

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 2, 2006/Sravana 11, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I have to make an Obituary Reference.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Dr. (Shrimati) Phulrenu Guha.

Dr. (Shrimati) Phulrenu Guha was a Member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989, representing Contai Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal.

Earlier, Dr. Guha was a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1964 to 1970, representing the State of West Bengal.

An able administrator, Dr. Guha also served as Minister of State in the Union Cabinet and held portfolios in the Ministries of Social Welfare from March, 1967 to February 1969 and of Law from February, 1969 to June, 1970.

A multi-faceted and most endearing personality, Dr. Guha, 'Ful di' to all of us, was the recipient of 'Padma Bhushan' in 1977.

A freedom fighter, Dr. Guha was associated with Jugantar Revolutionary Party and Azad Hind Relief Committee (Women's Section).

Dr. Guha was related with numerous social, cultural and educational bodies and devoted her life for the rehabilitation of destitute women and children and also worked for the development of handicrafts. She also had

the distinction to serve various State and Central Government organisations in different capacities. She was the Chairman of the Task Force on Child Welfare Committee, Planning Commission, Government of India from 1971 to 1972 and Committee on Status of Women in India (Government of India) from 1972 to 1975 and General Secretary and Vice President of the All India Women's Conference from 1960 to 1964 and from 1966 to 1968 respectively. Dr. Guha was also the President of the Indian Council of Child Welfare from 1970 to 1973.

A prolific writer, Dr. Guha had many publications to her credit both in Bangla and in English.

Dr. (Shrimati) Phulrenu Guha passed away on 28th July, 2006 at Kolkata, West Bengal at the age of 94.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend, which will be keenly felt, and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolence to the bereaved family.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir, it is published in today's news papers that training camps are operating in Pakistan...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No.141

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, training camps are operating in Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.04 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Rajnarayan Budholia and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, I will allow you to raise it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have got your notice. I will allow you to raise it. I earnestly appeal to you to go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, I will allow you to raise it. Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to raise it. Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to name somebody now. You are taking the House to ransom? What are the people of the House saying everyday?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have committed myself.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling your leader to speak. Shri Shailendra Kumarji, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. If need be you will be called.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have said to him.

[English]

This is very unfair.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow me to listen to him. I want to hear you. Your members have rushed to the well within a minute.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is a proper way of making your point in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I want to listen to you.

11.06 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Rajnarayan Budholia and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

11.07 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(I) Re : Need to remove the bottlenecks in the supply of gas to the Power Plants set up at Dadri, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the rules you have power to allow a discussion on any basic question of public importance by suspending the Question Hour in special circumstances sometimes. Two power projects were to be started in the state of Uttar Pradesh – one project by NTPC of Government of India and two other gas based power projects for supply of electricity to a population of fifty crore not only in Uttar Pradesh but in the entire north India. Out of the two companies of a reputed corporate house of the country, one is engaged in production of gas and other in generation of power by consumption of gas. Later that corporate house was split. The division of that corporate house was effected under the supervision of the High Court and during the course of the division it was decided that as per contract signed by both companies one company was to set up a gas based power project and the other company was to supply gas to the power project at reasonable rates but the file pertaining to the rate of gas is lying pending with the Government of India for the last one year with the result, NTPC of Government of India is also not able to make operational its project and the work on project of the said corporate house is held up. Uttar Pradesh was to get twenty five per cent electricity from the said project and seventy five per cent of electricity from the proposed project was to go to other states of the country but due to laxity of the Government of India the work on the said project is not progressing. Through you, I demand a statement from the Government of India on this. Besides, I want to have a discussion on this important matter here in the House so that rate of gas supply to the said power project is decided within a week and initiative taken to make the said project project operational. I appeal to you to kindly use your good offices to have a discussion on this important matter here in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much. You have raised it in a proper manner. I am directing the Government to make a statement on this matter before the House rises for the day.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will bring this to the notice of the hon. Minister of Power and he will adequately respond as desired by hon. Shri Mohan Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me also. To the hon'ble Prime Minister is present here in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mohan Rawale, I will allow you to raise it at the appropriate time. Please cooperate now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I appeal to all of you, please don't do it, please don't destroy this institution. I will try to accommodate you if you sit down. Let us go to Question Hour now.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.08 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri B. Mahtab, Q.No.141.

*Not recorded.

Four Laning of East-South Corridor

+

*141. SHRI B. MAHTAB :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to complete four laning of East-South corridor from Kolkata to Chennai;

(b) the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the target date set for the completion of the project; and

(d) the progress made so far in this regard?

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

Statement

(a) Presumably, Kolkata to Chennai Corridor of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) has been referred as East-South Corridor from Kolkata to Chennai. The total length of this corridor is 1684 km. Four laning in 1551 km. has already

been completed. Following steps have been taken by National Highways Authority of India to expedite completion of the balance length of 133 km:-

(i) Grant of discretionary advance and also relaxation in minimum Interim Payment Certificate (IPC) have been made to the contractors to overcome their cash flow problems.

(ii) Regular meetings are held between NHAI Officials and Nodal officers of the State Government and works are monitored to mitigate the problems like land acquisition, shifting of utilities, law and order problems etc.

(iii) Civil contracts in cases where contract had been rescinded i.e. Ichapuram-Ganjam and Champavati-Srikakulam sections of NH-5 have been re-awarded.

(b) The estimated cost of Chennai-Kolkata Corridor of the GQ is Rs.7948 Crores.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed Annexure.

(d) The progress made so far in this Corridor is 92%.

Annexure**Status of the Balance Stretches in Chennai-Kolkata Arm of Golden Quadrilateral**

Sl. No.	Stretches	Total Length (in.)	4-laning completed (in km.)	Balance four laning to be completed (in km.)	Target date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Champavati River - Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh (km. 49.00 to km. 97.00)	48.00	42.00	6.00	Dec. 2006
2.	Khurda - Bhubaneswar in Orissa (km. 387.700 to km. 414.000)	27.15	22.75	4.40	Dec. 2006
3.	Bhadra - Balasore in Orissa (km. 136.500 to km. 199.141)	58.54	33.54	25.00	Dec. 2007

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	(Bridge Package) Chandikhole - Balasore in Orissa (km. 61/0 to km. 199.141)	11.59	5.39	6.20	Dec. 2006
5.	Sunakhala - Ganjam in Orissa (km. 338.000 to km. 284.000)	56.16	21.412	34.748	Dec. 2007
6.	Ganjam - Ichapuram in Orissa (km. 284.00 to km. 233.000)	50.80	0.00	50.80	Dec. 2008
7.	Laxmannath-Balasore in Orissa (km. 53.410 to km. 0.00)	53.41	48.81	4.60	March 2007
8.	Dhankuni-Kolaghat in West Bengal (km. 17.6 to km. 72)	54.40	54.40	—	Dec. 2006
9.	(Bridge Package) in West Bengal (km. 17.6 to km. 136)	1.732	0.48	1.252	March 2007
10.	(Bridge Package) in Orissa/West Bengal (km. 0 to km. 119.275)	—	—	—	August 2006
Total		361.782	228.782	133.00	

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, after energy, we come to speed. The National Highway Development Project Phase I, which is mainly Golden Quadrilateral, connecting four metropolitan cities, has completed 92.5 per cent as on 30th June 2006.

This was stated by a junior Minister while replying to an Unstarred Question on 26th July in reply to a question raised by Shri Scindia in this House. The same hon. Minister had replied on 25th August 2005, in Rajya Sabha, that 92 per cent length of Golden Quadrilateral is likely to be completed by the end of December 2006. In that answer, it was mentioned that except 157 kms. of length involving four terminated contracts and 84 kms. of length involving Allahabad Bye-pass, which was awarded only in 2004, the rest of Golden Quadrilateral, that is, 96 per cent is to be completed by June 2006. Now, we are in the month of August. What does this signify?

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, it was expected that by June this year there would be an increase by four per cent. By June this year, if there would be an increase by four per cent, why did it not happen?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is unfortunate that many of the contractors have not completed the work on time, especially, as far as Orissa is concerned for the Kolkata-Chennai road. A particular contractor, by the name Bhumi Highways, had to complete the particular stretch or work within 32 months. But even after 13 months has expired, he has completed the work of only 11.26 kms. So, NHAI had to resort to going in for termination and rebid was awarded. Even at the time of rebid, we would be able to find out that the particular successful bidder had resorted to tender fixing in the case of Government of Orissa. So, once again the Government has to go and approach the

Additional Solicitor General. He has advised us to grant it only to the said contractor. But to surprise the Bhumi Highways, the previous contractor, went to the district court and in the district court, he got a stay. Finally, we had to run to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court stayed it and now the work has been awarded. Unfortunately, the work is to be completed only by 2008.

I want to tell my friend, Shri Mahtab, so that he can understand easily. Many of the contracts are not having the escalation clause, especially in Orissa as well as in West Bengal. so, these ticklish issues could not be solved by us. That is why I sent it to the Law Ministry and they said that they have nothing to do with it. So many things are there. But if the hon. Member wants to raise any specific issue, I can address that.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, it is reported that the overall cost of all National Highways Development Projects have increased by 30 per cent from an estimated cost of Rs.1,69,500 crore on January 13, 2005 to Rs. 2,20,000 crore on January 1, 2006. It is stated that the estimated cost of Chennai-Kolkata Corridor of the Golden Quadrilateral is Rs. 7,984 crore.

I would like to know very specifically, from the hon. Minister, the enhancement in real terms because of delay in completion of the project.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is also a reason for the delay in completion. But at the same time the cost of cement as well as the cost of steel has increased exponentially. That is the main reason for escalation, which we cannot avoid because this all depends on the market forces. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has not got those figures; you have to calculate.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon. Minister has stipulated time limit of one year i.e. from December 2007 to November 2008 to complete the road length particularly in Orissa. Ninety two per cent work of road has been completed in other states but

in Orissa it is only less than seventy per cent. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is some problem in regard to monitoring fund due to which he is trying to complete this with private participation by taking funds from the external financial institutions or other banks?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : We do encourage the private participation. At the same time, no work is pending or delayed for paucity of funds. For the information of the hon. House, I would like to say that in the previous regime it was decided to complete the entire Golden Quadrilateral by December 2003 but, unfortunately, it could not be carried out. They have completed only 48 per cent till May 2004, till the UPA took over. Within two years, we have completed 44 per cent. You can understand how NDA *versus* UPA is running.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to know from hon. Minister that the progress achieved in this work is good at places but totally nil at other places. I would like to explain by citing an example. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you interested in the road Kolkata to Chennai?

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Sir, how are they connecting the roads? I would be able to explain it only when you listen to me. Please listen to me at least. I am saying that Chennai...*(Interruptions)*. You talk about Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Chennai to Kolkata. I would like to mention here that certain road stretches, in the N.H. network are in bad shape with potholes everywhere. Construction of bridges is lying midway, 'GREF' is doing the work of N.H. ...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to know as to for what reasons 15 K.M. road stretch from Jammu to Badibhrama has been in such a bad shape for the last

three years. I would like to know as to what the Government are doing in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do not reply it. Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from hon. Minister as to how long road stretch in Jharkhand is proposed to be included in the N.H. for connecting the N.H. to Galiyari alongwith the present position thereof as on date.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : We are discussing about Golden Quadrilateral; we are not discussing particularly about the National Highways.

MR. SPEAKER : This is the problem. Please restrict yourself.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO : Sir, I have just asked as to which portion of road in Jharkhand is being included there under...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not right; this is not the way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : As far as Golden Quadrilateral is concerned, in Jharkhand, you have got 192 kilometers.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR : In order to lessen the burden of traffic on East-South corridor, the Government of India has sanctioned National Highway-202 to connect Hyderabad to the eastern part of the country. About a decade back, the road from Hyderabad upto Etoor Nagaram in Warangal

district, and from other side of the river Godavari were laid. But for not having a bridge on river Godavari, that is a missing link between two regions, that is Dandakarayana in Chhattisgarh and the major part of Andhra Pradesh, that is Telangana Region. If this bridge is laid, the connectivity will be there.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it on this road?

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR : It is on this road. I would like to know from the hon. Minister by what time that bridge is proposed to be laid.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I do not think that this particular road crosses this Golden Quadrilateral.

MR. SPEAKER : This is the problem.

Now, Raghunath Jha.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the roads being constructed under the Golden Quadrilateral Project passes through Bihar also, I would like to know from hon. Minister whether he has even reviewed the progress under this project alongwith the quality of roads being constructed thereunder. I have observed that the pace of work is very slow resulting in escalation of cost. I would like to know as to what improvement he would like to bring about and how the review of the work being undertaken would be carried out and whether he would allow me to make my point?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I had taken a meeting with the hon. Members from Bihar only a year back. If anything on this particular issue is brought to my notice, I will once again take a meeting of all the hon. Members from Bihar within this Session.

MR. SPEAKER : He has given here the details, particulars and every information.

Now, Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI. CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether any committee has been setup to monitor the quality of road being, constructed under the N.H. network and submit a report to the Government. I intend mention the NH 91 and 92. The road was completed last year is suitable for walk. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Is it on this road?

SHRI. CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : This is not on this particular road but I am asking a question regarding the quality of the road. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No, I would not allow. Please do not misuse the time of this House.

Now, Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, in the recent C&AG Report submitted on the Table of the House, certain critical observations have been made. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Only one supplementary on this road has been put and all the other supplementaries are outside.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, with regard to this particular Ministry, Quadrilateral and on this particular road, it has been critically observed in the C&AG Report that there are certain gross irregularities including discretionary advance, lack of transparency in the matter of tender, deficiencies in the grant of contract, and also serious malpractice and undue favour. What is the reaction of the Government to those?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, with due respect to C&AG, I can only say that nobody could verify the quality after laying the roads. I think, it may be the correct answer. Without casting aspersion on the audit of the C&AG, I would like to say that at the time of laying the roads, specifications and other things could be checked, and after laying the roads, nobody could do that, only depth can be

checked. After the stabilization of the road, nobody could find it out. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we take up the next Question— a very important Question.

Q.No. 142 – Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid.

Employment Opportunities In Agriculture Sector

+

*142. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission proposes to increase employment opportunities in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of employment opportunities likely to increase during the Eleventh Five Year Plan over the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Increasing employment opportunities in the economy, including agricultural and allied sectors, is a central concern of the Planning Commission. Some of the sub-sectors of the Agriculture and Allied Sector having higher potential for generating employment opportunities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan are:

- Horticulture including floriculture, vegetable production and primary processing etc.
- Organic agriculture
- Seed and planting material production
- Dairy and poultry
- Fisheries

- Agri-clinic/agri-business centres
- Micro irrigation

According to studies, the mandays of annual employment created per Rs.1000 investment in some of these sub-sectors are as given in the table below:

Sub-Sector	Employment (Mandays/per year/per Rs. 1000 invested)
Plantation and Horticulture	3.02
Dairy, Poultry, Sheep, Goat and Piggery	6.75
Fisheries	1.81
Others	7.32

Source:—National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as cited on page 78 of the Report of the Inter-Ministry Task Group on Investment, Credit and Technical Support to promote Self-employment in Agriculture, Horticulture, Afforestation, Dairying and Agro-processing, by Planning Commission, January 2005.

However, concrete proposals for the Eleventh Five Year Plan have not been formulated by the Planning Commission. A draft approach to the 11th Five Year Plan has been prepared for consultation with the different stake holders namely the State Governments, various Ministries and Experts. It has also been placed on the website of the Planning Commission to invite comments from the public at large. Following the consultations the revised Approach Paper will be put up for appropriate approvals.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Will the Central Government adopt the farmers' tariff marketing system in the whole country in order to get good prices for their farm produce? If so, when? Will the Government give any subsidy to the small household human potentials like women Self-help Groups in farm production?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What are you asking? It is totally divorced from the Question.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : In the agricultural sector, horticulture, vegetable production, dairy and poultry are there. Will the Central Government give subsidy to the small farmers so that unemployment will go?

MR. SPEAKER : Have you read your own Question?

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : It is nothing to do with this Question.

Please sit down now. Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, the Planning Commission and the Government of India have launched a number of schemes.

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking about subsidy, not about employment.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, if the hon. Member sends a specific question, then I would be happy to supply the information.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Sir, it is the agenda of the UPA Government to tackle the unemployment problem with all seriousness. In this regard, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that during the 10th Five Year Plan, what is the rate of employment given to the people. Similarly, what is the Government going to do in the 11th Five Year Plan in regard to giving employment.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you should also read the reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, the Government of India has launched a number of schemes recently greater employment potential in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and allied areas. In this connection, I would like to share some of the information.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please maintain silence in the House. A very important question is being discussed.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : The Horticulture Mission has been launched recently. Now, through this Horticulture Mission, a number of employment potentials are there. I would like to give you the details about the total number of employment generation, which is being created in the horticulture sector. Nearly, 50 lakh people will get the employment under horticulture, particularly, under 11th Five Year Plan.

Now, the Horticulture Mission has been deliberately launched especially to create potential, to exploit the existing potential in fruit and vegetable cultivation. Other sectors are also included.

As far as the animal husbandry is concerned, in fact, the Government of India has launched a number of schemes in creating employment in this area.

As far as the fisheries are concerned, again a number of projects have been launched. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Central sector, in regard to providing employment generation, particularly, through agrilclinic, agribusiness, itself will generate nearly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you are not interested to hear him, I would go to the next Question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Then, keep quiet and listen to him.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, let me give the information. As far as micro irrigation is concerned, now a great deal of employment potential is created. Farming system has been given the highest priority. Through the Krishi Vigyan Kendras, the transfer of technology is taking place at the farmers' field level. Now, as it stands, there are 537 Krishi Vigyan Kendras functioning.

Another very important programme, which has been launched recently is the National Rural Employment Generation Guarantee Scheme through which, the

Government of India is going to spend nearly...*(Interruptions)*
Let me share some of the information.

MR. SPEAKER : It is very, very unfortunate; I can say. Everyday is showing anxiety about employment but not prepared to listen to the hon. Minister. It is very unfortunate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : As for as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot dictate to the Minister as to how he would reply.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : We are going to spend, in this year itself, Rs.11,300 crore, and the employment generation, through which it is being envisaged, has got greater potential, and some of the States have taken a great deal of interest to implement this programme very effectively.

[Translation]

SHRI. PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the Minister is speaking about?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister is making a good point. You please listen to him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Just wait for the Supplementary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : The Ministry of Rural Employment has already released Rs. 4,375.42 crore to the States as on 20th July, 2006. The total number of applications received for registration, so far, is about three crore five lakh and seventy two thousand. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The whole Question Hour has become like this. What is this? There is disturbance from every side of the House.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, there are some information.

MR. SPEAKER : Brevity is a great virtue. Sometimes we forget that. Please complete. Members are anxious to put supplementaries.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : The Government is encouraging Self-Help Group.

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

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given an elaborative reply. I am, therefore, fully satisfied with this reply. I do not want to ask any supplementaries.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to ask the question.

Sir, as you have said, it is a very important question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : It is not possible that the solution of this important question could be found out in Question Hour. The kind of reply given contains only figures. Therefore, this reply is not final. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please put the question.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Sir, the reply given by the Minister reflects the outlook of the Planning Commission. In today's circumstances, no great measure could be even thought of for abolition of job opportunities in non-agro sector, be it Service Sector or any other. If there is at all any possibility left in any field then those exist in agriculture sector only.

Sir, as much as 74 per cent agriculture land is in the possession of 'Kulaks' and 'Jamindars' and only 26 per cent agriculture land is with small farmers. It has been the policy

of the Planning Commission's policy to encourage industries. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please put question.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this has been the attitude of the Planning Commission till the Ninth plan. You could cast a look at that during the period the industries were promoted more than the agriculture sector. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please put Question.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government intends to handover the management of Planning Commission to the agricultural experts keeping in view the vast possibilities in the agriculture sector? As far as the bureaucrats sitting there are concerned, we just may not have any expectations from them as they have been votaries of maintaining status quo. Therefore, does the hon. Minister intend to restructure the Planning Commission in view of job opportunities available in agriculture sector.

MR. SPEAKER : You did not ask the Question. You have only made suggestion.

[English]

These are all suggestions for actions. [Translation] Question Hour is meant for asking question and not for giving suggestions. [English] You say you will consider his proposals. All right, you will, no doubt, consider his suggestion.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : I will consider his suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are vast job opportunities in the agriculture sector. Especially the small and marginal farmers who toil in their fields, do not get any benefit. Keeping it in view, I would like to raise a question whether the Government have

formulated a scheme on the lines of providing employment to unemployed persons in the rural areas to provide employment for 100 days, by treating the marginal farmers as majdoors who toil in their fields the whole year and finally get nothing in return which forces them to commit suicides. I would like to ask whether the Government would accept them as labourers.

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, in fact, there are people who do not own the land and that is the reason why we have launched a number of other schemes. Now, one of the most important schemes is to promote fishery as well as animal husbandry which are the allied areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if Hon'ble minister is not able to answer properly then I would request that hon'ble Prime Minister would give the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Very well, then I go to the next Question. You are not ready to listen to his answer. If I may say so, it is such a sorry state of affairs. It is such an important Question.

MR. SPEAKER : It is an important question. I have got about 22 names. I am trying to accommodate Members from all sides. If you have no patience to hear his answer, let me go the next Question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Would the reply be of your liking?

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, hon. Members are aware that in the last Budget, a special scheme was announced to restore the water bodies. Through the minor

irrigation and then restoring the small and big banks, a lot of potential is going to be created for fisheries. Under fisheries alone, nearly ten million people would be able to get employment opportunities. Fisheries are one of the major subject....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You complete the answer.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Likewise, agro-processing is one of the areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has asked about landless labour. You have given that reply.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I also want to ask a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. I will allow.

[Translation]

You please send a notice.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Thank you, Sir. It is a fact that year by year employment in agricultural sector is coming down due to deep crisis in our agricultural sector. One of the important things is that year by year the direct investment of the Government in agricultural sector for the infrastructure development of the agriculture is coming down. This is the main thing. The main question is related to employment generation in agricultural sector. This is the fact.

MR. SPEAKER : You please put your supplementary.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : That is why the Government is forced to implement some other employment generation scheme for the rural people. May I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan he is going to fix a target to generate employment exclusively in agricultural sector? This is the thing that I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister because he heads it.

MR. SPEAKER : Maybe. But you cannot the hon. Prime Minister to reply.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, the Draft Approach Paper of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, that is 2007-2012,

emphasises the need to enhance the quality of employment in agricultural sector. It has been noticed that the income levels of farmers needs to be enhanced by reducing some workforce from agricultural sector as has been pointed out by my hon. friend from Kerala. The Draft Approach Paper of the Planning Commission has made the following observations: "Doubling the growth of agriculture to GDP to four per cent per year will improve employment conditions in agriculture." ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Therefore, Planning Commission is going to fix a target.

(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM : Sir, this is by reducing the workforce in agriculture to improve quality. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Target will be fixed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You know that you cannot pressurise me.

[Translation]

It is not going to serve any purpose.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Those who are disturbing will not get a chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK : Sir, may I know, through you, from the hon. Prime Minister that keeping in view the unprecedented trend of suicide by farmers in the country, whether the Government propose to take effective measures to strengthen the hands of the farmers in the next Five-Year Plan and if so what are the details thereof?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : How can be give details?

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, as the hon. Member

is aware, the hon. Prime Minister is very much concerned about the farmers' suicides. As a consequence of his concern, recently he visited Vidarbha region. While visiting Vidarbha and visiting the places where the farmers' suicides are taking place, he has made certain announcements to give relief to the farming community not only in Vidarbha region but also in other States like Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : What about Bihar? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you do not respond to every hon. Member who interrupts you.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, the package consists of various things which have been launched to establish sustainable, viable and livelihood support system through the debt relief to farmers, improved supply of agricultural credit, crop-centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better expansion and the farming support.

These are some of the schemes which have been announced. Now, to alleviate the sufferings of the debt-stressed families of farmers, an *ex gratia* assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund has also been announced.

MR. SPEAKER : We have agreed that we shall have a full discussion next Tuesday on agriculture for six hours. Therefore, with your kind permission, let me go to the next Question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : There will be a bill discussion on it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : There will be very important debate exclusively on agriculture and employment.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I should atleast get a chance...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You just see the situation of the House.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : You had said that you would give me a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would give you a full chance.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Where are you giving?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot enter into a question-answer with you. Show some respect to the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfortunate. You do not know what stress you are putting on me. It is becoming impossible to regulate the proceedings of this House.

Q. 143 – Dr. Chinta Mohan

Pricing of Coal

*143. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the MINISTER OF COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of coal in the country is not in conformity with the prevailing rates in open market due to the alleged monopoly of the Government sector in the field of coal mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the quality of coal has also declined

but the prices have increased continuously due to lack of competition;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the government proposes to determine price of coal in accordance with the competitive rates of imported coal; and

(f) if so, the time by which the said move is likely to be made?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The notified prices of coal produced by Coal India Limited are lower than the price of imported coal or the open market prices as reflected in the e-auction prices. Therefore, the public sector coal companies have not tried to take any undue advantage of the market conditions. Nearly 90% of coal is supplied at the notified prices.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) In terms of the Colliery Control Order 2000, the Government has no power to fix coal prices and the coal companies are competent to determine the coal prices. CIL decides the Coal prices taking into consideration various factors including the increase in input costs, market forces like demand of coal, change in landed price of imported coal, acceptability of price in the market, need for capital investment in new projects etc.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Sir, I would like to know the long-term vision of the Government, keeping in view the production of steel, cement and power.

MR. SPEAKER : You want to know the long-term vision in Question Hour!

[Translation]

The hon. Member talked above price. I have much more details above it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You follow all their programmes.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : What is the policy of the Government with regard to Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Singareni Collieries of Andhra Pradesh?

MR. SPEAKER : What has pricing of coal got to do with that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : Sir, the question is not relevant to the original Question, but still I would like to reply for the convenience of the hon. Member.

Regarding Neyveli Lignite Corporation, the Government is very clear. It is in profits. We have given two expansion projects and the vision of Neyveli Lignite Corporation is expanded with nearly Rs. 8,500 crore. Regarding vision of the coal, the Government is very much concerned about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I should say that this is most unfrotunate. Members are disturbing each other. You are not in a mood to go through the Question Hour. Then, why do you put questions?

[Translation]

The minister is giving the answer, but no one is ready to hear.

[English]

What is this going on? Wind up this House!

[Translation]

A fance is going on here.

[English]

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO : Sir, coal is the future for power generation. So, the Prime Minister has taken a very serious view about it. Under the chairmanship of hon. Prime Minister, a Committee for Energy Co-ordination is formed and the Government has initiated it. The Committee is formed and Dr. Shankar has given a Vision Document 2025. They have given some directions.

If the hon. Member wants it, I will send the bullet-points to him.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given here, it is stated that the price of imported coal is not more than indigenous coal whereas the trend in the market is that the domestic consumers prefer imported coal as compared to the indigenous coal and its price is also less. I want to know from the Government as to what is the reason that the price of the indigenous coal is more and the domestic consumers are getting attracted to imported coal and the consumption of the imported coal is more than indigenous coal? Why its price is less? I also want to know about that.

SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not so. Actually, production of coal was less at that time and we had to import coal and people had to buy imported coal, but there is no shortage of coal now. We are supplying sufficient coal. Now, this is very clear.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Railways also consume coal.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIBU SOREN : The question the hon. Member has asked is about shortage or excess is coal what has been given in writing, I will give reply to that.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : Thank you, Sir. Coal is the main source of energy in our country, and the price of coal is linked with its production. But Coal India Limited as also the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited are not producing coal properly. There are a number of subsidiaries under the Coal India Limited, and most of them are running in losses. In the mines of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited also there is practically no production at all. We have also got 92 billion tonnes of proven reserves.

What are the steps taken by the Government to produce more coal and to stabilise the price of coal, so that we need not import coal? I am asking this because we have the best coal reserves in our country.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO : Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned that many of the companies are running in losses. Through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that he is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : Sir, I would like to mention to the hon. Minister that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, this is not a matter of discussion. If you are not satisfied with his reply, then there are other methods also available with you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt the hon. Minister like this. There are methods if the hon. Minister is misleading the House or is giving wrong information. There are also other methods if you are not satisfied with the reply, but do not interrupt the hon. Minister like this.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO : Sir, BCCL was in loss right from the inception, but this year it came into profit. Similarly, ECL is in profit, CCL is in profit, and all these subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited are in profit. Further, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, and the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have also come into profit. Therefore, almost all these are in profit, and this is a fact.

As regards coal pricing, if we compare, the price of indigenous coal is lesser than the price of imported coal. It also has ash content. If we take the calorific value, the price is less. The indicated price is decided keeping in mind the cost of production, overhead costs, wage pattern, etc.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the prices of imported coal is higher than that in the open market, So I would like to know whether price of coal supplied through e-auction is less than imported coal? I want to know as to how many times the Coal India increased the prices of coal during the last three years? I would like to

know whether efforts have been made to check the per tonne cost of production of coal which goes up every year and what campaign has been launched in this regard?

SHRI SHIBU SOREN : The Coal Control Order 2000 has been notified and under the said order the Government of India have no power to fix the coal prices and the coal companies are free to fix coal prices produced by them as per the market condition. And since then, the coal companies have been fixing the coal prices with the approval of their Board of Directors.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reserves of the high quality coal which is called the high grade coal is dwindling whereas mining of this coal is being done indiscriminately and it is being used in power generation units and in such plants where the low quality or lower grade coal could also be used. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to make prudent use of such natural reserves by controlling the prices of this coal?

SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all kinds of coal is mined one together. There is no such rule to mine one different quality of coal separately and fix their prices separately. The question of the Hon. Member is not related to this question since this question is related to prices of coal. However, cost is to be incurred on the production of each kind of coal.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that prices of coal is decided on the basis of three factors. *[English]* input cost, market condition or market demand and landed price of the imported coal. *[Translation]* I agree with the Minister's first point regarding input cost *[English]* because the cost of production is decided by the input cost. *[Translation]* I do not agree the second thing, the market condition which he has mentioned. My question is whether the price of coal has been less than its cost of production in the history of the Coal India so far?

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the figures...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Please do not talk about figures...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cost is increased or decreased on the basis of its cost of production. But I think that the production cost of coal is not more than its price, sometimes its price is equal to its production cost. So many workers are working in the coal mines. If the hon. Member wants its answer in detail, then I would sent its detailed reply to him later.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the the reason behind increase in the prices of coal is due to prevalent corruption in the coal mines by the coal mafias. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the prices of coal are increasing due to prevalence of corruption in coal mines?

SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too have heard of mafia in coal mines. I too feel that mafia people are there in coal mines. But there is a different solution to the mafia problem. I would like to tell the hon. Member that I am ready to tackle this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The process is on.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIBU SOREN : I would like to save coal industry from them.

Setting of Working Group in IT/ Telecom Sector

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

(a) whether the Government has set up a working group to bring about restructuring and reforms in Information Technology/Telecom Sector and drop some of the existing schemes and programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the

constraints and problems of indigenous telecom equipment manufacturing industry in the country;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The Planning Commission has set-up Working Groups in various sectors including Information Technology and Telecom sectors to make recommendations on various policy matters relevant to the formulation of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) to (e) The Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association (TEMA) and other industry Associations have indicated some constraints and problems being faced by the indigenous telecom equipment manufacturing industry in the country. Some of these issues like inadequate infrastructure, higher cost of capital, higher transaction costs etc., are general in nature and not specific to indigenous telecome equipment manufacturing industry. Specific problems of this sector, mainly pertaining to inverted duty structure have been addressed by allowing the import of inputs/raw materials at zero custom duty.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, it is known to everyone of us that there is a revolutionary change and development in the sectors of information technology and telecommunications. One of the reasons is the research made in USA and other developed countries where the NRIs' contribution is substantial. If I have to just say it in one word, about 15 years back, when I visited USA, the NRIs who were working in research and development of telecommunications told me that if the conversation between Lord Krishna and Arjuna in the *Mahabharata* was true, they could tap it now. Such was the ingenuity of the Non-Resident Indians who are working in America today.

MR. SPEAKER : My best wishes to them.

SHRI K.S. RAO : While forming these Working Groups in various sectors, including information technology and telecom, I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he will utilise the services of some of the Non-Resident Indians, who are experts and proved their worth in the field of research.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : Sir, the Planning Commission has set up these Committees as the part of a routine process. Because we are coming to the end of the Tenth Five-Year Plan and we are in the process of finalising the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, the Planning Commission has initiated this process. There is enough expertise within our country. We are able to handle this.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Hon. Minister is very intelligent, we agree. We say that we have got a lot of expertise in our own country. But the other day when we went to China we found that the usage of mobile phones in that country is 168 for thousand whereas it is 12 for thousand in India. Similar is the case in regard to personal computers and landlines. They are, at least, ten times more than we are. I wish to know from the Hon. Minister if he is thinking in terms of bringing our country to the level of China at least in the decade to come.

MR. SPEAKER : Why not!

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : Definitely, Sir. I would like to inform the hon. Member that our effort is to make sure that we have enough telephone users in our country. In fact, when the UPA Government took over we had only 75 million phones in the country. In two years' time, we have doubled it and today we have 150 million phones. We are adding nearly 4.5 to five million phones a month. That is roughly the population of Finland. So, every month we are adding to our subscriber base in the country a number equivalent to the population of Finland. We are doing well. We have already set a target to reach 250 million by the end of the next year. This is quite ambitious. We understand that. We started slow but we are picking up. There is enormous demand. Today the sector of telecom is growing at 40 per cent whereas the IT sector is growing

at the rate of 30 per cent. We are aware of it and taking all positive steps to encourage more users.

MR. SPEAKER : Also, the conversations should also be brief.

MD. SALIM : The Minister in his reply has said that the Planning Commission had set up the Working Group to help in formulating the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. He has also talked about the duty structure and addressed the issue of import of raw materials and materials. He is also proud of the way the tele-density, particularly the mobile density, is increasing in the country. But what about the indigenous capacity of manufacturing these equipment? India is growing as a consumer market. But what about helping the indigenous industry to equip itself with a sophisticated manufacturing capacity?

MR. SPEAKER : Of course, Chennai has the priority. It has got Nokia.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : Chennai is also in India, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, it is very much in India.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : The hon. Member has asked a very important question. It is a part of this Government's initiative to ensure that a lot of manufacturing activity takes place in our country. The public sector units BSNL and MTNL have enforced that 30 per cent value addition of equipment which they purchase takes place within our country. In the beginning of this year we had Nokia, a multinational company, setting up its plant in India. They are producing two million phones a month. By next January we will have Motorola starting with about 1.4 million. We also have Samsung and LG setting up their plants. Sony Ericsson is also on the verge of finalising a deal. The way it is going now, I would not be surprised if the indigenous production substitutes the import of telecom equipment in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, the hon. Minister has talked about infrastructure in his reply. I want

to know from the hon. Minister as to when the said infrastructure is likely to be completed through which we would be able to sell our equipments in foreign countries by outsourcing in addition to import. [English] Also how do we expand the landline? [Translation] In view of the landline getting weaker, what is your programme to expand the landline.

[English]

We should ensure that India becomes 'One India' for all telephones.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : To answer the first half of the question the hon. Member has asked, our domestic consumption will ensure that whatever we manufacture is consumed. That is because even when we achieve the target of 250 million, our tele-density would be only around 22 per cent. We have a long way to go in this.

For the second part of the question regarding land-lines I should say that it is a demand-based market now. The consumers now prefer only the wireless communication.

Future is for wireless as it is much cheaper. The rate of fixed line is Rs.25,000, whereas that of wireless is Rs.3,000. This is what consumers want and this is how we are proceeding.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, your question is not taken up.

Question-Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Development of Backward Districts

*145. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Backward Regions Grant Fund has been constituted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the average annual amount disbursed to States out of the said Fund, so far;
- (d) the number of backward districts identified in each State;
- (e) the grounds on which fund is being allocated to these districts; and
- (f) the projects for which funds are sanctioned for the developed of backward districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (f) The Backward Regions Grant Fund is yet to be constituted. The scheme is being designed to address the issues relating to regional disparities persisting within States, including the relatively prosperous ones, to a greater or lesser degree and is under finalization. A provision of Rs.5000 crore has been made in the Budget 2006-07.

[English]

Development Reusable Launch Vehicle

*146. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop a reusable launch vehicle;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the advantages of the said launch vehicle over the conventional ones?

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

(b) As a first step towards realisation of Reusable Launch Vehicle, a number of investigative and flight demonstration studies in the areas of re-entry and recovery

of space modules, air-breathing propulsion and winged body hypersonic flight technology demonstration missions have been taken up.

(c) Use of Reusable Launch Vehicles in the future is expected to substantially reduce the cost of access to space.

[Translation]

Illegal Trading of Human Organs

*147. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

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

(a) whether illegal trading of human organs is taking place in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the State-wise number of such cases detected by the Government during the last three years and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any investigation into the role of various Government/Private Hospitals in such trading;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal trading of human organs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (f) Some incidents of alleged illegal trading of human organs have come to the notice of Government of India. The Government of India, however, does not centrally maintain details of such incidents. Information supplied by various States during the last three years regarding such incidents is given in the enclosed statement.

Sale and purchase of human organs is already

banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. Under Section 13 of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the Central and the State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act. The Appropriate Authorities appointed by the Central and the State Governments are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs. The Director General of Health Services is the Appropriate Authority in respect of the Union Territories including the National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, in respect of the States, action under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, has to be taken by the concerned Appropriate Authority. This act already contains stringent provisions for punishing removal of human organ without authority and for commercial dealings in human organs.

Statement

Details of Cases of Illegal Kidney and Other Organ Transplantations in Various Government/Private Hospitals upto 3.8.2005, Received from Various States

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Details of cases reported.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
5.	NCT of Delhi	Delhi Police has registered six FIRs in respect of illegal kidney transplantations in Research

1	2	3
		and Referral Hospital, New Delhi, Indraprashta Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi and Kakkar Hospital, Amritsar. As a result, ten people were arrested by the Delhi Police. The Commissioner, Delhi Police has informed on 31.07.2005 that the cases included in the five out of the six FIRs are currently under investigation. The case included in the sixth FIR (No.186 dated 23.03.2004) has been filed as untraced for want of evidence.
6. Goa		Nil
7. Gujarat		Nil
8. Haryana		Nil
9. Himachal Pradesh		Nil
10. Maharashtra		Government of Maharashtra have informed that in January 2004 Dr. S.P. Trivedi of Bombay Hospital, Mumbai has been prosecuted for the charges of cheating and foregery that deal with illegal trafficking of human organs. The matter was sub-judice as on 3.12.2004.
11. Manipur		Nil
12. Mizoram		Nil
13. Meghalaya		Nil
14. Nagaland		Nil
15. Pondicherry		Nil

1	2	3
16. Punjab		Government of Punjab have reported that sale of human organs for transplant, particularly kidneys was detected in a few cases in the State which are under investigation of the Special Investigating Team constituted for this purpose. As a result of the investigations, many people have been arrested and one hospital, namely, Ram Saran Dass Kishorilal Charitable Trust Hospital, Amritsar has been deregistered. However, there is no large scale exploitation of the poor in the name of organ transplant in the State.
17. Sikkim		Nil
18. Tamil Nadu		Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
19. Tripura		Nil
20. Uttar Pradesh		Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light between 1.1.2004 and 30.11.2004.
21. West Bengal		Government of West Bengal have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.

1	2	3
22. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		Nil
23. Chandigarh		Nil
24. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		Nil
25. Daman and Diu		Nil
26. Lakshadweep		Nil

[English]

Implementation of National Rural Health Mission

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

(a) whether the Government has proposed inter-sectoral convergence for effective implementation of the National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to empower local bodies for effective management of the health system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) The indicators of health depend as much on drinking water, female literacy, nutrition, early childhood development, sanitation, women's empowerment etc. as they do on hospitals and functional health systems. Realizing the importance of wider determinants of health, NRHM seeks to adopt a convergent approach for intervention under the umbrella of the Integrated District Health Action Plan.

The Anganwadi Centre under the ICDS at the village level is the principal hub for health action. Likewise, wherever village committees have been effectively

constituted for drinking water, sanitation, ICDS etc., NRHM moves towards one common Village Health Committee covering all these activities. Panchayati Raj Institutions are fully involved in this convergent approach and the gains of integrated action are reflected in the Integrated District Health Action Plans.

While substantial spending in each of these sector are from the concerned Department, the Village Health Plan/District Plan will provide an opportunity for some catalytic resources for convergent action. NRHM household surveys through ASHA, AWW ensures availability of drinking water, firewood, livelihood, sanitation and other issues in order to allow a framework for effective convergent action in the Village Health Plans.

The Ministry has constituted an interdepartmental Committee on convergence with the Mission Director as Chairman. This Committee report to the EPC. Convergence is also envisaged at the level of the MSG, which has representation of all the concerned Ministries. Similar mechanisms are available at the State level. Convergence with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and with the Department of AYUSH has been clearly outlined and shared with States.

The NRHM envisages the following roles for PRIs:-

- Devolution of funds for health, functionaries and programmes to the PRIs by the states.
- The District Health Mission (DHM) is led by the Chairman, Zila Parishad. The DHM controls, guides and manages all public health institutions in the district-sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs.
- ASHAs are being selected by and are accountable to the Village Panchayat.
- The Village Health Committee of the Panchayat prepares the Village Health Plan and promotes inter-sectoral integration.

- Each Sub-Centre has been granted United Fund @ Rs.10,000 per annum for local action. This Fund is being deposited in a joint Bank Account of the ANM and Sarpanch and is operated by the ANM, in consultation with the Village Health Committee..
- PRIs are involved in Rogi Kalyan Samitis at various levels for good hospital management.
- Provision of training to members of PRIs.
- Making available health related databases to all stakeholder, including Panchayats at all levels.

Commercialisation of Space Technologies

*149. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the new technologies developed under the space programme have been licensed to industries for commercialisation;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the manner in which various industries have been benefited by such commercialisation; and
- (d) the details of patent portfolios with the Department at present?

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

(b) Till date 275 technologies comprising of mechanical, optics, chemicals and other areas have been transferred to industries in 132 small scale, 17 medium scale and 31 large scale sectors.

(c) Industries have benefited through their active involvement in the development of hardware based on technologies transferred from space programme. This association has also enabled many industries to upgrade their technological skills.

(d) The Department's patent portfolio consists of 68 patents that have been granted. Further, applications for 179 patents have been filed and are awaiting grant.

Sharing of Infrastructure by Private Telecom Operators

*150. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is planning to introduce sharing of infrastructure by private telecom operators in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any discussions have been held with the private telecom operators in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) For provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country, subsidy support is proposed to be provided for shareable components like land, tower, power connection, power back up, boundary wall etc. and for non-shareable components like outdoor Base Transceiver Station with antennas and a portion of the backhaul. The infrastructure shall be created in those specified areas where there is no existing wireless coverage and shall be shared amongst three telecom service providers.

The sharing of the infrastructure so created will result in lower capital cost and operating expenditure for the telecom service providers. It will promote competition and help in providing better mobile services at competitive rates to the rural subscribers.

(c) Yes, Sir. Consultations have been held with the Access Service Providers, Infrastructure Providers, Association of Telecom Service Providers and Manufacturers.

(d) The suggestions are considered while giving final shape to the scheme for infrastructure sharing.

(e) The Government has made a decision to implement the scheme. The implementation of the scheme requires an amendment to the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, Bill for which has been introduced in the Parliament and stands referred to the Standing Committee.

Completion of North-South and East-West Corridors

*151. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on the North-South and East-West Corridors upto June 30, 2006;

(b) whether land required for the purpose has been acquired in each case; and

(c) if so, the time by which the corridors are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The cumulative expenditure incurred on North-South and East-West Corridors upto June 30, 2006 is Rs.4759.97 crore and upto 30th June 2006, about 68% of the required land has been acquired. This project is expected to be completed substantially by December, 2008.

[Translation]

Improving Telecom Service In Rural Areas

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

(a) whether the rural telecom services are often disrupted due to various technical faults in telephone and mobile connections provided by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve telephone and mobile services in rural areas;

(d) whether the alleged poor network of BSNL is indirectly beneficial to private mobile companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) :

(a) and (b) Sir, telecom services in rural areas of the country are sometimes affected due to power supply problems, exchange faults, lightning and link failures.

(c) Following steps are taken/being taken by BSNL to further improve telephone and mobile services in the rural areas:—

1. Connecting all Telephone exchanges on reliable digital/transmission media.
2. Introducing and addition of Wireless in Local Loop Systems (WLL) to cover larger rural areas.
3. Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based centralized fault booking at Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs)
4. Monitoring performance of telephone exchanges/ media on daily basis.
5. Conversion of SBM (Single Base Module) into RSUs (Remote Switching Unit)
6. Conversion of C-DOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges)

7. Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.
8. Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural area including FWTs and provision of AMC in new supplies.
9. Provision of high capacity external maintenance free battery with FWT for providing larger talk time and standby time.
10. Battery charger of FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90-300V.
11. Do's and Don'ts have been issued to customers to increase their awareness on proper use of FWTs so as to minimize FWT related faults.
12. Replacement of MAR phones by land lines or Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) phones.
13. Cellular Mobile network of BSNL is being continuously augmented, optimized and monitored to meet Quality of Service (QoS) parameters fixed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

(d) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Software Technology Parks

*153. SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) the number of software technology parks set up in the country, State-wise, location-wise;

(b) the main functions of these technology parks;

(c) the foreign exchange earned by the export of software technology by software technology parks, during the last three years;

(d) whether any target for export of software technology has been fixed;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to set up more technology parks in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) :

(a) and (b) The Department of Information Technology, Government of India has established Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) as an autonomous society, with the main objective of promotion of software exports from the country. The services rendered by STPI for the software exporting community have been statutory services, data communications services and incubation facilities. STPI has also played a developmental role in the promotion of software exports with a special focus on SMEs (Small & Medium Enterprises) and start up units. The datacom connectivity is a critical requirement for software exporters and STPI has been providing this service since inception. So far 47 centres have been established in various States. The State-wise list of centers is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The total export value made by STPI member units during the last three years is as follows:

2005-06	Rs. 1,00,965 Crores
2004-05	Rs. 74,019 Crores
2003-04	Rs. 51,458 Crores

Total exports made by STPI member units registered under STP-Pune during last three years are as follows:

2005-05	Rs. 8,300 Crores
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2004-05 Rs. 5,700 Crores

2003-04 Rs. 4,200 Crores

(d) and (e) The total exports in IT Software and Services from India is estimated to USD 50 billion by the year 2008-09.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up new STPI Centres at Bhopal and Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Patna (Bihar), Haldia (West Bengal), Berhampur (Orissa), Kakinanda (Andhra Pradesh), Agra (Uttar Pradesh), Goa (Goa), Shillong (Meghalaya), Agartala (Tripura) and Gulbarga (Karnataka)

Statement

Software Technology Parks of India

New Delhi-110003

S.No.	States	STPI Centres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.		Thirupati
3.		Vijayawada
4.		Vizag
5.		Warangal
6.	Assam	Guwahati
7.	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai
8.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
11.		Jammu
12.	Jharkhand	Ranchi

1	2	3
13.	Karnataka	Bangalore
14.		Hubli
15.		Mangalore
16.		Manipal
17.		Mysore
18.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
20.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad
21.		Nagpur
22.		Nasik
23.		Navi Mumbai
24.		Kolhapur
25.		Pune
26.	Manipur	Imphal
27.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
28.		Rourkela
29.	Pondicherry	Pandicherry
30.	Punjab	Mohali
31.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
32.		Jodhpur
33.	Sikkim	Gangtok
34.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
35.		Coimbatore
36.		Madurai

1	2	3
37.		Thirunavelli
38.		Trichy
39.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
40.		Lucknow
41.		Noida
42.		Allahabad
43.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
44.	West Bengal	Kolkata
45.		Durgapur
46.		Kharagpur
47.		Siliguri

[Translation]

Migration of Doctors

*154. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

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

(a) whether doctors of the country are migrating to foreign countries;

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

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to take any action to check this brain drain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) As existing in other professions, even in the medical sector, some doctors

resort to migration abroad for improvement in one's prospects for professional, academic and financial considerations, which is a common feature in a number of countries. As to the number of doctors migrating to foreign countries, no specific data is maintained in this Ministry. There is currently no proposal to check migration of doctors to foreign countries.

