that since he beat her daily after drinking, today she should let the police harsh him so that he should know where the shoe pinches. She said that if he was thrashed, he would not bear it adding that she was accustomed to it but he will not be able to bear it. She still had a soft corner for her husband. Then she told me that if she did not get him acquitted, she will not take food. This prove that a woman is an embodiment of compassion, affection, love and tolerance. There is no need to teach her these values. However, when ever necessary, strict laws should be formulated to give protection to women. Today, the need of the hour is to take all these steps for the sake of women.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to conclude after raising two-three points. There is the provision of appointment of a project officer and a service provider. I wholeheartedly welcome these provisions because when the law becomes a tool in the hands of the Police, they favour and listen to the men only and besides carrying the loots for the women use dilly-dallying tactics in their cases. On several occasions it so happens that in the case of a love marriage, when children are born, man starts thinking that in love marriage he did not get any dowry or cash from his in-laws. So he wants to get rid of his wife. He ceases to support the family and to take care of his offsprings. Where shall those women go? She should get all her rights properly in the shelter homes as well. So, I welcome from the bottom of my heart the

provisions of the Bill that have been made to provide protection to the women.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sumitraji has given a good instance. When a girl was asked to write what her mother does, she wrote that it was the mother who looked after all the household works like washing clothes, and utensils, cooking and make all other arrangements for the evening. When her brother returned home in the evening he asked her to write only this that mother does not do any work. If one evaluates the contribution of a women in her household affairs, it will be clear that a household can not be run without her. If a women is absent from house for one week, her family members have to go out for everything. If ten guests come to their house they will have to take breakfast and tea in the hotel and get their clothes washed in the laundry. If all these things are taken into consideration one can understand the contribution of a woman in running the household affairs and what is her importance. So, I would like to submit that since our life, family life, conjugal life and our culture are so valuable that the attention is being paid to such things and this Bill has been moved in this august House. I feel that the House will be unanimous on this issue. I extend my thanks to you that you gave me an opportunity to express my views on this issue and I support the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati P. Satheedevi please.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISEMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): I would like to speak something.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the time is over.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing else will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, she is the last speaker. So, you please confine your speech to just five minutes.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): I am very glad to say a few words in support of Protection of

Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005 which was introduced by hon. Minister Shrimati Kanti Singh. This Bill is a significant advance in providing the battered women access to legal protection and relief from violence within home. The country has witnessed the introduction of several legislations with the name of protection of women from domestic violence during 1980s.

Sir, the amendment brought to the Indian Penal Code and the introduction of new sections 304(b) and 498(a) are all to that affect. All the new laws were introduced in 1980s.

17.54 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Although there are several laws that were introduced after Independence, yet the statistics show that violence against the women in all spheres of life is on the increase. In all the fields, whether it is domestic and social, atrocities against women are on an increase.

Sir, it is the need of the hour to have more protective laws or more effective laws to protect the rights of the woman. She being an individual, her constitutional rights have to be protected. Her fundamental rights as a human being should be protected.

There was a need for some civil remedies. The Bill, as introduced here, fulfils the long-pending demand of women's movement for a civil remedy to address this inadequacy, recognised and yet there is rampant violence. The enactment and the proper implementation of this law will contribute to arresting the rising graph of domestic violence in the country.

One of the crucial entitlements assured to the woman under this Bill is the right to residence, the right not to be dispossessed for her marital home. The wife will also be entitled to ask for protective orders from the acts of domestic violence. The respondent may be debarred from entering the home, workplace or prevented from harassing his wife by communicating with her. Provision of financial support, temporary custody of children, compensation in case of damage or injuries etc. form part of the reliefs that the women in distress are entitled to. The tremendous injustice of the patriarchal social order which often led to women getting thrown out and having no shelter or being forced to return to the parental home is sought to be addressed. It is essential for courts to enforce these important entitlements.

[Shrimati P. Sahteedevi]

The present Bill has done away with many of the basic flaws and lacunae in the draft formulated by the NDA Government. Some of our friends have stated that it was quite unfortunate that the Bill was not passed during the NDA regime. I say that the womenfolk of our country are really fortunate that this was not passed at the time of NDA regime. The Bill was introduced during the NDA regime. You see the very definition for domestic violence. It was said that if there is inhuman harassment continuously, then only it could be considered as a domestic violence. A mere beating of wife twice or thrice in a month may not come under the definition of domestic violence. This was there as it was introduced by the NDA Government at that time. Had the Bill been passed in such a way, then the majority of the women who are actually suffering domestic violence will not be getting any benefit. I say that it is quite a fortunate thing that the Bill was not passed at that time and it is very fortunate for the Indian womenfolk to have more effective measures for protecting the rights given by the Constitution.

The removal of the clause defining violence as a habitual offence is an important step taken to protect women from all sorts of harassment. The definition now includes physical, verbal, emotional, sexual and economic violence, various forms of dowry-related harassment and also the threats of violence. The threat of violence also is considered as violence and protection is sought in such circumstances. The Bill ensures a much more comprehensive extension of protection to women.

The definition of aggrieved person who can take recourse to legal protection has been enforced such that it covers the wife or any woman who has been in a domestic relationship with the respondent. The right of mother, sister, even the woman who is not legally wedded but living as life partner has been brought into the ambit of the 'aggrieved person'.

18.00 hrs.

This definition, unfortunately, excludes the children. In some cases, the children may be the worst affected persons and victim of violence. So, the definition should also include the children.

Another important proviso is that the wife cannot be prosecuted under this law, but the wife can register complaints against female relatives of the respondent, if they too have been perpetrators of violence.

While welcoming the positive aspects, I would also like to point out certain lacunae that will detract from the effective implementation of the Bill at the ground level. The appointment of Protection Officers mandated under the Bill can prove to be counter-productive. Appointing intermediaries leads to bureaucratic delays, increase the scope for corruption as well as gender biased. Thereby, the purpose of the Bill will be negated.

The restriction on service providers as organisations registered for this purpose prevents other social organisations or individuals or groups from interceding on the victim's behalf. This provision is also open to misuse by the Police. So, these clauses should be modified in such a way that any genuine organisation for women's upliftment can be registered under the provisions of the Bill for the purpose of providing service to the victims.

Without any hesitation, I can say that the ambit of the Bill is now widened. It promises to be more specific in its objective, wider in its scope and stringent in its punitive powers. Hence, I wholeheartedly support the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is already 6 o'clock and the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shrimati Kanti Singh is to reply. In addition, I have another business also with me, that is, High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2005. Before that, I want that the House may be extended.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first we should know as to what is this Bill all about, only then we will express our views. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee. Let us not go into that.

I would request the hon. Members that the other Bill also has to go to Rajya Sabha. If we do not pass it today, then, it will not be passed otherwise. So, I would request that if you extend the House by one hour, then within one hour, we can pass both the Bills. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With the permission of the House, the time of the sitting is extended by one hour.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is good that the other Bill will also get passed; however, 'Zero Hour' is also very important.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD: 'Zero Hour' will be taken after that.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, the 'Zero Hour' should be taken before that and not after that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please do not worry. There will certainly be 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Be sure that 'Zero Hour' will be there.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I request the hon. Minister of State, Shrimati Kanti Singh to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You people have started murmuring even before the hon. Minister could start speaking.

[English]

Silence please. Now, she will start. Please sit down.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank all the hon. Member who participated in the discussion held in the House on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005 and expressed their views and gave their valuable suggestions. They have done a wonderful job by expressing their feelings in the House and through it conveying them to the people of the country. For this I am also thankful to all those hon. Members who expressed their views and also to those Members who could not speak. Their grievance is justified as all the political parties have supported the Bill and so, I would like to extend my thanks to all the Members.

Despite unanimity on this Bill, one question is arising in the minds of many people. Many of them are apprehensive that the Bill may also disturb the cordial relationship between a husband and wife and create chasm in the relationship and obstruct the smooth functioning of the family, and might matters end up promoting the tendency of washing one's dirty linen in public. However, I would like to submit that any woman who has patience, courage and strength, would never prefer to approach courts for scuffle with her husband and other trivial discords in the family. This is the reason that there is so much increase in the domestic violence. Despite that if we go through the figures of the survey conducted by our Department of Health or the records of the Ministry of Home Affairs, we find that till now only one lakh or one and half lakh cases of domestic violence have been registered. After 2003 or 2004, day by day the number of such cases is increasing at the rate of 9.2 per cent and every year we are witnessing this phenomenon. However, in view of the number of such cases which are occurring, the cases are not being registered in that proportion. Women do not want take such things to the courts because they hope that the elders will settle their problem and harmony will be restored in the conjugal and family life, however, when the matter crosses it limit, as there is limit to the tolerance power of human beings, she takes refuge in courts for seeking justice. Thus, I would like to dispel the apprehension of those who think that their family life would get disturbed after the enactment of the Bill, as they would be threatened by the women of their family who would take petty issues to the courts. They should not harp on such misconceptions.

[Shrimati Kanti Singh]

As far as the education is concerned, arrangements should be made to provide education. We should be economically sound and should become self-reliant. Our Government also intends to make women self-reliant. We should provide Education to All, whether it is a man or a woman, a son or a daughter, we should make them self-reliant and should empower them to take their own decisions by making them economically sound. Our Government has taken many steps in this direction. Besides that, we have also issued direction to all the concerned departments to prepare general budget and suggest the budget allocations that should be earmarked for women in every department and, consequently we are bringing forth this bill so that the aggrieved women may get justice. I said this because till now, people are not given to understand as to why we have brought this Bill before the House and which women are going to be benefited from it. Since women are like dumb drawn cattle, that is why we have made this provision in the Bill that any person whether he may be neighbour or relative of the woman can help the aggrieved woman. The economic and sexual exploitation of women is taking place at home or in the family, and in these circumstances, a case can be registered on the complaint of even a neighbour. Therefore, all the hon'ble Members have unanimously agreed that this Bill can go a long way to benefit the women and it is a welcome Bill. Even then some hon. Members harbour certain apprehensions. I have tried to draw attention toward all these provisions in order to deal their apprehensions. The saying of an eminent writer Simone De Bouwa is universally true that "women are not born weak, but are made weak." Women without understanding the complex process of being labelled as weaker sex, continue to get trapped sometimes in glamorous world of consumerism and sometimes fall prey to brutal feudal quagmire. The woman is used as a weapon against a woman itself, we have to come out of this trend. What kind of development can we talk about by keeping half of population inactive and deprived of creativity? Karl Marx has made a very important observation in this regard. "The position and status of the women in a particular society during a particular phase of history." Mirrors of how far progressive the society is."

Going by this yardstick, the present Indian society presents a very sorry picture. A tormented and victimized woman sitting behind the closed doors and confined to the four walls of home can hardly play any role in the development of the society. Therefore, an effort has been made through this bill to empower and provide justice to those women who are being victimized by their own family

members behind the closed doors of their own house. This is not an effort in the direction of women's liberalization, but to free them from a faulty system, superstitions and harassment. Women want liberation not from an individual, but from a system. Women has been confined within domestic domains only, she wants to come out of it. She should no bear atrocities and be treated like cattle, but should raise her voice for justice and for her rights. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale please do not interrupt the Minister. This is a very serious matter. Let her speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: An effort has been made to salvage women from leading the life of an animal. Shyness is considered to be an ornament of women. A shy woman, who silently bears atrocities, can never enjoy an equal status in the society. We shall have to instill self-confidence in a woman by saving her from atrocities at home and outside. The only will she be enlightened and this Bill provide a guide book and a medium of empowering women by taking her out of disappointment and miserable condition and help her in leading dignified life. All of us dream of a golden day when a self-confident woman beaming with self-respect shall write the history of her progress herself. While standing on the firm ground of her self reliance, she should have the competence to reach the new heights. Some hon'ble Members have expressed their apprehension about this Bill.

An apprehension is that the appointment of the Protection Officer should be done after due consideration. I agree with it because his role is very important. I assure you we will keep this in view while formulating rules under section 37 of this Bill, the issue of increasing the tenure of the magistrate would also be included in the rules.

Shrimati Sumitraji is not present here. She said that the duration of 60 days is very less. But it has been mentioned in the bill that magistrate shall try to dispose of the case within 60 days. Since this is an emergency law, therefore, it becomes necessary to set a time limit so that unnecessary delay may be avoided.

The functions of the protection officers and the service providers are similar in some ways. It has been provided

for the benefit of the aggrieved woman because if at the time of need the protection officer is not available, then the case can at least be registered through service providers. If the service provider submits report, Protection Officer would definitely be taken into confidence by him so that there is no clash between them.

Section 11 of the Bill provides that the Central Government and every State Government shall take all measures to ensure that the Central Government and State Government officers including the police officers and the members of the judicial services are trained to make the responsive and aware in regard to the issues addressed by this Act.

Sumitraji had expressed apprehension that rights are given to the woman living in a relationship, but not actually married, it may prove troublesome to the *de jure* wife. I would like to say that as far as the issue of giving rights to the woman living in a relationship, but not actually married is concerned, the aggrieved woman is being given the right to live in a shared household under the provisions of this Bill. This right would be particularly applicable to that shared household where the aggrieved person lives or at any stage has lived in a domestic relationship either singly or along with the respondent. It is not so that a new woman, who has never lived in household, can claim to live in that household, where *de jure* wife is residing. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I can not understand what the hon'ble Minister is saying.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, not, allowed. Please sit down. Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I will explain it to you after discussion on this bill is over. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawaleji, if you want to say anything, you will have to go to your seat first.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not make double errors—firstly, you are sitting on wrong seat, secondly, you are not speaking on your turn. Kanti Singhji, please continue.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Sir, this Bill is particularly on domestic relations. One of our colleagues said that domestic maids are also harassed. In the case of maids there is a relation of employer and employee *i.e.* master and servant. Covering them under this Bill would mean sharing the household with them. Similarly, other benefits will also have to be provided which will not be practically viable. We are trying to bring in another bill on sexual harassment at work place under which the interests of domestic helps would also be protected. Provision for seeking advice of the aged in the family has been under Section 15 of the Bill. If the aggrieved woman desires only then trial in camera should be conducted. As per the Bill it has been left to the discretion of the Magistrate, however, normally it is allowed on the request of the woman. In regard to the points raised by our Members for exempting service providers, incest relations and appointment of intermediaries arbitrators. I would like to say that these points are covered under Section 10(3), 2(f) and (3)a) and 12(1) respectively. As per the definition of family relationship under Section 2(f) persons related by consanguinity are covered and under section 3(a) of definition of domestic violence, sexual harassment has also been covered.

Shrimati Krishna Tirath mentioned about the free of cost legal aid. It is provided under Section 5(d) of the Bill and are in Legal Services Authorities Act 1987. Financial assistance has also been mentioned in the Section 20 of the Bill under which monthly monetary relief would be provided to complainant. Besides, section 22 states that compensation would be given to the aggrieved women under rehabilitation Centre Section 9(1)(f) a provision of Home Shelters has been made. Section 19(f) states that the aggrieved person would get the same level of accommodation as enjoyed in joint family. Hon'ble Acharia ji suggested to cover handicapped women under this Bill. I would like to state that all women include handicapped women so they are also covered under this Bill.

As far as expenditure on protection officers is concerned, it shall be borne by the Central Government This issue was raised by Hon. Member that it sh-

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Kanti Singh]

discussed as to who will bear the expenditure on protection officer since law and order are state subjects, expenditure on protection officer is to be borne by the State Government. The States can also assign this job to the functioning officers. Hon'ble Raman Rewati Singh ji suggested that compelling a woman for abortion or operation should also be treated a form of domestic violence. This aspect has been included in the definition of physical exploitation.

This Bill is in the process of being passed unanimously. We need the cooperation of entire society to implement it. We enact all kinds of laws but laws alone would solve all the problems, is a rare possibility. Rather, we need the cooperation of the entire society. It is the responsibility of entire society to cooperate with us for its implementation. The Bill to protect women from domestic violence will have to be made accessible to the women living in the remote rural areas who do not even know that bill has been brought by the UP Government to protect them from harassment meted out by their kith and kin.

That is why, I would call upon the resurging woman who is becoming aware of her rights and all the Members present here that:-

"Lahren kahati hain tufaan se khelo,
kab tak chaloge kinare-kinare"

With these words I request the Bill to be passed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would not give time to anybody else to make a speech on this Bill.

However, I have received a request from Shrimati Sangeeta Singh Deo to speak on the Bill. I cannot give her time to make a speech. But if she would like to ask only a clarificatory question, then I would give her some time to speak.

Yes, Madam, you have to ask only a clarificatory question.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank you immensely for accommodating me, and I would like to apologise that I was not here on time. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, please accommodate me also; I would go to my seat and speak. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would accommodate you some other day. Now, let her speak.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Sir, I stand here to support the 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005.' However, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. Does the jurisdiction of the Bill extend to our Indian women who are married to non-resident Indian abroad? It is because, as we all know especially in Punjab, this is a major problem, where unsuspecting Indian girls get married to non-resident Indian men, and thereby, they are subjected to inhuman conditions of domestic violence, and not very much is being done. So, I would like to know: would this also be included within the jurisdiction of this Bill?

Secondly, I would just like to make one suggestion. Here, in the Bill, the definition of the domestic relationship is a little alarming because I feel—it is my individual opinion—that we are all matured adults here and if we are going to recognise the existence of the other women, which has been quoted in an article of the *Times of India*, I think, dated 22nd of this month, then we are not doing justice to the legitimate spouse of the man. And, while doing justice to another lady, we will be cheating the legitimate wife of her right, and just because the other person who is involved in an antisocial activity is a woman, at least, my moral responsibility or my conscience does not permit me to, sort of, abet that crime.

Now, we all stand here in Parliament as responsible citizens, and I feel that this is not the legacy we should be leaving behind for our future generation. Today, you recognise the existence of the other woman; tomorrow, their offspring would be also claiming the share in the property of the man. So, there will be serious repercussions. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Athawaleji, please allow me to make submission today. ... (Interruptions) You speak daily.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, please conclude.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Athawaleji the persons who sits there starts criticizing ... (Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, please conclude now.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Sir, give me just one minute. This is a women-related issue and I want to make a point that in India, the early part of a woman's life—I think, all of us have experienced this—goes in sermons and preparations for her life in the husband's household. There is a major difference between what happens in foreign countries and here in our country. When a mother in a foreign country is talking to her daughter and putting moral values and ethics into her mind, she would always refer to it by saying: 'when you are grown up and when you are on your own, this is what is expected of you'. But in India, our parents always say that when you go to your husband's house, this is how you are supposed to be. It is said that a women's responsibility is that of a housewife. I beg to differ here. A woman is not only a housewife but a home-maker, which is very important, she is also moulding the minds of an entire generation. So, the responsibility of the women is immense.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Sir, please give me one minute more. You know we hardly get a chance to speak.

Sir, another point, which I would like to make here is this. I am a woman and I know that I may have to suffer severely for saying this but still I feel it is my moral obligation. I am willing to take risk and say that just because we are women, if we find another women doing something anti-social, it does not mean that we support her in that. How can you break the social norm and then have the audacity to expect the law to protect you? Tomorrow, what would we tell our children? If you are going to legitimise the position of the 'other woman', then which fool in this country would want to get married! This law gives equal rights to the 'other woman' as to spouse where domestic violence is concerned. So, where do we get a better deal? We must realise this that we cannot stand here today and tear the fabric of Hindu society to shreds. You must take this issue very seriously. Kantiji this is a suggestiton. Today while passing this Bill, maybe we are not looking at its social implications tomorrow. This is landmark legislation; I agree. It is a very important social legislation; I agree. I am a woman

and I am all for the women to be protected by the law. But, we all know that, on previous occasions also certain laws have been passed to protect certain sections of the society and that they have been grossly misused. So, kindly take these suggestions seriously.

Sir, I am grateful to you also for giving me this opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like to say something on this and also on the NRI issue?

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Sir, this bill is exclusively for Indian Women. The non-resident women, excluding those of Jammu-Kashmir have not been covered under this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, I have to make a request that some provision for the protection of men on the lines of this Bill should be made. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Sir, so far submission by the Hon'ble Member in regard to 'other woman' is concerned, we are only talking of checking their harassment. They should not be harassed and if any at society is being committed against them, it should be checked. This does not envisage of providing them share in the property. This law seeks to provide protection to the women who are living as a part of institution of marriage. We are not legalizing anything. We are neither giving them any legal protection nor talking of their right to property. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Sir, she is part of the society, be it anyone.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Madam. You have taken your time already. Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistry ji, the Bill is being passed and you are interrupting.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Nothing will go on record. Now, I am going to put the motion for consideration to vote. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, please take your seat, because nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please keep silence. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. There is no time for seeking clarifications. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for more effective protection of the rights of women guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of violence of any kind

occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 37 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, the Bill has been passed, please take your seat now.

18.38 hrs.

HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT
JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF
SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL, 2005

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): Sir, I
beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

As you are aware, the Fifth Central Pay Commission in their Report had recommended that D.A. should be converted into Dearness Pay each time the Cost Price Index increases by 50 per cent over the base Index used by the last Pay Commission. This recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission had been considered and it was decided that in case of all Central Government employees, including the members of All India Services, 50 per cent of the Dearness Allowance be merged with the basic pay with effect from 1st April, 2004. This is now separately shown as Dearness Pay, which is counted for purposes like payment of allowances including House Rent Allowance, transfer grant, retirement benefits, contribution of GPF and various advances, etc.

Similarly, in case of pensioners, Dearness Relief equal to 50 per cent of the pension has, with effect from 1.4.2004, been merged with pension and shown distinctly as Dearness Pension. This has resulted in the increase in basic pension of the Central Government employees by 1.5 times.

As such, a necessity is felt to increase the pension, additional pension and maximum pension of the Judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court by 1.5 times with effect from 1st April, 2004.

The family pension for Judges, with effect from 1st April, 2004 is also proposed to be calculated, as in the case of Central Government employees, at the rate of 50 per cent of the salary plus 50 per cent of the Dearness Pay up to the age of sixty five years or first seven years of death, whichever is earlier, and thereafter 30 per cent of salary plus 30 per cent of Dearness Pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 1,913.

A Judge of the High Court or the Supreme Court is entitled, without payment of rent, to the use of official residence. Where a Judge does not avail himself of the use of such residence, he is paid every month an allowance of Rs. 10,000 per month.

With the merger of 50 per cent of DA with the basic pay, the House Rent Allowance (HRA) admissible to the Central Government employees, including members of All India Services has been revised to 30 per cent of basic

pay plus 30 per cent of Dearness Pay, with effect from 1st April, 2004. On the same analogy, the allowance admissible to the Judges in lieu of Government accommodation, is also required to be revised and fixed at 30 per cent of the salary plus 30 per cent of Dearness Pay with effect from 1.4.2004.