As per information available with the Government, a total of around 6.05 lakhs Allopathic doctors are registered with the Medical Council of India. As against the ratio of doctor to population of 1:2000 recommended by the Bhole Committee, the availability of Allopathic doctors at present is in the ratio of 1:1800. In addition, there are 260 recognized/permitted medical colleges in the country with an intake capacity of 29,572 students per year. Besides, there are around six lakhs Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathic doctors registered with their respective Councils. If the practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy are also taken into account, the ratio of availability of doctors to the population improves further. As such, there is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors produced in the country, though there is a geographical and specialty-wise imbalance in the availability of doctors.

[English]

Providing Voice Intercepts

*155. DR. RAJESH MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications allegedly pulled up service providers for not providing voice intercepts of those subscribers who were outside their home circle and therefore on the roaming facility to security agencies as reported in *The Business Standard* dated June 2, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is possible to track a subscriber once he leaves home network;

- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the interest of national security?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) :

(a) and (b) As per provisions of the License Agreement Voice Intercepts of the subscribers who are within their home network or are availing roaming facility can be provided to the Security Agencies on receipt of the directions issued by the Competent Authority. Coordination meetings are held with service providers and security agencies on such issues whenever required.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) In the interest of the amount security, suitable conditions have been incorporated in the licence agreement which inter-alia include the following:

- (i) The LICENSEE is obliged to provide, without any delay, all the tracing facilities to trace nuisance, obnoxious or malicious calls, messages or communications transported through his equipment and network, to authorized officers of Government of India.
- (ii) The LICENSEE shall provide necessary facilities depending upon the specific situation at the relevant time to the Government to counteract espionage, subversive act, sabotage or any other unlawful activity.
- (iii) The designated person of the Central/State Government as conveyed by the Licensor from time to time in addition to the Licensor or its nominee shall have the right to monitor the telecommunication traffic.
- (iv) The LICENSEE should ensure suitable redundancy in the complete chain of Monitoring

equipment for trouble free operations of monitoring of calls.

- (v) The Government through appropriate notification may debar usage of mobile terminals in certain areas in the country.

Integrating Sports with Primary Education

*156. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for integration of sports with primary education to discover talent particularly in rural areas as reported in *The Hindu* dated July 4, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Human Resource Development Ministry has agreed to the proposal; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) to (d) In recognition of the shortage of sports facilities in rural areas and the consequent lack of access to organized sports and games to a large section of children, adolescents and the youth, consideration is being given in the Ministry to the promotion of a Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan in collaboration with various stakeholders including Education Institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Youth Organizations etc.

[Translation]

Mercy Killing Law

*157. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH :
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Union Government is deliberating on a proposal to bring about consensus on the mercy killing Law;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the law commission has recommended mercy killing for those patients who are suffering from incurable diseases or dependent upon the life support system;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of cases wherein the requests have been made for the mercy killing in the country so far; and

(f) the names of the countries where the Law related to the mercy killing is in force?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Law Commission has intimated that the Commission in its 196th Report on the subject of Medical Treatment to Terminally Ill Patients (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners) has made some observations of "Euthanasia" and "Assisted Suicide".

(e) Till date, Government has not permitted Euthanasia. Applications for the same cannot be entertained.

(f) This information is not available.

Statement

The subject matter regarding mercy killing has already been examined in this Ministry in the year 2003 and the Ministry has taken the position that mercy killing is not to be allowed for the following reasons:—

1. Hippocratic oath is against intentional/voluntary killing of the patient.
2. Progression of medical science to relieve

pain, suffering, rehabilitation and treatment of so-called incurable diseases will suffer a set back.

3. An individual may wish to die at a certain point of time, his/her which may not be persistent and only a fleeting desire out of transient depression.
4. Suffering is a state of mind and perception, which varies from individual to individual and depends on various environmental and social factors.
5. Continuous advancement in medical science has made possible good pain management in patients of cancer and other terminal illnesses. Similarly, rehabilitation helps many spinal injury patients in leading near normal life and euthanasia may not be required.
6. Wish of euthanasia by a mentally ill patient/in depression may be treatable by good psychiatric care.
7. It will be difficult to quantify suffering which may always be subject to changing social pressures and norms.
8. Can doctors claim to have knowledge and experience to say that the disease is incurable and patient is permanently invalid?
9. Defining of bed-ridden and requiring regular assistance is not always medically possible.
10. There might be psychological pressure and trauma to the medical officers who would be required to conduct euthanasia.

[English]

Second Launch Pad at Sriharikota

*158. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has commissioned the state-of-the-art second launch pad at Sriharikota;

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

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the manner in which Indian Space Programme has been benefited thereby?

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

(b) The state-of-the-art Second Launch Pad was commissioned during May, 2005 with the successful launch of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C6. The Second Launch Pad (SLP) adopts the concept of 'Integrate Transfer and Launch' (ITL), wherein the entire launch vehicle gets assembled and checked out in a dedicated Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) on a Mobile Launch Pedestal (MLP). The assembled vehicle in a vertical condition is then moved to the launch pad on rails. The propellant servicing, final vehicle checkout operations and launch is carried out from the launch pad. With different MLPs, the launch pad can be used for launching different vehicles, including GSLV-MK III.

(c) The expenditure incurred on SLP is Rs.407 crores.

(d) With the availability of the SLP, it has made possible better turn around time for launches leading to increased frequency. SLP alongwith the First Launch Pad has also given us the option to simultaneously integrate two launch vehicles.

Setting up of Postal Finance Marts

*159. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has finalised a scheme for setting up "Postal Finance Marts" (PFMs);

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

(c) whether Post Offices where PFMs are proposed to be set up have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total financial outlay for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Postal Finance Marts (PFMs) were proposed to be set up in 300 Post Offices under the Plan Scheme "Modernization of Operating/ Working Systems (Improving Ergonomics)" of the Tenth Plan.

Postal Finance Marts (PFMs) are set up for providing all financial services including specialized value added services as also insurance products, under one roof. Postal Finance Marts serve as "One Stop Shop for Financial Services" — in a full computerized Post Office in conformity with market standards, in a customer friendly environment and in an ergonomically improved Post Office. The objective is to give a boost to both the financial and insurance segments and also provide an opportunity for cross selling. In general, professionally trained personnel who are qualified to provide financial advice on saving and investment are manning the Postal Finance Marts.

(c) and (d) The list of 142 Postal Finance Marts set up in Financial Year 2005-2006 is given in the enclosed statement. The Postal Finance Marts proposed to be set up under current financial year 2006-2007 are yet to be identified.

(e) The total financial outlay for this activity is Rs.14.28 crores during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Statement**List of Existing Postal Finance Marts (PFM)
2005-2006**

S. No.	Circle	PFM
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad GPO 2. Secunderabad HPO 3. Vijayawada HPO 4. Guntur HO 5. Kumool HO 6. Karimanagar HO 7. Daba Gardens LSG SO 8. LB Colony SO 9. Warmagal HO 10. DH Sutun SO
2.	Assam	1. Guwahati GPO
3.	Bihar	1. Patna GPO 2. Bankipur HO 3. Bhagalpur HO 4. Gaya 5. Muzaffarpur 6. Darbhanga 7. Chhapta
4.	Chhattisgarh	1. Raipur H.O. 2. Durg H.O.

1	2	3
		3. Bilaspur H.O.
5.	Delhi	1. Sansad Marg HO 2. New Delhi GPO 3. Sarojini Nagar HO 4. Lodi Road HO 5. Delhi GPO
6.	Gujarat	1. Ahmedabad GPO 2. Vadodara HO 3. Surat HO 4. Fatehganj HO 5. Rajkot HO 6. Takhatashwar PO 7. Revdi Bazaar HO
7.	Haryana	1. Ambala GPO 2. Karnal HO 3. NH-IV Faridabad SO 4. Model Town Rohtak SO
8.	H.P.	1. Shimla GPO 2. Mandi HO 3. UNA HO 4. Hamirpur HO 5. Palampur HO
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1. Srinagar GPO 2. Udhampur HO

1	2	3	1	2	3
		3. Gandhinagar HO			7. Palakkad HO
		4. Kathua HO	13 Madhya Pradesh		1. Central TT HO Bhopal
		5. Anantnag HO			2. Bhopal GPO
10 Jharkhand		1. Ranchi GPO			3. Indore Cantt HO
		2. Doranda HO			4. Sagar Cantt HO
		3. Jamshedpur HO			5. Ujjain HO
		4. Hazaribagh HO			6. Jabalpur HO
		5. Dhanbad HO			7. Gwalior HO
11 Karnataka		1. Bangalore GPO (2005)			8. Indore Nagar HO
		2. Banashankari II Stage			9. Rewa H.O
		3. R.T. Nagar, HO	14. Maharashtra		1. Mumbai Central HO
		4. Vijayanagar MDG			2. Dadar HO
		5. Chitradurga HO			3. Malbar Hill PO
		6. Balmatta SO			4. Mahim HO
		7. Yadavagiri SO			5. Andheri HO
		8. Bengaum HO			6. Nagpur GPO
		9. Bidar HO			7. Shivajinagar HO
		10. Hubli HO (2005)	15. North-East		1. Agartala HO
12 Kerala		1. Trivandrum GPO			2. Imphal HO
		2. Kollam HO			3. Kohima HO
		3. Chengannur HO			4. Shillong HO
		4. Thrissur HO			5. Aizwal HO
		5. Irinjalakuda HO			6. Dharmanagar HO
		6. Calicut HO	16. Orissa		1. Bhubaneswar GPO

1	2	3	1	2	3
		2. Cuttack GPO			8. Anna road HO
		3. Berhampur HO			9. Ambattur HO
		4. Sambalpur HO			10. Cuddalore HO
		5. Koraput HO			11. Erode HO
		6. Rourkela HO			12. Karur HO
		7. Bhanjagar HO			13. Kovilpatti HO
17. Punjab		1. Sector-16 Post Office			14. Nagercoil HO
		2. Sector 27 PO			15. Salem HO
		3. Ludhiana HO			16. Triplicane SO
		4. Bastinaun PO			17. Tirunelveli HO
		5. Majitha Mandi PO			18. Boiler Project SO
18. Rajasthan		1. Shastri Nagar HO	20. Uttar Pradesh		1. Allahabad H.O.
		2. Alwar HPO			2. Amethi MDG
		3. Ajmer HPO			3. Ghaziabad HO
		4. Kota HPO			4. Noida HO
		5. Shastri Nagar HO			5. Lucknow GPO
		6. Bikaner HO			6. Raebareli HO
19. Tamil Nadu		1. Combatore HO			7. Kanpur HO
		2. Madurai HO			8. Sanjay Place
		3. Padukottai	21. Uttaranchal		1. Dehradun GPO (2005)
		4. Puttukotai			2. Deharadun Cantt. HO
		5. Arinthangai	22. West Bengal		1. Burdwan HO
		6. Trichy			2. Serampore HO
		7. Teynampet			3. Belegkata HO

1	2	3
		4. Park Street HO
		5. Kalyani HO
Total No.: 142		

Telephone Services in Rural Areas

*160. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether private service providers are not interested to extend their telephone services in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for all service providers to extend their services in such areas; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The private sector telecom service providers are generally focusing more on urban areas because of higher revenue per line in urban areas compared to that in rural areas. Higher economic and literacy status as well as easier availability of supporting infrastructure in the urban areas are also contributing factors.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Following steps have been taken by the Government to improve telecom services in rural areas:—
 - (i) Provisions of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in all the remaining uncovered eligible villages, excluding villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.

- (ii) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs)
- (iii) Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs.
- (iv) Provision of Rural Individual Phone Connections (RDELs) on demand in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), through subsidy from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund.
- (v) Large scale deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas by BSNL.
- (vi) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norms to 5 kms. as against the earlier norm of 2.5 kms. for landline exchanges by BSNL
- (vii) BSNL has planned extensive infrastructure rollout which will provide mobile coverage.

Allocation of Funds for Projects in Gujarat

1039. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the percentage of amount proposed to be spent on development and non-development projects in Gujarat out of the total budget allocation during the Tenth Plan period;
- (b) the percentage of budget allocation spent on development and non-developmental projects in the State during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Union Government is considering to allocate/spend more funds for these purposes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) The projected outlay for Gujarat's Tenth Plan (2002-07) is Rs.40007.00 crore at 2001-02 prices. Out of this,

Rs.39986.15 crore which is 99.95% of the total outlay, is proposed to be spent on developmental projects (economic and social services) and remaining Rs.20.85 crore, which is 0.05% of the total Plan outlay, is proposed to be spent on non-developmental projects (general services).

(b) The percentage of plan allocation spent on developmental and non-developmental projects during the first three Annual Plans of the Tenth Plan of Gujarat are 99.96% and 0.04% respectively.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission has approved outlays of Rs.11000.00 crore and Rs.12503.50 crore for the Annual Plans 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively of Gujarat, based on an assessment of resource availability.

Accreditation Process of SAI Laboratory

1040. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the accreditation process of SAI laboratory in New Delhi has not yet started;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to depute adequate number of staff to SAI Laboratory to carry out the minimum number of tests as per World Anti-Doping Association requirements?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) The accreditation process of the Dope Control Laboratory (DCC) has started.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the provisions of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the laboratory is required to analyze a minimum of 1500 dope control samples per year. At present, DCC is analyzing more than 2000 samples a year. The existing staff strength is adequate to handle the minimum prescribed norm of sample testing as prescribed by WADA.

[Translation]

International Anti-Nuclear Terrorism Treaty

1041. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India proposes to be a partner to the International Anti-Nuclear Terrorism Treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether member countries will co-operate among themselves in investigation work against Nuclear Terrorism and extradition of people involved in such Terrorism; and

(d) if so, the other salient features of the said treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) India has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, 2005, on 24 July, 2006.

(b) to (d) The Convention requires States to make punishable as serious offence under their domestic law, terrorist acts involving the use of nuclear materials and to cooperate in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of these offences through information sharing, extradition and mutual legal assistance. This Convention is an important step forward in multilateral efforts to strengthen the international legal framework against terrorism and sends an undeniably clear signal that the international community will not tolerate those that threaten or commit terrorist acts involving radioactive material or nuclear devices.

[English]

Special Recruitment Drive for SCs and STs

1042. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the special recruitment drive for SCs and STs undertaken in all the Central Government Departments and Central Public Undertakings during the last two years viz. 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the details of the total number of such vacancies existing in various departments for which candidates have to be recruited from SCs and STs;

(c) the details of the programmes chalked out by the Union Government for filling up of all the existing vacancies for SCs and STs; and

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

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 Special Recruitment Drive was launched in August, 2004 to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of SCs and STs in the Ministries/Departments, their attached and subordinate offices, public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies. Backlog vacancies are still being filled under the drive.

(b) A total of 65468 backlog vacancies of SCs and STs have been reported till 30/6/2006 by various Ministries/Departments including vacancies in their attached and subordinate offices.

(c) and (d) Directions have been issued that all the backlog vacancies should be filled up by the end of September, 2006.

[Translation]

Expansion/Development of Telecommunications

1043. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

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

(a) whether the pace of development and expansion of telecommunications in rural and urban areas of Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka is allegedly very slow since the last three years;

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

(c) the details of projects of expansion of telecommunications undertaken during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for accelerating the development and expansion of telecommunications in these States?

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

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

(c) and (d) Circle-wise details of expansion of telecommunication facilities by BSNL during last 3 years are given in the statements-I, II and III. BSNL has fixed following targets for expansion of services in Uttar Pradesh (East), Uttar Pradesh (West) and Karnataka telecom circles during 2006-07.

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Basic Phones	Cellular Mobile	Internet	Broadband	Optical Fibre Cable (RK Ms)	Trunk Automatic Exchange (KC)
1.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	51900	900000	21000	29600	1060	16
2.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	12300	300000	21100	7200	800	16
3.	Karnataka	84500	200000	50000	83200	1420	40

Details of the projects undertaken by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for expansion of telecommunication facilities in Delhi and Mumbai are given in the enclosed statement-IV.

In addition, the Government has also set up

the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) for accelerating the development and expansion of telecommunications in rural areas. Details of steps taken for expansion of rural telecom facilities in the State of UP and Karnataka under this fund are given in enclosed statement-V.

Statement-I

Circle-wise Achievement of Switching Capacity and Telephone Connections during last 3 years

S. No.	Name of Circle	2003-04		2004-05		2005-05	
		Switching Capacity	DELs	Switching Capacity	DELs	Switching Capacity	DELs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8584	6313	7772	4407	19202	22209
2.	Andhra Pradesh	395762	309625	268574	295671	719676	333141
3.	Assam	103955	49771	127363	153502	289421	251531
4.	Bihar	221200	143599	-211862	179635	502080	448605
5.	Chhattisgarh	74385	41793	343834	47969	77786	73885
6.	Gujarat	327472	3306	331220	127918	68337	169303
7.	Haryana	153246	164704	211990	113344	488400	218280
8.	Himachal Pradesh	49314	53525	57088	45838	285202	142503
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	57308	64673	133860	136652	349226	377914
10.	Jharkhand	140558	101347	484909	87053	216809	211863
11.	Karnataka	153684	128552	456867	412887	793714	563583
12.	Kerala	383954	407074	698176	710685	1197212	1101915
13.	Madhya Pradesh	122906	157134	-116802	202668	110878	198456
14.	Maharashtra	555348	343365	543578	364831	287496	357558

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15. North East - 1		29260	26096	-110793	49317	110450	51696
16. North East - 2		28260	26518	197524	47858	133626	93467
17. Orissa		161278	139421	145860	181940	460228	311313
18. Punjab		346654	106112	199238	97884	47842	-133346
19. Rajasthan		219138	214920	205442	234226	821723	805493
20. Tamil Nadu		171305	217247	477551	581741	1130973	663209
21. Uttaranchal		80254	82806	387008	65509	228810	166350
22. Uttar Pradesh East		425816	173139	403900	388035	1067021	877515
23. Uttar Pradesh West		240109	211836	-138446	122576	405783	167423
24. West Bengal		255495	165730	206204	195046	701264	440238
25. Kolkata		47480	40360	296174	222111	351212	183272
26. Chennai		212860	80415	285000	197101	569668	126849
Total		4965585	3459381	5891229	5286404	11434039	8224225

Statement-II*Circle-wise Achievement of Internet and Broadband during last 3 years*

S. No.	Name of Circle	Internet			Broadband	
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	463	636	-258	0	204
2.	Andhra Pradesh	61135	53962	32442	4337	45772
3.	Assam	3202	3636	3143	12	3915
4.	Bihar	4553	3091	108	82	12948

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	6148	7608	5623	1	5764
6.	Gujarat	44339	42216	40610	900	41304
7.	Haryana	13609	26930	16549	0	12487
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4551	4396	7035	2	2179
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4117	9214	13382	0	4035
10.	Jharkhand	5898	6491	8501	18	5404
11.	Karnataka	21359	11277	194095	10299	80086
12.	Kerala	67342	94133	68187	311	24975
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12812	26058	12749	0	26017
14.	Maharashtra	33240	31653	117546	2268	47709
15.	North East - 1	1285	1751	4590	0	1022
16.	North East - 2	1345	5060	4746	0	360
17.	Orissa	6989	13160	17581	16	3787
18.	Punjab	33831	38181	38460	0	24535
19.	Rajasthan	14833	47209	18545	2	20082
20.	Tamil Nadu	40971	41766	28802	462	20323
21.	Uttaranchal	3946	7072	14073	0	2700
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	21095	25993	17577	0	19355
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	18436	16444	15251	0	11084
24.	West Bengal	7509	12559	2822	24	2647
25.	Kolkata	14	192469	81234	5043	71231
26.	Chennai	67268	62393	39308	10130	62542
Total		500290	785358	802701	33907	552467

Statement-III**Circle-wise Achievement of OFC and Tax during last 3 years**

S. No.	Name of Circle	OFC			Tax		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-05	2003-04	2004-05	2005-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8.60	34.18	37	0.00	1.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1855.90	2224.00	1162	70.50	21.00	75.50
3.	Assam	973.46	555.68	635	20.00	11.00	13.00
4.	Bihar	1643.64	749.83	839	47.50	54.00	21.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	1321.88	547.63	200	15.00	15.00	16.50
6.	Gujarat	2007.51	827.50	400	29.00	37.00	58.00
7.	Haryana	1202.83	1239.20	562	13.00	16.00	20.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	247.00	648.72	556	26.50	6.00	6.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	557.74	427.38	597	10.00	9.00	15.00
10.	Jharkhand	640.68	385.5	671	9.00	10.00	17.00
11.	Karnataka	2460.00	2066.67	1187	51.00	91.50	83.00
12.	Kerala	1255.16	847.59	654	35.00	28.00	36.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2316.47	728.08	628	36.00	79.00	14.00
14.	Maharashtra	4961.63	3020.76	1069	97.00	92.00	61.00
15.	North East - 1	277.45	524.64	528	0.00	16.00	4.00
16.	North East - 2	457.95	920.30	115	2.00	5.00	7.00
17.	Orissa	826.61	754.45	934	30.00	25.50	46.00
18.	Punjab	1758.70	590.50	216	25.00	22.00	45.00
19.	Rajasthan	2695.63	1164.29	1545	59.00	66.50	46.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	2173.43	1808.67	1541	35.50	23.50	86.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21. Uttaranchal		888.62	439.10	411	17.00	14.50	1.00
22. Uttar Pradesh East		1767.43	1115.68	1605	103.50	98.50	54.50
23. Uttar Pradesh West		743.18	517.10	422	38.50	21.00	21.00
24. West Bengal		1523.60	1382.50	976	29.00	25.00	26.00
25. Kolkata		327.27	616.25	690	18.00	10.00	13.00
26. Chennai		500.00	229.29	76	20.00	4.00	41.50
Total		35392.46	24465.49	18256.62	837.00	802.00	827.00

Statement-IV*MTNL-Projects Undertaken for Expansion of Telecom Facilities*

S. No.	Year	Name of Projects and Capacity/ Name of State
1	2	3
1.	2004-05	Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM)
	2005-06	400K Capacity +
	2006-07	200K Expansion + 200K Expansion (Each in Delhi and Mumbai)
2.	2004-05	CDMA 2000 IX type (800K)
	2005-06	(400 K each in Delhi and Mumbai)
	2006-07	
3.	2005-06	Fixed Intelligent Network
	2006-07	(Each in Delhi and Mumbai)

1	2	3
4.	2005-06	Switching Projects (80 K)
	2006-07	(In Mumbai)
5.	2005-06	MPLS Project for the Core Network
	2006-07	(In Delhi and Mumbai)
6.	2005-06	Broadband Project 255K
	2006-07	(Each in Delhi and Mumbai)
7.	2005-06	Convergent Billing Solution for Delhi and Mumbai
	2006-07	

Statement-V*Steps taken by USO Fund*

- (i) Agreements were signed with M/s. BSNL in March, 2003 for operation and maintenance of existing 75510 Village Public Telephone (VPTs) in U.P. (East), 21262 VPTs in U.P. (West) and 25739 VPTs in Karnataka in the identified revenue villages as per Census 1991 and installation of VPTs in additional revenue

villages as per census 2001. About 76006 VPTs in U.P. (East), 21268 VPTs in U.P. (West) and 27066 VPTs in Karnataka have been provided by BSNL till June, 2006.

- (ii) Agreements were signed with M/s. BSNL in September, 2003 and March, 2004 to replace 27897 VPTs in U.P. (East), 11899 VPTs in U.P. (West) and 14578 VPTs in Karnataka, which were earlier working on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology and installed before 01.04.2002. 21547 MARR VPTs in U.P. (East), 11544 MARR VPTs in U.P. (West) and 14223 MARR VPTs in Karnataka have been replaced by BSNL. till June, 2006.
- (iii) Agreements were also signed with M/s. BSNL and M/s. RIL in September 2004 to provide 6931 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in U.P. (East), 429 RCPs in U.P. (West) and 2197 RCPs in Karnataka in those villages with population exceeding 2,000 and without a Public phone. Total 3786 RCPs in U.P. (East), 335 RCPs in U.P. (West) and 1682 RCPs in Karnataka have been provided till June, 2006.
- (iv) Subsidy support has been provided from USO Fund for 2,27,159 Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in U.P. (East), 1,97,140 RDELs in U.P. (West) including Uttaranchal and 6,18,942 RDELs in Karnataka, installed prior to 01.04.2002 as per Rules.
- (v) Agreements were signed in March 2005 for provision of individual Rural Household Direct Exchanges Lines (RDELs) to be installed after 01.04.2005 in U.P. (East), U.P. (West) and Karnataka. These DELs are to be installed in the eligible 84, 21 and 117 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) respectively in U.P. (East), U.P. (West) and Karnataka, where cost of providing telephone connection is more than

the revenue earned. About 39019, 10715 and 45674 RDELs have been provided in U.P. (East), U.P. (West) and Karnataka respectively till June 2006.

- (vi) Subsidy support is also being provided for 74021, 17139 and 126182 RDELs in U.P. (East), U.P. (West) and Karnataka respectively, installed in the eligible SDCAs during the period 01.04.2002 and 31.03.2005.

Scheme for Uniform Payment to Agents

1044. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether agents are operating all over the country for mobilising small savings or deposit schemes for the post-offices;
- (b) if so, the number of such agents operating in the country at present;
- (c) whether the Government pays any commission, salary, allowances etc. to these agents;
- (d) if so, whether the norms for making payments to these agents is uniform in all the States in the country;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate any scheme to maintain uniformity in payment to the agents in all the States; and
- (g) if so, the time by which the scheme will be formulated and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Setting up of Central Surveillance Unit

1045. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Central Surveillance Unit (CSU) to check infection spreading from haphazard disposal of medical waste;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Disposal of Bio-Medical waste in hospitals is governed by Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 and all the Hospitals are required to follow these rules. Central Pollution Control Board and State level Pollution Control Boards monitor the implementation of the provisions of these rules.

Promotion of Semi-conductor Manufacturing Sector

1046. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposals to promote semi-conductor manufacturing sector in the country;

(b) if so, the areas likely to be identified for the promotion of the same; and

(c) the details in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The choice of location of the site has to be decided by the promoters.

Discrimination Against PIOs

1047. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the People of Indian Origin (PIO) in Trinidad and Tobago are being discriminated against;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether PIOs have sought any assistance from the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) There are some media reports of alleged political discrimination of PIOs in Trinidad and Tobago. PIOs in Trinidad and Tobago are governed by the same constitution as that of the Afro-Trinidadian community. There is equality before law and PIOs have avenues for legal remedy in case of alleged political discrimination.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Restructure of Postal Network

1048. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the System Study of Department of Posts undertaken by M/s. KPMG has since been completed;

(b) if so, whether M/s. KPMG has submitted any study report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the study will be completed and the report submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) M/s. KPMG has made recommendations for consideration of the Department, suggesting possible options for the postal system to compete in a commercial environment while continuing to fulfil its Universal Service Obligation of providing greater access to basic postal facilities, for attaining financial self-sufficiency and for fixing prices of non-USO services on commercial basis.

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

Undertaking Project in Myanmar

1049.SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has undertaken a project to construct the Kaladan Multimodal Project and Tamu Kalewa-Kalemyo Road in Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details and the costs thereof;

(c) the Indian contribution in this regard; and

(d) the progress made so far?

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

(b) to (d) The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project envisages connectivity between Indian Ports on the eastern seaboard and Sittwe Port in Myanmar and then through riverine transport and by road to Mizoram. The detailed Project Report prepared by the Indian consultant has the concurrence of the Government of Myanmar. Both sides have also agreed on the text of various legal instruments pertaining to the project. The project is estimated to cost around US\$ 105.4 million, the Indian contribution being US\$ 95.4 million. Government is also proposing to extend a credit line of US\$ 10 million to the Government of Myanmar to assist them in meeting their part of the contribution to the project. The upgradation of the 160 km. long Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo road was

completed in the year 2000 at a cost of Rs.120 crore. Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of India and the Government of Myanmar, the responsibility for the maintenance of the road lies with the Government of India for which an annual grant of Rs.1.1 crore is being provided to the Border Roads Organization. Government has also approved an additional expenditure of Rs.51 crore for the resurfacing of the road.

Welfare of Coal Workers

1050.SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Super-Speciality Hospital exclusively for coal workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it will be set up; and

(d) the steps taken by the government for the upliftment of coal workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) There is no proposal to set up any new Super Speciality Hospital. However, the Coal India Limited (CIL) Welfare Board has suggested to develop some of the hospitals as Super Speciality Hospital in the subsidiaries of CIL.

(b) A high level committee constituted in pursuance of the suggestion of CIL Welfare Board recommended upgradation of the following hospitals for different super speciality services as indicated below:—

S. No.	Name of the Hospital	Specialities
1	2	3
1.	Central Hospital, Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Jagjiwan Nagar, Dhanbad	Neurology, Neuro-surgery Ophthalmology

1	2	3
2.	Central Hospital, Gandhinagar, Central Coalfield Limited	Gastroenterology (Lap. Surgery) and Nephrology)
3.	Central Hospital, Kalla, Eastern Coalfields Limited	Advanced Orthopedic Centre
4.	Nehru Shatabdi Central Hospital, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited Talcher	Urology
5.	Nehru Shatabdi Central Hospital, Northern Coalfields Limited, Singrauli.	Urology and Lithripsy

(c) The Super Speciality services in the respective hospitals may take about one year to start after the Competent authority has given its approval.

(d) CIL has all along taken steps to improve facilities for its workers. These include providing accommodation (satisfaction 91%), education, medical facilities through a large network of dispensaries, Ambulances and Hospitals, play grounds, Community Centres, etc.

Opening of Regional Medical Research Centres

1051.SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ICMR proposes to open Regional Medical Research Centres (RMRCs) in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the locations identified for setting up of the same and their main functions; and

(c) the time by which RMRCs are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) There is no proposal to create new RMRCs under ICMR.

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

Implementation of Projects under MPLADS

1052.SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether different development works under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme in various States of the country are being implemented at a slow pace;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The MPLAD Scheme is administered by a set of Guidelines in which the role, responsibility and authority of the Central Government, the State/UT Governments, the District Authority and the Implementing Agencies is well defined. The Government monitors the implementation status of the Scheme very closely through progress reports and other sources; and wherever slow progress is noted, prompt remedial action is taken.

(c) The Guidelines on MPLADS have been revised comprehensively and issued on 16th November, 2005 to make this Scheme more effective and transparent.

[Translation]

Migration of Technically Qualified Indians

1053.SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of Computer Engineers migrate from the country each year;

(b) if so, the approximate number of Indian students and other technically qualified Indians abroad at present, country-wise; and

(c) the foreign exchange being earned annually by the country on account of remittances?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) A large number of Computer Engineers go overseas for employment each year.

(b) The Protector General of Emigrants maintains data only of those emigrants who are Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders. Indian students and other technically qualified Indians do not fall under this category.

(c) Based on the NASSCOM estimates, total exports (both IT software and services) amounted to US\$ 23.6 Billion in the year 2005-06.

Construction Work on Bhopal-Jabalpur Road

1054. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the construction work of Bhopal-Jabalpur Road included in the first phase of National Highway Project is likely to be started and the time fixed for completion of the said project;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposals regarding construction of other National Highways passing through Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation of Central Road Fund in Madhya Pradesh; 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) Bhopal-Jabalpur section of NH-12 does not come under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I relating to Golden Quadrilateral. However, this section has been included in NHDP Phase-III-B for which preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has only been mandated by the Government so far. Hence it is too early to indicate any time frame for taking up this work.

(b) and (c) Requests for four laning of NH-7 passing through Jabalpur from MP/UP border to Lakhnadon have been received from State Government. It has been decided to get a feasibility study carried out at the first instance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Basic Amenities in Eleventh Plan

1055. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the action plan formulated for the Eleventh Five Year Plan to provide potable water and health services in rural areas;

(b) the State-wise details of the amount likely to be provided and programmes to be launched particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) The draft Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan which has been prepared for discussion with the State Governments and other stake holders and which has been placed on the web site of the Planning Commission to invite comments from the general public, envisages potable water in rural areas of all the States under Bharat Nirman by covering 55,067 uncovered

habitations, 2.8 lakh slipped back habitations and 2.17 lakh quality affected habitations by 2009 through Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). In the health services, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is expected to address the gaps in the provisions of effective health care to rural population with special focus on 18 States including Uttar Pradesh, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. Under the NRHM, each State/UT is to prepare its own Programme Implementation Plan based upon a meticulous analysis of ground realities and requirements. The amount to be allocated to each State under these programmes is linked to the finalization of Eleventh Five Year Plan.

BSNL/MTNL Services

1056.SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of services provided by the BSNL/MTNL and other service providers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of consumers who are getting benefits from their services;

(c) the details of basic telephones, WLL and Cellular telephone exchanges of BSNL operating in the country specially in Rajasthan, capacity-wise, location-wise;

(d) the details of telecom capacity addition plan likely to be executed in the country, location-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to open cellular phone service exchange in each Panchyat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) BSNL, MTNL and other private operators are providing the following services in the country:—

S.No.	Services Provided
1.	Land Line
2.	CDMA (WLL-fixed as well as WLL-mobile with limited mobility)
3.	GSM (pre-paid and post-paid with roaming, GPRS etc.)
4.	Broadband.
5.	Internet.
6.	Leased line and Virtual Private Network (VPN)

(b) The details of consumers who are getting benefits from the services of BSNL, MTNL and other service providers, as on 30.06.2006, are indicated below:—

S. Name of the No. Service	Number of Subscribers		
	BSNL	MTNI	Other Service Providers
1. Land Line	3,47,03,698	37,93,287	25,60,256
2. GSM	1,82,97,081	21,69,661	5,80,21,506
3. Broad Band	7,01,687	2,66,633	5,84,637
4. Internet	27,87,418	14,00,139	28,65,465
5. CDMA	27,18,308	1,38,468	3,07,74,772

(c) The details of total numbers of basic telephone exchanges, WLL and Cellular Telephone Exchange of MTNL and BSNL operating in the country (Telecom Circle-wise) are given in the statement-I and that of Rajasthan Telecom Circle (SSA-wise) is given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) The details of telecom capacity addition plan likely to be executed for the year 2006-07 are given

(Circle-wise) in the statement-III and that of Rajasthan Telecom Circle in the statement-IV enclosed.

(e) and (f) Sir, due to wide coverage of National/ State Highways and other important towns, many rural areas are getting incidental coverage of mobile service provided by BSNL. As on 30.06.2006, around 1,45,000 villages are getting coverage of BSNL mobile services in the country and 10,258 villages in Rajasthan. BSNL has made plans to extend its mobile services to all the villages having population greater than 5,000 in next financial year. In Rajasthan Telecom Circle, 308 villages having population more than 5,000 out of the total number 761 villages having population more than 5,000 have been covered by Cellular Mobile Services as on 30.06.2006 and the remaining villages having population more than 5,000 to be covered by the next financial year.

Statement I

*Technology-wise (Basic, WLL, Cellular)
Capacity of BSNL and MTNL*

S. No.	Name of Circle	Basic services	WLL services (radio capacity)	Cellular services (radio capacity)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	57754	4000	20000
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3983935	322250	1681680
3.	Assam	704372	69250	453400
4.	Bihar	1323476	144000	867370
5.	Chhattisgarh	429845	102750	122450
6.	Gujarat	3688741	215900	909600
7.	Haryana	1562312	98400	806345
8.	Himachal Pradesh	644010	55250	368397

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	413396	46250	495060
10.	Jharkhand	653616	74500	402644
11.	Karnataka	3458921	24600	1514874
12.	Kerala	4175982	537500	1665044
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1689438	243750	366900
14.	Maharashtra (excluding Mumbai)	5195356	367750	1117300
15.	North East - I	280856	18500	350458
16.	North East - II	207604	27250	
17.	Orissa	965856	104500	751572
18.	Punjab	2771349	196500	1240539
19.	Rajasthan	2280492	251250	1174870
20.	Tamil Nadu (excluding Chennai)	3480754	287500	1741506
21.	Uttaranchal	500500	59500	391511
22.	U.P. (East)	2324645	267250	2083550
23.	U.P. (West)	1748626	99000	869088
24.	West Bengal (excluding Kolkata)	1690035	121150	975500
25.	Kolkata	1748875	47000	628625
26.	Chennai	1431217	67060	812898
27.	MTNL Mumbai	2772337	511500	1225000
28.	MTNL Delhi	2801329	550000	1225000

Statement-II**Technology-wise (Wire, WLL, CMTS)****Capacity of Rajasthan Telecom Circle as on 30-06-2006**

S. No.	Name of SSA	Wired (lines)		WLL (lines)		CMTS	
		Total Nos. of Exchanges	Total Capacity (Lines)	Total Nos. of Exchanges	Total Capacity of all the BTSs (Lines)	Total Nos. BTSs	Total Radio Capacity (in Nos.) of all the BTSs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ajmer	95	126776	13	12500		
2.	Alwar	118	111864	14	12750		
3.	Banswara	78	60468	7	7500		
4.	Barmer	84	48104	10	7750		
5.	Bharatpur	82	80000	8	7000		
6.	Bhilwara	87	75316	16	14000		
7.	Bikaner	83	75070	6	5500		
8.	Bundi	41	23760	2	1750		
9.	Chittorgarh	62	54688	10	8500		
10.	Churu	102	70588	9	9000		
11.	Jaisalmer	36	18608	23	3000		
12.	Jaipur	211	376726	33	31500	1089	1174870
13.	Jhalawar	35	26396	7	5750		
14.	Jhunjhunu	76	78950	9	9000		
15.	Jodhpur	125	143652	17	16750		
16.	Kota	97	126970	14	11750		
17.	Nagaur	109	87620	18	17250		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18. Pali		146	112088	10	8250		
19. Sawaimadhopur		63	49392	10	7500		
20. Sikar		109	92840	10	11250		
21. Sirohi		131	86300	11	9750		
22. Sriganganagar		185	178908	22	18750		
23. Tonk		48	30736	4	3500		
24. Udaipur		143	143960	17	15000		

Statement-III

*Plan for capacity addition for 2006-07
(BSNL and MTNL)*

S. No.	Name of Circle	Wired lines	WLL lines	CMTS lines
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		400	1,000
2.	Andhra Pradesh		60600	500,000
3.	Assam		11200	30,000
4.	Bihar		60000	100,000
5.	Chhattisgarh		8100	400,000
6.	Gujarat		37000	900,000
7.	Haryana		34300	300,000
8.	Himachal Pradesh		16100	150,000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir		12600	100,000
10.	Jharkhand		17300	34,000

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Karnataka		84500	200,000
12.	Kerala		126600	175,000
13.	Madhya Pradesh		39100	700,000
14.	Maharashtra (excluding Mumbai)		94300	1,400,000
15.	North East - I		3300	60,000
16.	North East - II		4200	50,000
17.	Orissa		16200	200,000
18.	Punjab		56100	200,000
19.	Rajasthan		76100	600,000
20.	Tamil Nadu (excluding Chennai)		33700	800,000
21.	Uttaranchal		3900	100,000
22.	U.P. (East)		51900	900,000
23.	U.P. (West)		12300	300,000

1	2	3	4	5
24. West Bengal (excluding Kolkata)		85900	250,000	
25. Kolkata		50700	300,000	
26. Chennai		3600	250000	
Total (BSNL)		1,000,000	9,000,000	
27. MTNL Mumbai			800,000	
28. MTNL Delhi			800,000	
Total (MTNL)			1,600,000	

Statement-IV

*Plan for Capacity Addition in Rajasthan
Telecom Circle (BSNL)*

WLL (lines)

S. No.	Name of SSA	Total Nos. of BTSs	Total Capacity of all the BTSs (Lines)	CMTS Capacity Addition (Lines)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajmer	16	12000	
2.	Alwar	16	12000	
3.	Banswara	28	21000	
4.	Barmer	33	24750	
5.	Bharatpur	15	11250	
6.	Bhilwara	19	14250	
7.	Bikaner	33	24750	

1	2	3	4	5
8. Bundi		14	10500	
9. Chittorgarh		17	12750	
10. Churu		26	19500	
11. Jaisalmer		28	21000	
12. Jaipur		33	24750	6.0 lakh
13. Jhalawar		12	9000	
14. Jhunjhunu		8	6000	
15. Jodhpur		27	20250	
16. Kota		25	18750	
17. Nagaur		24	18000	
18. Pali		12	9000	
19. Sawaimadhopur		17	12750	
20. Sikar		28	21000	
21. Sirohi		30	22500	
22. Sriganganagar		17	12750	
23. Tonk		13	9750	
24. Udaipur		44	33000	
		535	401250	

Note : There is no plan for wireline capacity addition.

[English]

**Performance of Cell One in
Rural Areas**

1057.SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the performance of the Cell One is far from satisfactory;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the percentage of coverage by the Cell One in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh at present; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to improve the connectivity and performance of Cell One?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. The Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based cellular mobile service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is working satisfactorily and is in general meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

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

(c) Presently, 62% of the villages having population more than 2000 are having direct/incidental coverage of GSM based mobile services of BSNL in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) The cellular mobile network of BSNL is being continuously augmented and optimized for its performance. The network is also continuously monitored by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI. BSNL has, inter-alia, planned to cover all the villages having population greater than 2000 progressively and accordingly action for procurement of equipment has been initiated.

[Translation]

Linking of N.H. 3 with City Ring Road

1058.SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from Madhya Pradesh to link Murena National

Highway No. 3 with city ring road from A.B. road to Amba road and Gwalior road; and

(b) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Gwalior bypass (length 42 km.) connecting NH-3 and NH-75 is being constructed as part of North South Corridor on Built Operate Transfer (BOT) (Annuity) basis.

Bad Condition of National Highways In Uttaranchal

1059.MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of National Highways in Uttaranchal is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allocated for National Highways passing through Uttaranchal, year-wise, road-wise and work-wise during the last three years viz., 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) National Highways in Uttaranchal are maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(c) Funds are not allocated to the states, road-wise and workwise. Year-wise details of funds allocated for National Highways passing through Uttaranchal are as follows:

Year	Funds allocated (Rupees in Crores)
1	2
2004-05	39.04

1	2
2005-06	57.16
2006-07	49.52

[English]

Re-opening of Stilwel Road

1060.DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has taken up the matter of re-opening of Stilwel road for commercial use with Myanmar and China;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of study made, if any, on the feasibility and prospects of opening this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government is considering the commissioning of a pre-feasibility study on the matter of reopening of the Stilwell road.

Compliance Reports from Telecom Service Providers

1061.SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' :

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has decided to seek compliance reports on six parameters from all telecom service providers every year;

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

(c) the reaction of the private operators thereto;

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to the customers by such a move; and

(e) the efforts made by the TRAI to ensure better implementation of various consumer protection measures by the telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) TRAI has issued directions to telecom service providers to comply with 9 directions issued by it on ongoing basis on tariff matters pertaining to migration charges, recharge for cellular pre-paid subscribers, reporting requirement, fair advertisements, security deposits etc.

(c) The service providers have been given time till 31.07.2006 to file the first compliance report to this direction.

(d) This is to increase transparency, informed choice to the consumer and consumer protection on tariff matter.

(e) Various efforts made by TRAI to ensure better implementation of consumer protection measures inter-alia include the following:-

— TRAI has finalised a 'Common Charter of Telecommunication Services' with the mutual consent of service providers and the registered consumer organisations for adoption by telecom service providers. This Charter is of the nature of guidelines/directive principles of ensuring better service conditions for the subscribers and has been adopted by all the service providers.

— At the initiative of TRAI, the service providers have nominated nodal officers in all the service

areas for responding to consumer complaints. The names and addresses of these nodal officers are placed on the website of TRAI as well as the websites of the service providers.

- With a view to educating and creating awareness amongst the consumers, TRAI has been giving wide publicity to all its consumer protection measures. Apart from placing the details on the TRAI website www.traigov.in and issuing press releases, the Authority has also been publishing advertisements in all the leading newspapers indicating the salient features of the measures taken by TRAI to promote consumer interest.
- For protecting the interest of consumers TRAI has laid down Quality of Service norms in the form of a Regulation and the implementation of this Regulation is monitored on a regular basis through periodical performance reports, customer satisfaction surveys and objective assessment of QoS benchmarks through audit and live measurement by independent agency.
- TRAI also gets feedback on the implementation of various consumer protection measures by way of complaints from consumers / consumer organisation. Corrective action are taken whenever necessary.

National Centre of Governance

1062. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government has proposed to set up a National Centre of Governance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the proposed Centre is planned to function on the pattern of Kennedy School of

Government and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs;

- (d) if not, the details of plans in this regard;
- (e) whether the present course content at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Institute of Public Administration at Mussorie is proposed to be revised and updated to enhance the managerial skills of IAS cadre on a par with global standards; and
- (f) if so, the details of the nature of the proposals in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :
(a) to (d) The Inter-State Council in its meeting held on 28th June, 2005 considered the "Blue Print of Action Plan on Good Governance" and endorsed the 139 Point Action Plan which inter alia includes setting up of the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG). NCGG is envisioned to be a world-class institution in guiding good-governance reforms in India and the developing world.

(e) and (f) A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.V. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, IAS (Retd.), to review the syllabus of induction training at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) and District Training given to IAS Officers. The Committee is yet to submit its report to the Government.

Suicides by Indians in Gulf

1063. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether around 69 suicides by Indians have taken place in Gulf alone as reported in the *The Hindustan Times* dated May 15, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) As per information collated by Indian Embassies in Doha, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Muscat, Riyadh and Kuwait, a total of 269 suicides by Indian nationals took place in the Gulf in 2005, and 166 in 2006 till date. The reasons are manifold including personal, financial, family and work related.

Details of suicides in major countries of the Gulf are as follows:-

Name of Mission/ Country	2005	2006- till date	Total
Qatar	3	6	9
UAE	100	69	169
Bahrain	23	11	234
Oman	44	23	67
Saudi Arabia	69	37	106
Kuwait	30	20	50
Grand Total	269	166	435

(c) In order to promote the welfare of overseas Indian communities in countries of the Gulf, Indian Missions have designated officers to look after community welfare. Towards this end, the Missions by themselves and in concert with Community Welfare Associations facilitate social and cultural activities, alongwith provision of counseling and legal assistance. Some Missions also hold 'Open House' once a month at which any Indian national is free to discuss with senior officials of the Mission any kind of personal or work related problem.

In India, it has been made mandatory w.e.f. 15.11.2003 for the Recruiting Agents to submit all the employment

documents, viz., demand letter, power of attorney and specimen employment contract in original for obtaining emigration clearance. Further, in respect of vulnerable categories such as unskilled labour, housemaids/domestic workers, these employment documents are also required to be attested by the concerned Indian Mission(s).

Atomic Energy Plants In Gujarat

1064.SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHA MADAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government plans to set up in joint venture two Atomic Energy Plants of 1000 Megawatts capacity in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of India has set up a Site Selection Committee (SSC) to evaluate sites for locating future nuclear power plants. The SSC is currently evaluating sites in state of Gujarat, amongst other coastal states. The details and modalities of setting up of 1000 Mwe nuclear power plants will, however, depend on the developments with regard to opening up of international civil nuclear energy co-operation.

Demerger of Surplus Land of VSNL

1065.SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks with Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited are on regarding demerger of surplus land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of surplus land available with VSNL indicating the names of the States in which such land is located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The matter of "Demerger of surplus land of VSNL" is actively being pursued with VSNL (Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited).

(b) As per Share Holder's Agreement (SHA), the strategic partner namely, PFL (Panatone Finvest Limited), a Tata group company, has formed a realty company, namely HPIL (Hemisphere Properties India Limited), to which the surplus land is to be demerged. M/s. PFL/VSNL have raised certain issues regarding liabilities for duties/Taxes etc. The Government is in process of taking decision in this respect so that "Scheme of demerger" could be finalized.