The Chief Justices and Judges are required to hold periodical meetings with brother Judges, judicial officers and members of Bar. Sumptuary Allowance is paid to the Judges to entertain the guests as such meetings, with tea and snacks etc. The rates of Sumptuary Allowance were last fixed in 1996. Keeping in view the increase in cost of such items and the number of dignitaries who call on the Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, especially in view of the globalisation trends, the rate of Sumptuary Allowance is proposed to be revised with effect from 1st April, 2004.

Under the provisions of article 124 (3) (b) of the Constitution, an advocate having ten years practice can be directly appointed to the Bench of the Supreme Court. Generally, no advocate below the age of 55 years is considered for appointment. These Judges get pension under Part I of the Schedule to Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Condition of Services) Act, 1958. They sometimes cannot even complete seven years of service required for eligibility of pension. As such, they are entitled to a fixed amount as pension. For such Judges, it is proposed to add a period of ten years to the qualifying period of service for pension so that they receive substantial pension *vis-a-vis* the other judges of Supreme Court who are elevated from the High Courts. This will also serve as an incentive for meritorious, talented and eminent advocates to be appointed as Supreme Court Judge.

I hope the Bill will receive the wholehearted support of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since large number of Members are to speak, so I request all hon. Members to

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

take only 1-2 minutes. There is no need to go into its criticism. So speak only for 1-2 minutes and it would be better if we make a unanimous move.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): My request is that we may do it tomorrow. Why should legislation be passed in a hurry? ...*(Interruptoins)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Tomorrow is the Private Members' Business day. There will be no Legislative Business tomorrow. The Private Members' Business will start from 2 o'clock.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Private Members' Business is limited to two hours only. After that we can take it up. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: This has already been decided in the BAC. We cannot change it now. The decision in the BAC was that we will combine Private Members' Business of two Fridays because last Friday also there was no PMB. Day after tomorrow also there will be no Private Members' Business. That is why it has been decided that on Thursday, immediately after 'Zero Hour' the House will take up Private Members' Business. There will be no other Legislative Business. If we do not pass it today, then it cannot become a law because after tomorrow, only two days are left and it has to go to the other House also.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Some Members from the other Parties should also be allowed to participate for two-three minutes. Just do not confine it to two political parties.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I support this Bill about the changes in dearness allowance, house rent allowance, transfer grant, and retirement benefits of the High Court and the Supreme Court Judges. I have no objection. It seems to be a highly technical Bill. I just want to raise only two points.

Firstly, what about the appointment of the High Court and the Supreme Court Judges? The Judges are now appointing the other Judges. Is it a fair practice? What happened to the National Law Commission? Will it be constituted? It should actually recommend the names of

the judges. Will it consist of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and two other Judges of the Supreme Court? I would like to have an answer from the hon. Minister.

The second point is that how to find out a way to deal with the acts of misdemeanour committed by the High Court and the Supreme Court Judges. It is now the courts themselves which deal with any such alleged misdeed. The removal of such Judges through the process of impeachment is cumbersome. Most of the times, it is almost next to impossible. So, can a separate body be constituted to deal with the acts of omission and commission by the High Court and the Supreme Court Judges? I hope the hon. Minister will kindly answer these questions.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): Sir, I rise to support the Bill which has been introduced by the hon. Minister for Law. I am sure that the House will be unanimous in getting this Bill passed. I would like to mention a few things which I think should be taken note of by this august House.

Whenever any Bill or legislation has come with respect to the judges, this august House has always supported it. In many instances, we have also taken unanimous decisions. We have never cribbed or expressed any reservation about the salaries that are to be given to the judges. The judges have to be given proper salaries, allowances and pension schemes so that they can work impartially and they are free from any influence. They should be free from a want as far as everyday sustenance is concerned. They should not be susceptible to any kind of extraneous influences. I presume this is the basic reason as to why the judges deserve and should get a very high and handsome salary.

We must also remember the fact that the judiciary is one of the main arms of our polity. In the constitutional scheme, the judiciary enjoys a special place. It is, of course, the right of the judiciary to interpret the Constitution. They are the final authority as far as that is concerned, but I must hasten to add that in the democratic process, it is the representatives of the people or the Parliament and only the Parliament which has sovereign right to amend the Constitution or alter laws. The judges are free to declare that a law is unconstitutional or *ultra vires* of the Constitution. But the Parliament is free to amend it. They can again declare that amendment also as unconstitutional but Parliament again has the right to

correct that and bring about a constitutional amendment. There is a delicate balance between these arms of our Constitution and the judges should remember this. Parliament has never wanted a confrontation with the judiciary. They have issued several judgements which I do not want to quote here. Some of them have been accepted by the Parliament and there have been many cases when Parliament has come out with constitutional amendments. But these should not be looked from an egoistic point of view.

It is not as if one is encroaching upon the territories of the other.

Sir, it is said that politicians or people in public life should not only be clean but they should also appear to be clean. We, the politicians, are not only supposed to be clean but should also appear to be clean. I would like to say before this august House that the judges of the Judiciary should also not only appear to be clean but they should also be intrinsically clean. For that purpose they require to be paid well. Their salaries and pensions have to be reviewed periodically. That is what we are doing today. The Dearness Allowance is being added to the pay. Certain anomalies were there after the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. But the Judiciary must also find ways as to how to curb corruption which has been growing in recent years. I am not saying it, the former Chief Justice, Justice Bharucha mentioned about corruption in the Judiciary. I do not want to rub into that aspect. Recently, a justice by name Shri Samit Mukherjee of the Delhi High Court had to be removed for reasons of corruption. Why do we not hesitate to give the Judiciary what they deserve in Financial terms? It is because we want them to be free from corruption. Some sort of accountability has to be brought in the judicial process.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may please conclude now.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Sir, these are all interconnected things.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But if you start speaking like this, then how will I control?

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Sir, if you rule that what I am speaking is irrelevant, then.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please conclude now.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: This is a topic that is being discussed all over the country today. Thousands and lakhs of cases are pending and people are suffering in the remotest parts of the country. I think, it is within the purview and right of this august House to at least express its concern or views while passing such a Bill, even though it may not be directly connected with the changes that the hon. Minister is seeking to bring about through this Bill.

Sir, I personally feel that justice should be accessible to all and justice should be cheap if the common man has to expect justice. For justice to be cheap, there is no other alternative but to have expensive judges. I will never come in the way of any perks or any increase in the salaries of the judges that is being made. Unless there are expensive judges, we cannot get justice cheaply. These are some of the basic principles which I feel we must have in our minds and we must remember all these things.

Sir, today the process of initiating a contempt of court proceedings is very difficult. It is because even in cases where facts have been established, truth cannot be used as an allegation for contempt cases. This is an archaic law which was brought in by the colonial powers probably because they did not want their judges to be taken to courts for any case of contempt. It is high time we reviewed these archaic laws. These contempt laws need to be reviewed.

I agree with my colleague on the other side who just mentioned about the appointment of judges, which was usurped by them. This process should not continue. Probably, we are the only country, the only liberal democracy in the world where judges appoint themselves. I do not think, there is any other example anywhere in the world where judges appoint judges. There should be process. There should be some high-powered Committee to deal with these appointments. The judges do not have the intelligence machinery to find out the antecedents of a person before appointing him as a judge.

You must have reports from police, from intelligence agencies and various other inputs before you appoint a judge because it is a very responsible post. So, this business of judges appointing judges is a phenomenon, which is probably unique only to this country, needs to be immediately changed. The hon. Minister of Law is present here. I hope he will take note of this.

[Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo]

There have been other instances. I would like to cite one or two instances. Recently, there was an incident when the Supreme Court had blatantly invaded upon the powers and privileges of a legislature by ordering that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be recorded. This is not going to be appreciated nor is it good for the traditions that we have been nurturing over the last forty or fifty years.

There is one more incident which I would like to mention. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting over here. In a case related to Jammu and Kashmir, the Supreme Court, in its Interim Order, had directed that terrorists should be served *biryani*. Is this a decision to be taken by the Supreme Court? It is for the Executive to decide whether to serve *biryani* or *chicken curry*. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will decide or the military will decide or the police will decide that, not their Lordships. This kind of blatant aggression into others spheres or realms, which do not belong to the courts, will upset that delicate balance. And once this happens with the Judiciary, then we will be in serious trouble. Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I am sorry that I have taken more time than you intended to give me.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, I welcome and support this Bill. As has been expressed already here, there is no doubt that salaries and perks of the judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court should be very good because they should not become susceptible to outside influences and they should be able to keep the dignity of their office.

I would like to mention one important matter in this connection. Now, the situation is such that judicial officers are accountable to none. In a democratic society, everybody should be accountable to the people and to the society howsoever high or mighty he may be. Here comes the long-standing demand for appointment of a Judicial Commission. In a country like India, appointment of a Judicial Commission is highly essential. It should consist of the Chief Justice, the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition or their nominees. Such a Committee should appoint the judges. Heavens had not fallen down when the Executive had a say in the appointment of judges. Some of the prominent and eminent jurists of our country came to the Supreme Court during those days. I do not want to mention their names. They were independent and were known for their fearless views and they upheld the independence of the Judiciary.

But now judges themselves have the power to appoint judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The situation should change. There should be an independent Judicial Commission and it should have a say in the appointment of judges. That is what I want to say.

One major shortcoming in our judicial system, as everybody knows, is the accumulation of cases. In this area, Fast Track Courts are doing a wonderful job. But still a lot of cases are pending. Most of the cases are pending in the subordinate judiciary. While enhancing the salary of the Supreme Court and the High Court judges, we should remember that major part of the judicial work is going on at the lower rungs of the Judiciary. They should also get a decent pay to keep the dignity of their office.

19.00 hrs.

Even though it is a matter of the States, the Central Government should also get involved in it. If the State Governments want sufficient funds, these should be given to the State Governments for giving them a better salary.

Sir, when a Magistrate travels with a culprit, who is going to appear before him, in the same train or bus, it is not a good thing to be seen. So, their salary and perks should also be enhanced.

Slowly, corruption is creeping into the various layers of our Judiciary, which none other than the Supreme Court's former Chief Justice had to admit. This thing also should be taken into consideration. I think, only an independent Judicial Commission can assess all these cases and go into these things. It can recommend and find remedy for this.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As the time of the House was extended by an hour and the Bill is yet to be passed, I request hon. Members to be brief and so long as Bill is not passed and Special Mention is not taken up, the time of the House may please be further extended. Do the House agree to it?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, we agree.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Shri Shailendra Kumar, you speak now, but take only two minutes.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since I had an opportunity to become a Member of Standing Committee on Law and Justice, I would like to make some suggestions before the House. Hon. Minister has introduced High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2005. This Bill has been brought consequent upon one-and-a-half time's increase in the salary and powers of Central Government employees. With a view to increase the salary and pensions of Judges, hon. Supreme Court had directed that Judicial officers of all the States and Union Territories, except Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka be given equal salaries and pension. Accepting the recommendations of commission headed by hon. Judge Shri Shetty, the court had directed to amend pension rules and in case of salaries, hon. Supreme court has convened a meeting of Chief Secretaries and Advocate Generals of 21 States to ascertain their views and asked them to implement it expeditiously. Though Supreme Court has expressed its resentment over it, however, it had directed to implement it in all the States. 12 thousand Judicial Officers have been benefited by recommendations of said commission.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Minister for making provision to exempt basic salary of Judges from the net of tax. The age of retirement for Judges of Supreme Court is 65 years and those of High Court is 62 years. As pressure of work on both the courts is almost same, so the retirement age in both these courts may be fixed as 65 years. Earlier, retired Judges used to head Fast Track Courts for the early disposal of the cases but now the system has been changed and now sitting Judges will head Fast Track Courts. Therefore, I again thank him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has also been recommended to increase the number of Judges. Sir, my submission is that the provision of reservation should also be implemented in Judiciary. Seats should be reserved for learned lawyers of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Often, we come across the news of corruption in lower courts, so, I would request hon. Minister to pay heed to it. Though Article 124 and 127 provide for impeachment of Corrupt Judges, yet, there is no such provision in Lower Courts. Therefore, I request Hon. Minister to make such provision for Lower Courts also.

I conclude my speech with these words.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment, Bill.

Sir, Executive, Judiciary and legislature, these three are the pillars of healthy democracy. So, far their salary and allowances are concerned, my party, BSP is fully supporting it and I would like to make certain suggestions.

19.06 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Judicial process is so dilatory that in many cases the aggrieved person dies before he gets justice. Take the case of electoral litigations. The term expires but the cases are not disposed off. The petitioner is met with gross injustice in such a case. There is no transparency in Judiciary these days. The party which is at the helm of affairs either at Centre or in the State can manage disposal of cases even during night time. The issue of BSP MLAs has been lingering on since 1997. Legislative Assembly has again been constituted, whereas the fate of 40 MLAs had been hanging fire since then. Even hearings could not be completed so far. As hon. Minister has brought a Bill increasing salaries and allowances of Judges, action should also be taken for speedy disposal of cases.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is definitely concerned over increasing incidence of interference of Judiciary in Legislature. The House is an apex body responsible towards the society. And since it is accountable to the society, the courts are no exception to it.

Sir, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates should be given the benefit of reservation for the post of Judges in courts. Impartially takes places in appointment of Judges. My submission is that there should be a check on such acts so that a common man may get justice. With this, I extend my support to the Bill.

[*English*]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Hon. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to say that the hon. Law Minister is sitting here and it seems that he is in a hurry to get this Bill passed. Therefore, I would humbly submit before you, Sir, not to hurry to pass this Bill.

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Not only on this day but on earlier occasions also, in this august House, these types of Bills have been brought forward and passed by this House regarding the salaries, pensions and other facilities of the Supreme Court and the High Court judges. We have no objection to increase the salaries, pensions and other facilities as they are holding the highest judicial office in our country. They are the temple of justice. They can make and unmake the laws. As per the provision of the Indian Constitution, there are three pillars, three wings of our country, that is, Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. All the three wings will function, will run side by side. No authority should interfere or encroach upon the jurisdiction and rights of the other authority. All the three pillars, three wings of the country will exercise their rights within their jurisdiction, within their periphery. But, I am sorry to say that recently a tendency has grown up and this tendency to encroach upon the rights and functioning of the Legislature by the Supreme Court and the High Courts is increasing day by day. Today morning, we have seen in the newspaper that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has cautioned the Government in a way just giving stricture of the Government. He said, "Shut down us, close the Courts". In this fashion he has warned the Government. The Supreme Court and the High Courts are trying to encroach upon the rights of the Legislature and are trying to encroach upon the jurisdiction, rights and functioning of the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, we have thoroughly discussed this matter in the morning. The hon. Speaker has also given a ruling.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I will conclude within two minutes. They are trying to encroach upon the right of the Parliament. The Parliament is the supreme authority of the country. We do not want to close the judicial system. We do not encroach upon the rights and functioning of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. On the contrary, they have tried to encroach upon the functioning of the Parliament. I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry as well as this august House that thousands and thousands of cases are pending throughout the country in different High Courts and the Supreme Court also. It is the basic principle of the law that delay defeats the law. Justice delayed is justice denied. A large number of cases of different High Courts are pending in the Supreme Court. Nobody knows when these cases will get adjudicated and the final decision

will be given by the High Courts or the Supreme Court. Suppose a person's grandfather rushes to the court. After the demise of the grandfather, his father rushes to the court for justice and thereafter, after the demise of his father, he rushes to the court. He is waiting and praying before the court for justice and final adjudication. This is the position of the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

Corruption in the courts is known to everybody. *Judges are exercising their rights beyond their jurisdiction. You know, very recently, the Kerala High Court has given a verdict that all the mosquitoes should be removed from the city of Kochi. Is it the right of the High Court? It is the duty of the Municipal Corporation of Kochi to remove or destroy all the mosquitoes. These types of judgements are given by the High Court and the Supreme Court. Corruption is rampant in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and it is well-known to everybody.

I need not repeat the same regarding the appointment of judges. My esteemed colleagues have mentioned about the procedure of the appointment of judges. I agree with them.

Lastly, I submit that the Law Ministry should give adequate attention to the lower judiciary, Fast Track Courts. Sir, the Sessions and District Judge Courts, Munsif and Magistrate Courts are the pillars of the judicial system of the country. So far as I know—you will also agree with me—barring the Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai High Courts, all the other High Courts have appellate jurisdiction. Only these three High Courts, have the original jurisdiction. Barring these High Courts, all the other High Courts are the appellate authority.

Sir, the lower courts are supposed to be the pillars of justice. Suppose, a person files a case in Munsif Court or in a Magistrate Court, ultimately he will come to Sessions and District Court or to a High Court to get justice. Even the conditions of the lower courts, Munsif Courts, Magistrate Courts and Sessions and Districts Courts are very bad. The infrastructure of these courts is very bad. Some time back, I had an occasion to appear in one of such courts where I found the condition was just like a cowshed. This type of condition is not fit for the functioning of the Judiciary. That is not fit even for adjudication. So, the Government should give due attention to the lower courts, Munsif Courts, Magistrate Courts and District Courts for better judgement and better functioning of the Judiciary in the country.

*Expunged as order by the Chair.

Due to time constraint, I conclude my speech.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The Judges should be given proper salaries, allowances and all other benefits as suggested by the hon. Minister of Law and Justice.

At the outset, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the Courts are temples of justice. They must be above everything. They have to maintain clean and impartial image. Earlier, allegations of sexual abuse were levelled against some of the Judges which is not doubt shocking. During my 33 years of practice as a criminal practitioner, I had conducted cases of drug mafia Azad Pervez and also of Dara Singh where I found that the trials were delayed due to lack of infrastructure. It used to take more than five years for conclusion of a trial. This is a very serious issue which should be looked into, otherwise the delivery of justice at the right level will be defeated.

I would like to pose a question to the hon. Law Minister that we boast of being a working democracy while our judicial system is unable to deliver justice in time or appear to be doing its job to deliver timely justice. As some of my known friends have rightly stated, justice delayed is justice denied. During the days of my practice, I had the opportunity of conducting cases from Rourkela to Koraput and I found that the trials of those cases were delayed due to lack of facilities. The witnesses were not turning out. Necessary steps were not being taken even to procure the attendance of the witnesses. There were not able public prosecutors to conduct the cases properly as a result of which justice was defeated. Earlier, we talked about the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill. I find that a number of cases with regard to dowry death and torture are pending in different courts, and for the disposal of those cases, we find that the trials are going on for more than five years. There is a hue and cry that special courts should be constituted to administer timely justice to women, but it is never done.

Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention that even criminal appeals are pending in the High Courts for more than 10 years.

Sir, many people are languishing in custody for several years without the matter being taken up by courts for hearing. The courts are not disposing of their bail applications in time in many cases. The courts must

administer timely justice to the people. Suppose the appeal is dismissed in a criminal case which will enable the appellant prefer an appeal in the apex court to redress his grievance. I belong to Orissa which is a backward State. The people of my State are not able to approach the hon. apex court due to financial stringency.

We say that a judge has to administer justice without fear or favour. But we have to look into as to how far this has been practically achieved.

Sir, I would like to further submit that due to vacancies of judges in different High Courts, including the Orissa High Court, several cases are pending. In the Orissa High Court, more than 1,50,000 cases are pending. We require more than 30 judges to give some justice to the people of my State. But with only 14 judges, it is difficult to administer justice to the people even after 58 years of Independence. So, the Law Ministry should examine as to what kind of adequate steps it can take to administer real justice to the people.

Some of my learned friends have also expressed their concern regarding the condition of the subordinate judiciary. At the grassroot level, the subordinate judiciary is to play a vital role in administering justice to the people. But I find that in some district headquarters and also in some sub-divisional headquarters, the courts are in a very bad condition. They have to be maintained properly. When the accused is presented in the court, he should have some fear in his heart. Sometimes, it is said that the magistrates are made to move along with culprits in buses. So, unless proper attention is given for improving the conditions in the subordinate judiciary, we cannot administer justice properly to the poor and downtrodden people.

Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister that civil cases like First Appeals are pending for more than two decades in our courts and even second appeals, the cases are not disposed of by the courts. I hope that the judicial system, which is the backbone of the country and the custodian of liberty of innocent citizens, would be given more importance. I hope and trust that we would have more judges in the Orissa High Court to administer real justice to the people of my State in a time-bound manner. The accused should not be allowed to languish in custody for indefinite period. This is not the way to administer justice.

With these few words, I would like to thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill as there is no scope for any dissent. Periodical revision of salary, allowances and benefits is necessary to keep our judges in good condition both physically as well as mentally. At the same time, this opportunity could have been effectively used to examine the present state of the Judiciary. The delicate constitutional scheme of checks and balances among the three branches of the State is seriously threatened. There are mutual accusations of encroachment and only yesterday the hon. Chief Justice of India challenged the Government or even Parliament to wind up the Judiciary before enacting legitimate legislations on many issues. Such unfortunate situation should be avoided. The unsatisfactory situation of judge themselves finding out their successors should be corrected. India is perhaps the only country where the political Executive has no control over the selection and appointment of judges. I think, it was a spurious grabbing of power by interpreting the constitutional provision and unfortunately, the Government did not challenge that judgement. So, that should be reviewed and the procedure should be corrected. The correct legal position be restored.

Even in America, the President appoints the judges, subject to ratification by the Senate. That means that there is even parliamentary control and parliamentary involvement. So, that position should be restored. We should immediately and urgently evolve a scheme for the proper selection of judges, judges with social vision and commitment, because we are now feeling or facing that danger also that so many judgements are coming from the Supreme Court without any social vision or commitment, without any concern for the people, without any concern for the poor. That means, biased and class attitude of the judges, who are appointed by the judges themselves.

The earlier position was somewhat satisfactory where the political wing of the Government was finding out the judges. That position should be restored with sufficient safeguards. The Government should give urgent and immediate attention for the formation of a Judicial Commission for the sole purpose of appointment and supervision of the judges.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill which has been brought here relates to salaries and pensions of judges. It is the Government

and the Members of Parliament who actually run the country. The Media, the Government and the Judiciary are called as the pillars of democracy. This entails very important place for the judges in the country. Hence better salaries should be given to them. I would not say anything about this but the financial implications which have been quoted here are perhaps not right. The purpose of this Financial Statement is to reflect the impact of increase in salaries, allowances and pension of the Judges on the total consolidated fund. The purpose of issuing the Financial Statement is to assess the burden of such increase on the State exchequer. I have seen and he has also mentioned that the percentage of Delhi High Court, Punjab and Haryana has been included in it. It would result in an expenditure of Rs. 30 lakh annually. I want a clarification from the hon'ble Minister in this regard. I would like to know as to whether this increase is applicable for the judges of the entire country or only for Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. The salaries which will increase as a result of the Act, which you have presented, would put a burden on each state. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Who is saying that salaries are being increased? First you read this completely.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: D.A. is being increased.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Even the DA is not being increased. It has three provisions. The pension of Civil Services has increased due to merger of DA but judges are getting less pensions. Now pension will be increased through this Act. They will get the same pension which they were getting earlier, after the merger of DA and pay only the law has to be amended. The Sumptuary Allowance of Rs. 2000/- which they were getting earlier has been increased to Rs. 4000/-. It is an allowance to meet light refreshment and tea expenses. The Third provision relates to pension. Justice Santosh Hedge was the judge of Kamataka who belonged to some other State. he was not getting his pension, but we got 10 years service added to his credit and got his pension sanctioned. Besides that, there is nothing more in this. It is a small bill which is very innocuous. This Bill does not bring any increase in salary or D.A.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Through this Bill pension is being increased and it involves financial implication. We should accept that it is being enforced in the entire country. It will put a burden on consolidated fund of India.