(c) The details of surplus land available with VSNL indicating the names of the states in which such land is located is given as under:-

S. No.	Location	Area of the Land Declared Surplus (In Acre)	State
1.	Dighi-Pune	524.00	Maharashtra
2.	Halishshar-Calcutta	35.19	West Bengal
3.	Chattarpur-New Delhi	58.00	Delhi-NCT
4.	Greater Kailash-New Delhi	70.00	Delhi-NCT
5.	Padiananllur-Chennai	85.94	Tamil Nadu
Total		773.13	

Study on Transportation by RITES

1066.SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has asked Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. to conduct

a study on transportation as reported in the *Financial Express* dated July 5, 2006;

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

(c) the present traffic flow in all the mechanised modes of transportation alongwith the cost; and

(d) the time by which the RITES is likely to submit its report?

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

(b) and (c) Details regarding present traffic flows in all the mechanized modes of transportation alongwith the cost are not available. The ongoing Total Transport System Study will generate traffic flows covering the four major mechanized modes of transport — railways, highways, airways and shipping and also forecast mode-wise traffic demand for specified horizon years upto 2025-2026. The Study will also help to analyze inter-modal transport resource costs and determine optimal inter modal mix.

(d) RITES is likely to submit its report by mid 2007.

Disposal of Complaints by CVC

1067.SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has been entrusted to look into the gravity of complaints sent to them;

(b) if so, whether the action as required, is initiated;

(c) if not, the reason therefor;

(d) whether the CVC has also fixed some time-frame to dispose of the complaints which are directly or indirectly received by its office;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) to (f) Section 8(1)(d) of the CVC Act 2003 empowers the Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause an inquiry or investigation to be made into any complaint against any official under its jurisdiction. However, in view of the large number of complaints received by the Commission, most of which are non-vigilance in nature (and to be handled by the Admn. Deptts. of the respective Ministries) or regarding matters/officials not under its jurisdiction, the Commission has formulated a complaints handling policy. As per this, only complaints of vigilance nature are taken up for investigation. The investigation is usually carried out through the Chief Vigilance Officer of the concerned organization, and a time limit of 3 months has been fixed for submission of the investigation report to the Commission.

Setting up of National Statistical Commission

1068. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up the National Statistical Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which it will come into force?

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

(b) In a Resolution dated 1st June, 2005 the Government of India has decided to set up the National

Statistical Commission (NSC). The NSC will serve as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country.

(c) The National Statistical Commission has been constituted through a notification dated 3rd July, 2006 and has come into force with effect from 12th July, 2006.

[Translation]

Issuance of Passports by Pakistan

1069. YOGI ADITYANATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Pakistan has allegedly issued passports to the terrorists to visit India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has apprised Pakistan of this matter; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (d) There have been some instances of persons suspected of terrorism being found to be carrying Pakistani passports. Government has, in its interaction with Pakistan at all levels, continuously stressed the fact that Pakistan needs to take effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism on a permanent basis. Government has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is based is the commitment of January 6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. Pakistan has always denied the presence of terrorist training camps in Pakistan and in the territory under its control.

Supply of Anti-Ship Missile to Pak

1070. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the American Government has proposed to supply Anti-Ship Missile "Harpoon" to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the number of such missiles likely to be given to Pakistan;

(c) the features of these Harpoon Missiles;

(d) whether the said supply is likely to pose a threat to the strategic balance in region; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) has notified the US Congress of a possible sale to Pakistan of Harpoon Block II Anti Ship Missiles as well as associated equipment and services. Pakistan has requested for sale of 50 UGM-84L (submarine-launched), 50 RGM-84L (Surface-launched), and 360 AGM-84L (air-launched) Block II Harpoon missiles, 5 Encapsulated Harpoon Command Launch Systems, and related support equipment and services.

(c) The Harpoon is an all weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile system, with a low-level, sea-skimming cruise trajectory and active radar guidance. The missile has a range in excess of 67 nautical miles and a 500-pound blast warhead.

(d) In its Congressional notification, US DSCA has stated that the proposal sale of this equipment will not affect the basic military balance in the region. Nevertheless, Government is concerned at Pakistan acquiring advanced weaponry that might be used against India.

(e) The Government has engaged and will continue to engage US Government to limit sale of advanced military technology to Pakistan which could be used against India. Government would also continue to modernize and equip Indian armed forces to deal with all threats to national security.

Alleged Financial Irregularities in ICCR

1071. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has unearthed alleged financial irregularities in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether people have been allegedly sent abroad illegally in the guise of cultural troupes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (d) The matter relating to the alleged past financial irregularities in the ICCR, including with regard to the sending of one cultural troupe abroad, has been entrusted to the CBI, whose investigation is still ongoing.

[English]

Review of Utilisation of Funds

1072. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to review the utilization of funds allocated to States to increase power generation capacity;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for this purpose to each State during the last three years;

(c) the States which have not made any significant addition in power generation capacity;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to impose any penalties on these States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The funds allocated by the State Governments under their State Plans for power sector including funding for adding generation capacity for years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) In the ensuing Tenth Plan period (2002-07), a target addition of 11,157 MW capacity was envisaged for the State sector, against which in the first four years of the X Plan period, an addition of 4574 MW capacity has been achieved. A statement-II showing Statewise targets for the Xth Plan and actual achievement in the first four years is enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise in view of response to (d).

Statement-I

State-wise allocation for Power Sector

(Rs. Crores)

S. No.	State/UTs	2003-04 (Appd.)	2004-05 (Appd.)	2005-06 (Appd.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2175.55	2125.86	515.51
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	114.52	155.30	80.73
3.	Assam	191.42	290.48	586.29
4.	Bihar	493.68	667.88	476.54
5.	Chhattisgarh	30.81	157.17	100.00
6.	Goa	71.82	98.99	111.52

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	762.24	635.45	830.49
8.	Haryana	280.00	470.00	445.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	155.70	57.50	115.83
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	611.29	719.89	1153.41
11.	Jharkhand	204.50	380.63	401.37
12.	Karnataka	1094.94	2711.89	1849.73
13.	Kerala	619.00	693.00	750.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	814.75	916.92	1322.97
15.	Maharashtra	413.48	382.43	711.63
16.	Manipur	71.00	61.20	57.90
17.	Meghalaya	118.08	157.11	213.00
18.	Mizoram	45.40	57.86	61.26
19.	Nagaland	46.60	65.48	63.45
20.	Orissa	671.21	502.25	795.71
21.	Punjab	576.00	783.92	955.75
22.	Rajasthan	1186.00	1816.18	1905.76
23.	Sikkim	39.50	90.75	36.40
24.	Tamil Nadu	1294.81	1255.53	1362.36
25.	Tripura	53.87	43.69	52.34
26.	Uttar Pradesh	965.83	835.78	710.09
27.	Uttaranchal	310.67	253.84	327.77

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
28. West Bengal		1222.74	1567.48	2078.55	4. Daman and Diu	12.71		10.44	12.98
Sub Total (States)		14635.41	17954.46	18071.36	5. Delhi	1462.25		932.50	486.54
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		25.00	29.10	25.00	6. Lakshadweep	2.00		2.09	8.21
2. Chandigarh		19.60	19.95	28.64	7. Pondicherry	27.00		28.00	34.00
3. Dadra and Nagar Havelli		12.81	9.36	9.42	Sub Total (UTs)	1561.37		1031.44	604.79
					Total (States and UTs)	16196.78		18985.90	18676.15

Statement-II**State-wise Details of Tenth Plan Capacity Addition during (2002-2006)**

(in MW)

S. No.	State/UTs	Tenth Plan Target	Annual Capacity Addition				Annual capacity addition (first 4 years of the Tenth Plan) 2002-06
		2002-07	2002-03 (Actual)	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Actual)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	948	300	150	0	0	450
2.	Assam	138	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Chhattisgarh	420	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Delhi	226	226	0	0	0	226
5.	Gujarat	664	16	107	181	325	629
6.	Haryana	500	0	0	500	0	500
7.	Himachal Pradesh	192	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	450	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Jharkhand	210	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Karnataka	1000	210	15	165	110	500
11.	Kerala	100	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Manipur	18	18	0	0	0	18
13.	Meghalaya	132	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Mizoram	103	0	0	23	0	23
15.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1422	92	0	200	456	748
17.	Maharashtra	892	27	0	95	216	338
18.	Orissa	150	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Pondicherry	100	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Punjab	668	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Rajasthan	660	75	445	0	0	520
22.	Tamil Nadu	434	94	100	0	150	344
23.	Tripura	42	42	0	0	21	63
24.	Uttaranchal	304	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	710	0	0	0	210	210
26.	West Bengal	670	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	0	0	6	0	6
Overall State Sector		11157	1100	817	1169	1488	4574

[Translation]

Irregularities in CIL

1073. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has in its latest report indicated irregularities in working of subsidiaries of the Coal India Ltd. (CIL);

(b) whether Government has incurred loss due to delay in completion of several projects of these companies;

- (c) if so, the details thereof subsidiary-wise; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The CAG in their report for the year 2004-05 had made certain observation as follows:—

- Incorrect assessment of power requirement in Eastern Coalfields Limited.
- Avoidable revenue loss due to consumption of steel grade coal for boiler in Bharat Coking Coal Limited.
- Unfruitful investment on Captive Power Plant at Kathara and avoidable expenditure due to non-synchronization of Captive Power Plants in Central Coalfields Limited.
- Avoidable extra expenditure towards payment of excess statutory dues in Northern Coalfields Limited.
- Avoidable loss due to delay in installation of weighbridges in Western Coalfields Limited.
- Wasteful expenditure resulting in blocking of funds in South Eastern Coalfields Limited.
- Avoidable payment of interest due to short payment of advance income tax in Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited.
- Delay in project implementation in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited etc.

(b) The CAG report has observed that the implementation of advance action plan of 7 projects of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) could not be completed in time which may adversely affect the project completion schedule.

(c) and (d) The present status of the 7 projects of

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited mentioned in the CAG report is as follows:-

- Basundhara (W) OC, Bhubaneswari OC, Kaniha OC and Kulda OC — All are sanctioned projects and are on schedule as on date.
- Garjanbahal OC — EMP has been cleared. The Project Report is also cleared by PIB. Only final approval of Government is awaited. The schedule for 1st year of production is during the XI Plan.
- Preparation of PR for Talabera III OC and Gopalprasad OC — is getting delayed due to delay in finalisation of proposal of Joint Venture with captive block allocation, requirement of re-casting of Project Report due to various reasons and the same are being attended to. These projects are scheduled for production during the XI Plan.

[English]

**Employment Generation Not Keeping
Pace with Liberalisation**

1074.SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

DR. M. JAGANNATH :

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

(a) whether preliminary data for the fifth economic census released recently has revealed that the employment generation has not kept pace with the liberalization as employment in the non-agricultural sector grew only 2.5% while enterprises engaged in the service and manufacturing grew by 4.8% during 1998-2005;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether labour laws have played a vital part in lesser growth of employment in these sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or

being taken by the Government to ensure that employment keep pace with the growth in the number of enterprises engaged in service and manufacturing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) and (b) The Fifth Economic Census 2005 covered all the enterprises (excluding those involved in crop production and plantation) engaged in production and/or distribution of goods and/or services other than for the sole purpose of own consumption. As per the provisional results, the overall average annual growth rate in the enterprises during the period 1998-2005 was 4.8%. The corresponding growth rate in total employment was 2.49%.

(c) and (d) Labour laws aim at protecting the interest of workers and promote their welfare. It is difficult to establish any direct relation between labour laws and employment growth.

[Translation]

Pesticides in Bottled Drinking Water

1075. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the presence of pesticides inside the bottled drinking water of various brands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards is contemplating to change the parameters of testing in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) The maximum tolerance limits for

pesticide residues in packaged drinking water has been prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955. The standards prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955 are mandatory. The maximum tolerance limits for pesticide residues are as follow:—

(i) Pesticide Residues considered Individually	Not more than 0.001mg/litre (The analysis shall be conducted by using internationally established test methods meeting the residue limits specified herein.
(ii) Total Pesticide Residues	Not more than 0.005mg/litre (The analysis shall be conducted by using internationally established test methods meeting the residue limits specified herein.

The implementation of PFA Act, 1954 and the Rules, 1955 is with the State/Union Territory Governments. The State Health Authorities take samples and take appropriate action against manufacture/sale of bottled drinking water contravening PFA Rules, 1955.

[English]

Condition of National Highways

1076. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of National Highway Nos. 101, 24, 1 and 2 is bad and no action is being taken to improve their condition;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps 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) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

S. No.	NH No.	Condition of National Highway	Action Taken
1	2	3	4
1.	101	Out of total length of 65 km, 35 km is in bad condition due to large potholes and erosion of top bituminous surface and balance 30 km is in traffic worthy condition.	The work of widening to two lane amounting to Rs.29.98 crore have been sanctioned for improvement of these 35 km.
2.	24	The road is in traffic worthy condition.	Road is maintained in traffic worthy condition. Four laning of Lucknow-Sitapur section have been taken up.
3.	1	The road is in traffic worthy condition.	Road is maintained in traffic worthy condition. Widening of Jalandhar-Amritsar section have been taken up.
4.	2	Road is in traffic condition except some portion between Barwa	The road is being maintained in traffic worthy condition. NH-2 is a part of Golden

1	2	3	4
		Adda to Panagarh in West Bengal.	Quadrilateral of the National Highways Development Project and four laning works have been taken up.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to Brick Manufacturers

1077. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate a policy for supply of coal to brick manufacturers through the State and district level units of the Government recognized All India Brick and Tile Manufacturers Federation (AIBTMF), New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any representations from the AIBTMF and public representatives in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) All India Brick and Tile Manufacturers Federation (AIBTMF) have submitted requests inter alia for allocation of reasonable quantity and institutional arrangement for supply of coal to brick kiln on sponsorship basis.

Coal was earlier supplied to Brick kiln on the basis of sponsorship received from the State Authorities under Open Sales Scheme (OSS). The Hon'ble High Court, Kolkata, however, set aside the policy. Therefore, keeping in view the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata, a new scheme namely e-marketing which is a transparent and consumer friendly scheme, open to consumers and non-consumers who can participate and bid for the quantity as per their requirement from their preferred source has been introduced. CIL has allocated 36 million tonnes of coal to be sold under this scheme during the current financial year. Further, Coal India Limited has also been directed to market 5 million tonnes of coal for supply to very small and tiny industrial unit through State Government Undertakings and NCCF at 20% above the notified price. The measures taken by the Government for supply of coal as stated above would meet the requirements of Brick Kilns.

[English]

Re-opening Consulate in Lahore

1078.SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to re-open its consulate in Lahore as well as set up a trading mission in Yatung after the opening of Nathula Border; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) There are no such proposals.

Funds for Buckingham Canal

1079.SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has allocated any funds for Buckingham Canal for navigation purposes from Vijayawada to Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The declaration of Bhadrachalama-Rajahmundry stretch of River Godavari alongwith Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of River Krishna integrated with Kakinada Canal, Eluru Canal, Commamur Canal and Buckingham Canal, which includes the stretch from Vijayawada to Chennai, as a National Waterway is under consideration of the Government. Funds will be allocated for development of this waterway on declaration as a National Waterway.

[Translation]

Changes in System of Writing ACRs

1080.SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to make changes in the system of writing of annual Confidential reports (ACRs) for officers belonging to higher categories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government had constituted any Committee to review the existing system of writing Confidential Reports;

(d) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted any report in this regard;

(e) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(f) the time by which the recommendations of the said Committee are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to make changes in the system of writing of Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs)

and to replace with the system of performance appraisal report for officers belonging to the All India Services. The broad contours of the system include use of the performance appraisal for career planning and training, preparation of work plan, health check up, numerical grading, integrity certificate, maintenance of comprehensive Personal Dossier, disclosure of the report and constitution of the Referral Board to decide representations from officers on performance assessment etc.

(c) to (f) A group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Surinder Nath, former Chairman, Union Public Service Commission to review the system of Performance Appraisal, Promotion, Empanelment and placement for the All India Services and other Group 'A' Services in 2002. The Group submitted its report in July, 2003. The major recommendations of the Group relate to the use of performance appraisal for the overall development of the officers and for his/her placement in an area where his/her abilities and potential can be used to best advantage.

The performance appraisal system for All India Services is scheduled to be implemented from the assessment year 2007-08.

[English]

Extension of National Highway No. 74

1081. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the extension of National Highway No.74 (Pilibhit-Puranpur-Khutar-Gola Road) was sanctioned during the year 2003;

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

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any time bound scheme to start the work in the current year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Pilibhit - Puranpur - Khutar - Gola road is not a National Highway.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Social Security Measures for Sportspersons

1082. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has implemented any scheme for the youth active in the field of sports as a social security measure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) to (c) The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports is implementing the following two schemes for the welfare of sportspersons:-

1. **National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons**— The National Welfare Fund for sportspersons was set up primarily to assist outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears, who are living in indigent circumstances. Under the above scheme, sportspersons living in indigent circumstances are eligible for a monthly pension upto Rs.2500/- per month. In addition lump-sum financial assistance upto Rs. 40,000/- for medical treatment in case of injury and upto Rs.1.00 lakh for sportspersons who suffer from fatal injury in the course of

participation in sports events or during training are envisaged.

2. Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons— Under the scheme, pension is given to sportspersons who win medals in Olympics Games, World Cup/World Championships, Asian/Commonwealth and Paralympics Games.

[English]

Widening of National Highway No. 22

1083.SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA :
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :

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

- (a) the status of works of widening of the Ambala-Zirakpur Section of National Highway No.22 to four lane;
- (b) the time by which it is likely to be completed; and
- (c) the status of all the Road Projects undertaken in Punjab with Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Four laning of Ambala-Zirakpur Section of National Highway No. 22 is being executed by National Highways Authority of India on Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis. The Concession Agreement was signed on 16th November, 2005. The work is in progress and likely to be completed by November 2008.

- (c) 100 Nos. of works amounting to about Rs.257 crore under Central Road Fund Scheme have been sanctioned. 84 No. of works have been completed and 16 No. of works are under progress. 3 Nos. of works amounting to about Rs.16.00 crore under Inter State Connectivity have been sanctioned. These are in various stages of progress.

Steps to Check Network Congestion

1084.SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the network congestion in mobile networks is increasing and causing serious inconveniences to mobile users and TRAI has allegedly hauled up the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in this regard as reported in *The Economic Times* dated July 3, 2006;

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

(c) 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) and (b) Sir, Congestion level in the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based cellular mobile network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in general within the benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of Indian (TRAI).

As regards the said newspaper report, BSNL had received letter from TRAI with regard to congestion at Point of Interconnection (POI). The list of POIs with congestion as forwarded by TRAI contained quite a small percentage of number of locations where POIs exist. The position of BSNL in this regard was clarified to TRAI. BSNL has taken number of steps to streamline the procedures for providing POIs and many of the POIs are currently being provided within 90 days to 120 days time though the interconnection agreement between BSNL and the private operators provide a time frame of 12 months.

Many a times provision of POI is delayed even if BSNL has made necessary arrangements, due to the non-readiness of the private operators. Operators are also continuously announcing new tariff plans which lead to spurt in traffic and thereby congestion in some places. Additional POI capacity required cannot

be provided immediately as due process has to be followed.

BSNL has also requested private operators to give their demand forecast so that advance planning for procurement of equipment, need for provision of POIs, can be done to the extent feasible.

(c) Following action have been taken by the Government in this regard.

- (i) Holding periodic meetings with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the private Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) to facilitate provision of interconnection.
- (ii) Pursuing with local authorities for expeditious clearance of cell sites.

New Uranium Processing Plants

1085. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up New Uranium Processing Plants particularly in Orissa and Jharkhand;

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

(c) the time by which these plants are likely to be set up and commissioned?

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

(b) New Uranium Processing Plants are proposed to be set up in the following locations:-

- (i) Banduhurang in Singhbhum (East) district of Jharkhand.
- (ii) Seripally in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) Tummaalapalle in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh;

(iv) Mawthabah in the West Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya.

(v) At Chatrapur in Ganjam district of Orissa, a monazite processing plant to recover both Uranium and Thorium values.

(c) The processing plant at Banduhurang is expected to be commissioned by the end of this year. In respect of the other plants, various pre-project activities are going on. The execution of the projects will be taken up only after all statutory clearances are obtained and an investment decision is taken by Government.

Preparations for Beijing Olympics

1086. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the preparations have been started for the country's representation in the Beijing Olympics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to systematically monitor the progress made in this regard; and

(e) if not, the alternative plans/arrangements to be made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) to (c) The development of sports and scouting and nurturing of talent in various sports disciplines including preparation of sportspersons and teams is primarily the responsibility of the National Sports Federation (NSF) concerned. However, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the NSFs by providing financial assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training by Indian and foreign coaches, participation in international events abroad, holding of international and national tournaments in the country, sending teams abroad

for training-cum-participation in international tournaments etc., as per programmes agreed to in the Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs).

Accordingly, preparation of teams/sportspersons for major international events like Asian/Commonwealth/SAF/Olympic Games is an ongoing process. Long-Term Development (LTDP) over the four-year cycle for each discipline are made by the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned in consultation with the Sports Authority of India (SAI). These LTDPs are reviewed every year by SAI in consultation with NSF concerned and revised on the basis of the performance of teams in various international/national events.

Besides this, financial assistance is also provided to outstanding sportspersons for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within country and abroad under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training and 'National Sports Development Fund.'

(d) and (e) The performance of teams/sportspersons and the LTDPs are reviewed regularly.

Projects Launched under MPLADS

1087.SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects launched during the last three years for which funds have been provided from Members of Parliament Local Areas Development Scheme;

(b) whether funds allocated for schemes under MPLADS during 2005-06 were not fully disbursed to the districts;

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

(d) the details of the funds actually disbursed to States, State-wise during the last two years; and

(e) the time by which the remaining funds are likely to be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) Under the Member of Parliament Local Areas Development Scheme, projects are sanctioned by respective District Authorities on the recommendation of the concerned Member of Parliament. The District Authorities have been requested to upload MPLADS works, particularly in the website www.mplads.gov.in. Some works details are already available in the website. The Ministry monitors only the number of works recommended, sanctioned and completed. As per available records, the number of works recommended, sanctioned and completed during the last 3 years are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) During 2005-06 the Budget Provision was Rs.1580 crore Rs.1433.90 crore have been disbursed. The funds could not be fully disbursed as the Model Code of Conduct was imposed in five states/UTs due to Assembly elections.

(d) The details of State-wise release of funds in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) The MPLADS funds are non-lapsable. The funds not released by the Government of India in the year will be carried forward for making releases in subsequent years subject to the fulfillment of eligibility conditions prescribed in MPLADS Guidelines.

Statement-I

Year	Works recommended	Works sanctioned	Works completed.
2003-04	117069	108932	91415
2004-05	81472	65356	112225
2005-06	81152	77045	77617
Total	279693	241333	271257

Statement-II

Amount Released (Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	State	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	112	101.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	6
3.	Assam	43	35
4.	Bihar	84.5	100.05
5.	Goa	4	7
6.	Gujarat	55.5	70
7.	Haryana	26.5	27
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13	17
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	23.3
10.	Karnataka	65	85
11.	Kerala	21.5	39
12.	Madhya Pradesh	79.5	78
13.	Maharashtra	110.5	117
14.	Manipur	6	6
15.	Meghalaya	6	7
16.	Mizoram	4	4
17.	Nagaland	3	5
18.	Orissa	52.5	61
19.	Punjab	34	37
20.	Rajasthan	66.5	71

1	2	3	4
21.	Sikkim	5	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	117.5	103
23.	Tripura	6	6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	207	215.5
25.	West Bengal	65.5	91.5
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	2
27.	Chandigarh	4	1
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3
29.	Daman Diu	2	2
30.	Delhi	17	17.05
31.	Lakshadweep	1	2
32.	Pondicherry	1	1
33.	Chhattisgarh	30	32
34.	Uttaranchal	18.5	16
35.	Jharkhand	27.5	41
Total		1310.00	1433.90

Investment in Shipbuilding Sector

1088. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI RAO :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to invest around Rs.7,000 crore in the shipbuilding section to

modernize infrastructure and the research design base as reported in the *Hindu* dated May 20, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up two international size shipyards on east coast and west coast; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount likely to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Under the National Maritime Development Programme, revival of Hindustan Shipyard Limited and Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, modernization and enhancing capacity of the public sector shipyards, setting up of two

international shipyards and strengthening of National Ship Design and Research Centre to enhance its design and research capabilities have been envisaged. A statement giving details of proposed investment in the shipbuilding sector to modernize infrastructure and the research design base is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal under the National Maritime Development Programme for setting up of two international size shipyards, one on the East Coast and the other in the West Coast. A Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Indian Ports Association to identify locations and measures for facilitating setting up of two international size shipyards has submitted its report which is under examination. The investment estimated for these shipyards is about Rs. 3000 crore.

Statement

(Rupees in Crore)

S. No.	Project Head	No. of Project	Funding Pattern			Total
			Budgetary Support	IEBR	Pvt/Others	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	(a) Capital restructuring and revival of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL)	2	814.50	—	—	814.50
	(b) Modernisation of HSL		261.00	—	—	261.00
2.	(a) Revival of Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd. (HDPEL)	2	390.09	—	—	390.00
	(b) Modernisation of HDPEL		170.00	—	—	170.00
3.	Cochin Shipyard Ltd.	2				
	(a) Small Ship repair Division		—	160.00	—	160.00
	(b) Augmentation of facilities in Cochin Shipyard Ltd.		—	800.00	—	800.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Strengthening of National Ship Design and Research Centre to enhance its design and research capabilities	1	100.00	—	—	100.00
5.	Setting up of two international size shipyards	1	1500.00	—	1500.00	3000.00
6.	Private investments in existing private sector yards	—	—	—	1500.00	1500.00
Grand Total			3235.59	960.00	3000.00	7195.59

[Translation]

**Enhance Growth Rate in Agriculture/
Infrastructure Sector**

1089.SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has initiated plan to enhance the growth rate in agriculture sector and basic infrastructure sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the growth rate in these sectors during the last five years till date; and

(c) the details of the action plan to enhance the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) Plans to enhance the growth rate of agriculture sector and basic infrastructure are contained in the Five Year Plans. Presently, the directions given in the Tenth Five Year Plan and the Mid-Term Appraisal to the Tenth Plan are being followed. Both these documents are available in the Parliament Library. The Eleventh Five Year Plan covering the period 2007-08 to to 2011-12 has not been formulated.

The growth rate in the agriculture sector and basic infrastructure during the last five years as per the National Income Accounts brought out by the Central Statistical

Organization, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation are given in the table below:—

*Growth Rate in Agriculture and Basic
Infrastructure Sectors*

(at constant prices, 1999-2000 Base Year)

Sector	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Agriculture	0.0	6.2	-6.9	10.0	0.7
Infrastructure					
(i) Elect. Gas and Water Supply	2.0	1.7	4.8	4.8	4.3
(ii) Construction*	6.1	4.0	7.7	10.9	12.5
(iii) Railways	4.1	7.4	6.1	5.0	7.2
(iv) Transport by other means	7.7	4.0	10.3	11.9	12.6
(v) Storage	6.1	0.6	-4.4	5.4	2.0
(vi) Communication	26.9	19.5	25.7	26.0	21.3

Note: *'Construction' is included in infrastructure since construction of roads etc. is accounted under this head.

[English]

Benefits to NRIs for Investment

1090. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether benefits are extended to NRIs for investing in the Non-Governmental Sectors educational fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any tax rebate for them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for investment from Non-Resident Indian (NRIs) in non-governmental sectors, wherein most of the sectors including educational fields are open to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the automatic route. Under the FDI policy, the facilities available to NRIs are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

1. Non-Resident Indian (NRIs) can invest upto 100% under the automatic route in the Housing and Real Estate Development for the following activities:-

- Development of serviced plots and construction of built up residential premises;
- Investment in real estate covering construction of residential and commercial premises including business centres and offices;
- Development of townships;

- City and regional level urban infrastructure facilities, including roads and bridges;
- Investment in participatory ventures in the above activities; and
- Investment in housing finance intuitions.

2. NRIs can invest upto 100% in Indian companies engaged in Air Taxi Operation. (For foreign companies Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted only up to 49%)

Other facilities for NRI

In addition to the investments under the FDI policy, NRIs can also invest under other schemes under various Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Regulations in the following activities/sectors:-

- Mutual Funds.
- Investment in PSU Bonds.
- Investments upto 100% equity in proprietary/partnerships concerns, except in agricultural/plantation activity or real estate business. (Foreign companies are not allowed to invest in partnership firms/proprietary concerns).
- Portfolio Investment Schemes: NRIs are permitted to invest in shares and debentures through secondary market purchases from the stock exchanges under the portfolio scheme. Investment limits are 5% and 10% respectively. These limits are over and above the Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) portfolio investment limits so as to ensure that NRI investments are not crowded out by FIIs.
- NRIs can acquire immovable property, other than agricultural land/plantation property/farm house and transfer such property to a resident, another NRI.

Road Projects in Andhra Pradesh

1091. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any new projects other than the Golden Quadrilateral in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years;

(b) if so, the status of such projects;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from Andhra Pradesh to increase the length of National Highways passing through the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) In addition to Golden Quadrilateral following four laning proposals have been identified/taken up:-

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase II (North South Corridor) | Total length identified is 771 km. out of which 39 km. has already been widened to four lanes and the work of four laning in 345 km. is in progress. For the balance length the process of award of work is in progress. |
| 2. National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase IIIA | Total length identified is 285 km. The preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress. |
| 3. National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase IIIB | Total length identified is 222 km. The preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress. The Government have approved only the |

pre-paration of DPR for these projects.

4. Non (NHDP) stretches A length of 35 km. has been four-laned.

In addition to the above, the improvement works in a length of 1746 km. and construction of 55 number of bridges have been completed on various National Highways at a cost of Rs.486.00 crore in the last five years.

(c) and (d) Seventeen proposals covering a length of 4590 km. of State Roads have been received from Andhra Pradesh for their conversion into National Highways.

[Translation]

Deaths Caused by Anopheles

1092. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the number of deaths caused by Anopheles in all the districts of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for the assistance in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government is considering to supply DDT to the Government of Jharkhand; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Anopheles is a vector mosquito which transmits malaria virus. The district-wise reported deaths due to malaria are:-

Name of the Districts	Death			
	2003	2004	2005	2006*
Gumla	11	12	9	1
Godda	0	27	5	0
Deoghar	0	1	0	0
Lohardaga	0	0	1	0
West Singhbhum	0	0	5	0
Palamau	0	0	1	0
Latehar	1	0	0	0
Garhwa	1	0	0	0
Total	13	40	21	1

*Upto April.

(c) The annual action plan is submitted by the state of Jharkhand every year. Based on the technical requirements of the State and discussion with the State Programme Officer, funds to the tune of Rs.77.19 lakhs and Rs.146.50 lakhs have been released to the State under the Enhanced Malaria Control Project during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The State of Jharkhand has been included under the Global Fund supported intensified Malaria Control Project for augmentation of malaria control activities. Over and above this, the State also receives commodity support from the Union Government in the form of anti-malaria drugs, bednets and insecticides.

(d) and (e) DDT (50% WDP) is used for Indoor Residual Spray for the control of vector mosquitoes. Based on the technical requirement of the State of Jharkhand, the following quantities of DDT have been supplied during last three years.

Year	Quantity Supplied
2003-04	672.00
2004-05	640.00
2005-06	800.00

[English]

Complaints against Telephone and Mobile Services of BSNL

1093.SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :
 SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
 SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :
 SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :

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

(a) whether a number of complaints have been received from the customers in regard to the telephone and mobile service of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the total number of complaints received by the Government State-wise, location-wise; and

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

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

(b) Information about number of complaints received for basic services and mobile services during the last one year, telecom circle-wise is given in the enclosed statement-I. (Telecome Circles are generally co-terminus with the States of the Union of India).

(c) The action taken/proposed to be taken is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Complaints

Name of the Telecom Circle	Complaints Reg. Basic Telephone 1-7-2005 to 30-6-2006	Complaints Reg. Mobile Phones 1-7-2005 to 30-6-2006
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	57416	3663
Andhra Pradesh	3673002	39903
Assam	523643	29101
Bihar	1138405	51028
Chattisgarh	350228	19193
Gujarat	2999484	169822
Haryana	1067107	51299
Himachal Pradesh	634989	15879
Jammu and Kashmir	510301	53485
Jharkhand	436872	11973
Karnataka	2911651	117827
Kerala	4247559	31510
Madhya Pradesh	738556	82789
Maharashtra	4721628	304939
North East-I	91940	3030
North East-II	129315	6587
Orissa	753247	10728

1	2	3
Punjab	2261924	37868
Rajasthan	1882115	72616
Tamil Nadu	1748515	55300
Uttar Pradesh (East)	1758941	135089
Uttar Pradesh (West)	1482207	57239
Uttaranchal	474266	82121
West Bengal	33409	49011
Kolkata	2547297	127321
Chennai	1109390	156669

Statement-II

Action taken/proposed to be taken

(A) Customer Care

- Easy Accessibility to field level Officers.
- Toll free services : 198 for fault booking, 1094/1095 for lodging grievances at Circle office/ Metro districts.
- Lodging grievances in PG cell at all SSAs besides Circle office. PG Nodal Officers at all SSAs and Circles Offices have been nominated and their details i.e. Phone No., fax no. & E-mail, have been published on BSNL website.
- Holding regular Telephone Adalata at SSAs (once in 2 months) and Circle level (once in 3 months).
- Conducting regular Open House Sessions at SSAs and Circle level.
- Holding regular meetings with TAC members once in 6 months and local Consumer organizations.

- Simplified application forms for different needs e.g. New connection, Telephone Shift, Closure of Connections etc.
- Call Centres across nation to serve single window information Centres.
- Complaints for GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are being, inter-alia, booked at Call Centres (9400024365).
- Computerized Directory Enquiry, Commercial and Billing to cut delays and reduce errors.
- Web based National Telephone Directory.
- Enhancing behavioural and technical skills of maintenance personnel through regular training.

(B) Billing

- Dynamic lock facility to prevent misuse of STD is provided to the customer without any extra charges.
- BSNL has been using computerized telephone billing system to reduce the occurrence of billing errors.
- Details of STD calls are also provided to the customers whenever desired by them.
- New tariff plans have been introduced in which the customer is offered a package plan for making calls upto a certain limit at reduced rates.
- Duplicate telephone bills are supplied free of charge to the customers whenever they approach counters for obtaining the telephone bill.
- A simple bill format is being used which can

be easily understood by a common man which includes billing periods, rental, number of calls and their charges, charges of trunk calls, applicable taxes etc.

- Excess Billing:— In every SSA one Nodal Officer has been nominated for easy approach.

(C) Upgradation of Network

- Cellular Mobile network of BSNL is being continuously augmented and optimized for its performance.
- Connecting all exchanges on reliable digital media.
- Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop System to cover larger rural areas.
- Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based centralized fault booking at Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC).
- Monitoring performance of telephone exchanges/ media.
- Conversion of SBM into RSUs.
- Conversion of C.DOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network Rural Automatic Exchanges).
- Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.
- Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural area including FWTs and provision of AMC in new supplies.
- Provision of high capacity external maintenance free battery with FWT for providing larger talk time and standby time.
- Battery charger of FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90-300V.

- More Base Transceivers Stations (BTS) are planned to enhance the converge of WLL System.

Eleventh Plan Approach Paper

1094. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY :

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission submitted the first draft of eleventh Plan Approach Paper after a delay of five months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the broad features and guidelines contemplated in the draft paper; and

(d) the tentative targets worked out for various areas of Economic and Social Development including Education, Health and Social Justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) In its 51st meeting held on 27th and 28th June, 2005, the National Development Council (NDC) directed that the Planning Commission should prepare the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan by the end of December, 2005. A draft Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan has been prepared for consultations with the different stake holders, viz. the State Governments, various ministries/ departments of Government of India, academicians/ experts. It has also been placed in the web-site of the Planning Commission to invite comments from public at large on 19th June, 2006.

(c) The broad objectives of Eleventh Five Year Plan as per the draft Approach Paper include accelerating the growth rate of 8.5 per cent for the economy, 3.9 per cent for agriculture sector and over 9 per cent for industry and services sector. It also aims at inclusive development by empowerment through education, comprehensive strategy

for better health, reduction of poverty, creating more employment opportunities as well as improving the rural infrastructure. In addition, it aims at reducing the rural-urban disparities and more balanced regional development, and improving the lot of those left behind viz. the SCs, STs, minorities and women.

(d) The targets for the various areas of economic and social development, including Education, Health and Social Justice, corresponding to 8.5 per cent rate of growth, have not been specified.

Progress in Peace Process with Pakistan

1095. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the peace-process between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether the Union Government has decided to go ahead with the dialogue with Pakistan despite the serial bomb blasts in Mumbai recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said matter has been brought to the knowledge of Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the response of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Continuous efforts have been made to intensify the ongoing process of confidence building, dialogue, and cooperation with Pakistan. Two rounds of India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue have been successfully completed, and the third round is presently in progress. Significant progress has been made on various issues. The ceasefire along the Line of Control, International Border and Actual Ground Position Line has been holding since November 2003. Several Confidence Building Measures have been implemented. New transport and communication links have been established. India issued 90,663 visas to Pakistani nationals last year. There has been considerable progress on the humanitarian issue

of release of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody. Since the commencement of the Composite Dialogue, India has released 277 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 281 Pakistani fishermen, while Pakistan has released 181 Indian civilian prisoners and 1264 Indian fishermen.

(b) to (d) Pakistan has been informed that the Foreign Secretary level talks to review the third round of the Composite Dialogue were postponed and a fresh set of dates would be discussed through diplomatic channels. India remains committed to the dialogue process with Pakistan. However, this can be sustained only if Pakistan acts against terrorist groups operating from territory under its control, in accordance with its commitments enshrined in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004.

(e) Pakistan has accepted the postponement of the Foreign Secretary level talks. Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson stated that Islamabad's willingness to agree to rescheduling of the talks was not because the blasts have been allegedly linked to Pakistan but because of the "domestic" problem in India. President Musharraf, in an address on 20 July, 2006, termed the postponement of the talks as the success of terrorists who want to stop the Composite Dialogue process.

Status of Expressway on NH-9

1096. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the status of four-lane expressway on NH-9 between Hyderabad and Vijayawada; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for its early completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal for the construction of four-lane Expressway on NH-9 between Hyderabad and Vijayawada. However,

four-laning of the National Highway-9 between Hyderabad and Vijayawada is underway. Out of a total length of 265 km. between Hyderabad and Vijayawada, a length of 89 km. has already been four-laned and the remaining length is included for four-laning on BOT basis under NHDP Phase-III-A, for which, presently Detailed Project Reports are under preparation.

Amendment in Indian Postal Act

1097. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to amend the Indian Postal Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the draft of the said bill has been circulated to get suggestions from the public;

(d) if so, the main changes proposed to be made in the Postal Act; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) The Indian Post Office Act, 1898 is more than a century old one. New communication developments have to be taken note of. Competition has to be allowed where needed and possible. The techno-economic developments taking place require a more dynamic Act. The amendment is also required to omit obsolete or redundant references like 'United Kingdom' and 'Her Majesty's Government' etc. available in Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

(c) The proposed Draft Indian Post Office Act (Amendment) Bill 2006 was placed on public domain "<http://www.indiapost.gov.in>" from 19.04.2006 upto 10.05.2006 for calling for the views and comments thereon.

(d) The main changes proposed in the Draft Indian Post Office Act (Amendment) Bill, 2006 are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The Indian Post Office Act (Amendment) Bill, 2006 is likely to be introduced in the Winter Session, 2006 of the Parliament.

Statement

The Main Changes Proposed to be Made in the Indian Post Office Act, 1898

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>(i) Empowering the Central Government to liberalize the exclusive privilege of the Central Government to convey all letter alongwith incidental services, with certain exceptions;</p> <p>(ii) Definition of letter has been proposed to be incorporated;</p> <p>(iii) Providing for registration and accountability of private entrepreneurs, commonly known as "couriers", to safeguard the consumers interest;</p> <p>(iv) Providing for a separate set of fees and annual fee for renewal of registration of the registered service providers operating with and beyond India and those who operate within the territory of India;</p> <p>(v) Providing for an independent Mail Regulatory Authority for creating a level playing field for all service providers in the mail sector including the Department of Posts;</p> <p>(vi) Providing for Mail Disputers Settlement Tribunal for adjudication of disputes between registering authority and registered service providers, amongst service providers and between service providers and a group of consumers;</p> <p>(vii) Providing for revenue sharing by the big registered service providers for meeting a portion of Universal Service Obligation (USO) of the Government of India.</p> | <p>(viii) Empowering the Central Government to:—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Grant rebate for pre-payment of postage on postal articles by means of stamping machine; — Monitor the usage, maintenance and inspection of postage franking machines; — Introduce e-enabled service, bridging the digital divide in the country; and — Introduce customized new services and products to generate adequate resources while meeting also its Universal Service Obligation (USO). <p>(ix) Providing statutory basis for the Postal Services Board;</p> <p>(x) The monetary and other penalties imposed for contravention of various provisions of the Act have been raised to make them more effective and</p> <p>(xi) The scope of penalties has been widened so as to cover not only the post office but also registered service providers in case of violation of the various provisions of the Act.</p> |
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Implementation of National Rural Health Mission

1098.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in carrying out the objectives of the National Rural Health Mission, State/Union Territory-wise, indicating the estimated population for whom rural health facilities are still beyond reach;

(b) the allocation of Central funds for the Mission,

this year and during the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the details of population and area covered under the Mission during the said period, year-wise; and

(d) the criteria adopted for allocation of Central funds for the Mission and the steps taken to prevent alleged leakage, diversion or misappropriation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The NRHM has been launched on 12th April, 2005. It aims at providing integrated comprehensive and effective primary health care to the poor, vulnerable sections of the society.

Till date, State Health missions have been constituted in 34 states and UTs, Department of Health and Family Welfare have been merged in 33 states and UTs, all health and family welfare societies have been merged in 29 states, 067 Rogi Kalyan Samitis have been registered. 1.21 lakh ASHAs have also been selected in 10 states.

As per the 2001 population India has rural population of 74.2 crore. This population is receiving primary health care services from 1,46,026 Sub Centers, 23,236 PHCs and 3346 CHCs. The rural health infrastructure has a short fall of 19,269 Sub Centers, 4,337 PHCs and 3,206 PHCs as per the 2001 population.

During FY 2005-06, an amount of Rs.6310.55 crore has been released to states out of the total allocation of Rs.6731 crore (NE) under NRHM.

(b) The state-wise allocation for the NRHM for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) NRHM is being implemented throughout the country with special focus on 18 states namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Orissa, NE states, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh having poor socio-economic and health indicators.

(d) The allocation of the funds to the states is on basis of several parameters. Allocations regarding maintenance of infrastructure are on basis of population. In case of disease control programmes the allocations are on basis of population and prevalence of diseases. Under the RCH II, special emphasis was laid on the states with weak key health/demographic indicators. The fund allocation under NRHM is on the same pattern.

The NRHM provides for enhanced funding for various activities under the Mission and therefore detailed monitoring and accountability protocols have been ensured at all levels. Enhanced accountability is envisaged through community ownership and participation in management of health facilities and programmes, regular monitoring through data collection and building of accounting and managerial capacity at all levels.

Statement

Detailed State-wise Allocation during 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Total for Schemes under NRHM (Rs. in Lakh)	
		2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27760.49	40023.98
2.	Bihar	39821.5	57142.44
3.	Chhattisgarh	11799.96	16730.98
4.	Goa	635.09	928.11
5.	Gujarat	30682.3	30529.89
6.	Haryana	6933.18	11243.25
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4358.22	5757.93
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	5180.34	6328.67
9.	Jharkhand	15769.48	21991.47

1	2	3	4
10. Karnataka	18756.41	28459.03	
11. Kerala	11738.02	16900.08	
12. Madhya Pradesh	28076.37	39296.59	
13. Maharashtra	31071.63	48763.55	
14. Orissa	19672.15	27230.66	
15. Punjab	7509.28	12210.46	
16. Rajasthan	26426.54	38898.74	
17. Tamil Nadu	21273.35	32238.17	
18. Uttar Pradesh	74669.32	108685.03	
19. Uttaranchal	5185.93	6916.8	
20. West Bengal	27728.9	41265.24	
21. Arunachal Pradesh	2637.96	3204.31	
22. Assam	24797.21	51300.36	
23. Manipur	3362.81	5381.46	
24. Meghalaya	3215.47	5263.1	
25. Mizoram	3121.08	2839.83	
26. Nagaland	3041.52	4921.02	
27. Sikkim	791.98	1458.89	
28. Tripura	5058.88	6652.68	
29. Delhi	3136.07	5359.73	
30. Pondicherry	267.46	521.63	
31. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	563.07	895.3	
32. Chandigarh	328.6	618.57	

1	2	3	4
33. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	202.91	319.2	
34. Daman and Diu	146.59	329.35	
35. Lakshadweep	121.68	206.2	
Total	465841.75	680812.7	

Conversion of Coal Into Oil

1099.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that conversion of coal into oil is economically viable;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to produce oil from coal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has started production of coal based methane for business purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Technical aspects for conversion of coal to oil have been established in other countries and the same may be possible in our country also. The economic viability is yet to be proven with various types of Indian Coal.

Oil India Limited (OIL) is currently studying coal liquefaction processes for production of liquid fuel from the coal resources of the North East Region. A Joint Task Force (JTF) with members from Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Oil India Ltd. has been formed for ascertaining the feasibility of adequate availability of coal from north eastern region and sorting out related issues.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to parts (a) & (b) above.

(d) Production of coal bed methane (CBM) has not been started by CIL for business purpose.

(e) and (f) A demonstration project funded by GOI/ UNDP/GEF is currently underway in Jharia coalfield for establishment of CBM production and commercial utilization technology. In addition to this project, 2 Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PEL) have been obtained by CIL as consortium partner of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) for development of CBM in 2 blocks in Jharia & Raniganj coalfields. Exploration and pilot appraisal through slim hole drilling for assessment of feasibility of commercial development of CBM in these two blocks are under progress.

Recognition of Service Associations/Union

1100. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the re-verification process ordered in March 2002 for recognition of Service Associations/Unions of Central Secretariat Staff would be completed.

(b) the action taken to complete the process;

(c) the details of the present status of the two service organisations recognised in the first round of verification including the service organisation which did not get recognition in the first round?

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 verification process initiated in March, 2002, has not yet been completed. Out of the 33 Cadre Controlling Authorities addressed in this regard, complete reply has been received only from 16. The remaining Cadre Controlling Authorities are being reminded regularly to expedite the process.

(c) Central Secretariat Service Section Officers' Association and the Central Secretariat Non-Gazetted

Employees Union were accorded recognition in the year 2000. During the period of re-verification of the membership of these two organisations, there will not be any change in the status of their recognition, till the completion of the re-verification process. Those organisations which failed to get recognition earlier, will have to undergo recognition process.

Steps to Counter Computer Virus

1101. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any solution to effectively counter the computer virus blackworm known as Kamasutra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of the States wherein it has played havoc with computer memory in Government Departments;

(e) whether the files obliterated by blackworm could be retrieved; and

(f) if so, the details of precautionary measures issued to all the Departments in this regard?

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

(b) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) established by Department of Information Technology has published an advisory to clean and take preventive measures against this worm on its website (<http://www.cert-in.org.in>) and alerted IT users in the country. The anti-virus vendors have hosted tools to scan and clean this worm, which could be downloaded from their websites. The links to these tools are also available on CERT-In website. CERT-In has also published a guidelines for home users on "Securing Home Computers" which tells about preventive measures to protect against such worms.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The effect of Blackworm computer virus on computers in the country was not significant;

(e) No, Sir.

(f) CERT-In alerted all the Government Departments, Defence, Public Sector and Private Sector Organisations to immediately apply the necessary countermeasures for countering this computer virus threat. CERT-In received compliance reports from most of the organisations.

VSAT Based Money Order System

1102. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

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

(a) whether the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) based Money Order system was introduced by the Department of Posts in 1995 to transmit money order advices through satellite to enable the poorer sections of society to send money orders quickly at no extra cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as against the target of 100 per cent transmission of money orders through VSAT only 13.54 per cent transmission could be achieved till 2004-05;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) Initially 77 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) based on Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology were commissioned in the year 1995 all over the country. Thereafter in the year 2001, 150 High Speed VSATs based on Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) technology were commissioned for faster communication of data. The details of locations of such high speed VSATs are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) 100% transmission of money orders through VSATs was not achieved for the reasons as stated in part (d) below.

(d) The reasons are that the local money orders which constitute a large percentage of total money orders now-a-days are not transmitted through VSATs to give maximum delivery advantage to the customers. In addition Speed Post money orders, money orders having long communication messages in regional languages are also not transmitted through VSATs.

(e) Modification of the application software for bulk inputting of money orders, increasing number of post offices covered by the network, daily monitoring of traffic and functioning of the system are some major steps taken by the Government to overcome the deficiencies in implementation of the project.

Statement

State and Union Territory-wise Details of VSATs in the Country

S. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of VSAT Centre	Total No. of VSATs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Anantpur, Cuddapah, Guntur, Hanamkonda, Hyderabad, Kurnool, Nandyal, Nellore, Nizamabad, Rajamundri, Sirkakulam, Tirupati, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Vizianagaram	15

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	1
3.	Assam	Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Jorhat, Karimganj, Nawgaon, Silchar, Tejpur, Tinsukia,	9
4.	Bihar	Bhagalpur, Chhapra, Darbhanga, Gaya, Motihari, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnea, Sasaram	9
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	Chandigarh	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur, Raipur	2
7.	Delhi	Ashok Vihar, New Delhi GPO, 56 APO, Parliament Street Dak Bhawan	4
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Anand, Bhavnagar, Gandhi Nagar, Jamnagar, Mehasana, Nadiad, Navsari, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara	11
9.	Haryana	Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Karnal, Rohtak	6
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Dharamshala, Mandi, Shimla	3
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu, Srinagar	2
12.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Hazari Bagh	3
13.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Belgaum, Bijapur, Devengree, Gulbarga, Hassan, Hubli, Mangalore, Mysore, Shimoga	10
14.	Kerala	Calicut, Ernakulam, Kannur, Kollam, Kotayam, Palghat, Trissur, Trivandrum	8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Gwallior, Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur	5
16.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad, Dadar, Mumbai GPO, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune, Ratnagiri	7
17.	Manipur	Imphal	1
18.	Mizoram	Aizwal	1
19.	Meghalaya	Shillong	1
20.	Nagaland	Kohima	1
21.	Orissa	Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttak, Rourkela, Sambalpur	5
22.	Pondicherry (UT)	Pondicherry	1

1	2	3	4
23.	Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala	5
24.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Udaipur	5
25.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Madurai, Ooty, Palayamkotai, Salem, Trichy, Virudhanagar	9
26.	Tripura	Agartala	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Azamgarh, Balia, Bareilly, Faizabad, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, Meerut, Sharanpur, Varanasi	16
28.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	1
29.	West Bengal	Assansol, Kolkata, Gangtak, Howrah, Silliguri, 99 APO	6
30.	Goa	Panaji	1
Total			150

CGHS Beneficiaries

1104. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the total number of CGHS beneficiaries and card holder in various States as on date, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inclusion of Private Hospitals under CGHS

1105. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether only one Private Hospital (Escorts Hospital and Research Centre) is recognised by the CGHS

to provide medical facilities/hospitalization to serving and retired Central Government Employees residing in Faridabad, Haryana;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to recognise some more Private Hospitals/Nursing Homes/Diagnostic Centres to meet the demand of CGHS beneficiaries in Faridabad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir, One private hospital (Escort Hospital and Research Centre) and one diagnostic centre (Faridabad CT Scan Centre) are empanelled at Satellite Town Faridabad under CGHS, Delhi. However, CGHS beneficiaries residing in Faridabad can get referral treatment from any private recognized hospital/diagnostic centre in CGHS Delhi. For making the referral easier, powers have been delegated to CMO in-charge of the CGHS dispensary at this satellite town to refer emergency

and non-emergency cases directly to private recognized hospitals under the CGHS Delhi.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, recognition of private hospitals/diagnosis centres under CGHS is a continuous process. The hospitals which apply for empanelment and found eligible on scrutiny of the applications are inspected and considered for recognition as per the prescribed guidelines.

Rise in Cancer Cases

1106. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :

DR. K. DHANARAJU :

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA :

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

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

(a) whether the number of cancer patients is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cancer cases reported during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether any scientific study has been conducted to know the reasons for the rise of cancer cases;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps the Government proposes to take to combat the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As per the information collected by the Population Based Cancer Registries functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research, it has been estimated that about 7-9 lakh new cancer cases are detected every year and at any given point of time there are 2-2.5 million cancer patients in the country. The state-wise data on number of cancer cases is not maintained centrally.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Indian Council of Medical Research is collecting data for various types of cancer through its registries. The statistical significance and possible reasons for changes in incidence rates of different cancer sites, in different registries is assessed by the National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR.

(e) Health being a State Subject, it is for various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. Under the different schemes of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), the Central Govt. provides grant-in-aid for early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme. The Central Govt. is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Govt. Medical Colleges/Hospitals for providing treatment facilities. In addition, the comprehensive cancer detection and management facilities including testing facilities in respective region/States are provided by 25 Regional Cancer Centre established under NCCP.

Cultivation of MAPIA Plant

1107. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether "MAPIA" which contains highest percentage of camptothecin is the best medicine in the world for cancer.

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has any proposal to promote the cultivation of this plant "MAPIA" which is grown in Karnataka and Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Mappia stems and leaves contain 0.15% Camptothecin and is proven to be specific for Cancer as it inhibits the enzyme DNA Topoisomerase-I and kills

Cancer Cells, as reported by RTI International. Ayush Research Councils and the Indian Council of Medical Research could examine the therapeutic and commercial prospects of this plant.

(b) and (c) So far there is no such proposal since information is not available regarding the market demand of this plant. However, a proposal is under consideration of State Medicinal Plant Board, Government of Karnataka for setting up tissue culture facility and propagating Mappia in a commercial manner.

Amendment in Drug and Cosmetics Act

1108.ADV. SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to amend the Drug and Cosmetics Act to make it mandatory for the Indian generic companies to conduct their own clinical trials before marketing a drug;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the access to medicines as a result of amendment to D&C Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules to make it mandatory for Indian generic companies to conduct their own clinical trials before marketing a drug.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

G-8 Summit

1109.SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether our Prime Minister attended the G-8 Summit recently;

(b) if so, the details of talks held in the said Summit and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether some of the countries have supported the cause of tackling the problem of terrorism;

(d) if so, whether the supporting countries have offered any help to tackle the said menace; and

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

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

(b) Discussions were held on global energy security, education and the fight against infectious diseases, which were the main themes of the Summit. In addition, views were also exchanged on international terrorism, other challenges to global security, globalization and world trade. The discussions allowed us to share our perspectives on these issues with the G-8 and the other outreach countries participating in the Summit.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The G-8, Brazil, China, Mexico, South Africa, the Chairman of the Council of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Chairman of the African Union and the Heads of International Organizations participating in the Summit adopted, along with India, a Statement expressing their willingness to take all necessary measures to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of the terrorist attacks in India on 11 July, 2006 and other such attacks, as well as those who incited the perpetrators to commit them.

Facilities in Post Offices

1110.PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

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

(a) whether there is a steep increase in customers recently availing deposit facilities in post offices;

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

(c) whether all the post offices in the States are being provided with adequate facilities in view of increase in the number of customers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of post offices that has not been computerised as yet particularly in Maharashtra, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Connectivity from BSNL Towers

1111. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether hundreds of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited towers were installed in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether telephones are not getting connectivity from these towers of BSNL.

(c) if so, the time by which telephones are likely to be connected from these towers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) In Barabanki district, 41 Mobile Towers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are working as on date. All these towers are operational and provide mobile network connectivity.

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

Changes in Special Economic Zone

1112. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) whether the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has demanded changes in conditions of Special Economic Zone;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has raised certain issues and concerns, and made some recommendations which includes:-

(1) The phasing out of the Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme will leave Special Economic Zone (SEZ) as the only option for tax benefits, creating several problems for the software industry, especially for the SME segment, which constitute more than 90% of the industry.

(2) The tax exemption for STP Units should be continued for another 5 years so that companies can continue availing of benefits and have time to adjust to the SEZ framework which will take the next 2 or 3 years to really get operational. The companies will have the STP option for the next 5 years, and at the end of 5 years the STP scheme could get phased out if the SEZ infrastructure has come up and companies who wish to avail of further benefits can avail SEZs.

- (3) The method of computing the exemption as envisaged in section 10AA would result in substantial taxation of export profits and there by negating the basic intent. This section prima facie discriminates service industry against the manufacturing industry.
- (4) The minimum limit of built up area may be reduced from the present 10,00,000 sq. feet to 200,000 sq. feet; that would be typically occupied by about 2000 employee.

(c) A committee under the chairmanship of the Member Secretary Planning Commission was constituted in February 2006 and its report has been submitted in April 2006 for the consideration of the Government.

[English]

Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Scheme

1113.SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.348 dated March 2, 2005 regarding transfer of Centrally Sponsored Scheme and state;

(a) the details of schemes identified for transfer to States alongwith the names of Ministries/Departments responsible for further steps to be taken in this regard; and

(b) the rationale behind transferring those schemes to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) The details of schemes identified for transfer to States alongwith the names of Ministries/Departments responsible for further steps to be taken is indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) Planning Commission undertook an exercise for rationalization/recategorisation of all the 207 ongoing

Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) in 2004-05 with a view to facilitate reprioritization of resources and consolidation of the development effort through restructuring/merger; transfer to States; reclassification into Central Sector Schemes; Schemes to be discontinued and Schemes to be retained.

Statement

CSS identified by Planning Commission for Transfer to the States

		(Rs. crore)		
S. No.	Name of the Scheme	BE 2004- 05	Actual 2004- 05	BE 2005- 06
1	2	3	4	5
Department of Health				
1.	Drug De-addiction Programme including assistance to States	7.00	6.14	Nil
Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion				
2.	Transport Subsidy Scheme	36.00	59.21	5.00
Department of Women and Child Development				
3.	Balika Samridhi Yojana	0.03	39.73	0.03
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment				
4.	Employment of the handicap	2.00	1.55	0.01

1	2	3	4	5
Department of Tourism				
5.	Revival of Tourism in J&K (J & K Package)	9.00	9.00	No outlay
(Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation)				
6.	Night Shelter	4.00	4.00	0.00
Ministry of Water Resources				
7.	Critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga basin States	6.00	3.40	9.98
8.	Improvement of Drainage in Critical Areas of the Country	14.00	9.50	18.60
Department of Family Welfare				
9.	Maintenance of vehicle already available	55.00		No outlay
10.	District Projects	0.00		No outlay
11.	Community Incentive Scheme	1.00		No outlay
12.	Supply of Mopeds	0.00		No outlay
Total outlay of ongoing CSS proposed for transfer to States		134.03	132.53	33.62

Dredging Operation in Major Ports

1114.SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of

SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the dredging operation in some major ports has been undertaken by the Government;

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

(c) the expenses likely to be incurred on the said operation and the funds allocated during the Tenth Plan for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) As part of the on-going process of development of port infrastructure, the major ports undertake dredging operations from time to time with a view to increasing the depths in their channels and other parts areas (Capital dredging) to keep pace with the increasing draught requirements of the vessels calling at these ports. An allocation of Rs.1114.58 crores has been made in the 10th Plan for capital dredging projects in the major ports as per break-up given below:

S. No.	Name of major port	Allocation (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
(i)	Kolkata	350.00
(ii)	Mumbai	40.00
(iii)	Jawaharlal Nehru	1.06
(iv)	Chennai	20.00
(v)	Cochin	0.00
(vi)	Visakhapatnam	40.43
(vii)	Kandla	67.00
(viii)	Mormugao	40.00
(ix)	Paradip	99.99
(x)	New Mangalore	9.10

1	2	3
(xi)	Tuticorin	47.00
(xii)	Ennore	300.00
Total		1114.58

During the 10th Plan period (2002-2007), the following capital dredging projects have been undertaken in the major ports:-

S. No.	Name of major port	Name of the project	Expenditure incurred/ likely to be incurred (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Jawaharlal Nehru	Dredging of Lagoon behind service berth.	2.79
2.	Chennai	Deeping of Dr. Ambedkar Dock Basin and Berths.	6.40
3.	Cochin	Dredging at Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal berth.	23.98
4.	Visakha-patnam	Deepening and widening of inner harbour entrance channel Stage-I.	24.31
5.	Kandla	Deepening and widening of Sogal channel, Approaches to Sogal channel and Deepening and widening of channel in the approaches to Kandla Creek	64.33
6.	Mormugoa	Deepening of channel and Berth No.9.	32.00

1	2	3	4
7.	New Mangalore	Capital dredging in front of deep drafted multipurpose berth.	6.50
8.	Tuticorin	Dredging the Dock basin in front of Berth No.8.	42.05

Apart from capital dredging, the major ports carry out dredging operations so as to maintain the existing depths (maintenance dredging). Expenditure on maintenance dredging is met out of revenue account and not from Plan funds.

Establishment of Institutes of Science Education and Research

1115.SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved the establishment of Institutes of Science Education and Research in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the Sates where these institutes are likely to be set up, location-wise; and

(c) the time by which these institutes are likely to be set up?

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

(b) On the basis of the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM), the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has set up two Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Pune and Kolkata. A third IISER is being set up at Punjab.

(c) The academic session in the IISERs at Pune and Kolkata will commence from August, 2006. For setting up of IISER at Punjab necessary formalities are being completed and it is expected to start the academic sessions from 2007-08.

**Sending Indian Military Personnel
to Congo**

1116. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been requested by the United Nations to send military personnel to Congo;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of military personnel already stationed in that country on behalf of the United Nations; and

(d) the number of our military personnel stationed in other countries on behalf of United Nations, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the request of the United Nations, military personnel from India were first deployed in the United Nations Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) in 2004. 3,555 military personnel from India are currently deployed in MONUC. In May 2006, India was requested by the United Nations to provide one Infantry Battalion (850 personnel) to MONUC, which is proposed to be deployed in Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Government of India acceded to the request and the deployment of an Infantry Battalion has started.

(c) 16,587 military personnel from 49 countries are stationed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, on behalf of the United Nations.

(d) 8,663 military personnel from India are stationed in other countries as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions, as per details given below :-

United Nations Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)	3,555
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United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)	2,622
---	-------

United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)	1,613
--	-------

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	672
--	-----

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Golan Heights	187
--	-----

United Nations Mission in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI)	8
---	---

United Nations Mission in Burundi (ONUB)	6
--	---

**Removing Caste from Profile
of Officers**

1117. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to remove the mention of caste from the profile of SC/ST officers whose names are circulated for appointment in Central Ministries and Department as reported in The Times of India dated July 21, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the matter reported therein and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to implement the same?

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) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Broadband Internet Facility

1118. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

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

(a) whether the Government has allegedly failed in providing cheap and high-speed broadband internet facility throughout the country as reported in the Hindi daily *Dainik Jagaran* dated June 7, 2006;

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

(c) the number of broadband connections issued in the country so far;

(d) the number of applicants on the waiting list seeking broadband internet connections as on date;

(e) whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed to consider wireless scheme for development of broadband network;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Broadband is defined as an 'always-on' data connection that is able to support interactive services including Internet access and has the capability of the minimum download speed of 256 kilo bits per second (kbps) to an individual subscriber. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are providing broadband services at Rs. 250 and Rs. 199 per month respectively which are affordable, reasonable and competitive.

(c) As on 30.6.2006, there are about 1.55 million broadband subscribers as per information received from major internet service providers.

(d) The number of applicants on the waiting list seeking broadband Internet connections of BSNL is around 10,000.

(e) and (f) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently recommended for consideration for de-licensing of frequency 5.150 - 5.350 GHz and 5.725 - 5.875 GHz for outdoor usage and identification of additional spectrum, which are not in high usage for the provision of broadband services.

(g) The issue related to de-licensing of frequency bands 5.150 - 5.350 GHz and 5.725-5.875 GHz for outdoor usage/applications has been discussed with the existing users. At present, the de-licensing of these frequency bands for outdoor usage has not been possible in view of existing assignments.

[English]

Computerisation of Post Offices

1119. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN :

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

(a) whether the Government had approved a project for computerization and networking of Post Offices, administration etc. of Postal Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the target fixed and achieved so far under the said project;

(d) the details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred under the said project; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed under the project?

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

(b) The Government of India has approved the Tenth Plan Scheme of Computerization and Networking of all large Post Offices having more than two public counters, Postal Accounts Offices and Administrative Offices.

(c) The details of the target fixed and achievement till date under the said project is given below:-

Office	Target	Total number of offices computerized so far
Post Office	7700	8163
Administrative Offices	245	239*
Postal Accounts Office	22	22

* 6 Administrative offices are not having independent establishment.

(d) Total funds allocated under the Tenth Plan Scheme of Computerization of Post Offices, Postal Accounts Offices and Administrative Offices is Rs. 836.27 crore and expenditure incurred under the said project is Rs. 463 crore as on date.

(e) The targets have been achieved.

[Translation]

Release of Commemorative Stamps

1120. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for releasing Commemorative Postal Stamp in the memory of the saint of Maharashtra, Shri Tanpure Maharaj, is lying pending with the Ministry for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the State-wise names of the persons or saints in memory of whose Commemorative Postal Stamps have been released during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. The proposals for issue of commemorative postage stamps are examined by the Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) in the light of existing guidelines. The personalities on whom commemorative stamp may be issued should be of national or international importance. The occasion to be commemorated must be the birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th/100th death anniversary. The proposal regarding release of commemorative postage stamp on Shri Tanpure Maharaj was considered by the Philatelic Advisory Committee on 06.12.2003 and again on 17.05.2005 but was not recommended. The proponents were also suitably informed.

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

(c) A list of the State-wise personalities or saints on whom commemorative postage stamps have been issued during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Stamps issued on Personalities in the year – 2003

Sl. No.	Name of the Stamp	Date of issue	State
1	2	3	4
1.	Ghantashala	11.02.2003	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3	4
2.	S.K. Kirloskar	26.02.2003	Maharashtra
3.	Kusumagraj	14.03.2003	Maharashtra
4.	Sant Eknath	23.03.2003	Maharashtra
5.	Frank Anthony	28.03.2003	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Kakaji Maharaj	30.03.2003	Gujarat
7.	Durga Das	02.05.2003	Punjab
8-11.	Golden Voice of Yester Years Kishore Kumar Mukesh, Mohammed Rafi Hemant Kumar	15.05.2003	
12.	Muktabai	30.05.2003	Maharashtra
13.	V.K. Rajvade	23.06.2003	Maharashtra
14.	Bade Ghulam Ali Khan	30.06.2003	Punjab
15.	Janardhan Swami	24.09.2003	Maharashtra
16-18.	Jnanpith Award Winners : Malayalam G. Sankara Kurup S.K. Pottakkett, Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai	09.10.2003	Kerala
19.	K. Shivarama Karanth	10.10.2003	Karnataka
20.	Narendra Mohan	14.10.2003	Uttar Pradesh
21.	Govindrao Pansare	21.10.2003	Maharashtra
22.	Hari Vansh Roy Bachchan	27.11.2003	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4
23.	Yashpal	03.12.2003	Punjab
24.	Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava	18.12.2003	Rajasthan
25.	Swami Swarupananadji	20.12.2003	Maharashtra
26-29.	Personality Series: Folk Music	29.12.2003	West Bengal and Rajasthan
	Lalan Pakir		
	Alah Jilai Bai		
28.	Major Somnath Sharma, PVC	31.12.2003	Uttaranchal
29.	S. Nijalingappa	31.12.2003	Karnataka

Stamps issued on Personalities in the year - 2004

Sl. No.	Name of the Stamp	Date of issue	State
1	2	3	4
1.	C.D. Deshmukh	14.01.2004	Maharashtra
2.	Nani A. Palkivala	16.01.2004	Maharashtra
3.	Dr. B.D. Garware	06.02.2004	Maharashtra
4.	Annamacharya	18.03.2004	Andhra Pradesh
5.	V. Lakshminarayana	14.04.2004	Tamil Nadu
6.	Baji Rao Peshwa	28.04.2004	Maharashtra
7.	Siddar Swamigal	15.05.2004	Tamil Nadu
8.	Indra Chandra Shastri	27.05.2004	Haryana
9.	Jyoti Prasad Agarwala	17.06.2004	Assam
10.	P.N. Panicker	19.06.2004	Tamil Nadu
11.	Acharya Bhiksu	30.06.2004	Rajasthan
12.	Murasoli Maran	17.08.2004	Tamil Nadu

1	2	3	4
13.	S.S. Vasan	26.08.2004	Tamil Nadu
14.	Panini	30.08.2004	Punjab/Pakistan
15.	K. Subramanayam	10.09.2004	Tamil Nadu
16.	M.C. Chagla	01.10.2004	Maharashtra
17.	Tirupru Kumaran	04.10.2004	Tamil Nadu
18.	Guru Dutt	10.10.2004	West Bengal
19.	Maruthu Pandiar Brothers	24.10.2004	Tamil Nadu
20.	Dr. S. Roerich	27.10.2004	Russian
21.	Dr. Teneti Vishwanatham	10.11.2004	Andhra Pradesh
22.	Walchand Hirachand	23.11.2004	Maharashtra
23.	Dula Bhaya Kag	25.11.2004	Gujarat
24.	Bahgat Puram Singh	10.12 2004	Punjab
25.	Bhaskara Sethupathy	27.12.2004	Tamil Nadu

Stamps issued on Personalities in the year – 2005

Sl. No.	Name of the Stamp	Date of issue	State
1	2	3	4
1.	Padamapat Singhania	03.02.2005	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Krishan Kant	27.02.2005	Punjab
3.	Madhavarao Scindia	10 03.2005	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Narayan Meghanji Lokhande	03.05.2005	Maharashtra
5.	Abdul Qayum Ansari	07.07.2005	Bihar
6.	Dheeran Chinnamalai	31.07.2005	Tamil Nadu
7.	Pratap Singh Kairon	01.10.2005	Punjab

1	2	3	4
8.	A.M.M. Murugappa Chettiar	01.10.2005	Tamil Nadu
9.	Dr. T.S. Soundram	02.10.2005	Tamil Nadu
10.	Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai	21.10.2005	Tamil Nadu
11.	VI Kalayanasundaranar	21.10.2005	Tamil Nadu
12.	Ayothidhasa Pandithar	21.10.2005	Tamil Nadu
13.	Prabodh Chandra	24.10.2005	Punjab
14.	Jawaharial Darda	02.12:2005	Maharashtra
15.	M.S. Subbulakshmi	18.12.2005	Tamil Nadu

[English]

National Fluoride Research Institute

1121.SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up National Fluoride Research Institute at Hyderabad to tackle the problem of ground water infested with high levels of fluoride;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

Equipping NHs with Ambulances

1122.SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to cover

3000 km. long highway covering Golden Quadrilateral and North-South and East-West corridors with the state of the art ambulances by April, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any private participation is likely to be involved in this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) NHAI has already the policy to cover the average of 50 kms. of completed stretch by ambulances.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Installation of Mobile Towers

1123.SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mobile towers sanctioned for each State during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether all the sanctioned towers have been installed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Number of mobile towers planned by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in different States during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Constraints experienced in rollout of the Cellular Mobile Services are as follows:-

(i) Delay in grant of permission by local bodies for erection of roof top towers in some States.

(ii) Delay in grant of electricity connections by State electric companies in some States.

(iii) Delay in supply of equipments by vendors.

(iv) Delay in supply of infrastructure items by equipment vendors.

(v) Delay in network rollout by the equipment vendors.

(vi) Dispute in hiring of buildings.

(d) The remaining mobile towers are likely to be installed during the current financial year.

Statement*Planning of Mobile Base Transmission Stations (BTS)*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year-wise No. of mobile towers engineered for planned capacity	
		2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
B.S.N.L.			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	41	NIL*
2.	Bihar	549	NIL*
3.	Jharkhand	342	NIL*
4.	Orissa	597	NIL*
5.	West Bengal	546	NIL*
6.	Kolkata Telephones	144	NIL*
7.	North East-I	236	NIL*
8.	North East-II	52	NIL*
9.	Assam	428	NIL*
10.	Gujarat	403	1272
11.	Madhya Pradesh	110	570
12.	Chhattisgarh	33	176
13.	Maharashtra (except Mumbai)	157	740
14.	Haryana	100	550
15.	Himachal Pradesh	270	55
16.	Punjab	884	NIL
17.	Rajasthan	287	892

1	2	3	4
18. Uttar Pradesh (East)		209	707
19. Uttar Pradesh (West)		689	187
20. Uttarakhand		225	86
21. Jammu and Kashmir		71	308
22. Andhra Pradesh		1311	NIL*
23. Karnataka		909	NIL*
24. Kerala		1145	NIL*
25. Tamil Nadu		961	NIL*
26. Chennai Telephones		555	NIL*
M.T.N.L.			
1. Delhi		402	8
2. Mumbai		401	15

* The planned capacity and tower thereof in 2004-05 is planned to be rolled out in the time frame of 9 - 15 months and spills over generally to two financial years. Further additional orders of East and South have not been accepted by the vendor reflecting in no additional orders for towers (BTS) in 2005-06 in South and East zone

Special Funds for Physically Challenged Sportspersons

1124. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of physically challenged sportspersons who participated in international sports events during the last two years i.e. 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether the Government is aware that some of the physically challenged sportspersons were not able to reach the tournament venue outside the country for want of funds and timely Government aid;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any proposals to institute a special fund for such purposes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) :

(a) In terms of the information furnished by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), 115 Physically Challenged Sportspersons have participated in International Sports Events in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(b) to (f) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has given recognition to Paralympic Committee of India on 5th October, 2005 and placed it in the 'Priority' category. Since then, PCI is eligible for Central assistance for conducting sports events in India and participating in tournaments abroad in accordance with the approved pattern under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations. No instances of non-provision of assistance as per the approved Scheme have been brought to Ministry's notice by the recognised Federation since the Federation was recognised. The question of providing Government assistance before the date of recognition does not arise.

Four Lining of National Highways

1125. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to widen National Highways into four lanes linking the capitals of all the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement this proposal on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Agartala, Aizawal, Imphal, Itanagar, Kohima and Shillong are proposed to be linked to four lane National Highways under National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) III-B and Special Accelerated Road Development Programme – North-East (SARDP-NE). Guwahati falls on the alignment of East-West corridor which is already under construction to four lane standards. Gangtok is proposed to be linked through improved two lane National Highway under SARDP-NE. Since Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for projects under NHDP-III B and SARDP-NE are under preparation and no investment decision has so far been taken by the Government, except in the case of connectivity to Shillong and part connectivity to Kohima, the question of estimated cost does not arise.

(c) and (d) The four lane connecting to Aizawal, Imphal, Kohima, Itanagar and Shillong is to be implemented on BOT basis.

(e) The preparation of Detailed Project Reports/ appointment of consultant are in progress.

Utilisation of USO Fund

1126.SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount available at present in the Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund;

(b) whether the Government has prepared any plan to streamline the utilisation of USO fund to provide telecom connectivity to 66,822 revenue villages in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide Village Public Telephone (VPT) in every village of the

country and also to upgrade the rural telecom infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) A sum of Rs. 1500 crore has been allocated to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for the financial year 2006-07.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. USOF has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 unconnected eligible villages in the country. This excludes villages having less than 100 population and lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. Out of these villages, 27,481 villages have already been provided with VPTs by BSNL as on 30th June 2006. The remaining 39,341 villages will be provided VPTs by November 2007.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Government to provide VPT in every village of the country and also to upgrade the rural telephone infrastructure :-

- (i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in all the remaining uncovered eligible villages, excluding villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.
- (ii) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Office's (PCOs).
- (iii) Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs.
- (iv) Provision of Rural individual phone connections (RDELs) on demand in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).
- (v) Large scale deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas by BSNL

- (vi) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norms to 5 kms. as against the earlier norm of 2.5 kms. for landline exchanges by BSNL.
- (vii) BSNL has planned extensive infrastructure rollout which will provide mobile coverage.

Employment to Land Oustees

1127. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a permanent monthly income scheme for land oustees following acquisition of the State owned coal companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has provided employment to the families of land oustees;
- (d) if so, the number of persons provided with employment during the last three years;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite grant of employment in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.
- (c) In coal mining, land acquisition is a continuous process. Rehabilitation assistance including employment is provided as per the Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R and R) policy of Coal India Limited.
- (d) About 1,700 eligible land oustees have been provided employment during the last 3 years.
- (e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply of part (c) and (d) above.

[Translation]

Places of Worship in Pakistan

1128. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the places of worship of Hindus/ Sikhs situated in Pakistan;
- (b) the names of the bodies which maintain the said places of worship;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to issue special visa to visit the said places of worship;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is aware of the seat of Baba Laloo Jasrai in Deepalpur, district Ukara;
- (f) if so, the present condition of the said place of worship;
- (g) whether the Government is making any arrangements for performing worship at the said place of worship;
- (h) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide funds to Pakistan for repairing the said place of worship; and
- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) There are several hundred places of worship of Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan. India signed a Bilateral Protocol with Pakistan in 1974 on visits of religious shrines. Presently fifteen places of worship in Pakistan come under the said Protocol where Indians may visit and worship. These include:-

1. Gurudwara Shri Nankana Sahib (Rawalpindi)
2. Gurudwara Shri Panja Sahib (Rawalpindi)
3. Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh (Lahore)

4. Gurudwara Shri Dera Sahib (Lahore)
5. Gurudwara Janam Asthan (Lahore)
6. Gurudwara Deewan Khana (Lahore)
7. Gurudwara Shaheed Ganj, Singhanian (Lahore)
8. Gurudwara Bhai Tara Singh (Lahore)
9. Gurudwara of Sixth Guru, Mozang (Lahore)
10. Birthplace of Shri Guru Ram Das (Lahore)
11. Gurudwara Cheveen Padshahi, Mozang (Lahore)
12. Shrine at Sree Katasraj
13. Shadani Darbar, Hyat Pitafi
14. Sadhu Bela, Khanpur and Mirpur Mathelo
15. Shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (Lahore)

(b) The places of worship under the charge of Government of Pakistan are maintained by the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), Ministry of Religious Affairs. Some places are being maintained by local Hindu/Sikh communities. The historical Sikh Gurudwaras are also maintained by the ETPB with the help of the Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC). Some temples of historical importance are also being maintained by the ETPB.

(c) and (d) Travel to these places is in accordance with the 1974 Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines. Members of the pilgrim groups are issued Visitor Category visas.

(e) to (i) In regard to the seat of Baba Laloo Jasrai in Dipalpur of Ukara district of Punjab province of Pakistan, Government is aware of concern of devotees about the condition of the shrine. The upkeep of the shrine is the responsibility of the local authorities. At present there is no proposal of providing funds to Pakistan for repairing of the said place of worship.

[English]

AIDS Research Institutes

1129. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indian leading AIDS research institutes have been selected to develop and test microbicides to combat HIV as reported in the *Times of India* dated July 17, 2006;

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

(c) the financial assistance likely to be provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Clinical trials with different candidate vaginal microbicides are being carried out in Research/Medical institutions like YRG CARE, Chennai, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore and National AIDS Research Institute, Pune in India.

(b) Phase III clinical trials with 6% cellulose sulfate a microbicide have been instituted at YRG CARE, Chennai, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore with funding from CONRAD, USA. Also phase II clinical trials with tenofovir gel (microbicide) have been initiated at NARI, Pune. This study is being carried out with funds from National Institute of Health, United States of America.

(c) The total financial assistance for the phase III study with 6% cellulose sulfate gel is about Rs.10 crores for YRG CARE and St. John's Medical College while NIH, USA is providing approximately Rs. 2 crores for the phase II clinical trail with tenofovir gel for NARI, Pune.

Employment Generation in Assam

1130. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to generate employment and stimulate the economy of Assam amounting to 320 crores spread over a period of 3 years;

(b) if so, whether any proposal had been submitted by Assam in July, 2005 for 100% Central Assistance besides normal plan, special plan and Additional Central Assistance (ACA);

(c) if so, whether the Prime Minister had advised Planning Commission to formulate, the State's proposal in order to finance unemployment in the state;

(d) if so, whether the task force report of Planning Commission has recommended for 5000 crores additional investment in the NER; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (e) During his visit to the State of Assam in November, 2004, the Prime Minister desired that a blueprint for employment generation for Assam be prepared. At the request of Planning Commission, the State Government of Assam has prepared a scheme for generation of employment at an estimated cost Rs. 669 crore which comprises of Rs. 349 crore as Farmer and Bank Contribution and Rs. 320 crore is cost to the Mission. Funding of the scheme should come from the State sector. Any gaps can be filled up out of funds being provided by the Planning Commission as Special Plan Assistance/Additional Central Assistance to the State. During 2006-07 the State Government has provided Rs. 10 crore for the scheme. The Task Force of Planning Commission has been constituted for a different purpose.

[Translation]

Survey of Sir Creek

1131. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the present composite

dialogue held in June, 2006 between India and Pakistan to arrive at a consensus for the survey of Sir Creek before expiry of the time of the demarcation of maritime boundary as set by the United States which comes to an end in 2009; and

(b) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Talks on Sir Creek were held on August 6-7, 2004 in New Delhi where both India and Pakistan presented their positions and exchanged views on the various issues involved. During the next round of discussions in Rawalpindi on May 28-29, 2005 the two sides agreed to continue their discussions aimed at an early resolution of the issue for the mutual benefit of the two countries. In the third round of Composite Dialogue discussions on the Sir Creek, held on May 25-26, 2006 in New Delhi, delineation of the land boundary and delimitation of the maritime boundary in the Sir Creek area were discussed. It was agreed to conduct a joint survey of the Sir Creek and adjoining areas and waters between November 2006 and March 2007. It was also agreed that the extent and modalities of the joint survey would be worked out in a meeting of technical experts in August 2006. The meeting would also discuss the options for delimitation of the maritime boundary.

[English]

New Category of Accommodation for Hajis

1132. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Haj Committee has carved out a new category of accommodation to its existing four categories for Hajis from India which will result in saving of Rs. 10,000 for every Haji from India;

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

(c) the details of fee collected by the Government from each category for Haj 2006-II;

(d) the details of quota of pilgrims allotted for Andhra Pradesh in Haj-I, which was performed in January this year, and for Haj-II to be commenced in December this year;

(e) whether the said quota is likely to be increased;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) A new category 'Sheesha' is being introduced at a rent of Saudi Riyal 1650/- per pilgrim for Haj 2006-II. Categories I, II, III and 'Azizia' are being rented @SR 2,700/-, SR 2200/-, SR 1650/- and SR 1050/- per pilgrim respectively for Haj 2006-II.

(c) No fee is collected by the Government.

(d) Quota for Andhra Pradesh for Haj 2006-I was 6,385 pilgrims. Quota for Andhra Pradesh for Haj 2006-II is 6,806 pilgrims.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Central Haj Committee quota of 100,000 pilgrims has already been fully distributed to various States by the Haj Committee of India on the basis of Muslim population in each State.

Setting up of a Joint Venture Power Project

1133.SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to set up a 1000 MW Power Project as a joint venture between the CIL subsidiary i.e. the Western Coalfields Ltd. and the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal to set up a 1000 MW power project as Joint Venture Project between Coal India Limited subsidiary i.e. Western Coalfields Limited and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.

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

Setting up of Model Village Resource Centre

1134.SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up model Village Resource Centre (VRC) for backward areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether VRCs are to be developed by the ISRO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations, if any, identified so far, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Department of Space has embarked upon a programme to set up Village Resource Centres (VRCs) in the rural and backward areas.

(b) The VRCs are envisaged to provide the space technology enabled services like telemedicine; tele-education; natural resources information and advisories on agriculture, land and water resources, weather and fisheries. The VRCs aim to reach these services directly to the rural community through a single window mechanism.

(c) The VRCs are being developed and set up by ISRO, in association with selected NGOs, Trusts and the Government agencies.

(d) In Andhra Pradesh, 2 VRCs have so far been set up – one at Moosapet in Mahabubnagar district, and the other at ICRISAT, Hyderabad, in association with MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. Another 31 VRCs are being set up in 8 districts, namely, Adilabad, Chittur, East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Krishna, Nalgonda and West Godavari, in association with Byrraju Foundation and Dhan Foundation.

[Translation]

Labour Agreement with Kuwait

1135. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to enter into any labour agreement with the Government of Kuwait;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A draft Memorandum of Understanding has been under consideration by both countries since 2003. The draft was discussed during the Joint Technical Kuwait-India Task Force Meeting on 17th-18th July 2006 in New Delhi. The Memorandum of Understanding is likely to be finalized shortly.

[English]

Container Transhipment Terminal Facility

1136. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Container Transhipment Terminal is available in all major ports of the country;

(b) if not, the names of the ports which do not have the said facility;

(c) whether Dubai Port International is inclined to develop International Container Transhipment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Dedicated capacities for handling containerized cargo are available in seven major ports, namely, Kolkata Port (both at Kolkata Dock Systems and Haldia Dock Complex), Visakhapatnam Port, Chennai Port, Tuticorin Port, Cochin Port, Mumbai Port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port. Five major ports, namely, Paradip Port, Ennore Port, New Mangalore Port, Mormugao Port and Kandla Port do not have dedicated capacities for handling containerized cargo.

(c) and (d) Based on open competitive bidding, Dubai Ports International was selected for award of the contract for development, management and operation of the International Container Transhipment Terminal (ICTT) project in Cochin Port on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. M/s. India Gateway Terminal Private Limited, a subsidiary of Dubai Ports International (now Dubai Ports World), Dubai, UAE has entered into a License Agreement with Cochin Port Trust on 31st January, 2005 for the project.

Liberalising Visas to Neighbouring Countries

1137. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has liberalized the issue of visa to Indian nationals to attract more tourists from the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Government has also responded with liberalisation of visas to Pakistani nationals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to liberalise visa regime to neighbouring countries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) On 30 June 2006, Pakistani Federal Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao announced that Pakistan had made 'very substantial changes' to the existing Pakistan visa policy in order to make it a tourist, trade, business and investor friendly country. He said that special care had been taken to promote travel and tourism with India. However, India is not included in the Pakistani list of 69 'Business Friendly' countries and 23 'Tourist Friendly' countries announced. Some India-specific measures announced by Pakistan include, *inter alia*, visa for civil society, senior citizens, widows and divorcees enhanced from three months to two years, visa of 30 days instead of 14 days for Group Tourists from India through designated tour operators, Pilgrimage Visa to Indian nationals (not less than 10 in number) to visit specified holy shrines in Pakistan for 15 days instead of 5 days allowed earlier, introduction of 'Business Visa' envisaging 6 months duration with multiple entries and maximum stay of 30 days subject to production of requisite documents, and expeditious processing of diplomatic and non-diplomatic visas of Indian diplomats posted in Pakistan.

(c) and (d) Government firmly believes that people to people contact is a significant factor in generating goodwill and promoting bilateral relations between India and Pakistan, and it has consistently endeavoured to negotiate a visa regime that encourages such contacts. In keeping with this policy, Government announced unilateral visa

liberalizations in September 2004, which included, *inter alia*, multiple entry visas for accredited journalists, exemption from reporting to the police for various categories of Pakistani nationals such as those above 65 years of age, academicians, and doctors. In December 2004, Government announced additional visa liberalization measures such as visa on arrival at Wagah for certain categories of people and grant of student visas for allowing admission in Indian institutions to Pakistani students on a case-by-case basis.

India presented a draft proposing amendments to the present India-Pakistan Visa Agreement during the visit of former External Affairs Minister to Pakistan from 2-5 October 2005. The draft envisages longer duration visit visas for people from both countries and proposes the addition of new categories of visas such as student, pilgrims and business visa to facilitate easier movement of people across the border. Pakistan has not given its response to this draft visa agreement.

(e) and (f) Visa regime with China was simplified in 2003 with the signing of the new MoU on Simplification of Visa Procedures between the Government of India and People's Republic of China. In respect of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar Government already has an appropriately liberal visa regime. Besides, the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme became operational from March 1, 1992. The scheme is applicable to certain approved categories of persons from SAARC countries.

[Translation]

Increasing Urban-Rural Divide

1138.DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increasing economic and social disparity in urban and rural areas is giving rise to violent atmosphere;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any proposals under the Eleventh Five Year Plan to deal with this situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for the constant widening of economic disparity between urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Very little research exists in the area of economic and social disparities in the rural and urban areas and its link with violent atmosphere, and consequently little is known about such linkages.

(c) and (d) The Eleventh Five Year Plan has not been prepared. However, an Expert Group has been set up on "Development Issues to deal with Causes of Discontent, Unrest and Extremism" under the Chairmanship of Shri D. Bandopadhyay, Executive Chairman, Council for Social Development.

(e) Based on the information available from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (National Accounts Division), the per capita Net Domestic Product (NDP) for the urban areas worked out to be 2.32 times higher than in the rural area in 1980-81. The corresponding ratio was 2.34 for the year 1993-94. It is clear that there is no significant change in the rural-urban income ratios between 1980-81 and 1993-94. No information giving the rural-urban differences in income level is available after 1993-94.

[English]

Foreign Funds for PRIs

1139. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to attract foreign funds for development of physical infrastructure, requirement of staff and monitoring mechanism at all levels of Panchayati Raj institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to evolve new mechanism for speeding up allocation and transfer of funds to the Panchayati Raj institutions and their effective utilization;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has identified the State Governments and Union Territories wherein District Planning Committees have either not been functioning or found not implementing the development schemes under the Panchayati Raj institutions;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) As of now, no such plans have been finalized. It is, however, recognized that Panchayati Raj Institutions are in need of substantial additional funds to meet these minimum basic requirements.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Common Minimum Programme states that the UPA government will ensure that all funds given to States for implementation of poverty alleviation and rural development schemes by Panchayats are neither delayed nor diverted. Monitoring will be strict. In addition, after consultations with States, the UPA government will consider crediting elected Panchayats with such funds directly.

In order to ensure that funds meant for the Panchayats are neither delayed nor diverted even in cases where they pass through the State Consolidated Funds, a Committee was set up under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to look into the modalities of rapid transfer of funds through the banking channels. The Committee submitted its report in May, 2005 and elements of the report are now being put into operation to streamline the transfer of 12th Finance Commission grants to States. The National Informatics Centre (NIC), on the directions of the Ministry of Panchayati

Raj, has also prepared a fund transfer software that can reduce procedural delays and help in better monitoring of the releases. States could make electronic transfer of funds through banks/treasuries to Panchayats directly through the use of the software. These recommendations have been forwarded to State Governments and Central Ministries concerned for further consideration.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had also identified the schemes of (a) Wage Employment such as SGRY, National Food for Work Programme and NREGA, (b) Rural Water Supply and Sanitation such as Swajaldhara, ARWSP and Total Sanitation Campaign, (c) National Rural Health Mission, (d) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and ICDS for coverage under the proposed system. Ministry of Finance have supported the initiative in principle. The matter is being pursued with the Ministries concerned.

The Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council on Financial and Administrative Empowerment of the Panchayati Raj Institutions which met on 12th June, 2006 at New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Minister of Panchayati Raj also considered this issue. The following decisions relevant to the issue were taken in the meeting in this regard:-

- (i) The Committee on Feasibility of Rapid Fund Transfer to Panchayats through Banking Channels recommended systems that should be adopted by State Governments, so that funds for centrally sponsored schemes are sent to Panchayats through the State Consolidated Fund. The specific provision in this regard contained in Ministry of Finance Office Memoranda (Oms) dated 13.1.2003 and 6.02.2003 should be restored. States should widely publicise the transfer of funds from the State Treasuries to the bank account *or sub-treasury account, as the case may be, of the particular village, block or Zilla Panchayat alongwith date and amount of transfer to each Panchayat, and place this in the public domain. Appropriate training of elected Panchayati Raj representa-*

tives under Gram Swaraj or otherwise, should be expanded, with assistance from Central Government to ensure probity and transparency in Panchayat transactions.

- (ii) Planning Commission or other authorities concerned may review in plan discussion with States the quantum of funds available for consolidation into untied grants to be made available to Panchayats and their distribution among Panchayats. States may also continue augmenting their fund flow to the Panchayats.
- (iii) Monitoring system should be rationalized for the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes.
- (iv) Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) to consider establishment of additional branches in Blocks where there are none in a time-bound manner.
- (v) A stipulated percentage of upto 6% of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Scheme may be consolidated in a single window for capacity building, staff support and monitoring.
- (vi) As of now State funds may continue to flow through treasuries, but central funds will need to be passed on to Panchayat bank accounts from State Treasuries without delay or diversion.

(e) and (f) Article 243ZD of the Constitution stipulates that there shall be constituted in every State at the District level a District Planning Committee to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the Districts and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. The District Planning Committees are meant to prepare plans. Implementation of schemes is not part of their role. Statement indicating the status of constitution of District Planning Committees in States/UTs is enclosed.

(g) The following steps have been taken by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to impress upon the State Governments the need to constitute District Planning Committees at the earliest :—

(i) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had set up an Expert Group on Grass Roots Level Planning. The Group submitted its Report on 28.3.2006, which has been accepted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Based on the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group, the Planning Commission issued a circular to the Planning Secretaries of the State Governments in October 2005 in which the State Governments were advised to constitute District Planning Committees before their Annual Plan proposals could be considered. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj held a Workshop in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) on 8-9 May, 06 to operationalise the recommendations of the Report. The representatives of the Planning Commission and the State Governments were invited to this Workshop. The joint conclusions of the Workshop included the provision of constitution of DPCs in States where District Planning Committees (DPCs) are not constituted, in accordance with the provisions of Article 243 ZD of the Constitution, by 15 June 2006. States that did not have legal provisions in place for the constitution of DPCs, were requested to constitute these immediately through executive orders, pending the enactment of statutory provisions in this regard.

(ii) It was decided during the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee of National Development Council held on 12.6.2006 that the States should constitute District Planning Committees immediately by 15th July, 2006, or as soon as possible, in accordance with the provisions of Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. Wherever States do not have

appropriate legal backing in place for the constitution of DPCs, they may be constituted immediately through executive orders, pending the enactment of statutory provisions in this regard;

(iii) During the meeting of the Council of the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj held in Bhubaneswar on 14-15 June, 2006, the State Governments have again been exhorted to set up DPCs and to issue guidelines for the Operationalisation of DPCs.

The above decisions have been disseminated to the States. Letters have also been sent by Minister of Panchayati Raj on 19 April, 2006, and by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, to the Chief Ministers of States on 24 May 06 to persuade the States to constitute DPCs and issue guidelines for preparation of plans by Panchayats and their consolidation through DPCs according to the Constitutional mandate.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UTs	DPC constituted (Yes/No)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	No
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	No
3.	Assam	Yes
4.	Bihar	No (due to fresh elections)
5.	Chhattisgarh	Yes
6.	Goa	Yes
7.	Gujarat	No
8.	Haryana	No (due to fresh elections)
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Yes

1	2	3
10.	Jharkhand	No
11.	Karnataka	Yes
12.	Kerala	Yes
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Yes
14.	Maharashtra	No
15.	Manipur	Yes
16.	Orissa	Yes
17.	Punjab	No
18.	Rajasthan	Yes
19.	Sikkim	Yes
20.	Tamil Nadu	Yes
21.	Tripura	No
22.	Uttar Pradesh	No
23.	Uttaranchal	No
24.	West Bengal	Yes
25.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Yes
26.	Chandigarh	No
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Yes
28.	Daman and Diu	Yes
29.	Lakshadweep	Yes
30.	Pondicherry	No

[Translation]

**Conversion of State Highways into
National Highways**

1140.SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

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

(a) the number of State Highways converted into National Highways during the last three years in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the length of State Highways in these States converted into National Highways separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Three state roads in Bihar and eight state roads in Uttar Pradesh have been converted into National Highways during the period of 2003-04 to 2005-06.

(b) The length of state roads converted so far into National Highways in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are 3537 Km. and 5599 Km. respectively.