I accept that the hon'ble Minister has clarified this, but today the interference by the Courts has increased to such an extent that sometimes the question arises in one's mind as to who actually runs the Government. Sometimes it is perceived that it is the judiciary which runs the Government.

I would also like to submit that when the issues of determining fee in medical colleges arose, it was decided by the Court as to what would be the fee of medical college. Whereas it is for the Government to decide the fee structure. The High Court and the Supreme Court should not interfere in this as this issue does not come under their jurisdiction. As regards the issue of constitution, their interference is O.K. Day-before-yesterday also there was uproar in the House. The Supreme Court had directed the Government that the system had loopholes and asked it to plug these loopholes. Prior to this there was a controversy about whether the judges belonged to the SC or ST or OBC community. There was none from the SC/ST. In the cases pertaining to SCs or STs, we should see to it that the judge should be from SC, ST or OBC community. Today a very good thing happened in Parliament. The Supreme Court and the Government should learn to act within their respective jurisdictions.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I support this Bill. At the same time, we have to see that there are different views among the people with regard to the verdicts of the hon. Supreme Court and High Courts. But, I do not want to go into the details. It is true that the High Courts and the Supreme Court are the supreme authorities on the legal side, but in some cases they are encroaching the limit directed by the Constitution. I also do not want to go into the details. The Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive have their own role but they should not contradict especially in the policy as well as the administrative issues.

There are many other issues that we can point out with regard to the recent development in the judicial sector. The most important issue, I think, is the accountability, as stated by some other hon. Members. In many other countries, I think, there are such mechanisms like National Judicial Commission etc. When we say that there is some mechanism, it does not mean that we are anyway reducing the status of the Judiciary. Really, what we are doing is that we are increasing the

credibility of the Judiciary because we are really minimising the burden that the Judiciary has taken now with regard to the appointment of Judges, transfer of Judges and all other things.

The other issue is this. When we think about the facilities of the Judges, we also have to think about the facilities that we are giving to the common people. I would like to quote from the 120th Report on Manpower Planning in Judiciary, of the Law Commission.

It says:

"This Report essentially deals with the problem of judicial manpower planning, an area that has been generally ignored in India's planned development."

When we speak about this, I would like to mention that today, India has only 10.5 judges per million. When we say that there is accumulation of cases, we have to see infrastructure also. At the same time, in countries where the population is very less compared to India, there are more judges. In Australia, it is 41.6 judges per million. In Canada, it is 72.5 judges per million. In England, it is 15.9 judges per million. In U.S.A. it is 107 judges per million. It shows that we have to give more importance to infrastructure.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to highlight here some examples of Kerala. Up to 30.9.2004, the number of cases pending in the District and Subordinate Courts was 2,54,204, the number of cases pending in the Magistrate Courts was 4,06,308, and the total number of cases pending was 6,60,522. You think about the magnitude of the cases that are pending before the courts.

With regard to the family courts also, the number of cases pending was 29,849 and the number of motor accident claims pending up to 2004 was 1,59,733. It means that the number of judges are less not only in the Supreme Court and the High Courts but also in the District and Subordinate Courts. So, the infrastructure of these Courts has to be strengthened with immediate effect.

It is not only raising of salaries and allowances of the Judges. Of course, it is very essential. At the same time, when we speak about the social obligation, it deals with the people of this country but they are not getting these benefits and they are not getting what they really need. So, this issue has also to be taken into account by the Ministry as early as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister will reply.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, some points have been raised by the hon. Members. I am very grateful to this House for extending unanimous support to this Bill because the tradition of this House and the other House is that when we discuss the Salaries and Conditions of Service of Judges, the House unanimously supports it. It is because of the regards which Parliament has for the Judiciary. I am very grateful for the sentiments of this House, and the Judiciary, I hope, will also respond to our sentiments.

Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Kharabela Swain, who initiated this debate, raised some fundamental questions. I have noted them. After 1993, we are all aggrieved about the process of consultation, which was provided in the Constitution. It starts in the High Court for appointment of High Court judges. Then, it goes to the State Governments, then to the Law Minister, then to the Chief Justice of India, then to the Prime Minister, and then to the President. It is a participatory consultation process by which a lot of filtration is done and everybody's view is available, and finally the President of India—I am emphasizing on this—is the appointing authority. So, the power still vests with the President of India. The only aberration that has taken place by virtue of the judgment in the case of Advocate on Record *versus* the Union of India is that the Judiciary has made their views binding on the Executive and whatever they recommend, we are bound by their views because they said that they are collegium views and not the view of a single Chief Justice, and it is the collective wisdom of the Supreme Court. So, everybody is agitated on this.

The earlier Government headed by Shri Vajpayee brought a Bill for introducing a National Judicial Commission but they also appointed a Constitution Review Committee headed by Justice Venkatachaliah. Whatever power and shape was given to the Commission was not the recommendation of the Venkatachaliah Committee and we could not agree on that proposition.

The matter is still open. As the House has spoken on this issue, when we all agree, we will try to find out a method by which we can find a solution to retrieve the old procedure where there was no binding nature of the recommendation of the Judiciary. Of course, earlier also, when I had been two times the Law Minister of this country right from 1985, I know in S.P. Gupta's case and later on in Shri Subash Sharma's case where the primacy

of the Chief Justice was really in question. So, the primacy has been restored, but now the primacy of the Chief Justice's view has been snatched by his own colleagues. If two judges block, the Chief Justice's office is rendered ineffective. So, this is a system which is not showing the result which it was desired to show. So, we are looking into it.

The other issue raised was about judicial accountability and corruption. I am very happy that this issue has raised. You must have read it. I have already prepared a Bill and circulated to the Judiciary on the National Judicial Council which will make the Judiciary accountable to the country. A forum will be available for every citizen of India to complain about the erring judges and they will have to be inquired into and investigated by their own peers. If the consultation on this Council is over, I think, by the next Session of Parliament I will be coming to this august House for your approval.

We are not leaving anything, any institution without accountability. Parliament is accountable to the people of India and we are elected representatives and we are open to so much of scrutiny. I hope it is time that all the institutions are accountable, and the judges are already aware about the Government's view. So, we are working in that direction. We have borrowed extensively from the Canadian model, American model and from other places, and finally we have come round to a view. So, soon we will have a National Judicial Council in position where all the citizens will have the redressal of their grievances. This is with regard to judicial accountability and corruptoin.

Now, about the strength of judges, the strength of earth High Court is decided, and every third year a review is provided to see how many more judges can be appointed. So, every third year we review the strength of the judges and the workload in the courts. We provide more judges based on that account. You are all aware that the burden of finance is borne by the State in the case of High Court. So, we have to take their views also.

Regarding subordinate judiciary, a lot of emphasis has been laid on the subordinate judiciary. I am very conscious of it. In earlier first tenure, I appointed Justice Shetty Commission and requested him to go into the uniform pay scale for the judicial officers of the whole country. The Report was received but you know, the financial position of most of the States is not very healthy. So, they showed some resentment in implementing that

Report. But I am very happy to inform this House that most of the States, despite their financial constraints, have implemented it.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): You should come forward to help the States. You know the financial position of the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Please hear me. I am already helping. I want to inform him. Will you please listen? I am assisting you as best as I can. If you are not satisfied, later on you can ask.

With regard to the Shetty Commission, the States have been very generous. As I remind this House, in the matter of accommodating Judiciary, all the States of this country have been very generous, and they have implemented it. We have also given them their arrears. So, there is hardly anything which remains to be done or is yet to be done. With regard to assistance, the last Government gave Rs. 500 crore from the Finance Commission for Fast Track Courts. That was a very good measure because for the first time, some money from the Central Finance Commission went to the States to start clearance of arrears. Sir, 15 lakh cases were given to the Fast Track Courts and about eight lakhs of them were tried and finished. So, there is a good result. It has come to light now that if we assist the States, then the arrears can be cleared.

Sir, you will be very happy to know that I have put in my Budget funds. We will continue the 1500 Fast Track Courts at the district level in all the States and 100 per cent money will be funded by the Central Government. I have given about Rs. 400 crore for full computerization of the courts in the States. Hundred per cent funds from the Central budget are given to computerise the States, and the courts at the *tehsil* or the *taluka* levels will be fully computerized to improve their infrastructure. We are already sharing the infrastructure of court buildings and judicial housing on 50:50 basis with the States. We are still requesting the Planning Commission to give some 10 years' perspective by which we can help the States to build more court buildings, more judicial housing, bar rooms and all these things. This is a continuing process. We are a vast country. We have a colossal population. Hopes and aspirations of the people are increasing. They are going to the courts. It is not that the courts are not disposing

of cases. The disposal rate remains the same. One High Court Judge is expected to dispose of 1,000 cases in the High Court in a year. The average is the same. But the institution has increased, and we have to cope up with the institution so that the arrears are wiped out. We are trying to modernize the system. We were working with the old system by which handwritten evidences and all was there. Now, it will be fully computerized. See the results that have been achieved in the Supreme Court by computerization.

Now, you file a case today, mention it tomorrow in the court, and the third day it is listed. In my times, when I was practising, it used to take six months or a year to list a case. The arrears have come down from 1 lakh to 30,000. The High Courts are also showing a decline in the arrears. We will have to be generous in the matter of funding the Judiciary. You will agree with me that justice now-a-days is a cry of the common man. We had promised speedy and inexpensive justice from the day we became free, but the common man still feels that justice eludes him. This is what we are doing. The earlier Governments also introduced the *Lok Adalats*. It was a good step. We are further strengthening it by introducing ADR. The West Bengal Government did a miracle in the last few months. I visited there. They are bringing conciliation at the block level. Conciliation, mediation and all these arbitrations are well known systems of adjudication. Our country will have to be innovative in the matter of finding conciliation. I am also thinking to have *gramin nyayalayas* headed by a stipendiary court very soon. A magistrate will go to the village to give justice at the doorsteps of the people, and I hope to bring this Bill also very soon before you. You will need to increase the strength of judges. without giving the Judiciary more manpower, you cannot expect a judge to work day and night. For that, we will need cooperation of this House, and we will have to get the cooperation of the States. You will be happy to know that two months ago, I invited all the hon. Law Ministers of the States in Shimla, and we had a very cordial meeting wherein everybody assured us that they want to give India the most modern justice system. I agree with the hon. Speaker who said, what is the use of all these reforms when there are no judicial reforms. The justice most improve side by side with other economic conditions. I promise to you that the time will come when India will have the best justice system in the world.

Today, we have an academy in each State. We have an apex academy in Bhopal where outside judges are

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

coming for training with us. We are slowly and steadily gaining strength in this direction. So, I assure you that the system is going in the correct direction. We cannot dilute the quality of justice. That has to be maintained. The common man must be given his due access to justice. That is our anxiety.