[English]

Beijing-Lhasa Train Service

1141.SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Beijing-Lhasa train service started running in early July, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has examined the security implications arising out of the operation of this train; and

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

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

(b) The railway line from Lhasa in Tibet Autonomous Region to Golmud in Qinghai province of China was formally opened on July 1, 2006. The opening of this railway line provides rail connectivity from Beijing to

Lhasa and according to Chinese reports is expected to contribute to the development of the western region of China.

(c) and (d) Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Building of Reactor by Pakistan

1142. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan is allegedly in the process of building a 1000 MW reactor designed to increase its plutonium production twentyfold as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated July 25, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether this is likely to result in a nuclear arms race in the region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the report. Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson, on 24 July 2006, said that Pakistan is a nuclear weapons state and the details of Pakistan's nuclear facilities and programme cannot be divulged. The Spokesperson added that Khushab is a well-known nuclear site.

(c) and (d) India is not engaged in an arms race. Government regularly monitors proliferation trends in the neighbourhood. Government remains fully vigilant and takes all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interests.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Amount by CIL

1143. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount released by the Government to the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries for the earth moving and technical management have been fully utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the production has been affected due to failure to spend the amount released therefor;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure utilisation of funds released for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) The amount provided for Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) for the subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) during last three years has not been fully utilized as may be seen from the details given below:-

(Rs. in crores)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Budget Estimate	1127.92	1093.94	1266.25
Actual	510.66	456.81	838.08
Difference	617.26	637.13	428.17

The shortfall in capital expenditure on HEMM has been due to the following reasons:-

- i. Change in the policy of procurement of HEMM
- ii. Delay in approval of projects
- iii. Delay in land acquisition, particularly forest land
- iv. Delay in rehabilitation of villages
- v. Change of option from departmental equipment to hired equipment

- vi. Poor fund position in loss making subsidiaries
- vii. Delay in finalization of tenders.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The production has not been adversely affected due to less expenditure on HEMM as revealed from the following table :-

(In million tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual
2003-04	298.50	306.36
2004-05	314.00	323.58
2005-06	343.00	343.39

(f) All precautionary measures are taken while formulating the Annual Plan of the company to make realistic estimates. In addition to this there is regular monitoring mechanism at Area level, at Subsidiary level and at CIL level to oversee the pace of expenditure and to improve the same with in the existing constraints.

[English]

**Amount Collected through
User Charges**

1144. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the annual target fixed for collection of amount as a result of new user charges introduced in the AIIMS in November 2005;
- (b) the actual collection therefrom till date; and
- (c) the number of poor patients treated free during the said period?

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

**Ban on Recruitment of Nurses
by Britain**

1145. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
DR. K.S. MANOJ :

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

- (a) whether United Kingdom has enforced a ban on recruitment of nurses from outside the European Union;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India is worst hit since the maximum number of nurses in Britain are recruited from the country;
- (d) If so, whether the Union Government has taken up this issue with the U.K. Government; and
- (e) If so, the response of the British Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. The United Kingdom, has not enforced a ban on recruitment of nurses from outside the European Union. However, on July 3, 2006, the Department of Health, UK removed 'general nurses' from the 'Skills Shortage Occupations List' of the UK Home Office. The change in regulation does not affect advanced and senior nurse grades in certain specialities. The change will make no difference to nurses currently working in the UK.

The change in the regulation does not stop UK employers from undertaking international recruitment of nurses. They have to demonstrate that they cannot fill a post with a UK or European Economic Area (EEA) applicant first. The new regulations are likely to come into effect on August 14, 2006.

Any likely impact on international recruitment is not yet known.

[Translation]

Indo-Pak Bus Service

1146. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of places from where bus service between India and Pakistan has been introduced during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) A fortnightly bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) was operationalised on 7 April, 2005. Travel on this bus is on the basis of entry permits issued by concerned authorities on both sides. The service which was temporarily suspended due to the damage to infrastructure in the earthquake of 8 October, 2005 resumed on 20 February, 2006.

The bi-weekly Amritsar-Lahore bus commenced service on 24 January, 2006 and the bi-weekly Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service on 24 March, 2006. The Poonch-Rawalakot bus service was inaugurated on 20 June, 2006 on a fortnightly basis. The procedure for travel on this bus is the same as for the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service.

[English]

Amending Emigration Act, 1983

1147. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN :

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN :

(a) Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: whether the new norms for getting emigration clearance has put Indians seeking jobs abroad in difficulty;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the Emigration Act, 1983 to make procedure simpler;

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. No new norms have been introduced. However, to make the emigration process simple and transparent, promote orderly and human migration and to ensure better protection and welfare of the worker, the process for comprehensive amendment to the Emigration Act, 1983 is underway.

**Centrally Sponsored Schemes for
Development of Sports**

1148. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing basic facilities for the development of sports in the country;

(b) the details of facilities being provided under these schemes, State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether these facilities are not sufficient for the development of sports;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government propose to provide more funds for the development of sports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for creation of sports facilities viz. sports complex, stadia, swimming pool, development of playfield, purchase of sports equipments etc. 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. Government, however, decided to transfer the Sports Infrastructure Scheme to the State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005. Thus, fresh cases of Sports Infrastructure projects will have to be funded by State Governments out of their own resources. All State Governments were informed accordingly in February, 2005.

(c) No State-wise allocation of funds was done under the erstwhile Sports Infrastructure Schemes. Depending upon the receipt of viable proposals, admissible Central assistance was provided. However, State-wise details of funds provided under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes during the last three years is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(d) Yes Sir, the existing facilities are not sufficient for realizing the potential of sports in the country.

(e) and (f) Presently, the Ministry is implementing the scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations. Under the scheme, Central assistance is provided to the

recognised National Sports Federations, which are autonomous registered bodies, for purposes such as for participation in tournaments and Training abroad, organizing National/International Championships in India and purchase of Sports Equipments. Sports Authority of India is also implementing schemes for promotion of sports namely (i) National Sports Talent Contest; (ii) Army Boys Sports Company; (iii) Special Area Games; (iv) SAI Training Centre; and (v) Centres for Excellence. Besides, financial assistance is also provided to outstanding sportspersons for purchase of equipments, scientific support and training and participation within country and abroad under the scheme relating to Talent Search and Training.

However, in consideration of the position mentioned at (d) above, consideration is also being given to the promotion of a Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan in collaboration with various stakeholders like Panchayat Raj Institutions, Nehru Yuva Kendras, educational institutions, etc.

Statement

State-wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 (As on 31.3.2006)

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006 (As on 31.3.2006)	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	484.527	14	123.75	7	45.00	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	191.00	5	27.00	1	71.00	1
3	Assam	17	2	188.09	8	7.00	1
4	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	0	0	65.00	2	0	0
8	Haryana	40.17	2	118.13	16	32.80	4
9	Himachal Pradesh	100.21	8	118.63	10	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	26.82	18	22.50	1	0	0
11.	Karnataka	58.7	8	101.3	9	0	0
12.	Kerala	13.01	4	1.50	1	0	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	152.27	13	115.40	6	18.00	1
14.	Maharashtra	238.43	13	169.04	9	45.08	2
15.	Manipur	0	0	22.50	3	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	100.11	5	234.55	5	0	0
17.	Mizoram	136.32	21	30.00	1	59.59	1
18.	Nagaland	962.46	21	115.98	12	45.00	1
19.	Orissa	0.05	1	0.75	1	0	0
20.	Punjab	45.00	1	0	0	0	0
21.	Rajasthan	25.00	2	8.72	1	23.00	1
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	170.36	22	81.15	13	50.52	2
24.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	46.94	3	69.23	6	83.00	4
26.	West Bengal	20.07	15	49.70	4	0	0
27.	Chhattisgarh	78.50	4	0	0	0	0
28.	Jharkhand	0	0	30.00	1	0	0
29.	Uttaranchal	0	0	94.80	5	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		2906.98	182	1787.99	122	480.00	19

State wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Playground from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 (As on 31.3.2006)

(Rs. In lakhs)

1	2	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
		Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.37	1	2.76	3	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.35	4	7.74	7	0	0
3.	Assam	30.88	41	22.18	38	0	0
4.	Bihar	3.29	3	7.53	8	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.13	2	3.32	4	0	0
6.	Delhi	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
7.	Goa	0.00	0	1.08	1	0	0
8.	Gujarat	2.98	4	1.42	2	0	0
9.	Haryana	43.36	59	24.17	41	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.72	15	10.21	14	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.17	3	9.64	14	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	16.75	26	12.10	18	0	0
14.	Kerala	0.00	0	15.48	17	0	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	22.95	29	13.67	20	0	0
16.	Maharashtra	51.63	58	54.19	71	8.63	27
17.	Manipur	3.26	5	1.48	2	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	1.08	1	9.37	10	0	0
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0	3.80	5	0	0
21.	Orissa	44.21	55	61.99	80	8.60	28
22.	Punjab	2.56	3	0.63	2	0	0
23.	Rajasthan	25.19	29	18.76	30	0	0
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	7.65	21	3.70	6	0	0
26.	Tripura	0.37	1	0.40	1	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	39.60	47	51.11	75	0.89	3
28.	Uttaranchal	1104	12	18.44	26	1.87	6
29.	West Bengal	77.98	106	127.15	167	0	0
30.	UTs- Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
33.	Lakshdweep	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34.	Daman and Diu	000	0	0.00	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
Total		399.63	525	482.45	662	19.99	64

*State-wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006
(As on 31.3.2006)*

Rs. in lakhs

1	2	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
		Amount released	No. of Colleges/ Universities	Amount released	No. of Colleges/ Universities	Amount released	No. of Colleges/ Universities
1.	Andhra Pradesh	87.82	27	97.22	36	5.00	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
3.	Assam	26.81	10	126.31	48	0	0
4.	Bihar	20.60	4	0.00	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0	20.70	9	0	0
6.	Goa	9.00	0	2.70	1	0	0
7.	Gujarat	18.27	10	28.20	1	0	0
S	Haryana	10.31	9	26.86	4	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	5.85	3	7.37	4	0	0
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
11	Jharkhand	0.00	0	2.70	1	0	0
12	Karnataka	39.35	35	149.87	63	12.00	1
13	Kerala	39.80	18	45.07	24	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	10.80	4	26.10	7	0	0
15	Maharashtra	197.53	98	244.15	115	20.85	2
16	Manipur	25.03	3	17.80	5	0	0
17	Mizoram	10.72	4	0.00	0	0	0
18	Meghalaya	0.00	0	10.80	4	0	0
19	Nagaland	22.50	11	19.20	10	0	0
20	Orissa	83.60	40	57.98	32	0	0
21	Punjab	52.68	13	29.45	11	10.00	1
22	Rajasthan	4.20	2	7.20	3	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	164.81	27	169.80	29	17.12	1
24	Tripura	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
25	Uttar Pradesh	101.56	41	158.65	62	45.00	3
26	Uttaranchal	24.60	10	16.80	8	0	0
27	West Bengal	79.86	42	141.28	63	0	0
28	Delhi	53.50	2	62.64	1	40.03	1
29	UTs - Chandigarh	0.00	0	1.00	1	0.00	0
Total		1080.25	413	1472.00	555	150.00	10

State-wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Installation of Synthetic Surfaces 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 (As on 31.3.2006)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	00.00	0	20.00	1	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Haryana	30.00	1	0.00	0	0	0
3.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
5.	Karnataka	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
7.	Maharashtra	50.00	1	15.00	1	0	0
8.	Manipur	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
9.	Orissa	0.00	0	50.00	1	0	0
10.	Punjab	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
11.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0	65.00	1	0	0
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	150.00	3
13.	West Bengal	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
14.	Delhi	20.00	1	0.00	0	0	0
15.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	100.00	1	0.00	0	0	0
Total		200	4	150	4	150	3

Compensation to Kuwait War Victims

1149. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether requests for Kuwait war compensation from large number of people particularly from Kerala are still being received;

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

(c) whether the Government has requested the UN Comprehensive Commission to extend the prescribed time

limit for submission of applications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) The last date for submission of claim applications as decreed by United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) was 1st January, 1996. After this date UNCC stopped accepting any claim application. Since then a large number of people have written to us and still continue to write for compensation. These letters have come from all parts of the country including Kerala.

Recently the Government has advertised the names of untraced claimants whose claims have been approved by UNCC, but whose latest addresses were not intimated by them. In response to this we are now receiving large number of letters from claimants included in this list, including from Kerala. Although it was clearly stated that the advertisement was not a call for fresh application, a large number of persons from all over the country including Kerala are still writing to Government seeking to apply afresh.

A Table showing comparative details regarding valid Indian claimants and claimants from Kerala is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has requested the UNCC to extend the prescribed time limit for submission of applications on several occasions. So far, UNCC has expressed its inability to accede to the requests of Government of India for extension of the deadline of 1st January, 1996 for acceptance of new claims.

Statement

Table showing the comparative details regarding Indian claimants and claimants from Kerala

Sl.No.	Subject	All India	Kerala
1.	Total No. of claimants who applied.	More than 100,000	33117
2.	Total claimants who have received payments.	More than 100,000	31817
3.	Total amount paid.	Rs. 4600 crores (US\$ 1 billion)	Rs. 1150 crores (US\$ 250 millions)
4.	Total No. of untraced claimants.	6500	466
5.	Claim submitted after 01/01/1996	50,000 approx.	5000

[Translation]

Alleged Irregularities In Expenditure In Embassies/High Commissions

1150.SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of alleged irregularities in expenditure in the Indian Embassies and High Commissions have been reported by the C.A.G.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken to check these irregularities;

(d) whether the Embassies and High Commissions have been allegedly found flouting rules with regard to expenses;

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

(f) the details of the expenditure incurred during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) Yes. Of the pending C and AG Paras for the Reports of 2005 and 2006 (last two years), only twenty pertain to 'irregularities of expenditure' in Indian Embassies and High Commissions abroad. Some of the 'irregularities' mentioned in these Paras are procedural in nature while some

of these have the element of recoveries from individual officers. Irregularities committed, which are procedural in nature or justified by circumstances are thirteen in number and need regularisation by the Ministry. The remaining seven C and AG Paras pertain to recoveries for 'irregularities' committed and action is on hand to settle the Paras, if necessary, by recovery.

(b) Details of such pending C and AG Paras are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Ministry has taken several measures to streamline the system to ensure irregularities of a procedural nature are avoided. Measures undertaken are given as under:-

- i. Rules regarding delegation of financial powers of Indian Embassies and High Commissions have been reviewed/relaxed to meet the changing requirements of the Missions' responsibilities as well as inflationary conditions and changes in exchange rates.
- ii. Reallocation of budget taking into account prevailing circumstances in Indian Embassies and High Commissions; for example, increased allocation has been made for stationery requirements to provide for increased visa work, provision has been made for staffing requirements for changes in security environment and increased visa work, etc.
- iii. Circulars and guidelines on procedural deficiencies that are commonly observed are issued from time to time to all Indian Embassies and High Commissions and Heads of Indian Embassies and High Commissions abroad are advised to pay personal attention to such matters.
- iv. Ministry has devised mechanism to monitor expenditure on a monthly basis to exercise budgetary control and regulate cash management.

- v. Training is being provided to personnel on financial matters before proceeding on postings abroad.

In cases where irregularities are not procedural in nature, action has been taken/is being taken to recover the amounts from the officers concerned.

(d) In cases where expenses have been incurred which are not procedural in nature, remedial action has been taken/is being taken to recover the amounts from the officers concerned.

(e) and (f) As per C and AG Reports, the break-up of total expenditure on irregularities in Indian Embassies and High Commissions abroad is detailed in the enclosed statement.

Statement

C and AG Report No. 2 of 2005

Sl. No.	Para No.	Title
1	2	3
1.	6.1	Avoidable expenditure on creation of the office of the Ambassador-at - large Rs. 15.95 crore
2.	6.2	Non-compliance on inadmissible items under the Children Education Scheme Rs. 1.25 crore
3.	6.4	Irregular appointment of Chauffeur, Singapore Rs. 56.48 lakh
4.	6.6	Unauthorised and avoidable expenditure on leasing of accommodation, New York Rs. 28.36 lakh
5.	6.7	Extra expenditure on pay and allowances of surplus staff, Nairobi Rs. 22.72 lakh
6.	6.8	Arbitrary action leading to infructuous expenditure, Dar-es-Salaam Rs. 14.93 lakh

1	2	3
7.	6.9	Loss of Government money, London Rs. 11.58 lakh
8.	6.10	Misuse of official powers for personal gains, Ulan Baatar Rs. 10.89 lakh
9.	6.11	Avoidable expenditure on vacant accommodation, Hamburg Rs. 10.72 lakh
10.	6.12	Unjustified retention of advance by a Consul General, Vancouver Rs. 2.69 lakh

C and AG Report No. 2 of 2006

Sl. No.	Para No.	Title
1	2	3
11.	4.1.2	Unauthorised expenditure on security guards, Pretoria Rs. 1.31 crores
12.	4.1.3	Unauthorised expenditure on purchase of cars – Riyadh, Mahe, Johannesburg Rs. 46.64 lakh
13.	4.1.4	Unauthorised expenditure in violation of delegated powers - Luanda, Harare Rs. 15.96 lakhs
14.	4.1.5	Unauthorised expenditure on purchase of stationery, 14 missions Rs. 1.35 crores
15.	4.1.6	Unauthorised and excess payments of garden grant – Johannesburg, Sana'a and Mahe Rs. 8.15 lakh
16.	4.1.7	Unauthorised expenditure on cellular phones – 6 missions Rs. 13.49 lakh
17.	4.1.8	Failure to impose recovery towards inadmissible items under CEA – 9 missions Rs. 15.08 lakh

1	2	3
18.	4.2	Unauthorised expenditure on contingency paid staff – Missions Rs. 2.54 crore
19.	4.4	Avoidable additional expenditure – Port Moresby, Suva and Helsinki Rs. 1.44 crore
20.	4.6	Avoidable extra expenditure, Haj delegation Rs. 24.50 lakh

[English]

Committee to Check Misuse of Technology

1151.SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether it is possible to send SMSs using the cell number of other people without their knowledge,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up a committee to check the possible misuse of the said technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said committee will submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Only through browser interface it is possible to send SMSs using the cell number of other people without their knowledge.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Committee was set upto examine the following issues:-

- (i) To determine how such misuse of technology is possible.
- (ii) Measures to prevent misuse of technology while allowing normal SMS service.
- (iii) Role of telecom service provider.
- (iv) Any other issues the members of the Committee may consider necessary to be considered by the Committee.
- (e) The Committee has already submitted its report.

Expansion of CDMA Network

1152.SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are not expanding their CDMA based network;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is suffering revenue loss due to non-utilization of spectrum;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has instructed the MTNL and BSNL to vacate the unused spectrum; and
- (f) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. MTNL and BSNL are expanding their CDMA based network.

(b) MTNL is deploying 2000 lx CDMA network of 4 lakh lines each in Delhi and Mumbai, while CDMA equipment capacity under installation in BSNL is 10,48,600.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) MTNL has been advised for harmonization of allotted CDMA carriers to them, which is likely to result in the surrender of remaining CDMA spectrum. BSNL has been allotted only an initial CDMA spectrum of 2.5 + 2.5 MHz as per relevant provision of their Service Licence Agreement. Hence, no instruction has been issued to BSNL to vacate the unused spectrum.

Sports Training Centres

1153.SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India proposes to set up training centres in various parts of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost thereof, and;

(c) the time by which the training centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) proposes to establish Special Area Games Centres (SAG) at Shimoga (Karnataka) and Mayiladuthurai (Tamil Nadu); Sports Training Centres (STC) at Mangala Stadium, Mangalore (Karnataka) and at Mumbai University, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Magadh University, Gaya (Bihar) and at Raipur (Chhattisgarh).

In addition, a decision had been taken to set up a Sub-Centre at Nagercoil (Tamil Nadu), action on which has been held up on account of certain issues relating to land use regulations.

The time schedule to make the infrastructure operational depends mainly on availability of land without encumbrance to SAI; in the case of STC, binding over of building for hostels; and signing of Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU), whereafter action has to be taken by SAI for placing administrative and technical staff. After receiving possession of the required physical infrastructure, as indicated above, it takes about 12 -18 months to operationalise the centre.

While costs vary according to the location and the quality of infrastructure handed over to SAI, typical costs as per present estimates are given below :-

Scheme	Non-recurring Costs (Rs. In Lakhs)	Recurring Grant Costs (Rs. In Lakhs)
STC	10.00	28.27
SAG	760.00	28.27
Sub-Centre	2590.00	Depends on number of campers and other training programmes.

Nuclear Power Programme Strategy

1154.SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER Be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made any Nuclear Power Programme strategy based on indigenous nuclear fuel resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A three-stage nuclear power programme to utilize large thorium reserves in the country for electricity generation has been envisaged since the inception of nuclear power programme in the country.

(b) The three stages of the programme are :-

Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors, (PHWR) in the first stage, based on natural uranium available in the country.

- Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) utilising plutonium-uranium fuel cycle, in the second stage.
- Reactors for utilisation of our vast resources of thorium, in the third stage.

The three stages have important fuel cycle linkages and have to be gone through sequentially.

(c) At present there are 16 (14 PHWRs and 2 Boiling Water Reactors) power reactors in operation with a total capacity of 3900 MWe. In addition, four Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and two Light Water Reactors (LWRs) are under construction.

A beginning to the second stage programme has been made with the start of construction of 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

A technology demonstration project for utilization of Thorium on a large scale is currently under pre-licensing review. A small research reactor Kalpakkam Mini Reactor (KAMINI) which runs on Uranium 233 derived from Thorium is already in operation.

[Translation]

Hindi as Medium of Examination

1155.SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to make Hindi as medium of examination for recruitment in various services of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :
(a) and (b) For the Civil Services (Main) Examination

conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, the candidates already have the choice to answer all the papers (other than the language papers) in English or Hindi or any of the other languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Staff Selection Commission has introduced, in addition to English, all the 'languages' mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, as medium for answering the question papers (excluding language specific papers) for the Matric Level (Main) Examination in the current year as under :—

- (i) For answering the question papers in 'General Studies' and 'Essay' for the posts of Stenographer Grade 'C' and Stenographer Grade 'D';
- (ii) For answering the question papers in 'General Studies' and 'Arithmetic' for the post of LDC.

Delay in Projects of MCL

1156. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some projects of the Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. (MCL) have delayed by 10 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is cost escalation due to delay in these projects;
- (d) if so, the total amount of loss suffered by the company till date; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to complete these projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir. There is no project of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited that has been delayed to the extent of 10 years.

(b) to (e) Not applicable in view of reply to question (a) above.

[English]

Alleged Malpractices in Immigration Offices

1157. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any complaints about ongoing alleged malpractices in the Immigration Clearance Offices all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the CBI and the Central vigilance Department have done any on-the-spot verification and enquiry at the Immigration Offices particularly at Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi in Kerala.
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the pending applications;
- (f) whether the Government plans to exclude the SSLC Pass Certificate holders from the head of Emergency Check Required; and
- (g) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (e) There have been CBI raids in some offices of Protector of Emigrants (PoE) including Thiruvananthapuram. The cases are at various stages of investigation. Various measures to streamline the emigration process to make it simple and transparent, including amendments to the Emigration Act 1983, are underway.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The proposal is under consideration.

Indo-Bangladesh Extradition Treaty

1158. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has submitted a proposal to Bangladesh for an extradition treaty;

(b) if so, whether Bangladesh has already given its approval to the draft proposal sent by India;

(c) if so, the time by which the treaty is likely to be signed; and

(d) the extent to which it will be helpful for both countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (c) The draft text of the Extradition Treaty was forwarded to Bangladesh Government in June 2003. The Bangladesh Government has conveyed that the draft is being examined and assured that it will expedite its response.

(d) The Extradition Treaty when concluded with Bangladesh will be helpful to both the countries in extraditing wanted criminals operating/taking shelter in the territory of each other.

Completion of Works on National Corridors

1159. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the works relating to completion of National Corridors have been sluggish or have been held up for want of acquisition of land in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the extent to which the works are lagging in each State and the reasons therefor;

(c) the cost overrun caused thereby; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the works and to complete them within schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) Despite constraints in

acquisition of land, utility shifting, environment clearance etc. the works under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I, II and IIIA are in progress. The status of projects in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is given in the enclosed statement-I. The cost over run if any will be known after the completion of the projects.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to expedite the projects are in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of NHA/ projects in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

(Status as on 30-06-2006)

Projects in Uttar Pradesh

Project	Total Length	Completed/4 laned	Under Impl.	Balance
GQ	754	556	199	0
NS	201	23	149	29
EW	653	52	601	0
Port Connectivity	0	0	0	0
Other	149	57	92	0
NHDP Ph. IIIA	266	0	199	67
NHDP Ph.IIIB	352	DPR is in progress		

Projects in Madhya Pradesh

Project	Total Length	Completed/4 laned	Under Impl.	Balance
1	2	3	4	5
GQ	0	0	0	0
NS	536	42	436	59

1	2	3	4	5
EW	118	0	118	0
Port Connectivity	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
NHDP Ph.IIIA	94	0	94	0
NHDP Ph.IIIB	707	398 - DPR is in progress 309 - DPR bid is to be invited.		

Statement-II

Steps taken to Expedite the Projects

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

- (a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport and Highways.
- (b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the NHDP such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.
- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of ROBs.
- (d) The procedure for issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.

- (e) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MoU has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.
- (f) Action has been taken against non performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.
- (g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

[Translation]

Improving Hospital Services

1160.SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government from the State Governments regarding financial assistance for improving the services in hospitals during the last three years till date;
- (b) the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allocate more funds to the States in the current five year plan for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Under the Scheme for Upgradation of Emergency Services in State Government Hospitals (Trauma Care Centre) 116 proposals have been received during last three years (from 1.4.2003-till date). Out

of these, grants have been sanctioned to 44 Hospitals which were found suitable under the provisions of the Scheme.

During the current five year Plan, there is a total provision of Rs. 110 crores for this scheme and there is no proposal to enhance this allocation.

[English]

**Setting up of Rural Information
Technology Network**

1161. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government has any proposal to set up Rural Information Technology Network in the country;

(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) and (b) The Government has formulated a draft scheme to create an enabling environment facilitating the roll out of 100,000+ internet enabled Common Service Centres, primarily in rural areas. These Centres are expected to provide a mix of Government and other private services at the doorstep of the citizen and would also enable rural citizens to access the internet.

(c) No decision has been taken by the Government in the matter so far.

[Translation]

Marine Tourism Shipping Policy

1162. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any Marine Tourism Shipping policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a high powered committee appointed by Shipping in consultation with Ministry of Tourism have submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to submit its report; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to promote Marine Tourism in the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A High Powered Steering Group (HPSG) chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and co-chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Tourism has been constituted with a view to catalyze the growth and development of Cruise Shipping in India and to formulate a cruise shipping policy. The HPSG is to coordinate with all Ministries/Departments of Government of India as well as State Governments and steer/guide the discussions with a view to formulate the above policy.

(e) The following steps have been taken/being taken to promote Marine Tourism in India:-

(i) Cabotage has been relaxed for cruise ships for a period of 5 years from December, 2003.

(ii) Upto 50% rebate has been given in vessel related charges including berth hire, pilotage, etc.

(iii) Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Tuticorin and Chennai Ports are being projected as part of the Indian Cruise Circuit.

- (iv) Systems and procedures are being streamlined to facilitate seamless travel by the tourists.
- (v) Cruise operator M/s. Ocean Cruises India Pvt. Ltd. has been permitted to operate cruises from Goa to Lakshadweep via Cochin. Similarly Cruise operator M/s. Star Cruises has been permitted to operate cruises from Mumbai to Lakshadweep (Kadmat Island), and Mumbai to Goa.

[English]

**Setting up of Mobile Phone Production
Factory in Joint Venture**

1163. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up mobile phone production factory in joint venture with private sector in Gandhi Nagar district of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of mobile telephone towers sanctioned for Jamnagar and Porbandar districts in Gujarat during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(e) the number out of them installed in these districts, so far;

(f) the time by which the remaining towers are likely to be installed; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(c) According to the extant policies, no industrial licence is required for selling up a telecom manufacturing unit. 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is also permitted for setting up telecom equipment manufacturing units (including mobile phone) anywhere in India. Government of India does not provide any equity participation for these initiatives.

(d) and (e) Government does not sanction any mobile telephone towers and operators install the towers based on their business plan. Only licences are issued by the Government to operators for providing mobile telephone services. Government does not maintain data of towers installed by private operators. However, the information in respect of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is given below :—

Year	District Jamnagar			District Porbandar		
	Planned	Installed	Balance	Planned	Installed	Balance
2004-05	16	16	0	1	1	0
2005-06	60	1	59	19	0	19

(f) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) will install the balance towers by the end of 2006-07.

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

Computerisation of Post Offices

1164. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts (DoP) has introduced Sanchay Post software in post offices for computerisation of Savings Bank operations;

(b) if so, the total number of post offices functional as on date and the number of post offices computerised since the introduction of Sanchay Post software;

(c) whether Sanchay Post software lacked customer friendly features like automatic transfer of funds from one savings scheme to another etc.;

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to speed up the process of computerisation and introduction of banking software in all its post offices?

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

(b) As on 31.03.2005 there are 1,55,516 Post Offices. Sanchay Post software has been provided in 445 computerised departmental post offices.

(c) No, Sir. The Sanchay Post Software does provide for customer friendly features like automatic transfer of funds from one saving scheme to another.

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

(e) Computerisation is an ongoing activity. Banking software is introduced in post offices progressively on the basis of availability of funds.

Voluntary Blood Donation

1165.SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

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

(a) whether voluntary blood donors in India are very low as per a recent survey of the World Health Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to encourage voluntary blood donation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The proportion of voluntary blood collection in the country during year 2005 was 51.9%. However, few states like Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Chandigarh (UT) have done exceedingly well in voluntary blood collection. A state-wise voluntary blood collection during year 2005 is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) National AIDS Control Organisation is conducting following activities to encourage voluntary donation in the country:-

(i) Organising 45000 voluntary blood donation camps in the country during 2006-07 as per enclosed statement-II. Each camp has to collect a minimum of 100 blood units, and

(ii) Organising advocacy workshops and awareness programmes to motivate the youth and thereby recruiting and retaining them as voluntary blood donors.

Statement-I

Total Blood Units Collected during the year 2005; State-wise

S. No	State	Total Blood Collection	Voluntary	%	Replacement	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Ahmedabad MACS	115295	74912	64.97	40383	35.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3906	2877	73.66	1029	26.34
3.	Andhra Pradesh	373105	189127	50.69	183978	49.31
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	1486	1342	90.31	144	9.69
5.	Assam	71178	32333	45.43	38845	54.57
6.	Bihar	47622	12100	25.41	35522	74.59
7.	Chandigarh	54138	39144	72.3	14994	27.7
8.	Chennai MACS	111496	99329	89.09	12167	10.91
9.	Chhattisgarh	27945	8004	28.64	19941	71.36
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2218	2218	100	0	0
11.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Delhi	292348	77580	26.54	214768	73.46
13.	Goa	8276	4231	51.12	4045	48.88
14.	Gujarat	500204	317338	63.44	182866	36.56
15.	Haryana	125229	40707	32.51	84522	67.49
16.	Himachal Pradesh	15390	9680	62.9	5710	37.1
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	38778	7861	20.27	30917	79.73
18.	Jharkhand	60672	15993	26.36	44679	73.64
19.	Karnataka	356656	184796	51.81	171860	48.19
20.	Kerala	161036	64838	40.26	96198	59.74
21.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Madhya Pradesh	174606	66430	38.05	108176	61.95
23.	Maharashtra	220523	187508	85.03	33015	14.97
24.	Manipur	14731	1454	9.87	13277	90.13
25.	Meghalaya	3174	327	10.3	2847	89.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Mizoram	12241	7277	59.45	4964	40.55
27.	Mumbai MACS	174345	90928	52.15	83417	47.85
28.	Nagaland	1672	583	34.87	1089	65.13
29.	Orissa	156193	84964	54.4	71229	45.6
30.	Pondicherry	12823	5780	45.08	7043	54.92
31.	Punjab	203325	35780	17.6	167545	82.4
32.	Rajasthan	153262	35258	23.01	118004	76.99
33.	Sikkim	1218	375	30.79	843	69.21
34.	Tamil Nadu	153120	111262	72.66	41858	27.34
35.	Tripura	17174	12070	70.28	5104	29.72
36.	Uttar Pradesh	311818	74503	23.89	237315	76.11
37.	Uttaranchal	29271	4043	13.81	25228	86.19
38.	West Bengal	510465	441177	86.43	69288	13.57
Total		4516939	2344129	51.9	2172810	48.1

Statement-II

Statewise proposal for organising Voluntary Blood Donation camps for the year 2006-07

Sl No.	State	No. of Vol. Blood Donation camps-Proposed
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad MACS	500
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30
3.	Andhra Pradesh	4000
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	50

1	2	3
5.	Assam	500
6.	Bihar	650
7.	Chandigarh	250
8.	Chennai MACS	750
9.	Chhattisgarh	500
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50
11.	Daman and Diu	25
12.	Delhi	1000
13.	Goa	100

1	2	3
14.	Gujarat	5300
15.	Haryana	950
16.	Himachal Pradesh	200
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	200
18.	Jharkhand	1900
19.	Karnataka	3000
20.	Kerala	1000
21.	Lakshadweep	20
22.	Madhya Pradesh	3500
23.	Maharashtra	5000
24.	Manipur	125
25.	Meghalaya	100
26.	Mizoram	100
27.	Mumbai MACS	1000
28.	Nagaland	200
29.	Orissa	1200
30.	Pondicherry	400
31.	Punjab	750
32.	Rajasthan	1500
33.	Sikkim	25
34.	Tamil Nadu	2000
35.	Tripura	25
36.	Uttar Pradesh	2500
37.	Uttaranchal	600

1	2	3
38.	West Bengal	5000
Total		45000

NCAER Survey on AIDS/HIV

1166. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA :

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

(a) whether as per a Survey conducted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), nearly 30 per cent of HIV affected employees in India have been denied promotion, 29% have been denied loans and 20% denied benefits and a large number of them are either forced to quit or opt for voluntary retirement as reported in the *Times of India*, dated July 21, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the Survey;

(c) the response of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As per a study conducted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), of a total of 2385 HIV positive people who were interviewed, 1152 were found to be employed. 31 persons out of 300 who disclosed their HIV status at the workplace reported discrimination. Out of these 31 persons, 9 have been denied promotion and loan facility, 6 persons denied benefits and 3 persons were forced to opt for voluntary retirement.

(c) and (d) The Government support non-discrimination of people living with HIV positive at workplace. The

policy laid down is that no mandatory HIV testing should be imposed as precondition for providing employment except Armed Forces or for providing health care facilities during employment. NACO has issued guidelines to all State AIDS Control Societies on workplace policy principles asking them to collaborate with employers, trade unions and different government departments in this regard.

Guidelines have been issued to all State AIDS Control Societies to ensure that there is no discrimination to HIV positive patients attending government hospitals in the State for treatment purposes.

Speed Post Passport Service

1167. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Speed Post Passport Service is available in limited Post Offices (POs)/Speed Post Centres (SPCs) in the country;

(b) if so, the names of POs/SPCs providing such service in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend such facilities in other POs/SPCs in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of such service to be provided in the country during 2006-07, State-wise?

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

(b) The name of the Post Offices/Speed Post Centres providing such service in the country, state-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The extension of Speed Post Passport Service is a continuous exercise and is provided based on business considerations and operational feasibility.

Statement

S. No.	Name of State	Post Office/Speed Post Centre
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Visakhapatnam National SPC 2. Hyderabad HO 3. Khairatabad HO 4. Secunderabad HO 5. Humayunnagar Nagar HO 6. Jubilee Hills HO
2.	Assam	1. Guwahati SPC 2. Silchar SPC 3. Dibrugarh SPC 4. Jorhat SPC
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Itanagar
4.	Bihar	1. Patna GPO 2. Muzaffarpur HO
5.	Chhattisgarh	1. Raipur
6.	Delhi	1. SPC Market Road New Delhi 2. Delhi GPO 3. Krishna Nagar Head Office Delhi-51 4. Ashok Vihar HO 5. Ramesh Nagar HO 6. Kalkaji

1	2	3	1	2	3
7. Goa	1. Vasco-d-gama SG				3. Jamshedpur HO
8. Gujarat	1. Ashram Road SPC Ahd		13. Karnataka		1. Bagalkot SPC
	2. Vadodara HO				2. Belgaum SPC
	3. Surat HO				3. Bellary SPC
	4. Rajkot HO				4. Bidar SPC
	5. Ahmedabad HO				5. Bijapur SPC
	6. Navaranpura HO				6. Gadag SPC
	7. Revdi Bazaar HO				7. Gulbarga SPC
	8. Nanpura HO				8. Haveri SPC
9. Haryana	1. Ambala GPO				9. Raichur SPC
	2. Gurgaon HO				10. Sirsi SPC
	3. Faridabad HO				11. Chikamanglur SPC
	4. Kurukshetra HO				12. Davangere SPC
	5. Karnal HO				13. Chitradurga SPC
	6. Panipat HO				14. Hassan SPC
10. Himachal Pradesh	1. Shimla GPO				15. Madikeri SPC
	2. Dharamsala HO				16. Hubli SPC
	3. Hamirpur HO				17. Kolar SPC
	4. Solan HO				18. Mandya SPC
	5. Mandi HO				19. Mangalore SPC
11. Jammu and Kashmir	1. Jammu HO				20. Udupi SPC
	2. Srinagar HO				21. Science Insitute Bangalore
12. Jharkhand	1. Ranchi HO				22. Basawangudi HO
	2. Dhanbad HO				23. Mysore SPC

1	2	3	1	2	3
		24. Karwar SPC			2. GPO Bhopal
		25. Shimoga SPC			3. Ravi Shankar Nagar Bhopal PO
		26. Tumkur SPC			4. BHEL PO Bhopal
		27. Chamrajnagar SPC			5. Indore GPO
		28. Bangalore SPC			6. Ujjain HO
		29. Bhadkal SPC			7. Gwalior HO
		30. Yadgiri SPC			8. Indore City HO
14. Kerala	1.	Trivandrum, SPC	17. Meghalaya	1.	Shillong
	2.	Kollam, SPC	18. Manipur	1.	Imphal
	3.	Tiruvalia, SPC	19. Mizoram	1.	Aizawl
	4.	Kottayam, SPC	20. Nagaland	1.	Dimapur
	5.	Ernakulam, SPC		2.	Kohima
	6.	Aluva SPC	21. Orissa	1.	Bhubaneswar GPO
	7.	Thrissur SPC		2.	Cuttack GPO
	8.	Kochi SPC		3.	Puri HO
15. Maharashtra	1.	Mumbai General Post Office		4.	Balasore HO
	2.	Andheri HO		5.	Bhadrak HO
	3.	Thane HO		6.	Barpeta HO
	4.	Pune GPO		7.	Chandnichowk HO
	5.	Shivaji Nagar HO		8.	Khurda HO
	6.	SPC Nashik		9.	Nayagarh HO
	7.	Nagpur GPO		10.	Kendrapara HO
	8.	Aurangabad SPC		11.	Jagatsinghpur HO
16. Madhya Pradesh	1.	C.T.T. Bhopal			

1	2	3	1	2	3
		12. Jajpur HO			36. Baripada HO
		13. Athgarh HO			37. Rairangpur HO
		14. Jaleswar HO			38. Jajpur HO
		15. Rairangpur HO			39. Nawpada MDG
		16. Jaleswar HO			40. Boudhraj MDG
		17. Berhampur HO			41. Nawrangpur MDG
		18. Phulbani HO	22. Punjab		1. Chandigarh SPC (U.T.)
		19. Bhawanipatna HO			2. Ludhiana SPC
		20. Aska, HO			3. Jalandhar, SPC
		21. Bhanjanagar HO			4. Amritsar SPC
		22. Jeypore HO			5. Bhatinda SPC
		23. Koraput HO			6. Batala SPC
		24. Rayagada HO			7. Ferozpur SPC
		25. Chhatrapur HO			8. Faridkot SPC
		26. Parlakhamundi HO			9. Gurdaspur SPC
		27. Jharsuguda HO			10. Hoshaiarpur SPC
		28. Sambalpur HO			11. Kapurthala SPC
		29. Keonjhar HO			12. Sirhind SPC
		30. Dhenkanal HO			13. Nawasahar SPC
		31. Angul HO			14. Moga SPC
		32. Bolangir HO			15. Phagwara SPC
		33. Sundargarh HO			16. Ropar SPC
		34. Rourkela HO			17. Rajpura SPC
		35. Uditnagar HO			18. Sangrur SPC

1	2	3	1	2	3
		19. Patiala SPC			17. Tuticorn
		20. Mansa SPC			18. Nagercoil
		21. Muktsar SPC			19. Pondicherry HO (U.T.)
23. Rajasthan	1. Jaipur HO		26. Uttaranchal	1. Dehradun HO	
	2. Ajmer HO			2. Haldwani HO	
	3. Jodhpur HO			3. Roorkee HO	
	4. Udaipur HO			4. Kotdwar HO	
24. Tripura	1. Agartala Head Post Office		27. Uttar Pradesh	1. Lucknow GPO	
25. Tamil Nadu	1. Chennai SPC			2. Bareilly SPC	
	2. Anna Road HO			3. Kanpur SPC	
	3. Triplicane SO			4. Gorakhpur	
	4. IIT PO			5. SPC Ghaziabad	
	5. Vadapalani PO			6. Noida SPC	
	6. Anna Nagar PO			7. Meerut SPC	
	7. Park Town HO			8. Allahabad SPC	
	8. T Nagar HO			9. Varanasi SPC	
	9. Mylapore HO			10. Moradabad SPC	
	10. Chennai GPO			11. Saharanpur. SPC	
	11. St. Thomas Mount HO			12. Agra HO	
	12. Adyar PO		28. West Bengal	1. Kolkata General Post Office	
	13. Tambaram PO			2. Beadon Street PO	
	14. Tiruchapalli			3. BNCC SPC	
	15. Karur			4. S B Road PO	
	16. Madurai			5. Alipur HO	

1	2	3
	6. Siliguri HO	
	7. Khargpur HO	
29. Sikkim	1. Gangtok Head Post Office	

[Translation]

Cancellation of Coal Block Allotments

1168. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to cancel the allotment of captive coal blocks to private companies and State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of allotments alongwith the list of companies to which allotments are likely to be cancelled;

(d) whether in view of the power crisis, the Government proposes to give certain concessions to the State Electricity Boards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) As per the terms and conditions of the letter allocating a coal block in favour of a company, a block is liable for cancellation for unsatisfactory progress of implementation of the end-use plant and in development of the coal project as well as for breach of any of the conditions of allocation mentioned therein.

(c) Three coal blocks, one each of which was allocated to M/s. Kalinga Power Corporation Ltd., M/s. Videocon Power Ltd. and M/s. Lloyds Metals and Engineering Ltd., for captive mining were deallocated for

unsatisfactory progress in implementation of the end-use plant and development of the captive mine. Also, the lease granted in respect of a captive block in favour of M/s. Central Collieries Company Ltd. was declared void for breach of the captive-use condition.

(d) and (e) In the matter of allocation of coal block, it has been decided by the Government to accord priority to the power sector.

[English]

Funds for Inter-State Roads

1169. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) the details of Inter-State and economically important roads in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any schemes to complete such roads during 2006-07;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked and sanctioned during 2005-06 and 2006-07 for the purpose; and

(d) the progress regarding completion of these roads as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) There are no Inter-State and economically important roads. However, Government sanctions the proposals for the improvement of state roads under the centrally sponsored scheme of "Economic Importance and Inter-State Connectivity". State-wise details of interstate and economically important road/bridge projects approved in principle are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The development of the state roads under this scheme are taken up on year to year basis and

works are completed according to phasing of the project. Rs. 170.59 crore and Rs. 170.61 crore were allocated for this scheme for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. Rs. 86.09 crore were released during the year 2005-06 and no release has been made so far for the year 2006-07.

(d) As on date, 65 projects approved under this scheme have been completed while the same number of projects are in progress. Remaining proposals are in different stages of sanction and tendering.

Statement

State-wise Road/Bridge projects approved in principle under Economic Importance and Inter-State Connectivity Scheme from 2001-02 to 2005-06

Sl. No.	State/UT	Nos.	Approved Cost (in Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	58.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	40.43
3.	Assam	16	31.13
4.	Bihar	3	15.47
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	35.37
6.	Goa	1	0.33
7.	Gujarat	37	71.40
8.	Haryana	6	35.02
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7	31.07
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	15.98
11.	Jharkhand	2	19.00
12.	Karnataka	16	116.99
13.	Kerala	1	13.00

1	2	3	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	31.62
15.	Maharashtra	23	52.47
16.	Manipur	3	39.98
17.	Meghalaya	3	16.00
18.	Mizoram	5	45.66
19.	Nagaland	8	109.83
20.	Orissa	13	70.96
21.	Punjab	5	24.37
22.	Rajasthan	13	36.55
23.	Sikkim	8	70.84
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	20.78
25.	Tripura	5	21.66
26.	Uttaranchal	8	77.51
27.	Uttar Pradesh	8	59.96
28.	West Bengal	3	45.93
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	8.55
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5	7.90
32.	Daman and Diu	2	8.66

National Immunisation Programme

1170.SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce more Vaccines under the National Immunisation Programme;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the same will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG), (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus) DPT, (Oral Polio Vaccine) OPV and Measles vaccines are provided under the National Immunization Programme. Following vaccines are in the process of introduction:-

- i. Hepatitis-B vaccination started in 15 Cities and 33 districts in the year 2002-06, on pilot basis. It has now been decided to expand to 11 better performing States based on evaluated survey of DPT Booster dose above 80% and likely to start by last quarter of this year.
- ii. JE-Vaccination campaign in 11 high-risk districts in four states (Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka and Assam) has been started in 2006 followed by integration of the JE vaccine in the Routine Immunization with the same districts.

National Common Minimum Programme

1171. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has assessed the progress and achievement of the National Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said programme has failed to keep its promises in the domestic front on the issue of price rise, lowering Government expenditure and minorities programme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government to expedite implementation of the said programme?

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

(b) The "Report to the People 2004-2006", brought out by the Government, contains the progress and achievements of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The Report is available on the Prime Minister's Office website (www.pmindia.nic.in).

(c) and (d) The NCMP gives a broad outline of Government's commitment and specific follow up is done by the Ministries concerned.

(e) All action points arising out of the NCMP are being monitored regularly by the respective Ministries/ Departments and also come for consideration before the Cabinet and its Committees from time to time as per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

Voucher System in Education

1172. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has proposed to replicate voucher system in education;

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

(c) whether public opinion including the opinion of education institutions and experts has been sought in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (f) The Approach Paper to the Xth Five Year Plan is currently under preparation in the Planning Commission. A number of ideas are being suggested in the realm of educational policies and programmes, one of these being the feasibility of introduction of the voucher system in schools. A view was expressed that voucher schemes can help promote equity and quality in schooling in areas where adequate private supply exists, provided they are combined with strict requirements on private schools to give freeships to students in economic need.

At present, the merits of the voucher system are being critically debated and the possibility of introducing the voucher system as a pilot project in a specific area is also being examined to test the concept. Some literature on the voucher system has been received from different organizations. No final view has been taken by the Commission on the voucher system.

Upgradation of Roads in Orissa

1173. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to expand and upgrade some State Roads and National Highways in Orissa in collaboration with the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds likely to be allocated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Development of State roads is primarily the responsibility of the State Government and the action for development of such roads with private sector participation is taken by the concerned State Governments. The Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport

and Highways is responsible for the development of National Highways. An aggregate length of about 553 km. has been envisaged for four laning under National Highways Development Project (NHDP)-III, on Build, Operate and Transfer basis and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) are in progress. Out of this, the work of about 406 km. consisting of National Highway No. 200 (Chandkhole-Duburi-Talcher Section) and National Highway No. 215 (Panikoill - Keonjhar - Roxy - Rajamunda road) included under NHDP-III A is targeted for award by December 2006 on completion of the DPR and likely to be completed by December 2009. Remaining length of about 147 km. consisting of National Highway No. 6 (Sambalpur-Bargarh-Orissa/Chhattisgarh border Section) and National Highway No. 203 (Bhubaneswar - Puri road) is included in NHDP-III B and the Government have only approved the preparation of DPR for these projects.

(c) Funds likely to be allocated would be known on completion of the curtailed Project Reports.

[Translation]

Educational Institutes of Indian Systems of Medicine

1174. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

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

(a) whether educational institutes related to the Indian Systems of Medicine are functioning in the country;

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

(c) the estimated number of students enrolled therein in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The information has been provided in the enclosed statement.

(c) The number of students admitted in First Profession of Ayurvedacharya (BAMS)/Kamil-e-tib-o-Jarahat (BUMS) and Siddha Maruthuva Arignar (BSMS) Course and Ayurved Vachaspati [MD (Ayurved)], Mahir-e-tib-o-Jarahat [MD (Unani)] and Siddha Maruthuva Perignar [MD (Siddha)] Post-Graduate Course and five and Half Years Degree Course, Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences (BNYS) every year are as under :-

Under-Graduate

Ayurvedacharya (BAMS)

9875

Kamil-e-tib-o-Jarahat (BUMS)

1525

Siddha Maruthuva Arignar (BSMS)

320

Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences (BNYS)

385

Post-Graduate

MD (Ayurved)

880

MD (Unani)

73

MD (Siddha)

110

Statement*Statewise Distribution of ISM Colleges as on 31.03.2006*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Ayurveda	Unani	Siddha	Yoga and Naturopathy	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	2	0	1	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	1	0	0	0	1
4.	Bihar	11	4	0	0	15
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	1	0	1	4
6.	Delhi	1	2	0	0	3
7.	Goa	1	0	0	0	1
8.	Gujarat	10	0	0	1	11
9.	Haryana	6	0	0	0	6
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	2	0	0	3
12.	Jharkhand	1	0	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Karnataka	50	5	0	3	58
14.	Kerala	12	0	1	0	13
15.	Madhya Pradesh	14	4	0	0	18
16.	Maharashtra	57	5	0	0	62
17.	Orissa	6	0	0	0	6
18.	Punjab	11	0	0	0	11
19.	Rajasthan	6	2	0	0	8
20.	Tamil Nadu	6	1	6	4	17
21.	Uttaranchal	3	0	0	0	3
22.	Uttar Pradesh	14	9	0	0	23
23.	West Bengal	3	1	0	0	4
24.	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	1
Total		222	38	7	10	277

*Colleges providing five and a half year B.N.Y.S. Course.

Note : Based on information received from CCIM and CCRYN.

[English]

Safety of Indians in Afghanistan

1175. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime has allegedly renewed their warning to Indians to wind up their projects there;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof

alongwith the reaction of the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any advise for the Indians going to Afghanistan;

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

(e) whether the Indians working in Afghanistan are safe; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government for the safety of Indians?

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

Sir. Several warnings and threats to Indians working in Afghanistan have been received periodically from the ousted Taliban regime. The Government of India had strongly condemned the killing of Indians in Afghanistan and held the Taliban and its sponsors responsible for it. Government regards the Taliban as a terrorist organization and calls upon the international community to recognize its true colours and join hands to defeat this scourge to humanity. Government has also reiterated its commitment for continued assistance to Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is issuing advisories for the Indians going to Afghanistan periodically through its Embassy/Consulates in Afghanistan and also through Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. All Indians working in Afghanistan are urged to register themselves with the Embassy of India, Kabul. In addition, Indians are also instructed to take adequate security measures and inform their employers and Embassy in case of any need.

(e) and (f) Government of India is taking all possible measures to ensure the safety of Indian workers in Afghanistan. The Indian Missions in Afghanistan are issuing regular security advisories and updates for the benefit of Indians working in Afghanistan. Government of India is in constant touch with the Government of Afghanistan, at various levels, and has taken up the issue of security of Indian nationals working in Afghanistan.

Implementation of Phases IV, V, VI and VII of NHDP

1176. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to implement Phases IV, V, VI and VII of the National Highways Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be incurred on each of these projects;

(c) the number of contracts awarded during the last financial year alongwith the amount of contracts, names of the National Highways and their length in kms.; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Steps for approval of National Highways Development Project Phases IV, V, VI and VII by the Government are being taken by the Ministry. Financing plan for these phases has been approved by the Committee on Infrastructure during its meeting held on 08.04.2006.

(b) The details are as under :-

- (i) Upgradation of about 20,000 km. of single/intermediate lane National Highways to 2-lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP Phase IV.
- (ii) 6 laning of 6,500 km. of National Highways under NHDP Phase V.
- (iii) Development of 1,000 km. Expressways under NHDP Phase VI.
- (iv) Construction of bypasses, flyovers, ROBs etc. at required locations under NHDP Phase VII.

The estimated cost of this project is as under:-

Sl.No.	Project	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1.	NHDP Phase-IV	27800
2.	NHDP Phase-V	41210
3.	NHDP Phase-VI	16680
4.	NHDP Phase-VII	16680

(c) No contract has been awarded during last financial year for the above mentioned projects.

(d) The NHDP Phase IV, V, VI and VII is targeted to be completed by December, 2015.

[Translation]

**Completion of National Highway
No. 16**

1177. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pace of the construction work of Nizamabad-Jagdalpur National Highway No. 16 is slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early completion of NH No. 16;

(d) whether any time-limit has been fixed for its completion; 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) and (b) The total length of NH-16, passing through the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh is 504 km. out of which a length of 293 km. is entrusted to Border Roads Organization (BRO) and 211 km. to State PWDs of Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The progress of works on this National Highway entrusted to BRO has been adversely affected due to law and order problem prevailing in the area.

(c) Measures like deployment of additional Task Force, provision of dedicated security for the personnel and equipment of BRO for expediting the progress of works are proposed.

(d) and (e) The pace of works on this National Highway are expected to pick up after the provision of dedicated security in the area subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Flouting of Reservation Norms in AIIMS

1178. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether statutory reservation norms for SCs, STs, and OBCs in jobs are being routinely flouted by the AIIMS authorities;

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

(c) the number of SC, ST, and OBC candidates appointed during the last three years, category-wise; and

(d) the number of reserved candidates selected on merit?

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

**Indian Regional Navigational
Satellite System**

1179. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ISRO has begun work on setting up of the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which IRNSS is likely to become operational; and

(d) the progress achieved in this regard?

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

(b) The Government have approved in May 2006, the establishment of an "Indian Regional Navigational

Satellite System (IRNSS)" with a constellation of seven satellites to provide navigation and timing services over the Indian subcontinent, at an outlay of Rs.1420 crores. The satellites are proposed to be launched using Indian launch vehicles.

(c) IRNSS is expected to be realised over 6-7 years.

(d) The management structure for the project has been identified. An ISRO-Industry meet has been conducted to appraise the industry of the opportunities for participation in IRNSS. Actions have been initiated for procurement of critical components and systems.

Indian Entities on US Entity List

1180.SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain Indian entities have been removed from the US Department of Commerce Entity list;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre and the Sriharikota Launch Centre of the ISRO continue to be on the US entity list; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Following the US sanctions on India in 1998, several entities in India were placed in the Entity List of the US Department of Commerce, including Ammonium Perchlorate Experimental Plant (APEP), Department of Space (DoS), Indian Space Research Organisation Headquarters (ISRO HQ), ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU), Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Liquid Propulsion Test Facility (LPTF), Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Solid Propellant Booster Plant (SPROB), Space Applications Centre (SAC), Sriharikota Range

(SHAR), Space Physics Laboratory (SPL), Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) and Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of the Department of Space. APEP, DOS, PRL, SPL and TERLS were removed from the List in October 2001, and ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) was added to the List. ISRO HQ was removed from the List in September 2004. ISTRAC, IISU and SAC were removed from the List in August 2005.

(c) Yes, Sir. LPSC, SHAR, SPROB and VSSC continue to be on the US entity list.

(d) The reasons for continuation on the Entities List are known to the US Government. Government of India has sought removal of all Indian entities from the list.

[Translation]

Bio-Medical Research Centres

1181.SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish Bio-Medical Research Centres;

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

(c) the time by which the said centres are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The Indian Council of Medical Research plans to establish three Bio-Medical Research Centres relating to non-communicable diseases during 11th Plan period.

[English]

Opening of Medical Colleges

1182.SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY :

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH :

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Governments particularly from Maharashtra for the establishment of medical colleges in their States during 2005-2006 till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to open new medical colleges in the States;

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

(e) the time by which the medical colleges are likely to be opened, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Proposals for setting up of new medical colleges are received by Central Government in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the month of August each year. For the year 2005-06 the following proposals for setting up of new medical colleges were received from following State Governments:-

S.No.	State Government	No. of Proposals
1	Andhra Pradesh	1 (One)
2	Chhattisgarh	1 (One)
3	Karnataka	1 (One)
4	Uttaranchal	1 (One)
5	Uttar Pradesh	1 (One)

Permission of Central Government has already been accorded for establishment of new medical college by Government of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh. In view of deficiencies, Central Government has not permitted for establishment of new medical colleges at

Shimoga and Srinagar by Government of Karnataka and Uttaranchal respectively. No proposal has been received from Government of Maharashtra during this period and till date.

(c) to (e) Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it is proposed to set up one AIIMS-like institution each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh). These states were chosen as they are under served in terms of medical infrastructure, high incidence of mortality and morbidity, need for super-speciality services etc. The PMSSY Scheme is expected to be implemented within three years.

Changes in Operative System of Post Offices

1183. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to make qualitative changes in the operative system of the Post Offices in the country;

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

(c) the details of targets fixed for the purpose; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets?

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

(b) As provided in the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Scheme of computerization of all large post offices having more than two public counters has been approved so as to provide single counter facility for different types of postal services resulting in less queuing up time for customers. Computerization will also result in

increased productivity of staff and reduction in cost of operations.

In order to speed up action on complaints, the manual procedure for handling complaints from users has been replaced by a web based grievance handling system.

Also, to reduce the shortcomings associated with manual system of handling registered mails, there is a plan to use IT based system.

To speed up handling and to curtail delay owing to manual sorting of large volume of mails, computer interface sorting machines have been planned to be installed at big mail centres

(c) A target to computerize 7700 post offices during the Tenth Five Year Plan has been fixed and exceeded.

There is also a proposal to computerize 100 Mail Offices handling registered mails (CRCs).

A target of installing computer interface sorting machines at Delhi and Kolkata has been fixed.

(d) As on date, computers and other peripherals have been provided in 8163 post offices and 1116 customer care centers equipped with web based facility have been established all over the country. Besides 34 Computerized Registration Centres (CRCs) have been set up and another 66 are proposed during the year 2006-2007. Automated Mail Processing Machines have been installed and are working at Mumbai and Chennai. The installation of these machines at Delhi and Kolkata is being processed.

In the post offices where computers have been functioning the business hours have been extended by at least one hour to facilitate customer convenience.

[Translation]

Indians In British Jails

1184. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian citizens are languishing in British jails;

(b) if so, the total number of Indian citizens jailed in Britain and the details of their crime;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for their release;

(d) whether the Union Government has discussed the matter with the British Government; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected from our Mission and Posts in United Kingdom and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

[English]

Raising Public Spending on Health

1185. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposals to raise public spending on health from 0.9% to 2.3% of GDP to meet the expenses of health programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme has suggested raising public spending on health from 0.9% to at least 2-3% of GDP over the next 5 years. Given this objective and the need to provide accessible, quality and affordable health care, the Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission. The Mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States with poor health indicators and weak

health infrastructure. Besides, tertiary health care facilities are being strengthened across various States through setting up of 6 AIIMS like institutions and also providing one time assistance to 13 Institutions.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities to Village Panchayats

1186. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided telephone facilities to all the village Panchayats in the country;

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

(c) if not, the number of village Panchayats wherein telephone facilities have not been provided so far;

(d) the time by which all the Panchayats will be provided with telephone facilities, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The department maintains data in respect of villages covered by rural telephony. As on 30th June 2006, 5,46,506 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been provided in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) There are 39,341 eligible villages in the country without a Village Public Telephone (VPTs). This excludes villages having less than 100 population and lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.

(d) These remaining eligible villages will be provided VPTs by November 2007.

(e) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide VPTs in these remaining eligible villages with support from USOF.

Statement

State-wise list of number of Village Public Telephones in Existence as on 30-06-2006

Sl. No.	Name of the Service Area	No. of VPTs
1	2	3
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	198
2	Andhra Pradesh	25193
3	Assam	23691
4	Bihar	38475
5	Jharkhand	26984
6	Gujarat	17321
7	Haryana	6811
8	Himachal Pradesh	16903
9	Jammu and Kashmir	5141
10	Karnataka	27066
11	Madhya Pradesh	46136
12	Chhattisgarh	16584
13	Maharashtra	37153
14	North-East-I	4365
15	North-East-II	3608
16	Orissa	40753
17	Punjab	12722
18	Rajasthan	30886
19	Tamil Nadu	17899
20	Uttar Pradesh (East)	76006
21	Uttar Pradesh (West)	21268

1	2	3
22. Uttaranchal		12132
23. West Bengal		37306
24. Kolkata		437
25. Kerala		1468
Total		546506

[English]

Vande Mataram Scheme

1187. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had introduced the Vande Mataram Scheme for the free check up of pregnant women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of private Gynecologists who got themselves associated with this scheme; and

(d) the amount allocated for this scheme for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The Vande Mataram Scheme was launched in February 2004 as a voluntary scheme under the auspices of the Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecological Society of India (FOGSI). FOGSI have appealed to its members to provide for free OPD services for ante-natal and post natal check up for pregnant women and family planning services on the 9th of every month free of cost and to refer such women who require treatment for any complications if necessary, to pre-identified referral centers. Instructions have been issued to all State Governments to facilitate the voluntary doctors by providing them with free Vande Mataram Boards for their clinics, create awareness in the community about the scheme and about the voluntary doctors and also to provide Iron Folic Acid Tablet, Injection Tetanus Toxoid, condoms and oral

pills etc. for free distribution to the patients who attend the clinics of these doctors on the 9th of every month. These items are to be provided by the District Administrations from out of the funds and drugs available with them under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme. No separate funds have therefore been earmarked for this scheme. As per the information made available by FOGSI, 1653 number of private Gynecologists volunteered and got themselves associated under the scheme for providing services.

Outbreak of Malaria in Assam

1188. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total population affected and number of deaths reported in the recent outbreak of Malaria in Assam;

(b) the additional Central assistance granted to control the outbreak indicating future provision made to prevent such a recurrence;

(c) whether non-utilization of allocated fund and inadequacy of preventive and surveillance work alongwith shortage of staff contributed towards the outbreak;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken to ensure deployment of various categories of staff as well as spraying equipment and squad;

(f) whether the Government is planning to provide ex-gratia grant to the affected families; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The State of Assam is endemic for malaria. The district-wise malaria situation in the state of Assam during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-I. During the recent outbreak of malaria the most affected districts were Lakhimpur followed by Golaghat, Karbi-Anglong and Kamrup and details are given in the enclosed statement-IA.

(b) The Government of India provides 100% financial assistance to Assam to meet the operational cost

of implementation of the programme as well as all commodities required to support the programme. Thus, since 1994, the Government, of Assam is being supplied anti-malarial drugs and DDT for indoor residual spray as per technical requirement of the state. Implementation of programme including monitoring and supervision is the responsibility of the state. Cash assistance and commodity support provided to the state during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-II and III.

The state of Assam is also being provided additional support under Global Fund supported AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Intensified Malaria Control Project since July, 2005. This support is to augment anti-malaria activities such as awareness generation, training of Community Volunteers, treatment of bed nets with insecticide, distribution of bed nets to BPL population, distribution of SP-ACT for fever cases and in drug resistance areas, treatment of severe and complicated malaria cases with arteether injection and enhancing diagnostic capability in the remote and inaccessible areas by supply of rapid diagnostic kits.

During the recent outbreak additional support provided to the state as indicated below has been provided:-

Sl. No.	Item	Quantities Supplied
1	2	3
1.	DDT (in MT)	900
2.	Chloroquine (in lakh)	80
3.	Primaquine 7.5 mg (in lakhs)	5
4.	Primaquine 2.5 mg (in lakhs)	35
5.	Quinine Injection (in nos.)	50650
6.	Sulphadoxine-Py. Combination	156800
7.	Combiblister packs (Chloro+prima) in lakhs	2.08
8.	Malathion Technical (1)	500
9.	SP Flow in litres	4450
10.	Bednets	200000

1	2	3
11.	Arteether injection	11080
12.	RD Kits	10000
13.	Paracetamol Tablets in lakhs	5.39
14.	Temephos in litres	100
15.	Fention in litres	200
16.	Stirrup Pumps	47

Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) has been closely monitoring the malaria situation in the state. The Director General of Health Services and Director, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme visited the state for on the spot review of the situation and discussions with the State Authorities on the prevention and control of malaria. Teams from the Regional Offices of Shillong and Guwahati are still positioned to monitor the daily situation. A team has also been deputed from ROH and FW, Patna to assist the state. Enhanced logistics supply to the state was also provided to deal with the situation.

(c) and (d) Surveillance work has been inadequate leading to persistence of parasite pool in the community due to untreated cases. In the State, 320 MPW (M) are in position against the sanctioned strength of 638. The shortage of workers is responsible for poor surveillance and inadequacy of preventive and surveillance work. The allocation of funds and unutilized amount out of the cash assistance provided by GOI to the state enclosed at given in statement-III enclosed.

(e) As per the information obtained from Director Health Services, Assam, the deployment of various categories of staff as well as purchase of spray equipment by the state Government are under process. The state Government has engaged 678 spray squads for 1st round and 625 squads for 2nd round in 2006 for a period of 75 days in each round.

(f) and (g) The implementation of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme is the responsibility of the State, however, there is no such proposal under consideration with the Government.

Statement-I

District-wise Malaria Epidemiological Situation-2003-2005

ASSAM

Sl. No.	District	Year	POP. (000's)	B.S.C.	B.S.E.	Positive Cases		P%	A.B.E.R.	A.P.I.	S.P.R.	M.I.	S/R.	Deaths	
						Pv	Pf								Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Dhubri	2003	1630	109492	109492	108	1444	1552	93.04	6.72	0.95	1.42	0.89	1.32	1
		2004	1641	98966	98966	82	1074	1156	92.91	6.03	0.70	1.17	0.65	1.09	0
		2005	1667	94314	94314	69	997	1066	93.53	5.66	0.64	1.13	0.60	1.06	0
2	Kokrajhar	2003	796	66168	66168	1038	3803	4841	78.56	8.31	6.08	7.32	4.78	5.75	0
		2004	818	63654	63654	935	3465	4400	78.75	7.78	5.38	6.91	4.24	5.44	0
		2005	831	71040	71040	1069	4895	5964	82.08	8.55	7.18	8.40	5.89	6.89	3
3	Goalpara	2003	892	70053	70053	762	3047	3809	79.99	7.85	4.27	5.44	3.42	4.35	0
		2004	909	66753	66753	576	3154	3730	84.56	7.34	4.10	5.59	3.47	4.72	1
		2005	924	65431	65431	473	2587	3060	84.54	7.08	3.31	4.68	2.80	3.95	0
4	Bongaigaon	2003	979	69602	69602	237	1881	2118	88.81	7.11	2.16	3.04	1.92	2.70	0
		2004	932	62035	62035	127	2046	2173	94.16	6.66	2.33	3.50	2.20	3.30	0
		2005	960	79168	79168	235	2645	2880	91.84	8.25	3.00	3.64	2.76	3.34	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5	Barpeta	2003	1618	89409	89409	986	646	1632	39.58	5.53	1.01	1.83	0.40	0.72	0
		2004	1661	80801	80801	705	508	1213	41.88	4.86	0.73	1.50	0.31	0.63	2
		2005	1672	98316	98316	731	1014	1745	58.11	5.88	1.04	1.77	0.61	1.03	1
6	Nalbari	2003	1229	74606	74606	341	1125	1466	76.74	6.07	1.19	1.96	0.92	1.51	0
		2004	1256	71445	71445	262	806	1068	75.47	5.69	0.85	1.49	0.64	1.13	0
		2005	1269	90798	90798	439	1845	2284	80.78	7.16	1.80	2.52	1.45	2.03	4
7	Kamrup	2003	2563	172996	172996	522	3715	4237	87.68	6.75	1.65	2.45	1.45	2.15	0
		2004	2636	161735	161735	406	3602	4008	89.87	6.14	1.52	2.48	1.37	2.23	0
		2005	2652	174942	174942	819	3057	3876	78.87	6.60	1.46	2.22	1.15	1.75	1
8	Darrang	2003	1629	116436	116436	10906	1297	12203	10.63	7.15	7.49	10.48	0.80	1.11	1
		2004	1649	77100	77100	5648	732	6380	11.47	4.68	3.87	8.27	0.44	0.95	0
		2005	1663	107353	107353	8168	2182	10350	21.08	6.46	6.22	9.64	1.31	2.03	7
9	Sonitpur	2003	1876	163392	163392	3222	1562	4784	32.65	8.71	2.55	2.93	0.83	0.96	9
		2004	1984	141761	141761	1599	506	2105	24.04	7.15	1.06	1.48	0.26	0.36	2
		2005	2007	183469	183469	2148	1256	3404	36.90	9.14	1.70	1.86	0.63	0.68	8
10	Lakhimpur	2003	969	77004	77004	3035	41	3076	1.33	7.95	3.17	3.99	0.04	0.05	0
		2004	987	64554	64554	1296	13	1309	0.99	6.54	1.33	2.03	0.01	0.02	0
		2005	992	66869	66869	2063	257	2320	11.08	6.74	2.34	3.47	0.26	0.38	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11	Dhemaji	2003	617	33322	33322	866	98	964	10.17	5.40	1.56	2.89	0.16	0.29	4
		2004	623	28286	28286	321	75	396	18.94	4.54	0.64	1.40	0.12	0.27	0
		2005	627	28004	28004	835	142	977	14.53	4.47	1.56	3.49	0.23	0.51	8
12	Dibrugarh	2003	1576	119797	119797	8	28	36	77.78	7.60	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0
		2004	1581	94226	94226	6	17	23	73.91	5.96	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0
		2005	1582	94936	94936	9	29	38	76.32	6.00	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03	2
13	Tinsukia	2003	1246	76184	76184	1096	410	1506	27.22	6.11	1.21	1.98	0.33	0.54	0
		2004	1257	62293	62293	797	277	1074	25.79	4.96	0.85	1.72	0.22	0.44	0
		2005	1258	61909	61909	578	160	738	21.68	4.92	0.59	1.19	0.13	0.26	0
14	Sibsagar	2003	1107	67688	67688	4	19	23	82.61	6.11	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0
		2004	1108	57578	57578	1	16	17	94.12	5.20	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.03	0
		2005	1109	63867	63867	5	21	26	80.77	5.76	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03	0
15	Jorhat	2003	1151	74568	74568	48	88	136	64.71	6.48	0.12	0.18	0.08	0.12	0
		2004	1164	68236	68236	37	49	86	56.98	5.86	0.07	0.13	0.04	0.07	0
		2005	1177	71032	71032	44	52	96	54.17	6.04	0.08	0.14	0.04	0.07	1
16	Golaghat	2003	1050	85352	85352	295	176	471	37.37	8.13	0.45	0.55	0.17	0.21	3
		2004	1056	66793	66793	193	57	250	22.80	6.33	0.24	0.37	0.05	0.09	1
		2005	1060	78781	78781	191	90	281	32.03	7.43	0.27	0.36	0.08	0.11	18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	Nagaon	2003	2104	209716	209716	1461	3541	5002	70.79	9.97	2.38	2.39	1.68	1.69	9
		2004	2104	175443	175443	1415	2638	4053	65.09	8.34	1.93	2.31	1.25	1.50	5
		2005	2118	185083	185083	1634	2667	4321	62.18	8.74	2.04	2.33	1.27	1.45	4
18	Morigaon	2003	782	40927	40927	126	226	352	64.20	5.23	0.45	0.86	0.29	0.55	0
		2004	788	35869	35869	119	187	306	61.11	4.55	0.39	0.85	0.24	0.52	0
		2005	789	35112	35112	215	348	563	61.81	4.45	0.71	1.60	0.44	0.99	9
19	Karbi-Anglong	2003	808	168860	168860	2263	11221	13484	83.22	20.90	16.69	7.99	13.89	6.65	18
		2004	818	165539	165539	1452	11310	12762	88.62	20.24	15.60	7.71	13.83	6.83	34
		2005	832	185090	185090	2040	11390	13430	84.81	22.25	16.14	7.26	13.69	6.15	33
20	N.C.Hills	2003	201	24674	24674	452	2099	2551	82.28	12.28	12.69	10.34	10.44	8.51	1
		2004	203	24408	24408	653	1898	2551	74.40	12.02	12.57	10.45	9.35	7.78	0
		2005	205	24195	24195	620	1967	2587	76.03	11.80	12.62	10.69	9.60	8.13	0
21	Cachar (Silchar)	2003	1157	88829	88829	15	3941	3956	99.62	7.68	3.42	4.45	3.41	4.44	1
		2004	1648	72311	72311	32	3428	3460	99.08	4.39	2.10	4.78	2.08	4.74	0
		2005	1672	85240	85240	5	2802	2807	99.82	5.10	1.68	3.29	1.68	3.29	0
22	Hafla Kandi	2003	689	75734	75734	36	7532	7568	99.52	10.99	10.98	9.99	10.93	9.95	6
		2004	698	70113	70113	23	5299	5322	99.57	10.04	7.62	7.59	7.59	7.56	9
		2005	704	65539	65539	15	4755	4770	99.69	9.31	6.78	7.28	6.75	7.26	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
23	Karimganj	2003	1184	59011	59011	59011	75	728	803	90.66	4.98	0.68	1.36	0.61	1.23	0
		2004	1209	43661	43661	40	252	292	86.30	3.61	0.24	0.67	0.21	0.58	0	
		2005	1231	39773	39773	27	275	302	91.06	3.23	0.25	0.76	0.22	0.69	1	
	State Total	2003	27853	2133820	2133820	27902	48668	76570	63.56	7.66	2.75	3.59	1.75	2.28	53	
		2004	28730	1853560	1853560	16725	41409	58134	71.23	6.45	2.02	3.14	1.44	2.23	54	
		2005	29001	2050261	2050261	22432	45453	67885	66.96	7.07	2.34	3.31	1.57	2.22	113	

Statement-1A

*District-wise malaria deaths during the year
2006 (upto 25-07-06)*

District	Deaths
1	2
Barpeta	7
Bongaigaon	1
Cachar	0
Darrang	5
Dhemaji	12
Dhubri	8
Dibrugarh	2
Goalpara	3
Golaghat	42
Hailakandi	2

1	2
Jorhat	8
Kamrup	23
K-Anglong	33
Karimganj	6
Kokrajhar	6
Lakhimpur	78
Morigaon	6
Nagaon	7
Nalbari	6
N.C. Hills	1
Sibsagar	1
Sonitpur	9
Tinsukia	9
Total	275

Statement-II

Logistics provided to the State of Assam

Supply Position (Quantity supplied)

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity supplied		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	DDT (in MT)	1102.00	1102.00	1060.00
2.	Chloroquine (in lakh)**	234.50	451.00	200.00
3.	Primaquine 7.5 mg (in lakhs)	No Demand	10.00	60.00
4.	Primaquine 2.5 mg (in lakhs)	No Demand	5.00	33.00

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Sulpha Pyremethamine Combination tablet (in lakhs)	3.00	0.30	5.00
6.	Combi Blister Pack (Tab Artesunate + SP) (in no.)	-	-	22600.00
7.	Quinine Injection (in nos.)	85000 amps.	20210	105000.00
8.	Quinine Tablets (in nos.)	2000000 tabs.		220000.00
9.	Arteether inj (in nos.)	-	-	61500.00
10.	Rapid Diagnostic Kits			120000.00
12.	Pyrethrum Ext. 2% (Ltr.)	Nil	Nil	500.00
13.	Deltamethrin 2.5% SC (in lts.)			2879.00

Statement-III**100% Cash Assistance Released and Utilised by Assam State**

(Rs. In lakhs)

Year	Released	Utilized	UC Recd.	Balance available	Remarks
2003-04	0.00	645.70	U.C. Rec. for 645.70	929.65	Out of previous balance of Rs. 1575.35 lakhs
2004-05	550.00	649.01	649.01*	830.64	* out of previous balance Rs. 929.65 available with State Government.
2005-06	207.77	Information not received	Not. Rec.	1038.41*	* Proposed Rs. 415.55 lakhs during 2005-06. The balance amount of Rs. 207.77 lakhs could not be released for non-submission of UCs for previous years. Total balance available with the state is Rs. 1038.41 lakhs (Rs. 830.64 - 2004-05 + Rs. 207.77 - 2005-06 = 1038.41)

Evacuation of Indians from Lebanon

1189. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN :

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians living in Lebanon at present;

(b) whether the Government has made any arrangements for the evacuation of the Indians from Lebanon;

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

(d) the number of Indians evacuated so far from Lebanon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) At the outbreak of hostilities in Lebanon approximately 12,000 Indian nationals were resident in Lebanon.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) So far 1687 Indians have been evacuated from Lebanon to India. They were taken on Indian naval ships from Beirut to Larnaca in Cyprus, from where they were transported in Air India planes to India.

Diplomatic Bags of Mea in Private Hand

1190. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian diplomatic bags which contain top secret official code, messages and the like between headquarters and our diplomats at foreign missions have landed with a private firm for handling and transportation as reported in The Hindustan Times dated July 15, 2006;

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

(c) the private firm to whom the contract was given;

(d) the manner/criteria adopted for awarding such contracts; and;

(e) the names of the companies which applied for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) In view of tightened security requirement at the IGI airport requiring prior X-ray, tagging before delivery and other documentation for outbound/incoming consignments,

it was decided that the transportation of Diplomatic Bags from South Block and Akbar Bhavan to IGI Airport for handing over to various airlines for onward carriage to Missions and receipt of incoming diplomatic bags would be better streamlined if given to a professional agency. It was also argued that a professional agency would bring about a more efficient system and they would be better equipped to carry out the specialised job. There would be no security risk as the mandate of the firm would only be to transport and deliver to/from the airlines at the airport, closed and sealed diplomatic bags.

(c) M/s. Dadson Global Cargo (CHA No. R093/98) were awarded the contract, which was signed on 3 July 2006.

(d) After vetting of the draft agreement by the Legal and Treaties Division of the Ministry and clearance from Internal Finance on the general financial rules (GFR) and cost aspect, a limited tender (in view of the security and specialisation requirement) was floated to ten companies including Air India and Department of Posts. Department of Posts regretted their inability to handle the diplomatic bags outside the postal channel. The lowest quotation fulfilling the requirements laid down in the tender was given the contract which was subject to security clearance.

(e) Three companies, namely (i) M/s. Dadson Global Cargo, D-229 Defence Colony, New Delhi, (ii) M/s. Bhara and Co. Pvt. Ltd., 42 Satyaniketan, New Delhi and (iii) M/s. Mega Air and Sea Cargo, 204, 2 Community Centre, Phase I, Naraina, New Delhi quoted for the limited tender.

Satellite Money Order Stations

1191. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up High Speed VSAT Satellite Money Order Stations across the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Satellite Money Order Stations functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to open some more post offices in the country during 2006-07; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including the funds proposed to be allocated for the said purpose?

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

(b) Government has set up 150 high speed Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) Money Order

Satellite Stations across the country. The State-wise details of the VSAT stations are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The 150 VSAT stations are not functioning as on date on a temporary basis and money orders are transmitted by alternate means.

(d) and (e) In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th plan for attaining financial self-sufficiency and consequently rationalization of the postal network, targets for opening of new Post Offices are not being assigned since 2004-05. Therefore, no target for opening new Post Offices has been fixed for the year 2006-07. However, if justification for opening of a post office is found, it can be opened by relocation of an existing post office which is no longer justified on the Departmental norms in its present location.

Statement

State and Union Territory-wise details of VSATs in the Country

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of VSAT Centre	Total No. of VSATs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Anantpur, Cuddapah, Guntur, Hanamkonda, Hyderabad, Kurnool, Nandyal, Nellore, Nizamabad, Rajamundri, Sirkakulam, Tirupati, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Vizianagaram	15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	1
3.	Assam	Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Jorhat, Karimganj, Nawgaon, Silchar, Tejpur, Tinsukia,	9
4.	Bihar	Bhagalpur, Chhapra, Darbhanga, Gaya, Motihari, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnea, Sasaram	9
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	Chandigarh	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur, Raipur	2
7.	Delhi	Ashok Vihar, New Delhi GPO, 56 APO, Parliament Street Dak Bhawan	4

1	2	3	4
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Anand, Bhavnagar, Gandhi Nagar, Jamnagar, Mehasana, Nadiad, Navsari, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara	11
9.	Haryana	Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Karnal, Rohtak	6
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Dharamshala, Mandi, Shimla	3
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu, Srinagar	2
12.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Hazari Bagh	3
13.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Belgaum, Bijapur, Devengere, Gulbarga, Hassan, Hubli, Mangalore, Mysore, Shimoga	10
14.	Kerala	Calicut, Ernakulam, Kannur, Kollam, Kotayam, Palghat, Trissur, Trivandrum	8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur	5
16.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad, Dadar, Mumbai GPO, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune, Ratnagiri	7
17.	Manipur	Imphal	1
18.	Mizoram	Aizwal	1
19.	Meghalaya	Shillong	1
20.	Nagaland	Kohima	1
21.	Orissa	Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttak, Rourkela, Sambalpur	5
22.	Pondicherry (UT)	Pondicherry	1
23.	Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala	5
24.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Udaipur	5
25.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Madurai, Ooty, Palayamkotai, Salem, Trichy, Virudhanagar	9
26.	Tripura	Agartala	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Azamgarh, Ballia, Bareilly, Faizabad, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, Meerut, Saharanpur, Varanasi	16

1	2	3	4
28	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	1
29	West Bengal	Assansol, Kolkata, Gangtak, Howrah, Silliguri, 99 APO	6
30	Goa	Panaji	1
Total			150

Terrorist Camps in Pakistan and Bangladesh

1192. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD :

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of terrorist camps are allegedly running in Bangladesh and Pakistan;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has taken up the matter with the concerned countries;

(d) if so, the reaction of the said countries in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in raising this matter at international levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. There are reportedly 52 terrorist training camps in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Government has, in its interaction with Pakistan at all levels, continuously stressed the fact that Pakistan needs to take effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism on a permanent basis. Government has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is based is the commitment of January

6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. Pakistan has always denied the presence of terrorist training camps in Pakistan and in the territory under its control. Government has been keeping the international community informed of developments in this regard on a continuing basis as part of the global war against terrorism.

Indian insurgent groups continue to misuse Bangladesh territory for sanctuary, training camps, transportation of arms, and transit. These insurgents are being supported by intelligence agencies, both civilian and military, of Bangladesh. A list of 172 Indian insurgent group camps and 307 criminals/insurgents was handed over in the DG level Border Security Force (BSF) - Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) talks held in September-October 2005. However, Bangladesh continues to maintain a policy of complete denial.

Disaster Warning Support System

1193. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up disaster warning support system at National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of support services so far provided by the Department of Space;

(c) whether the Government proposes to expand the VSAT based Virtual Private Network;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which such space inputs in disaster warning and mitigation efforts will be able to check the damages caused by disasters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The disaster management support services provided by Department of Space are mainly in terms of value added products generated from satellite, aerial and other collateral information, and emergency communication support. The information products are in the form of maps dynamically depicting the disaster impact, damages, and also vulnerability. The disaster management support programme, since its inception, has responded comprehensively to the major natural disasters the country has faced-including the 26th December 2004 Tsunami, monitoring of artificial lake in Sutlej basin that caused flash flood threat in parts of Himachal Pradesh, the recurrent floods, droughts, landslides, forest fires and earthquakes in different parts of the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Department of Space is implementing the VSAT based Virtual Private Network for emergency communications, in three phases. The Ministry of Home Affairs at Delhi are linked with data providers such as National Remote Sensing Agency, Survey of India, Department of Ocean Development etc. and state capitals. In the second phase, the connectivity is planned to disaster prone district headquarters.

(e) The advantages of space technology in disaster management lie in its capability to synthesis inputs from multiple sources, produce as well as disseminate the information on near real time basis. Based on these inputs, actions towards relief, mitigation and regulatory measures are planned and taken up.

[Translation]

Facilities for Heart Patients in Rural Areas

1194. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of persons dying of heart attack in rural areas of the country is on the rise;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the World Health Organisation sponsored survey report of Bairaju Foundation, Hyderabad and George Institute of International Health on the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide ultra modern facilities in rural areas for prevention and treatment of heart attack;

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

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a scheme to provide financial assistance for heart surgery to the people belonging to the lower income group of the society; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), more number of patients with heart diseases from rural areas are reporting at secondary and tertiary hospitals. However, no long term epidemiological study on heart diseases has been carried out in the rural areas to indicate that the number of heart patients is increasing in the country over a period of time.

(b) and (c) The survey report of Bairaju Foundations, Hyderabad and George Institute of International health is not funded by World Health Organisation. The Andhra Pradesh Burden of Diseases study in collaboration of Bairaju Foundation, Hyderabad identified that Cardio Vascular diseases are the leading cause of mortality in men and women living in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However the Government proposes to initiate and implement a National Programme for the prevention and control of Cardio Vascular Diseases (CVD) and Diabetes to reduce the adverse

health impact of heart diseases, stroke and diabetes which includes among others strengthening of infrastructure and provision of diagnostic equipments. The emphasis would be on risk assessment, early detections and prevention alongwith the cost effective clinical care and strengthening of health care facilities in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

(f) and (g) Under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, financial assistance is provided to patients, living below poverty line suffering from major life threatening diseases (including heart ailments), to receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty hospitals.

[English]

Eviction of Indian Doctors from Britain

1195.SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

SHRI MILIND DEORA :

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

(a) whether the British Government has passed certain new rules forcing Non-European doctors, mainly for Indians to leave Britain;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken up this matter with the British Government;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the measure taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to redress the grievances of these doctors?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) The British Government has implemented new immigration and employment regulations on 7th March, 2006, under which all non-EU doctors will hereafter require a work permit to work in the UK. However, work permit will be given against specific

vacancies for which suitable UK/EU doctors are not available.

(c) to (e) The issue has been raised with UK authorities from time to time by the Indian Mission in U.K.

Mail Motor Service

1196.SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on Mail Motor Service during 2005-06 as compared to 2004-05;

(b) the average cost per km. during the said period;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce CNG propelled Mail Vans for Mail Motor Service;

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

(e) the time by which the entire fleet of Mail Motor Service will be converted into CNG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The expenditure incurred on Mail Motor Service in 2004-05 is Rs. 50.7 crore and in 2005-06 is Rs. 55.1 crore.

(b) The average cost per km. in 2004-05 is Rs. 19.86 and in 2005-06 is Rs. 20.48

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There are 120 CNG propelled vehicles in Mumbai and 6 such vehicles in Delhi at present.

(e) The conversion of the entire Mail Motor Service fleet into CNG is not feasible.

Visit of Minister Abroad

1197.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether he visited the Gulf countries recently;
- (b) if so, whether discussions were held with labour ministers of these countries regarding condition of Indian labourers working there; and
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The visit included Qatar, Bahrain, UAE and Saudi Arabia recently. In Bahrain, discussions were held with H.E. Dr. Majeed Bin Muhsin Al-Alawi, Labour Minister of Bahrain. During the interaction, two issues were discussed: namely (i) the payment of compensation to the families of those Indians who lost their lives in the recent Al-Dana Boat tragedy, (ii) Instances of exploitation of Indian workers in Bahrain by their employers which had in one case resulted in workers going on strike. In UAE, discussions were held with H.E. Dr. Ali Bin Abdulah Al Kaabi, Minister of Labour, UAE on issues relating to Indian workers including cases of non-payment of salaries, poor working conditions, instances of exploitation of workers by foreign employees in UAE, misuse of the quota system for issue of bulk visit visas by unscrupulous intermediaries resulting in overseas Indian workers being exploited by foreign employers in the host countries. In both meetings, the need for labour market reforms including an institutional arrangement for ensuring the protection and welfare of Indian workers in the Gulf Countries was emphasised. Both dignitaries indicated that new initiatives were being undertaken aimed at labour reforms to provide for better protection and improved welfare of overseas workers.

[Translation]

Plans for Infrastructure Development

1198. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some States have proposed comprehensive plans for infrastructure development;
- (b) if so, the names of the States and the projects

proposed alongwith the amount to be spent on each such projects; and

- (c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government for implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has not specifically received comprehensive plans for infrastructure development from any State. Proposed outlays on infrastructure forms a part of the Annual Plan of every State which are considered by the Planning Commission while approving the Annual Plan of States. Proposals for Central funding of various infrastructure projects are made to the concerned Ministry/ Department by the State Governments.

[English]

Traffic Handling Activities by Paradip Port

1199. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Paradip Port has increased traffic handling activities in 2005-06;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total million tonnes of traffic handled by Paradip Port during the last three years;
- (d) the extent to which the increase has been made in comparison to the previous three financial years; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to further ase the traffic handling facilities?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The details of traffic handled at Paradip Port Trust during the year 2005-06 vis-a-vis the previous year in terms of some major commodities are as under :-

(In Million Tonnes)

Commodity	Traffic 2005-06	Traffic 2004-05	% Increase
POL	0.91	0.84	8.33
Iron Ore	10.27	9.05	13.48
Fertilizer (Raw material)	1.57	2.60	-39.62
Thermal Coal	12.53	10.94	14.53
Coking Coal	3.76	3.27	14.98
Containers (Number of Twentyfeet Equivalent Units)	0.05 (3417)	0.03 (2281)	66.67 (49.80)
Other Cargo	4.02	3.37	19.28
Total	33.11	30.10	10

(c) and (d) The cargo traffic handled by Paradip Port during last three financial years along with percentage increase is given below :-

Year	Million Tonnes	% increase over previous year
2003-04	25.31	5.9
2004-05	30.10	18.9
2005-06	33.11	10.0

(e) Improvement of the working of major ports in terms of handling of traffic in the country is an on-going process. Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) formulated by the Department of Shipping, a total of 28 projects involving development of berths, deepening of channel, equipment upgradation/modernization, rail/road connectivity are planned to be taken up over the period upto 2011-12 with a view to augmenting the capacity of the port to 88.66 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).

GRAMSAT Programme

1200. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has initiated GRAMSAT programme to provide communication networks at the State level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the states in which the programme is currently in operation;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to cover the remaining States under the GRAMSAT programme;

(e) whether the network has been expanded and upgraded in Orissa; and

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

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

(b) and (c) GRAMSAT networks have been established in Gujarat, MP, Orissa, Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Andaman Nicobar, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

(d) The Government has enlarged the scope of GRAMSAT network to cover education, medicine and natural resource information termed as VRC (Village Resource Centre) and is being expanded to cover all the States.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Initially GRAMSAT network in Orissa was in a broadcast mode. Now it is expanded to have interactivity to cover all Districts and Blocks.

[Translation]

Setting up of Space Laboratory

1201. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a space laboratory to expedite various space programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is likely to have any effect on the Chandrayan Mission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the space laboratory is to be an entirely indigenous project;

(f) if so, whether the essential technology and resources for the said project is available in the country; and

(g) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a Space Laboratory. However, Space-based experiments like Spacecraft Recovery Experiment (SRE) and Astrosat, are planned. SRE of 500 kg. will have a metallographic experiment on board and the samples processed in space will be recovered and brought back for studies. The Astrosat will carry Astrophysical Instruments which will provide an opportunity for the Indian Scientists to explore the outer space and galactic phenomena for a period of about two years.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Agreement with Israel Space Agency

1202.SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has signed any agreement with the Israel Space Agency (ISA) regarding launching of satellites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ISA intends to use GSAT-4 satellite for their space research; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) ANTRIX Corporation Ltd., of Department of Space has signed a commercial contract for launching a satellite.

(b) The satellite weighs 300 kg. and is to be launched into low earth orbit.

(c) and (d) GSAT-4 satellite will carry an ultraviolet telescope imager supplied by ISA for astronomical observations. The data will be shared by the scientific community of India and Israel.

[Translation]

Optical Fibre Cable in Telephone Exchanges

1203.SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the telephone exchanges in the country have Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) Sir, all the 337 telephone exchanges of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in Delhi and 193 exchanges in Mumbai are interconnected with Optical Fibre Cable. As regards Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), 94.8% of the telephone exchanges are having Optical Fibre Connectivity as on 30.6.2007. The details are given in the enclosed statement. Balance exchanges are working on other reliable media Optical Fibre Connectivity to these balance exchanges are techno-commercially non-viable.

Statement**BSNL – Status of Telephone Exchanges having Optical Fibre Cable**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total No. of Exchanges	Provided on OFC Media	%age of exchanges on OFC Media	Provided on other reliable media
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3608	3294	91.3	314
2.	Assam	598	562	94.0	36
3.	Bihar	1163	1120	96.3	43
4.	Jharkhand	458	457	99.8	1
5.	Gujarat	3227	3227	100.0	0
6.	Haryana	1121	1116	99.6	5
7.	Himachal Pradesh	979	789	80.6	190
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	366	286	78.1	80
9.	Karnataka	2713	2706	99.7	7
10.	Kerala	1227	1214	98.9	13
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2790	2585	92.7	205
12.	Chhattisgarh	634	537	84.7	97
13.	Maharashtra	4818	4623	96.0	195
14.	Goa	136	136	100.0	0
15.	Meghalaya	103	75	72.8	28
16.	Mizoram	76	23	30.3	53
17.	Tripura	97	84	86.6	13
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	103	32	31.1	71
19.	Manipur	55	45	81.8	10
20.	Nagaland	59	28	47.5	31
21.	Orissa	1150	1146	99.7	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
22. Punjab		1553	1551	99.9	2
23. Rajasthan		2346	2280	97.2	66
24. Tamil Nadu		2378	2288	96.2	90
25. Uttar Pradesh		3252	2973	91.4	279
26. Uttaranchal		453	389	85.9	64
27. West Bengal		1879	1857	98.8	22
28. Sikkim		47	44	93.6	3
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		49	39	79.6	10
Total		37438	35506	94.8	1932

[English]

Four Laning of National Highway No. 5-A

1204. SHRI B. MAHTAB :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) the estimated cost of the four laning of NH No. 5A in Orissa;

(b) the amount sanctioned for that project so far;

(c) the present status of the project; and

(d) the time by which the four laning work of NH No. 5A is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The work of four laning of National Highway No. 5A in Orissa was sanctioned for Rs. 427.40 crore.

(c) The physical progress of the project is 40.47%.

(d) The project is targeted for completion by June 2007.

Purchase of Stationery Items

1205. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ministry invited tenders for the purchase of stationery and general items during 2005-06 and 2006-07 with the stipulation that "the Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest rate and reserves the right to reject any/all offers without any reason";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this stipulation is in consonance with the CVC guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said tenders have not yet been finalized till date and the goods are being purchased at L-1 rates other than L-1 tenderer;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor together with the details of the rates received in tenders and the details of the purchases made at L-1 rates;

(g) the steps taken to strictly follow the CVC guidelines and to scrap the practice of purchasing items at L-1 rates than L-1 tenderers and the action proposed to be taken against the officials for violating CVC guidelines; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor including the reasons for not publishing the rates on ministry's website?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (h) Yes, Sir. Till July, 2005, the procurement of stationery and general items was through approved Government outlets, viz., Kendriya Bhandar/ NCCF. With the implementation of new General Financial Rules, 2005, (GFR) there was no provision for any preference for purchase of stationery items through these outlets. Hence, these were required to be purchased on competitive basis as per the procedure laid down in the New GFR. Accordingly, the Department invited open tender in January, 2006. Fifteen agencies had responded. On evaluation it was found that all the 15 agencies were lowest tenderers for one item or the other out of about 340 items, implying fragmented supplies through multiple sources. It was also observed that there was very wide variation in the cost quoted in respect of same item. It was, therefore, extremely difficult to proceed with the proposal further as it would have caused great administrative problems. It was, therefore, decided to call for limited tender by grouping the items of stationery and other general items from the agencies who were already supplying the items to other Government Department. A committee was also formed to suggest a procedure for procurement. The limited tenders were called in May, 2006. Based on the quotation received from 8 agencies and on its evaluation, 4 agencies were found to be lowest tenderers (L-1). An analysis of the rates of few major items quoted by lowest tenderers and the rates at which this Department had been procuring these items through NCCF shows that the rates approved now are lower. These rates are also comparable with the rates at which another Government Department is procuring. The orders for supplying of these items have accordingly been placed on these lowest tenderers after the concurrence of Internal

Finance Division. The name of agencies has also been put on the Ministry's website as per the provisions contained in General Financial Rules.