Now, there is another area that has been touched by the hon. Speaker although this morning yet it was concluded. There are some tensions on some points. One observation falls from the Court about certain things. Similarly, sometimes we also feel that this area does not belong to the Judiciary. For example, what happened in this House is none of the business of the Judiciary. This is for the Chair to regulate. This is a privileged House. This is as privileged as any other institution. This is a sovereign House. We have to maintain the sovereignty of this House. Our unity in this House is the strength to preserve the strength of Parliament, and we will preserve it. We have demonstrated it that this House, when united, has tremendous amount of strength and sovereignty. There is no reason to be anxious because the Chair regulates our strength and we are all committed to uphold the highest tradition of Parliament and its standards. So, nobody should worry about it.

Similarly, we have assigned and this Parliament has assigned the role of interpretation of law and Constitution to the Judiciary. This is our decision that in the Constitution we gave this power to the Judiciary. We should show respect to their judgement and I am very proud that so far this country has upheld the highest traditions in respecting the Judiciary's administration of justice. There is no reason to show anguish time and again on this issue. We are all unanimous in whatever recommendations we are making to the House. We are all agreeing. There is no difference of opinion. Therefore, this country has always treated the Judiciary as a temple in a vast building and its sanctity has to be preserved and we have done so.

With regard to the conditions of service, we are bringing these three matters today. For example, in the case of civil servants, their DA was merged in their pay and their pension was fixed two years ago. They are getting an increased pension now, after the merger of the DA. The Judges' pension is also linked to that of the IAS officers but we had not done this earlier. As a matter of fact, this should have been done two years ago. Now, the old retired Judge is not getting the pension which he should get, after retirement. After this Bill is passed, they

would get two years' arrears because earlier they got lesser pension on retirement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, is there any proposal to have a uniform retirement age for the Judges? For the High Court Judges it is 62; and for the Supreme Court Judges, it is 65. Therefore, when the Chief Justice of High Court is about to retire, he would aspire to become a Supreme Court Judge. So, is there any proposal to have a uniform retirement age?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I would submit, I quite see your point. There was a proposal in the Chief Justices Conference to increase the age of retirement of High Court Judges. Mr. Ram Jethmalani had moved a Private Members' Bill in this regard. We have still a proposal. For this, we would require an amendment of the Constitution. I would have to consult the parties first, within the Government and outside. It is not within my competence to say now that we would increase the retirement age. The earlier Government had some hesitation. We have to now make a consensus for such things. But we are in favour of increasing the age of retirement because the living conditions have changed and it should be uniform. This proposal is pending consideration of the Government.

I am against intrusion into the power of the Legislature and I have assured you that so far minor aberrations have taken place over which the hon. Speaker—we have one of the most outstanding Speakers who is a great lawyer—has made an observation from the Chair. After that, we should not precipitate matters.

The Judiciary, when sitting in the Court, is also dealing with a lot of cases. Our Supreme Court is deciding more cases than it ought to decide. The House of Lords decided not more than a hundred cases in a year. The American Supreme Court does not decide more than 50 cases in a year. But our Supreme Court decided thousands and lakhs of cases. So, Courts are doing very well. We have neglected this institution. We should give more funds and more support to the Judiciary and insist that they should decide cases within a time frame, there should be no delay and there should be no arrears.

I am very grateful to you that you gave me the support and I hope that this Bill would be passed unanimously.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Minister, Sir, I have only one question.

During the time of the earlier Government, some law was passed with regard to gathering of evidence, fixing of time of arguments and things like that. On most occasions, lawyers very stubbornly opposed it. I would like to know whether they are still implemented or not and whether it is giving any type of benefit for reducing the time taken in the judicial process.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, you would be aware, the earlier Government did a very good job in passing amendments to the CPC to provide certain steps to be taken in civil suits and to make them time bound by introducing conciliation, mediation and in-house conciliation in civil trials.

That is doing very good to the country. If the Bar cooperates, we would like to further recommend the functioning of courts in a time-bound way. Otherwise, you go on taking adjournments after adjournments and no cost is imposed. That is where the arrears are mounting, if you take just adjournments and do nothing. Why blame the court? So, that step which was taken by the amendment of the Code of Civil Procedure is showing very good results. We are modernising everything and we are improving upon that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a number of 'Zero Hour' submissions before me and we will not be able to reach home before 9 o'clock. Every day I am sitting like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up notices on Special Mentions. Shri Rajnarayan Budholla.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the history of Kajah Fair being held in Mahoba in my parliamentary constituency dates back to 823 years ago, during the regime of Chandel King Parmal who ruled Mahoba. The historic fair reminds us of the sacrifice of heroes of 'Parmaal Raso', saga of heroic deeds of Alha and Uddal written by famous poet of heroic age, Jagnik made by them in the month of Shraavan. Lakhs of people have been attending the said fair being held in Mahoba, the land of great heroes, Alha and Uddal for the last 823 years. Even today, people bow their heads in reverence to pay homage to the sacrifices and heroic deeds of their brave friends. The deeds of bravery of Alha and Uddal are famous all over the country in poetic form particularly in Bundelkhand. There is a saying in it, if a person who owns a paras stone in his house, touches it with iron, the later it would turn into gold". Even today people believe that paras stone is lying in the ancient pond of Mahoba, which turns iron into gold.

The condition of ancient pond Kirat and Madan, linked to this historic epic is not satisfactory. Similarly, there are many ancient lakes in Charkhari. Lakhs of tourists come to see these lakes during the fair. Decrepit condition of the said lakes and polluted atmosphere of the fair has failed to deter people from expressing their faith in it even today.

20.00 hrs.

But there is a feeling of discontentment amongst the people over non-granting of the status of a national fair to the said famous historic fair by the Government. These days the fair is organized by the City Municipal Council with the Cooperation of the State Government. Earlier it used to be held by NGOs. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to allocate funds for development and beautification of Madan Sagar, Kirat Sagar in Mahoba and also ancient lakes of Charkhiri and Kajah. Fair may please be granted the status of a National Fair from next year itself.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, those who have written script may kindly hand it over at the Table so that we can save time in reading them out. They would be treated as Special Mentions. We can save time. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Sir, yesterday there was a bomb explosion in Delhi in the Shakarpur Police Station. Sir, murderous attack was made for the third time by the terrorists on Shri Naveen Kumar who is a fearless social journalist employed with Zee TV in which three persons were seriously injured.

Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that "Z" category security cover was provided to Shri Naveen Kumar on the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs as he had exposed the conspiracy of attack on Parliament and Akshar Dham temple and some specific incidents that happened in North-East and it was on account of this that he continuously used to get threatening calls from terrorists. However, yesterday on the basis of a letter of Shri Ashok Walla ji, who is a member of Delhi Legislative Assembly and the Minister of Finance, his security cover was withdrawn by the Delhi Police. It boosted the morale of the anti-national forces and they again attacked him. Through you, I would like to request the Government of India to hold inquiry in this regard and his security cover should be beefed up. I would like to request that full security cover should be provided to those who fearlessly fight for the security of life and property and the security of the country.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently one film entitled 'Mangal Pandey—The Rising' has been produced based on the life of the hero of 1857, Mangal Pandey. There is a sense of sheer resentment among the people of Eastern Uttar Pradesh against showing the film. Mangal Pandey was a revolutionary and the first martyr of the India's freedom struggle and the country will be indebted to him for his contribution to the freedom struggle of the country. His birth place Balia, is not at all depicted anywhere in the film and there are some objectionable scenes shown in the picture. In one of the scenes of the movie has been shown visiting the danger girl's abode. There are some more scenes in the film which are not even remotely connected to the actual life of Mangal Pandey. There is strong reaction against the film in the entire Eastern Uttar Pradesh and the people are staging demonstration on the road. They are resorting to road blockade and are removing railway tracks.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the film producer made attempt to make Mangal Pandey a saleable commodity by gross disregard and distortion of the historical facts regarding the life of that revolutionary and his contribution to the freedom struggle. There is a need to take a leaf out of the work of Richard Atonborough who had produced film on Gandhi. At no point of time, he tries to dilute and compromise with the historicity of the script in order to make it a commercial success. This was a film which is based on historical facts. It is a very serious issue and, through you, I would like the Government to take cognizance of the issue. The sentiments of all the stage artists and those concerned with the literature and cultural activities and who had participated in the freedom struggle of the country, have been hurt. Through you, I would like to submit that the objectionable scene of the films should be immediately removed from the film as the agitation is going on against it. This picture has hurt the sentiments of all those people who have contributed in the freedom struggle of the country. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this was my request. I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me time to speak in this regard.

SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR (Haridwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, like other States, Uttaranchal State, especially Haridwar where river Ganga flows, is also in the grip of flood at present. It is on account of devastating flood that there is severe soil erosion along the river bank and the sugarcane and paddy crops of several villages along with dumanpuri, Kalsia under Luxer Tehsil located along

the river bank have got destroyed and nearly 2000 bigha of arable land has been washed away in the flood and due to this that farmers are on the verge of starvation.

So, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Central Government to get the embankments constructed and the roads along the banks which are in dilapidated condition should be reconstructed. Along with that sufficient compensation should be paid to the farmers whose crops have got destroyed.

[English]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Sir, I want to raise the following important matter of my area.

The growing pollution of water of River Koel has caused a great concern for the people living in and around Rourkela Township. The flow of sewage water and non-treated effluent from Rourkela Steel Plant is causing major pollution in the river water. This river is the only source of water which the people are using for drinking purposes and for other activities of their day-to-day life. This has given rise to a great controversy relating to the availability of pure drinking water in the city and in this area. It is unfortunate that the steel plant continues to discharge its sewage water and non-treated effluents into the river, flouting the State Pollution Control Board's directive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a very senior Member. Why do you read it? You can hand it over.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, I am reading the text only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your submission will be taken as much valid as you say it in the House, if it is handed over.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, if you say, I can lay it also. I am reading it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to save time. There are a number of other Members also who want to speak.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Knowing fully well that the sewage treatment plant and effluent treatment plant of Rourkela Steel Plant remained defunct for the last few years, the Plant authority is not repairing it and allowing the flow of sewage to the River Koel through its main drain in Sector 16 and *via* the Deogaon Drainage.

As per the Water Act of 1974, the flow of sewage water effluent of any plant cannot be allowed to flow directly to any river since it carries the high risk of polluting the river and causing danger to human lives and other animals.

Unless immediate steps are taken to stop the flow of sewage and non-treated effluent of Rourkela Steel Plant, it will cause serious health hazards to the residents of the area, which includes the families of the employees of the Rourkela Steel Plant. As such, I demand the intervention of the Union Minister of Environment and Forests as well as the Union Government to stop this type of anti-people activity.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I would like to raise some important matters regarding my State Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to submit to the Government that high power transmission TV tower which was set up in Jammu and Kashmir by the Government has become inoperational and requires repairing. The transmission of the Pakistan T.V. in the villages located along the border areas is more powerful as against the transmission of our T.V. channels. Transmission of Pakistan T.V. is directly received in border areas of the country while the signals of our television transmission are weak. I would like to submit that there is need to bring improvement in it. The programmes related to agriculture are being telecasted on television. Crores of rupees are allocated for the said programmes. However, all these programmes are source of income for the corrupt officials. The telecast of these programmes is merely a formality. I would like that the Government should pay attention in this regard. The money of the farmers which are allocated for the said TV programme should be properly utilized. The low power transmitter which have been set up at Bani, Vasauli, Bilawar and other remote areas are not manned. No one is there to operate the transmitters. These transmitters are not automatic, these are manual that need some one to operate it. However, it is on account of this that the transmitters remain closed. Through, you, I would like to submit that the Government should pay attention in this regard at the earliest.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chaudhary Lal Singh, I called your name early because you wanted to go early, but you are

not concluding. I called your name early with the hope that you will conclude early, but you are not doing so.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, you did not listen to me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am helpless. Therefore please conclude now.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I will say if you listen. Presently the relations of Pakistan and India are improving. However, high power transmission in our State are not functioning properly. The programmes which are being telecasted these days on television are vulgar and obscene. It is very unfortunate that here we are discussing about women reservation in the House, however; women are shown naked on the television. I would like to submit, through you, that big things are being discussed here, however, reservation has not yet been provided to them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Singh, please conclude.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: The high power transmitters in our State which are in operational should be made functional at the earliest.

SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH (Gwalior): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the pitiable condition of farmers in the country, though farmers form largest part of our population. India is predominantly an agriculture based country. And our 50 per cent population depends upon agriculture. Water level has been depleting constantly in our country which deprives our farmers of good agricultural production. Sir, since I too belong to a peasants family, therefore, I can realize that what a precarious condition our farmers are in Tubewells board upto 300-400 feet in my constituency Gwalior, Chambal Division have dried up. That's why farmers are unable to reap good yield. I have submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Rural Development requesting them to repair the Panchayati ponds, which are in dilapidated condition,

so that rain water can be stored for recharging, and water level can come up.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH: Sir, in view of pitiable condition of farmers, through you, I would request the Central Government to repair the dilapidated ponds in rural areas urgently.

[English]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to the Gas Cracker Project unit, which was to be set up in Assam as per the Assam Accord. But nothing had come out so far with regard to this issue in spite of repeated demands for it.

It has to be noted here that the foundation stone of the project was laid by the then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao on 24 November, 1994, following which the necessary land required for it was acquired by the Dibrugarh District Administration at a place called Tengakhat. But the proposed place has subsequently been shifted from Tengakhat to Lepetkata, Dibrugarh due to some objection raised by the Indian Air Force. The place was latter also visited by a 18-Member Committee attached to the Ministry of Petroleum and Ministry of Chemicals. They gave their approval of the suitability of the land for the Gas Cracker Plant. EIL also conducted economic feasibility of the land and submitted a report to the Ministry concerned.

In the tripartite talk on Assam Accord held on 5 May 2005, the hon. Prime Minister assured that necessary steps would be taken to implement the project once its viability was established. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas informed that the feasibility study regarding the Gas Cracker Project has been completed and the matter is referred to the Public Investment Board.

Recently, a meeting of the PIB was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure) on 8.7.2005 to consider the proposal for setting up a Gas Cracker Project in Assam by GAIL (India) Limited. The GAIL made a

presentation covering various issues raised during the earlier PIB meeting held on 15.4.2005. It was brought out that the project cost is Rs. 5185.22 crore at constant price basis (Rs. 5961.95 crore on completion cost basis). The proposed equity share in the project will be distributed among GAIL (70%), OIL (10%), NRL (10%) and the Government of Assam (10%). The IDBI who have conveyed their willingness to provide the debt finance subject to due diligence and satisfactory project parameters. OIBD have also conveyed 'in principle' approval for release of loan of Rs. 327 crore. It was also indicated that Planning Commission have conveyed that they would consider providing funds on account of subsidy, once the detailed contours of the project were firmed up and the Project is approved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already told you that you can lay your statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, please allow me to speak for two more minutes. This is a very important issue. Please allow me to raise two issues.

Concluding the discussions, Secretary (Expenditure) stated that considering the financial parameters, PIB would not be in a position to recommend the Project in the present form. However, since the Project has a special place in the Assam Accord, feasibility of recasting the proposal on the basis of discussions in the meeting should be seriously examined and attempted.

It is heartening to note that huge Gas (estimated to be 20 million standard cubic meters per day) was discovered in Myanmar offshore south of Mizoram, and I understand that the Ministry of Petroleum has directed GAIL and Oil India Limited to work on the pipeline project which is likely to pass through Assam. In the meantime, Oil India Limited has proposed gas pipelines from Dibrugarh to Guwahati. Since their pipelines can be connected to national gas grid, there should not be any scarcity of gas. So, while preparing the feasibility report of gas cracker, the gas from Myanmar should be considered.

I deeply regret the fact that even after 20 years of signing the Assam Accord and 11 years of laying the foundation stone, no preliminary work has been done yet. It is indeed an example to sheer negligence towards the interest of the people of Assam. It might affect the positive mindset of the people and discourage their faith in democratic commitments of the leaders of the country.

Sir, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate appropriate steps to set up the Assam Gas Cracker Project at Lepetkata (Dibrugarh) as committed without any further delay.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important issue like Power. Uttar Pradesh is reeling under a grave power supply crisis. Power for industries is available for 18 hours out of 24 hours and 14 hours for farmers and for rural areas. But it is reduced to merely an announcement as power supply is available for just 2 hours out of 24 hours. Public is fed up of it. I know that whole country is reeling under a power crisis but supply of power in Uttar Pradesh is unequal. There is 24 hours power supply in Etah, Mainpuri, Unnao and Itawah whereas in Aligarh districts it remains only for 2 hours out of 24 hours. People have launched agitation in protest. Police resorted to lathi charge on protestors. Thousands of people staged dharana on 9 August and it is paddy planting season and their crops are getting ruined. If said crisis is not solved it would result in large loss to the farmers. Further, Aligarh is an industrial hub. It mainly caters to locks. In absence of proper power supply industry is getting adversely affected. Government pleads that its financial condition is poor. Power bills to the tune of Rs. 2600 crore remains unpaid. Out of its, Rs. 1800 crore areas belong to the industries and bills of only Rs. 800 crore pertain to the farmers.

If the intention of the Government is right, first it should recover pending bills industrialists. I would urge the Central Government to direct the Government of Uttar Pradesh to ensure supply of power to rural areas for 14 hours every day so that the farmers get respite and students can study. And industries should get timely power supply. I urge the Central Government to direct the State Government in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked for a Labour Welfare Office to be opened in the State. You can make a mention of it. Strictly speaking, the issue of opening a Labour Welfare Office falls within the powers of the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): It comes under the Ministry of Labour, Government of India as it is related to the Central Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will read out the subject matter of your notice. It says, "Need to open Office of the Labour Welfare in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh". What can we do? It is not the concern of the Central Government. He wants to raise the issue of opening a Labour Welfare Office in Madhya Pradesh here. Anyway, you just mention in briefly.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the number of labours employed in unorganized sector in our country is very large. These are mainly employed in either agriculture sector or other sectors like beedi manufacturing. Number of labours employed in beedi manufacturing sector is largest in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, and West Bengal.

Sir, Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 was enacted with a view to bring 80 lakh beedi labourers and their dependents on equal footing in the society.

6 lakhs beedi workers out of 10 lakh beedi labourers identified by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are working in Sagar and Damoh districts. Indore division has merely 15 thousand beedi workers, yet, Office of Beedi Workers Welfare Officer is located here and not in Sagar which has 6 lakh said workers. Opening of said office in Sagar would facilitate lakhs of beedi workers easy access to welfare schemes. Therefore, if said office is shifted from Indore to Sagar without any kind of financial implications, it would prove the usefulness of Welfare Fund Act. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to direct the Ministry of Labour to help in opening of the office of Welfare Officer in Sagar.

[English]

*SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request the hon. Minister of Commerce to recall the discussions he had with a delegation of the Left MPs from North Bengal in August, 2004 when he agreed to

announce special package for revival of tea industry in India. Unfortunately, even after lapse of more than a year, the package is yet to be declared.

I would request the Government to declare the special package in the current Session after finalisation of its detail in this august House. I also demand that those who are dependent upon the labourers in the tea gardens should be listed under BPL list to ensure food grains for them through PDS.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the need for enacting a comprehensive legislation for the tailoring workers of India. The total number of tailoring workers in India comes to about four crore and the total number of family members comes to about 12 crore. They are doing their traditional work for a very long time. However, due to the advent of mechanised systems, they are unable to get enough work. Not only that, they are getting very low wages. Considering their past experience and also the traditional nature of their work, the Central Government can do something more to help them. The Government of Kerala and the Government of Tamil Nadu have already enacted laws providing for welfare funds for the tailoring workers. Therefore, I would request the Government of India to enact a comprehensive legislation to set up a welfare fund for the tailoring sector.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the time of nationalization of coal mines, apart from Coal India, certain mines were leased out to some companies like as TISCO, IISCO, ICML, BECML and Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. for captive use of mines. These mines were kept out of the purview of nationalization but all the private companies were asked to provide same facilities to the workers as were being provided to the workers of Coal India. But it is highly deplorable that the benefits of the National Coal Pay Agreement No. 7 i.e. seventh pay agreement are not being given to the workers by the owners to those private companies.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to provide the benefits of the National Coal Pay Agreement No. 7 to all those workers who are involved in mining of coal by the said owners of the private companies.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of railway services in Chhattisgarh state. The survey work of the railway line from, Bilaspur to Mandla has been going on for the last 50 years. The survey work has now been completed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the survey report has been referred to the Planning Commission. After the carving out of Chhattisgarh state, it has become essential to construct a new rail line for the welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes of the State. If it is done the capital of Chhattisgarh, Raipur and Bilaspur district will be directly connected with Mandla. Once the work is approved after the survey, lakhs of people of the state will get employment on account of the construction of the said line and it will help people in setting up their industries. Exploitation of dolomite, mineral resources of Bailadila and vast resources of coal will be possible on account of the said line. The diamond mines have also been explored in Chhattisgarh. Besides this, there are mines of mica and other minerals that will provide employment to the people and also improve the financial condition of railway department. It will give a boost of the Railways. It will provide transportation facility to the people. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to sanction the said rail line between Bilaspur and Mandla expeditiously.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Archaeological Survey of India to the fact that there is an ancient fort located in Falaudi town in my parliamentary constituency, Jodhpur. The fort is supposed to be 500-600 years old. The Archaeological Survey of India has taken the fort under its custody, however, it has not done anything to renovate it. Whenever there are rains, the walls of the fort get collapsed and there is nobody to take care of the Fort. If the present situation continues to exist, slowly that archaeological heritage will be destroyed. Even today several foreign tourists visit the fort. The domestic tourists also pay visit to it. So, through you, I would like request the Government that the Archaeological Survey of India should maintain the fort that it has taken under its custody so that it could be conserved for the future.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Health to a very important problem. The National Institute of Biological

Science is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health which is entrusted with quality control of the drugs in the country. For the last few years, irregularities and controversies in the appointment to the highest posts of the institute like the Director, Deputy Director (Administration), Deputy Director (Quality Control) are coming to light and persons who are not fit to occupy such posts are being appointed on the said posts. These persons were appointed in contravention of the directions of the court in this regard and the recruitment rules were also relaxed to accommodate them. Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Health to pay attention, in this regard, hold inquiry and take effective measures in this direction. Thank you.