Hence, every care has been taken to follow the provisions of the General Financial Rules and the guidelines of the CVC.

Survey of Medicinal Plants

1206.SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3909 dated 17.5.2006 and state :

(a) whether the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha and Central Council of Research in Unani Medicine propose to conduct survey of medicinal plants in North Bengal and Districts of Dajeeling and Jalpaigudi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to create medicinal plants conservation areas in North Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) (a) and (b) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha and Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine the autonomous organisations working under this Ministry have proposal to undertake survey of these areas during next plan.

(c) and (d) State Medical Plants Board (SMPB) has been set up in State of West Bengal to coordinate matters relating to development of medicinal plants and implementation of schemes of National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB). The Board has been implementing schemes for insitu/ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants under promotional schemes. Projects on conservation of medicinal plants have been already sanctioned in the State of West Bengal including the areas of North Bengal. Suitable proposals referred by SMPB are considered for sanctioned by the NMPB.

Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas (MPCAs) are likely to be constituted in the areas of Sunderbans of West Bengal under the CCF-II programme entitled National Programme on Promoting Conservation of "Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge for Enhancing Health and Livelihood Security" supported by UNDP and implemented by Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Spectrum Management

1207.SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT in its 28th report on Spectrum Management has recommended vacation of 1900 MHz band from defence for CDMA operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any final decision in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether as per service licence of agreement, GSM operator initially gets 4.4 MHz + 4.4 MHz compared to CDMA operator's 2.5 MHz + 2.5 MHz which is in ratio 2:1;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the criteria adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The Standing Committee on Information Technology has recommended, inter alia that whatever spectrum is currently available or which will become available after vacation by Defence, may be provided in a time bound manner to the GSM and CDMA operators

(c) and (d) The government has decided that the spectrum likely to be available after vacation by defence would be considered for allotment to both the GSM and CDMA telecom operators, based on the prescribed criteria

and subject to availability of equipment for such technologies in the concerned frequency bands.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) This amount of initial spectrum was considered as a technical requirement for initial roll out of the networks using respective technologies.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

1208.SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has ordered for a complete ban on recruitment on compassionate ground in all the government offices, PSUs and other related Organisations;

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

(c) if not, the present guidelines laid down for recruitment on compassionate ground in the above offices?

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) Department of Personnel and Training formulates the policy on compassionate appointment for Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government. There is no ban on recruitment on compassionate ground.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the existing policy, dependent family members of deceased or medically retired Central Government employees are considered for appointment on compassionate grounds, in relaxation of the normal recruitment procedure. Such appointments are to be made only in most deserving cases, upto a maximum of 5% of total direct recruitment vacancies for Group 'C' and 'D' posts (excluding technical posts) arising in a year. A request for compassionate appointment can be kept under consideration for a maximum period of three years.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :-

- (i) G.S.R.283 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2006, approving the Visakhapatnam Port Employees (Grant of Advances for Purchase of Conveyances/Personal Computers) Amendment Regulations, 2006.
- (ii) G.S.R.284 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2006, approving the Kolkata Port Trust Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2006.
- (iii) G.S.R.427 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2006, approving the Kandla Port Employees (Allotment of Residence) Amendment Regulations, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4545/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust (Pension Fund Trust), Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust (Pension Fund Trust), Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4546/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.363 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2006 enforcing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Fixation of Rates for the Use of Landing Places, Wharves, Quays, Warehouses, Sheds and other Miscellaneous Services) Amendment Rules, 2004 from the date of publication of the Notification, under sub-section (2B) of section 6 of the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4547/2006]

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) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2006, (Hindi and English version) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 134 in Gazette of India dated 10th June, 2006 under clause (5) of article 320 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4548/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.371 (E) (Hindi and English version) published in Gazette of India date the 18th March, 2004 including all the officers of scale V and above of all Public sector Banks in the category of officials for the purpose of section 8 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, under section 22 of the said Act.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying in the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4549/2006]

- (4) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951 :-

- (i) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment

Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R.287 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2006.

- (ii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R.288 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2006.
- (iii) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R.289 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2006.
- (iv) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R.290 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4550/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4551/2006]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 :-
 - (i) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R.207 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2006.

- (ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R.277 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4552/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Officers and Staff Appointment) (5th Amendment) Regulation, 2006 (6 of 2006) (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 5-4/2000-A and P (Vol. II) in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2006, under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4553/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : Sir, 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. 561 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (ii) S.O. 585 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 51(E) dated the 13th January 2005.
 - (iii) S.O. 586 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem- Madurai section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

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- (iv) S.O. 587 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47, including construction of bypasses (Salem-Coimbatore section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (v) S.O. 621 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (vi) S.O. 622 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (vii) S.O. 637 (E) and S.O.638 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for widening, (four laning and junction improvement/construction of free flow facilities), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4, in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) S.O. 645 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ix) S.O. 651 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1040 (E) dated the 24th September 2005.
- (x) S.O. 652 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Salem-Karur section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xi) S.O. 672 (E), S.O.673 (E), S.O.675 (E), S.O.676 (E), S.O.680 (E), S.O.682 (E), S.O.685 (E), S.O.686 (E), and S.O.687 (E), published in the Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of, building (widening/four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xii) S.O. 674 (E), S.O.677(E) to SO 679 (E), S.O.681 (E), S.O.683 (E) and S.O.684 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai) to (Madurai-Kanniyakumari) sections in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiii) S.O. 711 (E) Published in the Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1455 (E) dated the 5th October, 2005.
- (xiv) S.O. 712 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (xv) S.O. 713 (E) and S.O. 714 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvi) S.O. 715 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Krishnagiri-Thoppur Ghat section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvii) S.O. 823 (E) to S.O. 825 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xviii) S.O. 693 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of Guna Bypass in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xix) S.O. 729 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (construction) of Gwalior Bypass joining National Highway No. 3 (Agra-Gwalior section) of National Highway No. 75 (Gwalior-Jhansi section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xx) S.O. 730 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (construction) of Gwalior Bypass joining National Highway No. 3 and National Highway No. 75 (Gwalior-Jhansi section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxi) S.O. 832 (E) and S.O. 833 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (construction) of Gwalior Bypass joining National Highway No. 3 (Agra-Gwalior section) and National Highway No. 75 (Gwalior-Jhansi section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxii) S.O. 866 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 3 (Indore-Khalaghat section), including construction of bypass, in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxiii) S.O. 908 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 75 (Gwalior-Jhansi section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxiv) S.O. 958(E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 866(E) dated the 8th June, 2005.
- (xxv) S.O. 828(E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxvi) S.O. 880 (E) to S.O.882 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 47,

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- including construction of bypasses (Salem-Coimbatore section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxvii) S.O. 888 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxviii) S.O. 900 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai to Madurai-Kanniyakumari sections) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxix) S.O. 901 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7, (Madurai-Kanniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxx) S.O. 902 (E) and S.O. 903 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7, (Madurai-Kanniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxx1) S.O. 904 (E) and S.O. 905 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7, (Bangalore-
- Salem-Madurai to Madurai-Kanniyakumari sections) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxii) S.O. 927 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (construction) of grade Separator for Chennai Bypass (Phase-II) on National Highway Nos. 4 and 5 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 934 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7, (Madurai – Kanniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 943 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 16 (E) dated the 21st August, 1998.
- (xxxv) S.O. 944 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 17 (E) dated the 21st August, 1998.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 950 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7, (Madurai – Kanniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 974 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.382 (E) dated the 3rd May 2001.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 889 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2006 regarding rates of fee to be recovered from the users

- of four-laned stretch of National Highway No. 6 (Raipur - Durg section) at either of the two toll Plazas in the State of Chhattisgarh.
- (xxxix) S.O. 864 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 22, (Zirakpur-Panchkula-Kalka section) in the State of Haryana.
- (xi) S.O. 865 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 22, (Kalka-Shimla section) in the State of Haryana.
- (xli) S.O. 949 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 194 (E) dated the 2nd March, 2001.
- (xlii) S.O. 961 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2006 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from construction of additional two lanes with tunnel including strengthening existing two lane stretches of National Highway No. 4 in Khambatki Ghat between Pune and Satara in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xliii) S.O. 926 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xliv) S.O. 822 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xiv) S.O. 789 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2006 regarding authorization of District Revenue Officer, Rohtak to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 10 in the State of Haryana.
- (xlvi) S.O. 790 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2006 regarding authorization of District Revenue Officer, Jhajjar to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 10 in the State of Haryana.
- (xlvii) S.O. 802 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 22 (Ambala-Zirakpur section) in the State of Haryana.
- (xlviii) S.O. 960 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Sonapat section) in the State of Haryana.
- (xlix) S.O. 569 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building of National Highway No. 76 (including construction of Kota Bypass) in the State of Haryana.
- (l) S.O. 642 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006 regarding

[Shri K.H. Muniyappa]

- acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No.76 (Chittorgarh to Kota section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (ii) S.O. 644 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1807 (E) dated the 26th December, 2005.
- (iii) S.O. 694 (E) to 699 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 11 (Mahua-Jaipur section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (liii) S.O. 705 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Agra-Gwalior section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (liv) S.O. 784 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of construction, maintenance, management and operation of Dausa Bypass starting from National Highway No. 11 and ending on National Highway 11A (Extension) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lv) S.O. 867 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 authorising Sub-Divisional Officer, Bharatpur as the competent authority to acquire land for widening of National Highway No. 11 (Bharatpur-Jaipur section), including construction of Bypasses, in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lvi) S.O. 868 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1438 (E) dated the 29th September, 2005.
- (lvii) S.O. 869 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1440 (E) dated the 29th September, 2005.
- (lviii) S.O. 870 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1439 (E) dated the 29th September, 2005.
- (lix) S.O. 871 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1441 (E) dated the 29th September, 2005.
- (lx) S.O. 872 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 11 (Agra-Bharatpur section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (lxi) S.O. 879 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2006 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 784 (E) (in Hindi version only) dated the 19th May, 2005.
- (lxii) S.O. 874 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-

- Hyderabad section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (Ixiii) S.O. 835 (E) to S.O. 837 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Schedule to the National Highways Act, 1956.
- (Ixiv) S.O. 659 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar section) in the State of Orissa.
- (Ixv) S.O. 690 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.5 A in the State of Orissa.
- (Ixvi) S.O. 827 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (Ixvii) S.O. 860 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2006 authorizing Additional District Magistrate, Solan, Himachal Pradesh as the competent authority to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 22, in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- (Ixviii) S.O. 639 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-

laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1A (Jalandar-Pathankot) to (Pathankot-Jammu) sections in the State of Panjab.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i to x) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4554/2006]

12.02 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Business transacted during previous week

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

Out of the 100 Starred Question admitted, only 14 could be answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions alongwith the replies to 736 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

The House discussed one Adjournment Motion moved by Shri L.K. Advani, Leader of the Opposition on 25.07.2006 regarding "failure of the Government to ensure security of the lives of innocent citizens from planned terrorist violence in various parts of the country as has been sharply highlighted by the recent serial bomb blasts in seven local trains in Mumbai on 11th July, 2006 killing more than 200 persons and injuring over 700". The motion was discussed for six hours and six minutes and negatived.

The House took up two Calling Attention regarding (i) "situation arising out of the spread of Chukungunya fever in various parts of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh" raised by Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaaidu, and (ii) "situation arising out of the RBI decision to allow outsourcing of certain vital banking activities including opening of accounts, issuing drafts and clearing operations", raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

The House discussed for about seven hours and 25 minutes one Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 on the "rise in prices of essential commodities" raised by Dr. Chinta Mohan.

During the period, as many as 62 matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour and before the adjournment of the House for the day. Also 42 matters were raised under Rule 377 during the period.

As regards the Legislative Business, the House further discussed the Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 for about four hours and 10 minutes before it was passed.

The House also discussed the Actuaries Bill, 2005 for about 18 minutes. However, the discussion was not concluded.

As regards the Private Members' Business, 19 Bills were introduced. The Crop Insurance Bill, 2005, with a view to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith moved by Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi was also taken up for further consideration and discussed for about two hours and 17 minutes. However, the discussion was not concluded.

During this period, two Reports of the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees were presented.

During the week, we lost seven hours and 28 minutes of valuable time due to interruptions and adjournments.

The House, however, sat late and worked extra for as many as six hours and three minutes to transact essential items of business.

Out of the six hours and three minutes for which the House sat late, two hours and eight minutes were devoted to raising matters of urgent public importance after the normal business of the House was over.

I wish to convey my thanks to the hon. Members for their cooperation in the conduct of the proceedings.

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-second Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Twelfth Report

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances regarding requests for dropping of assurances.

12.03¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Eleventh and Twelfth Reports

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, I beg to present the Eleventh and Twelfth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.03½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Statements

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English

Versions) showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter I of the Fifth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Examination of orders pertaining to reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services".

12.04 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS
AND FERTILIZERS**

(I) Thirteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Sir, I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2005-06) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Pricing and Feedstock Policies relating to Fertilizers'.

(II) Statement

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports :-

- (1) 48th Report of the erstwhile Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Production and Availability of Pesticides'.
- (2) 8th Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants-2005-06 of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals)'.

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Twelfth Report

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon) : Sir, I

beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence (2005-06) on 'Review of Medical Services and Education in the Defence Sector'.

12.05 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

**Twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty first, thirty
second and thirty third Reports**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology :-

- (1) Twenty-Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology).
- (2) Thirtieth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).
- (3) Thirty-First Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).
- (4) Thirty-Second Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (5) Thirty-Third Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Twentieth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Functioning and Expansion of Postal Network' relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).

12.05½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

Fifteenth Report

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on "Development Schemes for Handloom Sector".

12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Sixteenth Report

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta – North East) : I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2005-2006) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'The Delhi Development Authority (DDA)'.

12.06½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

One Hundred and Twenty first Report

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : I beg to lay on the Table the One Hundred and Twenty First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Administration of Union Territories (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry and Chandigarh).

12.07 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of reported violation of different awards given by Water Dispute Tribunals

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before I call upon the hon. Member, I would like to say that this is a very sensitive matter; so, let us debate it in such a manner that there is no uncertainty or misunderstanding.

Shri Arjun Sethi.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Water Resources to the following matter of urgent public important and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Reported violation of different awards given by Water Dispute Tribunals."

*THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : Inter-State Agreement dated 2nd April, 1980 among the basin States namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh) and Orissa provides for construction of Polavaram Project with FRL/MWL 150 feet by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Agreement inter alia provides for either constructing and maintaining protective embankment in Orissa and Chhattisgarh or paying compensation for land and property likely to be affected above FRL 150 feet due to all effects including backwater effect at the cost of Polavaram Project.

The project is under appraisal by the Central Water Commission and investment clearance from the Planning Commission has not been granted to the Project as yet. The clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest on environment angles has been granted. However, clearance from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is yet to be obtained by the Project authorities.

*Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4556/2006.

The Ministry of Water Resources and CWC have held a meeting with the State Governments on the issue of submergence of the Orissa and Chhattisgarh territories likely to get submerged by the Polavaram reservoir. The Minister of Water Resources has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of party-States on 26th September 2006 in New Delhi to discuss and resolve this issue finally.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving us this opportunity to discuss this particular issue in this august House. At the outset, I must say that I am not against any particular State implementing a project for the betterment of its people.

MR. SPEAKER : That should be the spirit.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : My actual problem or concern arises only when the implementation of a project by a State affects the interests of other States. As I have stated, I would like to be very brief in my intervention.

As far as Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal is concerned, the hon. Minister has already stated that it has recommended for FRL/MWL 150 feet project. The hon. Minister has not said anything and has stuck to the award given by the Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal. It is now reported that the concerned States had held inter-state meeting in the year 1997. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has intimated that the water level may go upto FRL/MWL 182 feet due to back water effect, by adopting design of 36 lakh cusec, and as a result seven villages and 1026 hectares of territory in Orissa are likely to be affected.

We have no problem if they adhere to 150 ft. FRL/MWL because that has been agreed to by the concerned State. It is now reported that they have intimated in a meeting that they are going to have FRL/MWL 182 feet, as a result a number of villages, especially in Malkana district of Orissa, are going to be affected. As you know, Sir, especially in those areas a large number of *adivasis* live and their homes will be submerged due to this.

The State Government of Orissa has a number of times written to them and they should not go upto 182 feet FRL/

MWL. A number of times, meetings have been held under the aegis of Central Water Commission also. So far as I remember, three times, that is in the year 1997, 2000 and 2001, the CWC held meetings to resolve the issue. In every meeting both the CWC and the State Government of Orissa have requested the concerned State of Andhra Pradesh to give details of back water effect. Both the CWC as well as the Government of Orissa wanted to have a detailed study report as well as back water profile upto FRL/MWL 182 feet for examination.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not given the details. As a result of this, the particular issue is still pending before the CWC. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is having this particular project at the FR level 150 feet or they have increased it to 182 feet.

Secondly, I have asked a number of questions in this particular Session itself regarding the details of this project. Today also in his statement he has not given any details as to whether the particular State Government is going for 182 feet FR level. I would like to have the details. Similarly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any information now in this regard. In response to an unstarred question on this subject, he avoided giving the answer. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not reported the status of construction of Indira Sagar or Polavaram Project. This is the answer given by the hon. Minister to the House.

Another thing which I would like to bring before the House is that the hon. Minister has stated in his statement that the environment clearance has already been given. You will be surprised to know the time taken to give the environment clearance. The report was submitted to the Ministry on Environment and Forest on 10.10.2005 and the clearance was given on 25.10.2005. Within 15 days, the environment clearance was given. I am surprised how the environment impact of having this particular project can be studied in 15 days only, whereas a number of such other projects are lying for months and years together. For those projects, they have not been given the environment clearance.

MR. SPEAKER : Put your question.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, I would take only two minutes more. The Central Empowered Committee was constituted by the Supreme Court as a PIL has already been filed against this project. Recently, this Committee under the guidance of Shri Vijaykrishnan visited the Polavaram Project. The *Adivasi Samsekhm* Parishad took out a huge rally opposing the project. The State Convenor of the Parishad presented a memorandum and emphasised the need for obtaining the acceptance of the tribal groups living in the scheduled areas likely to be displaced by holding gram sabhas.

Sir, I would just like to bring to your kind notice that CPI(M) leaders staged a protest in front of the hotel where the Committee members stayed overnight opposing the project. They were annoyed as the Congress leaders were allowed one-by-one to meet the panel while the other delegation was kept waiting for a long time. This is the problem.

I would like to know whether this particular project is for 182 feet FR level. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any information on this. If he does not have any information, whether he will send a delegation to that particular area so that it can study the problem that lies there.

As I have stated earlier, I am not against any State implementing a project for their benefit. But I am very much concerned about the consequences that the Orissa State would have to face owing to implementation of such a project. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any information regarding this or not. Why is the concerned State Government not giving the Detailed Project Report to the affected States and also to the CWC for clearance?

MR. SPEAKER : Now, another straight question from Shri Mahatab!

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, it has been said that water has a vital role in the growth and decay of civilisations. It is the commonest substance on earth. But only one per cent of it is available for human consumption.

Sir, the river Godavari is an inter State river flowing through the States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. The catchment area of this river also involves the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka. In the year 1969, as has been said, the first Tribunal was formed and it gave its report on 2nd April, 1980. The basic award of that Tribunal was that the design aspect of the Pollavaram project has been left entirely to the Central Water Commission. A 52 kilometres up stream from Rajahmundry this was to come up. As has been mentioned by my predecessor, our concern is that once this project comes up, the tributaries, namely, Sabari and Sileri rivers, which traverse through the Malkangiri district of Orissa will inundate a number of villages and habitations, large tracts of forest land and other areas which are rich in minerals. These are the three aspects which are to be looked into.

Sir, my question, therefore, is that the submergence will stretch along the Sabari and Sileri rivers in the Motu *tehsil* in Malkangiri district of Orissa and it will submerge more than 10 villages and thousands of tribal families will be displaced. According to the agreement of 1980, 150 ft. or FRL/MWL of 45.72 meters, that was the figure mentioned in that Award, should be maintained and the other design aspect and everything has to be cleared by the Central Water Commission.

MR. SPEAKER : I thought you were coming to your question.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, in December last year I had raised this issue during Special Mentions to which the hon. Minister had replied very recently, on 21 July. He had mentioned categorically, this was a news not only for me but also for the State Government of Orissa, that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has already prepared a Detailed Project Report for taking up the Pollavaram Multipurpose Project and the DRP is under techno-economic appraisal with the Central Water Commission. Now, when the DPR is awaiting the techno-economic approval of the Central Water Commission, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is duty bound, the Centre should also enforce it, to give a copy of the Detailed Project Report to the State Government of Orissa which has not been given. Our contention is that in three meetings, three different information has been provided.

If you want to have 150 feet, then you come out with that report. If you want 182 feet, then that is your problem. We may or may not agree with it. You come up with your report. But for environmental clearance and for other purposes, you are giving three different reports in three different places. That is our objection. Come out with one report. I would ask the Minister to enforce one report for environment clearance. You are saying it as 182 feet and, for CWC, you say 180 feet and before the Orissa Government, you say it as 150 feet. How can this be done? The Orissa Government has been insisting that according to the 1980 Award, a joint field survey of the affected area has to be done. It was also said that the estimated cost would be Rs. 9265 crore. Very recently, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has said that the cost will be Rs. 20,000 crore. I do not know whether the Central Government is aware of what the Andhra Government has said about the cost.

MR. SPEAKER : It should be sorted out among the States. That is the spirit with which we should conduct ourselves. All the concerned States should sort out the problem.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : When you enhance the construction cost, the detailed project report also should be commensurate with that. Our concern is this. You give us the information. You may raise it to Rs. 40,000 crore. We are not worried about it.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more, Mr. Mahtab. I am sorry. This is not the object of Calling Attention. I have already given you nearly eight minutes. Otherwise, Calling Attention loses its significance.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I have three more points to make. That area is mineral rich. It has iron ore. Singareni Coalfields stretches to that area and the area which will be inundated will be part of it.

MR. SPEAKER : You are such a cooperative and articulate Member. Why don't you put your questions?

SHRI B. MAHTAB : That survey has not been done. If that report is there before the Central Government, then the hon. Minister should be kind enough to express it. The

EIA based study is an outdated study. It does not tally with the 2001 census.

My last point is that it covers the tribal areas also.

MR. SPEAKER : You are going to new points now. I have called three very eminent Members from Orissa to speak. As soon as my attention was drawn, I have allowed a Calling Attention Motion. What more can I do? If you do not use it properly, what can I do? I have not minimised the importance of the subject.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, this area comes under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. Has an attempt been made to study it? None of the Central Government Departments can displace the tribals from that area unless the President intervenes in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, we are really thankful to you for having allowed this Calling Attention Motion.

As in the past, Orissa is always at the receiving end. The UPA Government has always been against the interests of Orissa. I can cite one example now. The Andhra Pradesh, in connivance with the Government of India, has violated the Award. This is our allegation and charge. They have violated the Award.

MR. SPEAKER : You are entitled only to seek clarifications.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : I am seeking only clarifications. I will not mention the points spoken by other hon. Members.

The Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal have given this Award in 1980. The direction of the Award is that they must take the clearance of the Central Water Commission. Have they taken the clearance for proceeding with this project? This is my first question. The design has to be finalised by the CWC keeping in view the Agreement. Has this been decided by the CWC?

*Not recorded.

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

They have finalised the design; they have finalised as to what will be the water level. I want to know whether this thing has been finalised by the CWC. This, question arises because of the forest and environment clearance. As per the environmental clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, on 25th October, 2005, 4606 hectares of land will be submerged. Out of which, 3279 hectares are forest land. According to it, 6312 tribals will be affected. As you know, Malkangiri is a very sensitive area. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been mentioned very elaborately by your colleague. Repetition does not help.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It is affected by naxal problem. They are adding fuel to the fire. The State Government is facing the naxal problem there. . . .(Interruptions) The Chief Minister of Orissa has made a request in this regard. The Union Government is not listening to us. The State of Andhra Pradesh is showing.*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not use that word. That word will be deleted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It is all right. But they are proceeding with this project without taking clearance from the CWC and the Government of India. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is Calling Attention. I am allowing two more Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : The Central Empowered Committee has been constituted and the State Governments have a right to appear before it. The Chief Minister of Orissa has made a request to settle the matter. . . .(Interruptions) We are not against the interests of the State of Andhra Pradesh. . . .(Interruptions) The Central Empowered Committee has been constituted. I would like to know whether the Andhra Pradesh Government will

*Not recorded.

proceed with this project after taking necessary permission from the Central Empowered Committee. I want that clarification from the hon. Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, this is the reason why I made a humble appeal to you. These are very sensitive matters. After all we all are Indians, belonging to this great country. There are problems in different areas. They should be sorted out in a manner which keeps our country's image also. The Government will reply. They have to take into account the views of different State Governments. You have raised it very forcefully. Let me allow one or two more Members. Three Members' names have been mentioned in the list. You know that two more Members are permitted. I am allowing it. Of course, I am not obliged to do that. If you go on talking to each other across the House, how can we perform? Now, we have got the views of the Members from the State of Orissa. The Minister will reply. He is bound to reply to your questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : They should stop the construction. They should also intervene. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hold patience for that. I have already called Prof. M. Ramadass to speak.

Prof. Ramadass, you are from Pondicherry. Are you interested in this?

(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry) : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Please wait for the reply of the Minister. What is all this going on?

(Interruptions)

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada) : Sir, Prof. Ramadass is from Pondicherry. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, Pondicherry is sympathetic to the cause of Andhra Pradesh.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru) : We would like to speak on behalf of the State of Andhra Pradesh. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rao, you have never bothered to give a notice. You have woken up just now. You are so much concerned about your State!

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not interfere in the proceedings of the House. It has become a fashion. Prof. Ramadass, you are entitled to one clarification. Please do it. Otherwise, I will close this.

(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the violation of Cauvery Tribunal Award with respect to Karaikal region of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. It is one among the four States which come under the Cauvery Tribunal Award. As you know, in the last fifteen years, as a result of this violation of the Awards given by the Cauvery Tribunal Award, the tail end of the Karaikal region has not been able to get the awarded amount of six TMC of water. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have gone to Cauvery Tribunal now. I am sorry. Let us not enter into a debate.

(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, it is not a debate. I am just asking some clarifications. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak only on this.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, why are you not permitting?

MR. SPEAKER : It is because this is beyond the scope of this Calling Attention.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, it is not beyond the scope of this Calling Attention. It is about the violation of different awards given by Water Dispute Tribunals. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not enter into an argument with me. I will not allow this. Please put your question. What clarification do you want?

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, there has been a consistent violation of the Awards given by the Cauvery Tribunal.

What action has been taken to implement the Cauvery Tribunal Award which stipulates 205 TMC water to Tamil Nadu and 6 TMC water to Karaikal? This Award was given in 1991 and it has been violated for the last 15 years. We have a Cauvery Authority which is toothless. The hon. Prime Minister and four Chief Ministers are there in the Authority. They have no legal powers to enforce the Award of the Tribunal. . . .(Interruptions) Therefore, will the Government constitute or convert the Cauvery River Authority on the lines of Bhakra Nangal River Valley Authority with legal powers and technical persons to monitor the implementation of the Awards?. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry. Please conclude, otherwise nothing will be recorded. I am calling Shri K.S. Rao.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, with every Call Attention Notice, I have to pin the word Rule 197.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All Members are misusing the opportunity.

(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, please allow me some more time. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am not bound to allow; I was not bound to allow, but because it is an important matter, I have said two hon. Members may be accommodated. But you are going much beyond the discussion.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : You have put your question. You are entitled to put only one question. Now, Shri K.S. Rao. Please put only one clarificatory question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur) : Sir, I want to associate with him. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfortunate. Do not try to dictate to the Chair. This bad habit should be given up.

(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, I am requesting you to kindly permit me to raise only two questions. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have put your question.

(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : No, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not think that I am so weak that I cannot enforce discipline in the House.

(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I am still on the clarifications. . . .*(Interruptions)* I am just asking the clarifications. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do it. How long will you take to put a question?

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, I will take only two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am going out of my way and trying to help in this available time and within the available rules. But nobody bothers to consider what are the problems of the Chair.

(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Secondly, I want to know

whether the Central Government would construct a check dam at the entry of the Karalkal region to store the water and enable the farmers to use the water for agricultural operations and save them from non-availability of water. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have totally misused the opportunity.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, the Polavaram Project is a dream project of people from Andhra Pradesh from nine districts numbering three crores. The project was taken up two years back as per the Bachawat Award. There was a clear-cut agreement between the Orissa and Andhra Pradesh Governments. If there were to be submergence in Orissa because of this project, both the Governments have agreed that the Orissa Government will have an option of either asking for constructing an earthen bund in the area to prevent submergence or pay cost towards compensation to the Orissa Government. So, there is no violation of constructing this project to a height of 150 feet. Now, the Andhra Pradesh Government has started DPR and is seeking clarifications from the Ministry of Water Resources.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this DPR will be cleared without any further delay. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, hon. Minister. I am extremely sorry. I have never allowed more than five Members.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister. Otherwise, I will conclude the discussion.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This does not be have of you.

[English]

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you are such a senior Member. Your name was not there. In the Calling Attention

notice, your name was not there. You know the rules. Only five Members are allowed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If you want a full fledged discussion then we will give time for that.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Rawat, your Leader is waiting to raise a very important matter and other hon. Members are waiting. You are disturbing your Leader.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow the discussion. But it should not be in the name of Calling Attention. May I make it clear? I will not allow deliberate violation of the rule. I have been myself suggesting that on all important matters, give notice under Rule 193. I am prepared to consider. I am allowing the Calling Attention every day. Since I have become Speaker, I have allowed 78 Calling Attention matters. Please find out as to how many were allowed earlier. If you do not help me, how do I go about it? I am trying to do my best.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : There should be a debate on it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You give a notice.

[English]

Why should I stretch it?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I come from a different party. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded except the hon. Minister's statement.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I have given you full respect.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I earnestly request you, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have made a request to you with folded hands.

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the initial statement of Shri Mahtab created a situation of joy in my heart and mind when he said that he and his colleagues are not against any development project or against the Polavaram Project.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : We are not against it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : That was a very good statement. That should be the spirit. We want development. We also take care of those people who become oustees. It has to be an equal concern. You have started very well on that.

Initially, I want to share this information with the august House that Andhra Pradesh wants to build the Polavaram Project. It will generate 960 MW of power and it will irrigate 4.69 lakh hectares. So, it will be a great situation of development for Andhra Pradesh. The Godavari Tribunal is very clear on building of the dam and on the treatment of the oustees on the basis of equity and justice. That is fully there.

Now, submergence in Andhra Pradesh is to the extent of 601 sq. kms.; in Madhya Pradesh – now Chhattishgarh – it will be 24 sq. kms. and in Orissa, it will be just 12 sq. kms. Shri Mahtab and his colleagues raised the question whether the height would be 150 feet or could it go to 180 feet. First of all, I must inform this august House what the Tribunal wanted in that way. This paragraph has to go on record. It says :

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

"The States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh agree for the construction of Polavaram Project of the State of Andhra Pradesh, so that the maximum submersion in the State of Orissa territory at Motu/Konta does not exceed R.L.+150 feet. due to all effects including backwater effect. The Polavaram project shall be designed for the maximum probable flood in consultation with the Central Water Commission so as not to exceed the limit of submergence mentioned above. For the submerged lands and properties both of the Government as well as private parties, the cost of compensation and rehabilitation on the basis of the norms in vogue in the State of Orissa at the time of the construction of the projects shall be charged to the project. Model villages with facilities/amenities etc. shall be constructed at the cost of the project before the submergence actually take place."

There is another paragraph explaining this further. Therefore, I must come quickly to Shri Mahtab's question which is definite. There is no provision and there is no question of taking the dam to 180 feet. But the Godavari Tribunal has taken this decision by way of precaution. It just mentioned this because sometimes you may not have control on the water that flow especially when you get torrential rains. So, they further clarified :

"(a) pay compensation towards all buildings with their appurtenant lands situated above RL+150 (one hundred and fifty) feet which will be affected due to all effects including backwater effect and rehabilitate the oustees, etc. the same pattern as below RL+150 (one hundred and fifty) feet at the project cost;" or

Now, I have to make one point clear. If there is some increase in the FRL of the dam which is 150 feet, it cannot be done unless the Orissa Government falls in line through argument, through discussion. The Central Water Commission will be involved at that point of time. But, as the situation obtains now, I have explained that the Central Water Commission is appraising the whole project. . . . (Interruptions) The whole project is under appraisal.

MR. SPEAKER : You have got a very good and definite statement that it will be 150 feet.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : The Central Water Commission is appraising. The whole project is under appraisal. I have stated that the Ministry of Environment and Forests has granted the Environment Clearance permission. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : It was granted only from environment angle and not that of forest angle. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : When the dam design has not been finalised, how can they give clearance? . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I have not finished.

But as soon as I landed in the Ministry, I took up the matter with both the Chief Ministers namely, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the Chief Minister of Orissa. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh came to meet me on the 7th of February, 2006 and we discussed the Godavari Award. I must say in this august House that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh took a very reasonable position. He said that the Godavari Tribunal Award will be honoured in letter and spirit and he would take measures to get in touch with the Government of Orissa. He said that officer-level meetings would be held and then he would talk to the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa. I have also written a letter to him saying that he must talk to the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa. He did talk to him and thereafter on the 27th of February, the Chief Minister of Orissa came to me and discussed this project. He said that he had no objection provided the Godavari Award was implemented fully. He said, 'if we are compensated we have no objection'. So, that is the position.

After that, I am in touch with both the Chief Ministers through letters and it was on the 17th of March I had alerted the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and I will read the last part of my letter to him. It says:

"Based on the determination of the back water level, the Government of Orissa should communicate to the

Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Central Water Commission which of the two options as contained in the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal Award they would prefer to exercise."

So, options are available to the Government of Orissa. Unless the Government of Orissa exercises the option, nothing can work. Therefore, there is no danger of anything because the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh said – it is a record in my Ministry – that he would abide by the Godavari Award. This is what I wanted to say in response to the question raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab. . . .
(Interruptions)

There was another question raised by him whether the DPR will be available. We have to be transparent. We are a democracy. The DPR will be prepared and it will be available to the Government of Orissa also. Why not?
. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry. Nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you are not prepared to listen to the Minister, I will go to the next item.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jual Oram, you had been a Minister. You have to show maturity. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundargarh) : I have also been a Minister, but the hon. Minister is not uttering even a word about the problem in Orissa. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I have not yet finished. Please listen to me fully.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two projects.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that. I cannot dictate to him what he will say nor can you dictate to him.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : For further safeguard and to be sure about the final agreement, I have called a meeting of the two Chief Ministers in August, but because of the Session that has been postponed to September. So, that will be finalised to my satisfaction and I will do the needful.

MR. SPEAKER : Your feelings have been recorded with the whole House and I am sure the Minister will keep that in mind.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, Shri Arjun Sethi almost repeated the same thing about 180 ft. There is no question of going upto 180 ft. If we have to go upto 180 ft. level, it will have to be done with the permission of the Central Water Commission, with the permission of the Government of Orissa and by taking all precautions in respect of compensation to be paid to the Government of Orissa. It will be done to their satisfaction. Therefore, I have answered to the question of Shri Arjun Sethi.

Prof. Ramadass talked about Cauvery river water dispute. I cannot give an answer to that now. That is a different situation, but I will examine and let him know the position.

MR. SPEAKER : You please examine and let him know about Cauvery.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy said that Orissa should not be at the receiving end. I agree with him that there is no question about it. It is an assurance to the House that Orissa would not be at the receiving end.

Then, as far as clearance from the Central Water Commission is concerned, I would like to say that the Central Water Commission is only passing through the appraisal process.

Shri K.S. Rao says that it is a dream project for Andhra Pradesh. I agree with him that it is a dream project for them

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

and they have development. But we have to take care of oustees and Orissa will have to be compensated fully in response to the Godavari Tribunal verdict.

MR. SPEAKER : Also look at the environment clearance. I am speaking on your behalf.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, there is no delay and therefore, everything will go by the verdict of the Godavari Tribunal.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : We are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)* It will jeopardise the interest of Orissa. We are against it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, he has not answered to my query. When the design has not yet been finalised and when it is being studied by the CWC, how has the Ministry of Environment given the clearance? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said on your behalf how the environment clearance was given.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I am the Minister of Water Resources. I am not the Minister of Environment.

MR. SPEAKER : He is not the Minister of Environment. You please find out and let them know.

Now, we come to the important matters after the Question Hour. Shri Prabhunath Singh.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, we are not satisfied with the answer of the hon. Minister; so we are walking out in protest.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. That is your democratic right.

12.52 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, we are also not satisfied with the answer of the hon. Minister; so we are also walking out in protest.

12.52½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Bikram Keshari Deo and some other hon. Members left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER : I hope, it is not against the Speaker!

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You all will get your turn after lunch. Prabhunath Singhji, you speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have received notices from 58 hon. Members, so I cannot possibly do it by 1 p.m. Therefore, please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate, I am earnestly appealing to you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of incidents took place in Delhi on 31 July in which 11 persons were killed. These 11 killings included two persons from a family, one person from another family and seven persons from another one. The seven members of the said family included young girls also, one of whom was raped before being killed and her private parts were amputated. The criminals stacked the dead bodies before they fled the spot.

Delhi is creating history in crimes. Although every part of the country witnesses criminal incidents and the law and order situation is very bad but in Delhi, the incidents like rape in a moving car, killing seven members of a family and raping the girls, amputating her privates and fleeing the spot after stacking the dead bodies are seen as very serious incidents. Administration in Delhi is taken care of not only by the State Government but also by the Central Government and all higher ups are posted here. All, right from the Prime Minister to the higher ups in the Police, are here in Delhi. This incident has made it clear that criminals are not afraid of the law and the police any more.

Through you, Sir, I urge the Government to make a statement in the House on such a serious issue as to what action do they propose to take to control the criminals and enforce the rule of law in Delhi. I would like to request the Government through you, Sir, rather urge it to respond to such a serious incident as Priya Ranjan Dasmunshiji is present here. He should assure the House of the action proposed to be taken, otherwise the Home Minister should give his reply in the House. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed you to raise it because it is an important matter.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I obey all your orders. You should also ask the Government to respond. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will all the Member from Delhi also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have also asked the Government to respond, I have already said this in the morning and you have heard it

[English]

On the other issue, they will make a statement. Law and Order is a serious matter, I am sure they will do it.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I had raised a question in this regard yesterday also. It is not just a question of MPs in Delhi. I had also given a notice in this regard yesterday. Eleven people were killed in Delhi on Sunday which has just been mentioned. Seven members of a family from a young child to elder parents including four daughters aged 17 years 16 years and 14 years respectively and also a son were killed. Even a seven year old child was killed. The whole of Delhi is stunned at the gruesome manner in which the murder was committed, their bodies severed and their throats were slit. One more couple was killed on the same day and not only that couple, more than a hundred couples have been killed in the last two years. So many rape incidents took place before that and are occurring continuously. The last time when I had raised the question, the hon. Home Minister had said here that the Government is on the job of controlling this situation and making a lot of efforts and fully assure the people of Delhi that such incidents will be checked. You cannot imagine the fear pervading in Delhi where eleven murders take place in a single day and more than a hundred couples living alone are killed. One cannot imagine as to how much fear has gripped the people of Delhi. Children are unable to go to sleep. Even a slight noise makes women apprehensive of some untoward happening. Such is the life of fear the whole of Delhi is living.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the hon. Home Minister should take the responsibility for it and he should resign when we demand that he should resign in this matter because the budget of the Ministry of Home Affairs was reduced even after repeated assurances. No efforts have been made to increase the police force in Delhi. Instead of securing safety of life for the people, only arrangements for VIP security have been made. The hon. Home Minister has not called even a single meeting of

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

the MPs from Delhi. Hon. Home Minister, Sir, the Lieutenant Government of Delhi and the Government of Delhi have not discussed with the people of Delhi as to how to make security arrangement for Delhi. I would like to demand the hon. Home Minister to tender his resignation and the hon. Prime Minister to consider making more efforts for security in Delhi. The hon. Home Minister has no moral right to stay in the office after all these incidents. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Harin Pathak too associates himself with this.

[English]

The name of Shri Harin Pathak is associated.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to request that we all should condemn it. The manner in which innocent children have been killed and dismembered, such callous murders are beyond imagination.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a shocking incident. I have said from the Chair that it is a very shocking incident, a great tragedy. I am sure the Government will take all necessary action. There should be proper investigation also.

Shri Deepender Singh Hooda. He is a young member; he wants to raise an important issue.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak) : Sir, I regret to inform the House that an incident involving a school bus, occurred yesterday which was carrying 29 children of village Bali Qutubpur in Sonapat district, adjoining my home district. The bus was on its way to the school in the village Kheri Gujjar. The unfortunate accident resulted in loss of lives of 6 children while 23 lives were saved.

While, I am sure, the whole House stands in unity with me here today and with the aggrieved families in the hour

of their sorrow, I also stand to appreciate the spirit and courage shown by villagers of Bali Qutubpur, Aahulana and others in rescue work that resulted in safety of 23 out of 29 children caught up in the drowned bus accident. The exemplary courage and unity shown in these efforts by all and everyone including the villagers, the immigrant labours from Bihar, the children who ignored their own injuries to help rescue their colleagues, the district administration, the Indian Army, the private Pediatricians of Dhankar Nursing Home, the elected members from various legislative bodies cutting across the party lines, is an example and a source of inspiration for all of us – the Indians – today. Although my heart trembles as I remember the loss of six departed children, my head is still high as I realise that I belong to a nation where people who do not think twice or hesitate to put their own lives at risk in an attempt to save the lives of our children.

MR. SPEAKER : The Chair associates on behalf of the whole House and shares your sentiments.

Chaudhary Lal Singh – not present.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

12.59 hrs

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS – Contd.

(II) Re: Women's Reservation Bill

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Sir, I rise to ask the Government through the House as to what has happened to Women Reservation Bill. The Government is committed to have 33 per cent reservation in the Parliament. Even the Common Minimum Programme of the present Government has made it abundantly clear that the Government would like to have 33 per cent women in both the Houses and bring about Constitutional amendment.

13.00 hrs

A meeting was called recently. . . .(Interruptions) Please allow me to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal) : A lot of controversy is brewing over it. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : What use will be speaking if you keep supporting like this. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Please allow me to speak.

A meeting of different political parties was called by the Government to reach at a consensus. Most of the parties had agreed that there should be 33 per cent reservation for women. There was, of course, a division but a minor division. I would like to ask the Government one question. Is it a pre-requisite that there should be unanimity before the Bill is introduced? Prior unanimity of different political parties should not be considered to be a pre-requisite for bringing a Bill. I wish the Government bring this Bill in this House because on many occasions the Government has brought controversial Bills and they have been sent to the Standing Committee. Let the Government bring this Bill. Let the whole of India know what the stand of different political parties is. Why are you doing it *in camera*? In the open forum, let there be an open stand of different political parties. Let the majority of Indian population who are women come to know what the stand of different political parties is. Therefore, I would like to know through you, Sir, from the Government as to what is the fate of the Women Reservation Bill.

I implore upon the Government, I demand from the Government and I request the Government of India that this Bill may be brought immediately without any further delay. Let the Government do not make it a matter of political controversy. We do not need political controversy. We want an open discussion. In the Parliament there can be a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already made your point.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I may inform the House that hundreds of women were on *dharma* in the Parliament

street for a number of days. We cannot suppress the womanhood of the country. Let me tell you very frankly that women cannot be suppressed like this. The hon. Minister, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi must inform the House as to what is happening to this Bill. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Just allow me to conduct the House. What is going on this House? Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have got the names of five hon. Members who gave their notices. They are: Shrimati C.S. Sujata; Shrimati Minati Sen; Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar; Shrimati P. Satheedevi; and Shri Ajoy Chakraborty. They are all associating with this, and supporting this cause.

(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North East) : Sir, the whole House supports this cause. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, Md. Salim, Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Santasi Chatterjee, Prof. M. Ramadass, Shri Sunil Khan, Shri Amitava Nandy, Shri Prasanta Pradhan and all other hon. Members are supporting this cause.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Those hon. Members who have not sent notices earlier may now send their slips to the Table.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, I also gave a notice. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is also recorded.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I have also given a notice. . . .(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice came late. Let me see.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded. Why are you speaking?

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Only Shri Yogi Aditya Nath's observation will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : What is going on? I cannot compel the hon. Minister to respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has stood. Let him respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not being recorded. Why do you bother? Except the observations of the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, nothing would go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, I respectfully share the concern of all the Members of the House irrespective of the parties. I also respect, on behalf of the Government and the party, to those who came and sat on *dharna*; they are the women of our country. It is their rightful cause which they are demanding.

Sir, we are second to none to implement our commitment, which is also the commitment of the NCMP, in a manner that since it is a Constitutional Amendment, we will have to take the required support in both the Houses to see that the Bill is passed. Our Home Minister is actively engaged in consulting the parties. Several rounds of talks have been concluded.

*Not recorded.

So, I assure the House that the Government will not go back to this commitment. That is all.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : But how long? . . .
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is saying that the Home Minister is making efforts but he has not called even a single meeting doing one year. . . .*(Interruptions)* Hon. Home Minister and Prime Minister have not called even a single meeting during the last one year. . . .*(Interruptions)* The Government has not called even a single meeting in this regard. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how bill can be introduced unless there is a consensus of opinion on it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, now, Yogi Aditya Nath.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will take up Item No. 20.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue. Please permit me. It is my appeal to you.

Sir, it is a democratic country and this is the highest forum of democracy. In one autonomous organisation, the President of that organisation has been elected by the people, the voters. After that, the Head of the State is saying that you have to quit. . . .(Not recorded) I think the Government must intervene and the Government must give protection. . . .(Not recorded) Sir, it is a life and death question. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, it is a life and death question. The Head of the State cannot comment like this. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : What is this? . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is a question of life and death. . . .(Interruptions) What the Chief Minister said is not correct. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not a matter concerning some state. The Bengal Cricket Association is an autonomous body. Elections for its governing body were held recently. . . .(Interruptions) It is their own matter. Their Chief Minister says that it is a victory of * . . .(Interruptions) While he has

*Not recorded.

been elected. . . .(Interruptions) Will a Chief Minister decide as to who should be the Chairman of some Sports Association. . . .(Interruptions) No statement has been issued by the Government in this regard while the Government should stop it by interfering in it because one cannot speak like this to someone winning the elections of an autonomous association of any sport. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Sir, what is this? This is not correct. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I have a point of order. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Sir, they cannot raise issues like this. . . .(Interruptions) They cannot disturb the House like this. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we will take up item no. 20 – Matters under Rule 377. Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba' to speak now.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, we want justice. . . .(Interruptions) I have a serious objection to what the Chief Minister has said. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only the matters under Rule 377 will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : We stage a walk out in protest of no statement given by the Government in this regard.

14.07 hrs.

(At this stage Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members left the House.)

*Not recorded.

14.07¼ hrs.

(At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee left the House.)

14.07½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prasanna Acharya and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore) : Sir, that should be expunged from the records. It is not correct. . . .(Interruptions)

14.07¾ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Santasri Chatterjee came and stood near the Table.)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under what rule?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should take your seat first. I will see it.

14.08 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Santasri Chatterjee went back to his seat.)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, you must allow me on a point of order. I am raising this issue. . . .(Interruptions) Please listen to me. State subjects cannot be raised in the Parliament. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Please listen to me. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing else will be recorded except matters under Rule 377.