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah); Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Railway to the fact that the construction work of a rail line to connect Kasganj and Etah is in progress. Achalpur railway station is proposed to be constructed midway on this line. Bairanj is a Buddhist pilgrim centre of tourist importance which is located at a distance of one k.m. from the proposed railway station and visited by lakhs of followers of Buddhism. Till now, this place was not connected by road or any other alternate link. Now, since the proposed railway station is being constructed at the distance of only one k.m. lakhs of tourists will throng this place leading to an increase in the revenues of the Government. So, through you, I would like to request the Government that the name of the proposed Achalpur railway station should be changed to Bairanj Achalpur station so that the followers of Buddhism and other tourists may be benefited.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, I would like to submit that the Women's Bill should be passed today itself. The scope of the Bill is very wide and I do not know as to what provisions have been made in the Bill. However, the outcome of the Bill will be before the nation after the passing of the Bill. I would like to submit that widows get Rs. 200 per month. Keeping in view the cost of living, this amount is very meager. Though cards have been made for the women bearing their photographs also and yet, after every three months they have to prove that they are alive. When they possess cards having their photographs then why are they asked to prove that they are alive? Their own photographs are there on the card. Besides this, a woman who is already 80 years old is asked to prove that they did not remarry. Both these conditions are not desirable in independent

India. This rule was applicable during the British period. So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to get such laws changed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when a woman is alive and she has her card on which her photograph is pasted, then she should be exempted from proving that she is alive and that she did not marry again. Both these conditions should be dropped and the pension of the widows all over the country should be increased to Rs. 500 per month instead of Rs. 200 per month as the Bill presented here is aimed at the welfare of the women. Rs. 200 is a meager amount so, I would like to urge upon the Government to drop both the said rules regarding the widows of the country and the amount of pension should be increased from Rs. 200 per month to Rs. 500 per month so that they may be benefited and may survive, otherwise, Rs. 200 per month will not serve the purpose.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the inadequacy in the facilities of the Department of Paediatric Surgery in the premier institute of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Sir, the AIIMS is the premier institute in the country. People from all over the country and also from abroad are getting services from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. But the Paediatric Surgery Department of the AIIMS is lacking so many facilities. In most of the medical colleges and also in the private hospitals, no such Department of Paediatric Surgery is there. Therefore, the people from various parts of the country, in order to get the services of the paediatric surgery, go to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

But I am sorry to say that there are only five doctors including the Professor and the HOD in the AIIMS. Also, the number of beds for the Department of Paediatric Surgery is only 33. On an average nearly 30,000 paediatric cases are being attended to in the OPD of the AIIMS. They are doing 3,000 major surgeries and nearly 5,000 minor cases in the Department of Paediatric Surgery. Apart from the clinical services and OPD services, they are conducting speciality clinics, training as well as research studies in this Department. Though with the limited facilities, they are doing good job, but yet that is not enough.

Therefore, there is a need to increase the facilities in the Department of Paediatric Surgery in the AIIMS. I understand that there is a proposal for upgrading the paediatric services as well as the Paediatric Surgery Department in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. I would, therefore, urge upon the Health Minister and the Government of India to expedite the proposal regarding upgrading the Department of Paediatric Surgery of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences so that the services rendered to the paediatric cases can be improved.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to raise some of the issues of my parliamentary constituency concerning the Ministry of Railways.

Chandrapur and Gadchirauli district of Maharashtra fall under the Central Railway and the Central South Railway Zone. Chandrapur is a historical as well as the industrial city. Several industries and factories are located in this city. An ordnance factory is also located there. Besides, the biggest thermal power station of the country is also located there where power is generated. There are several coal mines in this area. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the importance of the area. The population of the area is nearly four lakh and several trains halt at its railway station, still there are many important trains that do not halt there. Through you, I would like to request the Ministry to provide stoppage of those important trains at Chandrapur station. Nearly 22 trains halt at Chandrapur station. However, many other important trains including Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai bound Rajdhani Express that pass through Chandrapur Station do not halt here. Chandrapur is nearly 150 km away from Nagpur station. I would like to request the Minister to provide the stoppage of those trains at this station. Besides, there is no stoppage of Kerala Express, Andhra Pradesh Express and Tamil Nadu Express, all these three Express trains, at this station. I would also like to request to provide stoppage of these three trains at this station.

Similarly, the Bhagya Nagri train that runs between Secunderabad to Kagaj Nagar should be extended to Ballarshah. Along with this, Gorakhpur, GT, South Express do not halt at Bhandak and Vatora stations situated in the constituency of my district. Through you, I would like to request the Government to provide a halt of these trains at the said stations.

[English]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Chamarajanagar is a very backward district. Majority of the population in this constituency belongs to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other downtrodden groups. This district deserves the sympathy of the Government of India and substantial funds should be granted for the development of the district.

There are a number of very famous temples. They are (1) Temple at Malai Mahadeswara Hills—Kollegal Taluk (2) Biligiriangana Hills—Yalandur Taluk (3) Sreekanteshwara Temple—Nanjanagud (4) Mahadeswara Temple—Chamarajanagara and many other temples are attracting a large number of devotees every day.

In addition to the above temples there are several beautiful and natural sceneries in the district which are worth visiting. Some of them are (1) Shimsha (2) Bluff (3) Hogainakal Falls (4) Bandipura and (5) Somnanthapura. None of the above places has been developed as a tourist centre. Chamarajanagar became a district 7 years ago. Till now no development work has been taken up by the Government of India.

I, therefore, urge upon the Centre to allocate five crores of rupees for the development of the above places as tourist centres. In addition, separate funds should be allocated for renovation and maintenance of the temples mentioned above. I hope the Centre would take appropriate and immediate action in this regard.

I thank you Sir and with these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI (Bayana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that credit cards have been issued to the farmers for their welfare, however the farmers get very small amount of credit through these credit cards. I am very sorry to say that the cost of land in my area is Rs. 1 lakh per 'Bigha'. The farmers are getting credit at the rate of only Rs. 3 thousand per 'Bigha' and that too only after mortgaging all the documents of ownership of their land. They have to pay bribe right from the revenue clerk to revenue officers for favourable consideration of their loan

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

applications. So, I would like to request the Government that in view of the ground reality an amount equal to 70 per cent of the cost of their land should be given to them as credit as is provided to the traders by the commercial banks under the cash credit card scheme after mortgaging their goods.

Sir, Nadwai agriculture market, Khedli agriculture market and Mandawar Mahwa agriculture market are the prominent agriculture markets in the area where farmers sell their agriculture produce. A halt of Marudhan train should be provided at Nadwai-Khedli, Mahwa Mandawar stations for the transportation facility of the farmers. I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly accede to this demand in the interest of the welfare of the farmers.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the National Highway No. 4A passes through Panaji in my constituency connecting all the states and the by pass which is being constructed for the said national highway passes through Kundai area which is 15 km away from Panaji. The industrial units are also located there. Five years back the construction work of a bypass of the national highway was launched there but it could not be completed because of the faulty planning. The funds were also released and construction work was started, however, the excavation work of only 15 to 20 feet has been accomplished. There are settlements on both the sides of the road. On the one side there is 'Ashram'. On both the side of the road there is land sliding and it is on account of this that there is danger to the life of devotees visiting the 'Ashram' and the houses of the settlements. Thousands of people pay visit to Ashram for 'darshna'. The land sliding may harm them. The highway remain busy on account of the said traffic. The containers and vehicles pass through the road and it is on account of the attitude that the traffic get disturbed. I would like to request that the construction work of the said bypass should be completed at the earliest and the traffic facility should be provided to the people.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I have to make one point. Of the two issues, you have already raised the issue of providing compensation to the Sikhs. So, you can raise only the issue of need to relax percentage for OBCs in National Eligibility Test.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Sir, candidates are short listed by the University Grants Commission for appointment as lecturers in colleges and universities. For this, an eligibility test is conducted which is called National Eligibility Test or NET. Similarly, State Education Test (SET) is conducted in the States. Both the eligibility tests are known as NET and SET throughout the country. Masters degree or an equivalent with 35 percent marks is an essential qualification for appearing in this examination. However, there is 5 percent grace for SC, ST candidates. Similar grace is also applicable to them in qualifying the test. But in Maharashtra there is a scheduled denotified and Nomadic tribes section which is different from OBC. There is an area in Maharashtra where there are four schedule of Backward Class that is-Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Denotified and Nomadic Tribes and OBCs. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a very important issue which has not yet been raised by anyone. Through you, I have got an opportunity to speak after a long time ...*(Interruptions)* Even after 58 years of independence, some one is talking about. Denotified and Nomadic Tribes here. The country and the House did not give an opportunity to raise their voice here. Through you and the people of the country, I have got this opportunity to speak on this issue. This issue is concerned with the 15 crore people of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* The concessions that are being provided to SCs and STs should also be extended to OBCs of the country especially the denotified and nomadic tribes of Maharashtra. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue in the House. There are lakhs of ex-servicemen in the country who have served the nation in different capacities either in the Army or the Navy or Air Force. Lakhs of such ex-servicemen have been fighting for years for implementing the dogma of one rank one pension. During the previous regime as well as in the present Government they have been meeting the Minister of Defence in this connection. They also staged demonstrations and held meetings several times but of no avail. I am very sorry to say that though the retired ex-military officers got the benefit but lower rank ex-servicemen did not get it till today. They are running from pillar to post with their demands.

Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Defence that he should fulfill this demand of the armed

forces who have served this nation. There are Soldier Boards for ex-servicemen throughout the country. The Soldier Boards are not serving the purpose for which they were constituted and boards are in a bad shape. Jobs are advertised by every department allow the country, however no department invites names from the soldier board. They get retired after completing their tenure but nobody listen to them. The facilities provided to them are continuously decreasing. The canteens set up for the benefit of army men are being misused. They are not getting canteen goods rather other people are purchasing them. The other people are reaping the benefits of the goods which are available at concessional prices. ...*(Interruptions)* Corruption has crept in it. So, the Government should pay attention in this direction and ensure that facilities which have been provided to the army men must be extended to them alone and not to the other persons.

Rest houses have been constructed all over the country for the convenience of the army men. However, at many places those resthouses are functioning as hotels. With the connivance of the officials. They do not provide accommodation to the army-men and instead provide rooms to other persons for which rent is charged from them. Such acts have generated resentment among the ex-servicemen all over the country. The Government should intervene in it. The most intriguing aspect is that there has been no hike in the pension of the ex-servicemen for years together. There are only a few departments in the country where seats are reserved for ex-servicemen. Most of the departments do not do so. Job reservation should be provided to the ex-service men in every department and their reservation quota should be increased.

With these, words I conclude and extend my thanks to you for giving me time.

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I would like to raise the issue of Mahatma Gandhi Setu in 'Zero Hour'. It is the only lifeline on river Ganga between Patna and Hazipur in North Bihar. The Western part of the arch of the said bridge has tilted by three inches. The experts are of the opinion that if the arch of the bridge further inclines three inches, it will collapse. The Western part of the bridge has been closed for traffic for many days. As has been informed that the repairing works on four arches is in progress. If the repairing works of all the 45 arches is not taken up, the bridge will collapse. Nearly seven to eight thousands vehicles pass through this bridge daily.

So, through you, I would like to demand the Government and the Minister of Road Transport and Highways that the repair work of Mahatma Gandhi Setu should be taken up on a war footing at the earliest. It is a six kilometer long bridge. If the said bridge collapses people shall have to ferry across Ganga river by ships. There is no other alternative left. The hon'ble Minister is present here. I would like to request him to take cognizance of it and get the repair works started immediately, otherwise it will derail the traffic system in North Bihar.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur-Orissa): I would like to raise an important issue regarding a blind school in my constituency Berhampur, Orissa. That school has been there since last 30 years. That is the only blind school in the whole district. It is a residential blind school. The honorary Secretary of the school is a very renowned social activist, a very respected person of the area. So far, that school was running very well. The

school was getting Central aid from the Ministry of Social Justice. Since last two years the school is not getting an aid from the Central Government. Though I have personally met the hon. Minister of Social Justice and given him a representation, till today nothing has been done. The honorary Secretary, because of his own influence, managed to get some dollars from the USA, out of which these blind students are being fed.

Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister to look into the matter and save the children from hunger. At least the blind children should be saved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on August 25, 2005 at 1100 a.m.

20.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Thursday, August 25, 2005/Bhadrapada 3, 1927 (Saka)

ANNEXURE I

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