*(Interruptions)**

14.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to Identify Mukteshwar Development block of district Nainital, Uttaranchal as a remote area**

[Translation]

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request hon. Minister to identify Mukteshwar development block Ramgarh in district Nainital under my constituency in Uttaranchal as remote area.

This area is located above seven thousand five hundred feet (7500 feet) above sea level and the geographical condition of this area is difficult and during winter snowfall generally takes place here. The roads get blocked here due to rains and snowfall causing difficulties for the people in fulfilling the basic necessities of life. Even the nearest towns are located at about 70-80 km. away.

The areas adjacent to it like Pyuda, Mauna and Pokhari etc. have already been declared remote area.

Indian Institute of Veterinary Science Research is located at Mukteshwar, Nainital in Uttaranchal. The employees of this Institute and other departments do not get any allowance for working at this inaccessible area. Therefore Mukteshwar should be identified as inaccessible area so that the employees and people of this area may be benefited.

- (ii) **Need to develop Infrastructure facilities for storage of mangoes in the, country**

[English]

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (Machilipatnam) : Sir, India accounts for 10 per cent of the production of fruits

*Not recorded.

in the world. Mango is the most important fruit covering 39 per cent of the area and accounts for 23 per cent of total fruit production in India. Further, India's share in the world production of mangoes is 54 per cent. So, we have a great potential to export mangoes to various countries of the world. We export mangoes to some countries, but not the quantity that ought to have been. We have a great potential and Andhra Pradesh is the leading producer of mangoes in the country. Andhra Pradesh grows 221 varieties of mangoes spreading about 10 lakh hectares. Andhra Pradesh alone produces more than 35 lakh tonnes of mangoes.

To give a fillip to mango production, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is giving a huge subsidy to farmers. This move is further encouraging the farmers to grow mangoes. But, in spite of having all these advantages, we are lagging far behind in exporting mangoes to various parts of the world due to lack of infrastructure facilities, particularly technology to store mangoes for a longer period.

Hence, I request the Government of India to immediately direct ICAR or National Agricultural Technology Project to work towards developing a technology to store mangoes for longer period which will not only help the farmers of the country but also help in earning foreign exchange for the country....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I am raising a point of order Rule 376.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now I have taken another item. Please sit down,

[Translation]

Let me run the House.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, under Rule 376, I am raising a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your objection?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I am raising a point of order under Rule 376. My point of order is that anything which belongs to the State Subject cannot be raised in Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please sit down.

Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradagi – not present.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

(III) **Need to enquire into the incident of disappearance of a child recovered by Railway Police from the Government Child Home, Nagpur, Maharashtra.**

[Translation]

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE (Bhandara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a twelve year innocent child gets disappeared from his home in the absence of his parents from village Gulabtol, district Gandiya, Maharashtra. The complaint regarding the missing child has been filed in the near by police station, Tiroda. But the Police did not provide any kind of help to them.

The parents of the child received a letter from the Superintendent of the Government Child Home Nagpur on 5th April, which contained the information that their child Swastik Desmukh, age 12 years, was arrested by the Railway Police and a request that they should reach the Child Home with their identity card and ration card on 10th April. After receiving the letter the parents immediately reached the Child Home which had dispatched the letter to them. But the officials of the Child Home told them about the disappearance of the said child. But despite so much security, how the child disappeared? Whether the careless officials have kept the child at some other place? I would like to request you to intervene in this case and help in searching out the missing child and take action against negligent officials and help parents to get their child.

(IV) **Need to declare birth anniversary of Guru Ghasidas falling on 18th December as National Holiday**

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, National Holiday be declared on 18th

*Not recorded.

[Shri Punnu Lal Mohale]

December the birth day of Sant Baba Guru Ghasidasji born in Chhatisgarh. The above Saint was born on 18th December 1756 at village Girodhuri, district Raigarh (Chhattisgarh). He tried to eradicate untouchability, bridge the gap of higher class and lower class and set up Satnami Sect to improve the economic condition of the poor and tried to eradicate contemporary evils of society. He underwent 'tapasya' in jungle of Girodhuri for six months. Public holiday was declared for 18th December in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in this regard. About 10 to 30 lakh followers of the saint spread in the entire country are known as 'Satnami Samaj'. Keeping in view the feelings of his followers 18 December should be declared a National holiday in the country so that his followers and devotees may pay their tribute to Saint Baba Guru Ghasidas. National holiday be declared on 18th December, the birth day of Saint Baba Guru Ghasidasji and Guru Ghasidas University Bilaspur be accorded the status of a Central University.

- (v) **Need to grant early clearance to mining projects of NYAMGIRI Hills at Lanjigarh in district Kalahandi, Orissa**

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, it is requested that the Ministry of Environment and Forest take an early decision on clearance of mining projects of NYAMGIRI Hills at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district for bauxite mining.

The project is ready for production, and a lot of local people – in all grades – have been employed and their employment stands jeopardised if the mining lease is not granted to Vedanta Company. I am saying this because the aluminum refinery is situated in the most backward district of Kalahandi. The mining lease should be granted as the company has submitted report of sustainable mining and production.

- (vi) **Need to protect and preserve monuments located in Baran district of Rajasthan by Archaeological Survey of India**

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar) : Sir, a number

of monuments, which are having historical importance, are located in Baran district of Rajasthan. Even though these monuments are currently under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), they are not being given the due importance that they should be given.

At the present time, the Archaeological Survey of India is supposed to maintain and preserve the monuments. The district administration of Baran has requested the Department of the Archaeological Survey of India on several occasions. But even after reporting the matter to the officials of the ASI, no attention has been given to these monuments. If these monuments are well preserved, then it will aid and attract large number of tourists, and thus would help the state and the national exchequer to garner larger amount of revenues as well as boost local employment.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to protect these monuments, and also assist in their preservation in order to boost employment in the region.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The names of all the Members cannot be called at one time. If your name figures in the list, you will certainly be called.

(Interruptions)

- (vii) **Need to continue drought relief to the people of Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is lack of rains in Rajasthan during this year as it was the case during the last year. As the rains began, the drought relief work was stopped and the center also discontinued the aid. Keeping in view the lack of rains, the central government should again provide grant to the state so that the drought relief work can be continued and grants to cow-shelters (Gaushalas) can be continued.

Sir, I demand from the Central Government that immediate relief should be provided to the people of Rajasthan keeping in view the drought in Rajasthan.

- (viii) **Need to restrict the import of Vanaspati from Sri Lanka with a view to protect domestic Vanaspati manufacturing industry from uneven competition**

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore) : Sir, the Government has taken a decision to regulate inflow of cheap Sri Lankan origin Vanaspati into the country through the Free Trade Agreement route by appointing National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India as the agency for undertaking these imports.

There are 260 Vanaspati manufacturing units in India, out of which a good number have been closed not due to any industrial disputes, but due to zero-duty import of Vanaspati from Sri Lanka without any quantitative restrictions. In order to save the industry from uneven competition, the following measures may kindly be taken:-

1. Imposition of Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) upto 50,000 tonnes on imports of Vanaspati (hydrogenated vegetable oils) from Sri Lanka under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to help in bringing about transparency, and reduce the incidence of dumping;
2. Imported Vanaspati should conform to Indian standards;
3. Proper monitoring by the Government; and
4. Reopening of the closed units.

- (ix) **Need to provide special economic package to the farmers whose crops have been affected due to natural calamities in Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAIN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of farmers in the backward areas of the country is worsening day by day.

The extremely backward area of Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh is in need of same kind of relief package as has been announced by the hon. Prime Minister in the case of Vidarbha. Due to four years of continuous drought, flood, hail storm and frost in the region the farmers are now on the verge of starvation. The State Government has rendered all possible assistance despite having limited resources but in view of the loss suffered due to drought, flood hail and frost during the last four years this assistance is not adequate. The Uttar Pradesh Government has asked for a special package from the Union Government many times but no assistance has been given till date.

Hence, it is my request to the hon. Prime Minister, through the House, that the special package for Bundelkhand demanded by the Uttar Pradesh Government from the Union Government may be announced at the earliest so that the farmers may be given timely relief and the farmers in Uttar Pradesh are not forced to resort to suicide due to financial constraints and burden of loans and are able to take proper care of their families.

- (x) **Need to complete the pending works sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Bettiah Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar**

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, the following thirteen items of works were sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for my constituency Bettiah in Bihar, namely construction of 23.55 km long road from Belvatiah to Raghunathpur, five km. long road from Madhopur to Bagahi(L), 11 km long road from Ramgarhva to Piparpatti Adhkapariya, 2 km long Bheladi Raxol Dharamhana Branch canal all under East Champaran, 12 km long road in Pujha-Patjeerva, Sant Ghat 11.50 km long road from Sant Ghat to Paravhana, 3.14 km from Baigambarpur to Been Toli, 16 km in Bettiah, Nautan, Mangalpur, Tegrahighat, 12.45 km from Bettiah to Bairia, Paterva Ghat. 3.45 km from Gulab Chowk to Sarai, 3.38 km from Bagalu to Tumkadia, 6.50 km through Peepra, Rani Pakdi, Ganori Railway Gumti, 12.10 km through Manjha Macchangaona, Canaul, Shivrajpur dam all under west Champaran. These works have not been started yet.

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

I would like to know the reason why the said works have not been started as yet even though sanction for the same had been accorded by the Union Government nine months earlier. If the said works are not completed expeditiously, the claim of success of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana would become questionable and the cost of the works would increase as well. The Government had launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in December 2000 with the objective of providing road linkages to villages having population of more than 1000. Hence, the Government should get the schemes pertaining to my constituency completed expeditiously so that the common people are facilitated.

(xi) Need to consider the demands of the Life Insurance Agents

(English)

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : The Life Insurance Agents Federation of India is demanding for the consideration of charter of demands of the agents community. There are about 12 lakh agents working between the Corporation and people. They are playing important role in bringing the market for the Corporation. In spite of stiff competition from private insurance companies, 85 per cent of market is managed by LIC, and that is because of the tireless efforts of agents. They should be properly rewarded for their good work. They are marketing different types of products like group insurance, mediclaim, etc. But the Corporation has been not providing any facility for the agents. It is totally unjust towards the agents. They are bringing hundreds of crores of business from the people for the Corporation, but the Corporation is not providing minimum facilities. Therefore, I would like to bring to your notice and, through you, to the Finance Ministry, about the following justified demands of the agents:-

1. Immediate withdrawal of ICC circular issued by the central office, which is against the agents community;

2. Immediate withdrawal of 15 per cent lapsation clause;
3. Introduction of Senior Agency System;
4. Enhancement of Gratuity from Rs. 1.0 lakh to Rs. 5.0 lakh;
5. Mediclaim facility should be extended to all agents irrespective of club members;
6. Additional incentives to direct agents; and
7. Stop allotment of Development Officers to career and direct agents' branches.

I urge upon the Finance Minister to consider the justified demands of the LIC agents and do justice to the agents at the earliest.

(xii) Need to Construct Bridge on River Wang at Dhebewadi on Karad-Dhebewadi MDR in Satara District of Maharashtra

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad) : Sir, there is utmost need to construct a bridge on river Wang at Dhebewadi on Karad-Dhebewadi MDR 60 in Satara District of Maharashtra. During rainy season the existing causeway gets submerged under water thus hampering communication of almost 40 villages and affecting a population of almost 50,000. The bridge may be constructed from the central road funds. The State government has upgraded this road from Major District Road to State Highway in the forthcoming twenty-year road plan.

(xiii) Need to Provide Employment and Enhanced Compensation to the People whose Lands were Acquired by NLC

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram) : Sir, NLC should provide employment, alternative house site and enhanced compensation to the land oustees. Subsistence allowance should be given to them till the time employment is provided. Preference should be given to the land oustees, ITI apprentice trainees over the other general

apprentice trainees. Present allocation of funds by NLC towards the peripheral development schemes is very less comparing to its annual profits. The funds have to be increased to two per cent of the profits of the organisation. NLC should extend the development scheme to the entire District with allocation of increased funds. Steps should be taken to restore the services of free treatment to the villagers of the surrounding villages in the General Hospital run by NLC. The polluted effluents from units of NLC have spoiled the quality of the land to a greater extent and hence necessary compensation has to be paid to the landowners by NLC. NLC should take steps to reduce the effect in the surrounding villages due to blasting of explosives in the mines. The mined out area should be levelled and made fit for cultivation and be restored to the land oustees. Unused lands also should be given back to the land oustees. NLC should pay subsidy to the agriculturists for digging up bore for irrigation as the underground water has gone very deep due to intensive mining of NLC.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu—
Not present.

Shri M.P. Veerendrakumar – Not present.

Before I go on to Item No.21, Papers to be laid on the Table by Shri S.S. Palanimanickam.

14.28 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE – *Contd.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. 38/2006-CE (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein so as to extend the time limit for setting up/ substantial expansion of units and start of commercial production for being eligible for excise duty exemption from

31st March, 2007 to 31st March, 2010, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4555/2006]

14.28½ hrs.

ACTUARIES BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Item No. 21 – further consideration of Actuaries Bill, 2005.

The time allotted for this was two hours and we had already taken 18 minutes. The balance left is 1 hour 42 minutes. I now request Shri K.S. Rao to speak on this Bill.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Actuaries Bill now introduced by the hon. Minister is one of the very important Bills. In fact, this should have come a long time back. Anyway, wisdom prevailed and the Bill is brought now.

This Bill has got a lot of importance. The very meaning of actuary is one who calculates the effect of today's decision after a long time.

Suppose, if we start saving and if somebody gives a proposition to save one rupee per day, and some other person would come with a proposition that after his retirement, he would be paid Rs. 1,000 every month, it is not believable. But actually when somebody calculates as to what would be the impact of saving one rupee per day, after 50 years, he may get more than Rs. 1,000 every month as long he lives. That is the role of the actuary, who calculates the effect of today's decision after a period. The importance has now come and the Government has gone into it because of the insurance. Till the other day, life insurance is in the hands of the Government of India only. It was not open to the private sector earlier. Premium was being charged for a long time in the same way. They did not go into the minute details. They did not go as effectively as they should. The longevity of a person 40 years back is totally different from the longevity of a person today. The

[Shri K.S. Rao]

calculations made in those days to fix a premium of a person in insuring his life is different from what it is today. Now, we are allowing the private sector to enter into the insurance sector. They would calculate all those things. These actuaries are in great number. They are advanced to a great extent in the Western and developed countries. They would easily calculate and then, they would fix up a less premium than the Government or the LIC fixes. Naturally, the entire business would go to them and our organisation would suffer.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Communist friends were making hell of a noise. We all now about the percentage of interest to be paid on Provident Fund. I do understand their intention behind it and that is that a worker should not suffer. That is definite. But the suggestion by the Government of India is, if we were to keep the entire fund, then, we would not be able to keep up our commitments to pay salaries, pension and all that. They draw 50 per cent of the pension at the end of the retirement. Our experience shows that there is a deficit of more than Rs. 10,000 crore, which has become a burden for the Government of India to pay from the Exchequer. It cannot be paid out of the earning from the Provident Fund that is there with the Government. Now, the actuaries have thought over the issue and they gave a proposal. All the funds of the employees would be handed over to the fund manager, who will manage the fund with some regulations so that the employees are secured of benefits, they are secured of how much amount they would get afterwards. All these things are calculated by the actuaries only. This is to be done in a scientific way. This requires knowledge in statistics, mathematics, economics, finance, law, marketing and management. Only if they know all these things, only then, they would easily calculate.

I would like to quote another instance. As early as 1985, I was suggesting to the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi that growth of population is a big issue in the country and asked him to announce a scheme to the effect that if a couple were to agree to have only one child, at the time of marriage of that child, the Government of

India would pay Rs. 1 lakh. Nobody would believe it. All that the Government of India was paying in those days was Rs. 3,000 per head. I would give the calculation. Now, we have 1,100 million people in the country and if the age group of 25 and 36 were to be 200 million, that means, there are 100 million couples in the country.

If those people were to have a commitment that they would not have more than one child, we could deposit Rs.3,000 in their account which would become Rs. 1 lakh by the time the child attains the age of marriage. The burden on the Government of India will be – whether it will be shared by the Government of India and the State Governments or not – Rs. 3,000 crore per year by which we can control the entire population growth, and that would solve several problems. These people will calculate the amount of fertility, how it is coming down, what is the probability of the birth of children, etc. All these things will be done by the actuaries.

One good thing in the country now is that we have legislated Bills on Chartered Accountants of India, on Cost and Accountants of India, on Company Secretaries of India. All these organizations are self-financing. There is no burden on the Government; not a single rupee is to be spent. Similarly in the case of actuaries, it will be self-financing. All that we have to do is to give them freedom, and also a regulatory mechanism from the Government of India.

If these were to be done, many problems will get solved. We do not know; if one were to purchase a house for Rs. 10 lakh, one may think that he may not be able to pay Rs. 10 lakh. You will not think of purchasing the house at all. But in that case, the actuaries will come into the field and say that you have to pay Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 3,000 per month, you will be encouraged to purchase the house and thus, the problem of housing will be solved. That will increase the economic growth. What is required for the country? If you say that America is rich, what is rich in it? A number of buildings are there; roads are there; infrastructure is there; all the facilities are there.

This is only to motivate the person to work and create wealth. That is what wealth is and that is what development

of the nation is. What is required is ingenuity of the human being that should be utilized. The House should make laws in such a manner that would motivate the people to work. Then our job is done. We do not need to break our heads – to go to the field and do everything regularly. If we limit ourselves in bringing forward right legislations to motivate citizens of this country to work hard and generate wealth, that will take care of them, their families and thus, they will be earning for themselves and also for the nation.

Then the problem will be solved in many ways. Actuarial science is the backbone not only for insurance but also for several other issues, as I told, like population control, financial services, pension and gratuity, maintaining PF, etc. Only thing is that the number of people who are there now and who think in those terms are very little – about 2,500 people are only there who are well-versed in this who are there in this country. This has to be increased. So the Government has to take up and give this assignment to the Actuarial Society which is becoming an Institution of Actuaries, to try and have more and more actuaries so that this can spread not only in one field, but also in different fields of activities in this country.

I do not want to take more time of the House. I can only say that this Bill is going to solve several problems that the country is facing today; it is in the interest of the nation; all of us unanimously, irrespective of the Party to which one belongs, should support this Bill. I do understand that by virtue of being in the Opposition, they may criticize saying that this Bill is not a foolproof one, etc. For that matter, no Bill is foolproof. When we legislate a Bill, we will see the experience and the Government may come up with some amendment later, to improve the Bill.

In a similar way, I would request the hon. Minister, not to get satisfied only with the passage of the Bill, but to monitor how effective it is; and if necessary, he may bring in some amendments later. Basically if something should benefit the nation, every one of us have to have character and integrity. If these are lacking, no Bill will do any good to the nation. Similar is the case with Actuaries Bill.

I wish that he may incorporate somewhere in the Bill that the members that are being selected for actuaries either on the Board or somewhere, their integrity should be taken into account. I wish that he incorporates it now or he can do that later also, which is regarding the integrity of the members of the Board.

With these words, I congratulate the Minister; I thank you, Sir, for having given me the opportunity.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have no objection in passing the Bill but I will have to make some remarks about the circumstances under which this Bill is being legislated.

In the first place, we all know that there were only six nationalised insurance companies in India, which were purely privatised by the Central Government and the functions of actuaries were being done by them also. There was no difficulty at all. A new legislation was not required because at that time there were only six nationalised companies. An institute was also not necessary. After globalisation we have come to a stage that we will have to bring in a new legislation which must be exhaustive to define the work done by actuaries. Previously, there was an actuarial society registered under the Societies Registration Act, which had its Head Office in Mumbai. The Head Office of the Institute of Actuaries is yet to be decided by the Central Government. In the normal course, I think it will be in Delhi. I am not concerned with the place as to where will the headquarters function but I am concerned about other aspects.

All these functions were being managed by the actuarial society. They were doing this job perfectly well. Now, a situation has come where because of privatisation, 21 new private companies have come into the field. The workload has grown and also the area of operation got expanded. So, under such circumstances, a body functioning as a society registered under Societies Act is not enough. So, the Government thought of bringing a new legislation covering the entire field. This Bill is being brought for that purpose.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

As per the provisions of the Bill, a new institute will come into force whose headquarters will be decided later on. The Actuarial Society was doing this job. All their assets and liabilities will be dissolved. The society itself will be dissolved and will be merged. There is one fundamental defect in this statute, which I must point out. It is with regard to Section 32.

This is a new arrangement. A new mechanism is evolved for doing a profession. New professionals will come into play under the provision of the statute and there will be examination and declaration of assets. People will be coming as new entrants. We have two kinds of members; fellow members and associate members. Associate members will not get the right to vote but the fellow members will get the right to vote. In this context, when a new mechanism is evolved, when a new arrangement is made in the functioning of a particular profession, why should it be brought under a different statute? Under the provision of the statute, the final decision is to be taken by the Appellate Authority. The Appellate Authority is the authority, which will take a final decision with regard to implementation of the statute. I will read Section 32 :

"The Appellate Authority constituted under sub-section (1) of section 22A of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 shall be deemed to be the Appellate Authority for the purposes of this Act".

It will club all the matters together, which will lead to difficulty, why should we not have an Appellate Authority under the provisions of this Act? An Appellate Authority has been constituted for a specific purpose under the Chartered Accountants Act under Section 22. Why should they be entrusted with a new job for a new mechanism which is being evolved? Why should they be entrusted with this responsibility? They already have so many things to do. They have to decide matters regarding Chartered Accountants. They have to take decisions with regard to examination to be conducted for a Chartered Accountant. They are doing a very good job. Their certificate is essential

for every purpose. In that context, when they have sufficient work why should this work also be clubbed with them? The Chartered Accountants work will not be done in a proper way and this work will also be lagging. There would be delay. After all, we have decided to bring in a new legislation and a new Institute is to be established under the provisions of a new statute. Then why should it be clubbed with another Appellate Authority constituted under another Act? That Appellate Authority is not in a position to discharge all the functions of the Chartered Accountants. We have to bear in mind that thousands and thousands of cases will have to be decided by the Appellate Authority under the provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act. That being the case, why should they be burdened with another duty regarding Actuaries under the provisions of this Act? The purpose for which this legislation is brought will be defeated. We are clubbing it with an Authority constituted under the provisions of a separate Act. It is not correct. So, I would advise the Minister to re-consider it. It is better to have a separate Authority under the provisions of this Act. You should not club them. There should be different authorities. In our country, you are well aware that cases are delayed. When that is the position, if I may put it, it is not wise to club this Appellate Authority with an Authority constituted under the provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act. I think you would think over it at least now. But I am sure you will have to come again to the House with an amendment constituting a separate Appellate Authority for the purpose of this statute. So, you consider it. This is not proper. There are many more things but I do not want to go into the details. But it is not a good practice to club them. A body constituted under one Act be allowed to function under that Act only. Now you are constituting a new Institute under the provisions of this Act, then why not have a separate Appellate Authority? What is the difficulty? Are you thinking where the money will come from? The Government will not have to spend extra money. The money will come through this process of actuaries' business, risk factor and so many other things which would be done by the actuaries. They are the persons who would advise people to take policies. These actuaries would go to the villages, approach people, and advice them in

matters of risk factor. All these things would be done by these people. The Government will not lose a pie if a separate Appellate Authority is constituted under the provisions of this Act.

With this observation, I have no objection regarding passing of this Bill but it is defective. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me time to speak on Actuaries Bill, 2005. I also support this new Bill. The hon. Minister has expounded in his speech that this Bill would be on the lines of the Bill on Chartered Accountants. It is true that the insurance sector has been expanded in the economic zones alongwith the development of the country, whether it be small insurances or insurance by the big companies. Earlier six insurance companies were operating in the whole of country. It is sure that the insurance sector will be further expanded alongwith the growth of economic zones and there will be an increase in actuarial works. The role of the actuaries is to evaluate the future in terms of premiums, conditions laid down in policies or the amount involved in insurance. Separate policies would be formulated in this regard. The amount of bonus to be paid in the forthcoming years would be evaluated and monitored in the case of businesses. The actuaries would give their opinion in the matter of bankruptcy. The actuaries would work as consultants, particularly for the common man.

The hon. Minister has informed that there would be 203 actuaries. 137 would be from the country and 66 would be from other countries. Besides, 3957 students have been registered. 4326 people are involved in this work. In addition the number of actuaries would rise to ten thousand by 2010 and to fifteen thousand by 2015. Actuaries Board has also been constituted for which 912 persons have been selected. Out of these, one-third would be replaced after a two year tenure. Sir, regarding the question of an Appellate Authority, the final decision would rest with the Appellate Authority and it would deal with the

matters. The Director in the Authority would have all the powers. I would like to suggest that there should be a Board of Directors and the Board should have the power to take a final decision. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jehanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Actuaries Bill.

Sir, so far as the objective of this Bill is concerned, through a clause of this Bill it is laid down that all old societies working under the Registration Act have been closed and named as Institute of Actuaries of India. The development and expansion of Insurance Sector has been envisaged through formation of this Institute in the Bill. The evaluation of the any situation arising from it has also been dealt with. Apart from all these things an Authority has been set upto dispose any controversial case which might arise.

Sir, preceding Speaker Shri Radhakrishnanji was saying that an Appellate Authority has been vested power to take final decision. My personal suggestion in this regard is that the scope of this Appellate Authority be widened and provision be made to appoint a legal person as the Director or as the member of Advisory Council of this Authority. Recently certain amendments have been carried out in section 56 and section 57. Section 56 empowers the Union Government to make rules for the implementation of the provision of this Bill. This means that sections 56 and 57 have been incorporated to empower the Government. The bill introduced at present is really useful and will prove to be beneficial in the long run for the insurance sector.

Apart from 6 insurance companies which had been operating earlier, many more companies have been incorporated in this Bill. The bill contains provisions for issuing licences to them and exercising control over them. Therefore, I support this Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mahtab, you may speak now. Your Party has been allotted only three minutes.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Initially, I should say that the Business Advisory Committee had allotted two hours for this Bill.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : According to the chart which is with me the time allotted to your Party is three minutes.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB : There is no point in speaking for three minutes. What can I say in three minutes?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please give your suggestions only.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : There is no point in speaking on this Bill in three minutes. I decline to participate in this discussion.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may speak 4-5 minutes, it is not an issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not necessary for you to give a lengthy speech on every subject.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, in this Bill, it is not only that a society is converted into another institute but there are also a number of other factors like the definition of actuaries which have to be discussed. This Bill had come up during the NDA regime itself. But, subsequently, when this Bill was moved in March, 2005, the definition of actuaries was the main component. The impact that it is going to have is not being discussed. Initially, of course, the Minister has stated certain facts about the history of the Actuaries Act of 1943, the Societies Registration Act and subsequently how it has progressed. But then for the last many years, actuaries have been confined to a specific work. Now, with the expansion of the activities of insurance,

it is no more confined to life insurance. The insurance sector had multiplied manifold. And with the expansion of insurance, a number of private players have come in and thus, the job of actuaries has increased manifold. A number of stakeholders have also come in and hence, there is a need for regulation and definition. That was the main reason why the previous Government had brought this Bill and the UPA Government has brought this Bill with the suggestion of definition.

I would also mention that actuaries work is done individually and as partnership also, and in the near future, it is going to play a major role in crop insurance sector. It is not only there in life insurance or in property insurance but there are a number of other factors also which will be incorporated in this Bill.

The scope and the functions of the duties of actuaries have increased considerably in this changed situation. We all know that actuarial science is considered to be the backbone of insurance operations. However, with the passage of time, the scope of actuarial profession has extended from the area of life insurance to other sectors which have long-term liabilities. The Actuarial Society of India was established in 1944 and was registered in 1982 in which the Standing Committee had recommended certain modifications.

15.00 hrs.

One of the recommendations was that the word "actuary" should be defined. There were some other recommendations also. That was during the last Lok Sabha. The present Bill incorporates the provisions of the earlier Bill which lapsed alongwith the recommendations. The main components of the Bill are settlement of disputes; election to the Council through a Tribunal; constitution of Disciplinary Committee and an Appellate Authority; and an establishment of Quality Review Board. The formation of the Institute of Actuaries of India from a society is the crux of this Bill.

There is one group which says that actuary profession will function best if organised under self-regulation. They say, "You leave it to the private sector. Let them organise this. Let it function without any Government control". It is

because no financial assistance should go from the Government. It should be within a non-governmental framework and that it should function under self-regulation. But I am of the view that actuarial profession can function in a better manner if it is governed by an Act of Parliament. My humble opinion is that actuarial profession should be regulated, as has been stated by some other hon. Members, on the lines of other professional bodies, like the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Institute of Cost and Work Accountants and the Institute of Company Secretaries, by setting up a professional statutory body. It would certainly help in advancement of the profession and will also contribute in improving the status of actuaries.

The second point was that other comparable professional bodies are self-financing and that it would be inappropriate to sustain the new body under the Government assistance. There also I differ from them. My opinion is that the Institute will have adequate in-built mechanism in place to function without any Government assistance after a short span of time. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how soon the Institute will become self-sustainable.

The Bill, of course, gives enough freedom to the Institute to perform its functions. To become an actuary, a person must be recognized by the institute. This is a special provision which has been made, which is really needed. By defining "actuary" all ambiguities have been removed.

There is an opinion that this Bill will empower bureaucrats, who have no knowledge of the profession and that they will meddle in the affairs of this body also as they do in some other professional bodies. But I am of the opinion that providing legislative backing to the actuaries will increase the credibility of the institution. With the entry of private players, within last three years, more than 3,000 students have enrolled for pursuing actuarial studies. This shows how much faith the people have in this service. Therefore, legislative backing is necessary.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards the need for computation of complete mortality and morbidity table. There is a need to establish a permanent

Mortality and Morbidity Investigation Bureau on the pattern which exists in developed countries. This would reduce the premium, and improve the basic facilities for the customers of insurance, pension, and health industries. The move will also benefit employees of the corporates. The mortality and morbidity table is key to the pricing of any insurance and pension product, as these kinds of long-term products are calculated on the basis of the average longevity of the population. I would be obliged if the Minister takes steps in this regard.

I support the Bill.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) :

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I will try to be brief. I stand to support the Bill. As it has been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, there are six nationalised insurance companies besides 21 private sector companies that have started transacting insurance business also in the country. Besides their traditional responsibility, Actuaries life and General Insurance Business has got many other responsibilities. They have to ensure mainly solvency margin and other insurance risks like legal liability, loss of profit, etc. They also define the risk factors, advise on the premia to be charged and re-insurance to be purchased, calculate reserve for outstanding claims and carry out financial modelling. This is a very important responsibility.

Sir, economic reforms are going on in a big way in our country. When such big scale economic reforms are on the march, there is a necessity that the corporate sector should be transparent and there should be more legal standards. So, the Actuaries have to play a very important role. I believe there should be more stringent punishment for the professional misconduct than what has been prescribed in the Bill.

15.07 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*]

Sir, the present Bill transforming from the Actuarial Society of India, which was registered under the Societies of Registration Act, now to be managed as Actuarial

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

profession in India through this Institute is a good proposition and this will help to regulate the Actuaries. But, I believe that in the recent period, there are several complaints about the misconduct about this type of profession like auditors and people who are involved in this type of business. So, there is a necessity to regulate more seriously and the Government should take more serious view of this. This proposed Bill would help to give the responsibility for conducting the examination of profession of Actuaries. I think it is being left to this Institute. But instead the Government should come out with a proper examination system of this and there should be more standard of education for the Actuaries. After dissolving the Actuarial Society of India and transfer of assets and liabilities of the said Society, it is not only the question of this thing but about the profession as such, and to raise the general standards of this profession. For that, there should be more clarity and, I believe the new Institute should be given that responsibility. I also believe that the nominated members should be as less as possible in these types of institutes. Generally, the number of nominated members is on the rise. Here, it may be comparatively less than many other organisations but I believe, it should be only nominal. The nominated members should be less in number and elected members should be more so that the autonomy of this Institute can be successfully defended.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, I rise not to oppose the Bill but to support the Bill because this is a new stream of practice – Actuarial Science which will come into action after this Bill is passed by the House.

Sir, this is a new stream of practice to get and regulate the financial activities in the future for insurance sector. But here I would like to say that why just confine Actuarial Science to the insurance sector only because in 2002 when the Bill was first introduced, it was referred to the Standing Committee. Then the Standing Committee formed a Committee under Shri Narasimham to give a report on it. The report was given. Then, the suggestions that have come are that the actuarial science should not be limited

to the Insurance Sector only; it should be linked to other sectors because this science usually relates to the activity of the Actuaries. It is to predict the future and not to give the truthful or rightful picture of what is going to happen. The right picture is not supposed to be given. It is just supposed to predict the losses or the profits that a particular institution is going to have. Therefore, this type of a science is a new type of science.

It started in Britain. The Institute of Actuaries of the United Kingdom was established in 1848. The Parliament never did this through an Act of Parliament. It was incorporated under the Royal Charter of the Privy Council in 1884. The Institute was not established under an Act of Parliament. Similarly, in Australia, it is a company. The Institute of Actuaries is a company. In the United States of America, the Society of Actuaries is a Society having a Constitution. So, the aspect of the Actuaries is not a new thing to the developed world or to this world today. This has been in vogue and practice in other countries and in other developing countries as well. But today the situation has necessitated it to be introduced in India and to make the profession a legal and futuristic one. It is to predict the profession so that proper models could be developed for various programmes, mainly, to make the Insurance Sector a success.

You will see that after the Insurance Regulatory Authority was formed, the Government allowed 26 per cent Foreign Direct Investment. A lot of players have come from abroad. A lot of companies have come from abroad. But when the debate took place in the House, at that time, the Minister in charge of it promised and said that the private sector, which would be entering the Insurance market, would go to the rural areas and get involved in the rural projects like crop insurance etc. But, out of the experience, it has been seen that the big private players have not gone into the rural insurance sector like farming and agriculture. They have not yet got into it. So, it is high time to regulate the activities. To predict a good future for the Insurance Sector, the Actuaries will be responsible.

Though it is a Society, yet this is a new beginning for India. By this Bill, they are going to end up with a Society.

A new Act is going to be made by Parliament. I hope it will surely be passed. I also hope that the Actuaries will give a good service to the country and make predictions.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that Shri K.S. Rao should not have any apprehension that I will oppose the Bill. We support it.

The Bill was initiated during the time of the NDA Government. The Standing Committee on Finance deliberated it. Since the House was dissolved, it was not piloted in this House. So, I, as a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, also support it.

I do not have much to say. I must say that it is absolutely required. This actuarial work is a very highly specialised work. So, it cannot be left to a Cooperative Society like the Actuarial Society of India. It is absolutely required that it should have an Institute like the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. So, an Institute of Actuaries is going to be established on the lines of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. But I just have got two or three points to make. Very briefly, I will mention them.

I am very happy that the provision for a Quality Review Board has been provided in this Bill. The Quality Review Board will fix standards. It is absolutely required to fix standards for an Institute.

What for has it been created? So, fixation of the standard and reviewing of the quality of the services provided by the Institute is the job of the Quality Review Board and I appreciate that this has been incorporated in this Bill.

The second point is this. I am very happy that a provision to constitute a Disciplinary Committee to deal with the misconduct of the members of this Institute has been provided in the Bill. As a Member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee set upto inquire into the Stock Market Scam, we found that many of the Chartered

Accountants, who are actually required to set the records right, in collusion with corporate houses, saw to it that corporate houses misappropriated the money from the Stock Market. So, when we, in the Committee, wanted to know why any disciplinary action has not been taken against those Chartered Accountants, we came to know that those Chartered Accountants themselves were part of the Disciplinary Committee. So, even when the Disciplinary Committee asked and was given abundant evidence of wrongdoing by those Chartered Accountants, still no action was taken against them. Now, in the amended Act, a Disciplinary Action Committee has been provided and that has been provided in this Bill also. I am very happy that this provision has been included here because you know pretty well that whatever mistake a person might commit, he will not take action against himself.

Sir, I will now make two suggestions. Clause 58(1) of this Bill says :

"Where the Central Government considers it expedient to do so, it may, by order in writing, direct the Council to make any regulations or to amend or revoke any regulations already made within such period as it may specify in this behalf."

The Central Government will make the law in writing. Who is the Central Government? Is it not that we allow unnecessary bureaucratic intervention here? So, I appeal to the hon. Minister that he should clarify this point during the course of his reply. Why should this power be given to the bureaucracy? Through this power, they will unnecessarily poke their nose.

My last point is about the salary and allowances of the members of the Quality Review Board and the Appellate Authority. This has not been provided in this Bill. I know that this cannot be provided in the Bill, but at least some hint should have been given as to which equivalent post they will draw salary and allowances. So, I hope the hon. Minister will clarify these two points during the course of his reply.

With these words, I support this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank all the hon. Members who participated in the discussion on the Actuaries Bill and have extended their all-out support to the Bill. Let me assure them that we deeply value the suggestions that they have made and would be guided by the observations of the hon. Members.

Sir, as it has been said here today by the hon. Members participating in this discussion, this is a new legislation. As I said last time, it intends to deal with a subject of immense importance, the importance of which has been further multiplied because of the various fast-moving economic activities in the country and the world over.

Sir, as has been rightly observed by some of the hon. Members participating in today's discussions, it was important to define the term Actuary in the Act itself and we did it. The Bill, thereafter, went to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee deliberated upon the provisions of the Bill at length and made a suggestion in this regard as well. They further improved upon the definition of the Actuary and I would be moving an amendment to that effect also today.

As I said, in a participatory democracy, we have to really base our judgement, base our opinion upon the opinions of the hon. Members expressed in the Standing Committee. There is no denying the fact that when any piece of legislation concerning the professionals is enacted, one core element thereof has to be the matters relating to the conduct of the members, relating to integrity.

Shri K.S. Rao very rightly referred to it and he, in fact, wanted me to ensure that emphasis is laid on the monitoring of the provisions of the Bill, when enacted into an Act, and as also to ensure and to do something about as to how the members of the actuarial profession maintain the highest standards of integrity. Precisely to meet that situation, in this Bill itself a clear definite provision in the form of the Schedule has been included, which gives in detail as to what the professional misconduct in relation to members of the institute in practice would be, what the

professional misconduct in relation to members of the institute generally would be. It also provides for other misconduct in relation to members of the institute generally. Under that a detailed, if I were to say, prescription has been made as to what the conduct would be. Here taking note of what goes round the world, we have ensured that in this Bill we also include, just for a sample, I would read a few words from the provisions itself. It is part of the Schedule :

"An Actuary, in practice, shall be deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct if he pays by way of remuneration to an employee, pays or allows or agrees to pay or allow, directly or indirectly, any share, commission or brokerage in the fees or profits of his professional business, to any person other than a member of the institute or a partner or a retired partner or the legal representative of a deceased partner."

Sir, in detail, very meticulously all that could be construed as a misconduct, all that would be considered undesirable of an Actuary, practising as an Actuary, have been included herein. I am sure, given the hierarchy of the various bodies in the Act itself, which would look after this, which have been charged with the responsibility of maintaining the highest standards of professional conduct, would look into it. The hon. Members need not have any misgiving about it, any doubt about it. We would leave it to the best judgement of theirs that they would act and act decisively if ever unfortunately an occasion arises calling for their intervention.

Sir, Shri Radhakrishnan referred to the provision of an Appellate Authority. Perhaps, he may be right, generally, when we say that when you frame a law, you must have its own independent authorities therein. But then, perhaps, for my benefit, he answered the question himself. He said, "maybe the Government is constrained by expenditure." I will not say constrained, but that is the factor, which we are guided by.

Keeping in view the fact that the number of actuaries in the country is low, that in the coming years also – even going by the projections that we have – taking it to be

15,000 by the year 2015, even that would be comparatively a smaller number as going by or as compared to the Chartered Accounts we have, the Cost Accountants we have and the Company Secretaries we have. For all those, there are separate independent legislations to govern the conduct of those professions, but for all of them we have the same Appellate Authority. Here, we have not just left at that. It is not that a Chartered Accountant would sit in appeal in deciding a matter relating to an Actuary. It is not so. Kindly see that the definition has been amended in clause 32. Clause 32 of this Bill says:

"The Appellate Authority constituted under sub-section (1) of section 22A of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, shall be deemed to be the Appellate Authority for the purposes of this Act. . ."

Then, there is a proviso that subject to the modification that for clause (b) of that section of the Chartered Accountants Act, the following clause shall be substituted. It reads :

"The Central Government shall, by notification appoint two part-time Members from amongst the persons who have been members of the Council of the Institute of Actuaries for at least one full term and who are not sitting members of the Council;".

When the matters relating to the Actuaries have to be taken up by that Appellate Authority, the composition of that Appellate Authority would accordingly change to that extent.

There was a point incidentally made in this connection by Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Ganesh Prasad Singh had rightly said that a person must be there with legal background.

[English]

I am happy to inform the House again, that is the provision of this Act, that is the provision of the other legislation also that for the Appellate Authority the

Chairperson has to be a person who has been a Judge of the High Court. It is because of the less work with the Appellate Authority as such, the Government rightly feels that you do not have to have a multitude of Authorities doing very little work all the time. Therefore, when they deal with a particular profession, that clause (b) would stand modified; the people from other profession would move out and the people from the relevant and concerned profession would sit into decide the matter; no apprehension whatever need to be entertained on that account.

Shri Radhakrishnan also rightly referred to the class of members, that is clause 7. It has taken note of the evolving situation about the profession of Actuaries in the country. Therefore, we have provided for both the associate members as also the fellow members. It says :

"The members of the Institute shall be divided into two classes designated respectively as associates and fellows. "

It has been clearly taken note of.

I must thank Shri Mahtab again for referring to the importance of the definition of 'Actuary'. There is no denying the fact that in the days to come, the work of Actuary would multiply in our country. It would not just be confined, as he rightly said, to life insurance, crop insurance, it goes further even today to pension. It would expand any number of times. It is precisely for that purpose that we have given a rather lengthy definition of the Actuaries today. Whenever the need arises, if we learn from experience that something has to be modified, we are always open to that. That ought to be so. Any Government of the day is guided by the will of the House, the sense of the House and the things are accordingly done. Today, keeping in view even the future evolution as such, the definition of Actuaries is quite comprehensive and it would take into account all that could possibly be expected of an Actuary.

A question was raised and then rightly answered that this is a subject which cannot just be left to the cooperative societies or to the society that has existed for so long. I must place on record that it has done good job in the given

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

situation. But, today the things are fast changing and in that dynamic world, things have to change.

When that society was set up, the insurance sector was all nationalized, and the scope was limited for qualified Actuaries. Now on the absence of a law like this, their work was also obviously restricted. It is precisely to provide for that, to facilitate, this has been brought about.

Shri Swain asked : "Why are you bringing in the Government?" Where is the Government not there? The Government has got to be there. I would request with utmost humility that we must not attribute anything to the Government as such. The Government would come in where only the need is felt. Where is it not there? In the case of capital markets and elsewhere, we have regulators all over. But there is always a provision with the Government because the Government is answerable to the people of this country through the Parliament. It is only because you find the word 'Government', you will be able to raise a question, raise fingers at the people and put the Government in the dock, and make the Government answer your query. That responsibility vests with the Government but limited to that extent only. Once the various bodies are set up under the Act, the Government would not interfere in their day-to-day work. Those authorities are incorporation of the Institute; composition of the Council of the Institute; establishment of the Tribunal for settling elected-related disputes; various Committees of the Council; Disciplinary Committee of the Council; Prosecution Director assisting alongwith other employees; Disciplinary Committee to arrive at an appropriate decision on the given facts of a case; and the appellate authority. Establishment of the Quality Review Board has been appreciated. The Quality Review Board is again intended to impart that quality to the profession of Actuaries.

I did not see Shri Prabhu earlier. I wish he had also participated in the discussion and made us wiser by his

contribution but nevertheless I am grateful that he is here now.

Sir, there was a valid point that when we are talking of discipline, we are talking of standards, the punishment should also be commensurate and the provision should be stringent. That was also the demand made. Sir, after this Bill was introduced in the House, it went to the Standing Committee, and based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee, the Committee has considered all aspects. I am coming forward with certain amendments, notice of which has already been given. Those amendments have been circulated. I would like to refer here to only two amendments, and those relate to this.

Shri Sudhakar Reddy referred to the need to have more stringent punishment. Clause 38, as the Bill was circulated and introduced, provides :

"... shall be punishable on first conviction with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees and on any subsequent conviction with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both."

Now, we have substantially enhanced these – ten thousand rupees enhanced to one lakh rupees; six months imprisonment enhanced to one year; and twenty-five thousand rupees enhanced to two lakh rupees.

Similarly, in clause 30, I would be moving another amendment today. Clause 30 says :

"Where the Council is of the opinion that a member is guilty of a professional misconduct mentioned in the Schedule, it shall afford to the member a reasonable opportunity of being heard before making any order against him and may thereafter take any one or more of the following actions, namely :—

- (a) reprimand the member; or
- (b) remove the name of the member from the register permanently or for such period, as it thinks fit."

15.34 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The other one that we are adding is: " to impose such fine as it may think fit, which may extend up to five lakh rupees."

Sir, we are conscious of the fact that any small act of malfeasance today could have very larger consequences and for that, the level of fine should be deterrent. That should deter a person who thinks of committing some act which could be termed as misconduct under the Act. For that, this fine has been provided.

Sir, a question was raised about the finances of the Institute, which would come into force after this. It is with a sense of great satisfaction that I have to report to the House that even the Actuarial Society of India, which has functioned so far, has been self-sustaining.

Knowing that such an Institute which is now being established, would be self-sustaining, this clause 22 has been added. But to cover any eventuality, to cover any contingency where there may be need of some grant etc., we have provided for that. Section 22 says :

"There shall be established a fund under the management and control of the Council into which shall be paid all moneys (including donations and grants) received by the Council and out of which shall be met all expenses and liabilities incurred by the Council. "

Subsequently, we say :

"The Council may invest any money for the time being standing to the credit of the fund in any Central or State Government security as it may deem prudent consistent with the considerations of security of such investments and maximum returns thereon."

Sir, we rather look forward to a situation where there will be surplus funds with the Institute and the Institute would be rather able to invest those funds, and then utilise the income therefrom on various welfare activities and

others, which would, very well lie within the jurisdiction of the Institute to take care of.

Sir, I would say that all that possibly needs to be attended to while framing a new legislation like this one, has been taken care of. As we all say, this is a new legislation, which intends to cover a very fast emerging field of Actuaries. We have been guided in the framing of this law by the similar laws in cases of Chartered Accountants, Cost and Work Accountants and the Company Secretaries. We have learnt from the experiences of those institutes, and based on that, we have framed this law.

I thank the hon. Members for extending support to this Bill, and I can assure them that any suggestion made by them in future would be taken into account by the Government.

Now, I request that the Bill may be passed.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Sir, I have a small clarification to seek. I had mentioned about the mortality and morbidity case. It was for establishment of Mortality and Morbidity Investigation Bureau (MMIB). I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking of establishing the MMIB in the near future. That is not there in the Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUAMR BANSAL : Sir, I take note of the point raised by the hon. Member. Specifically, this provision is not there. But I can assure him that when the need would arise, the point would always be considered. Presently, it would not be proper for me to comment thereon. But whenever an occasion arises for the Institute; any matter, which falls within the domain, within the jurisdiction of the Institute, the Institute would be fully competent to take note of that and act accordingly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for regulating and developing the profession of Actuaries and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up clause-by-clause consideration.

Clause 2 – Definitions

Amendments made :

Page 2, for lines 2 to 8, *substitute—*

'(a) "Actuary" means a person skilled in determining the present effects of future contingent events or in finance modelling and risk analysis in different areas of insurance, or calculating the value of life interests and insurance risks, or designing and pricing of policies, working out the benefits, recommending rates relating to insurance business, annuities, insurance and pension rates on the basis of empirically based tables and includes a statistician engaged in such technology, taxation, employees' benefits and such other risk management and investments and who is a fellow member of the Institute; and the expression "actuarial science" shall be construed accordingly;'. (4)

Page 2, after line 22, *insert—*

'(k) "President" means President of the Council;'. (5)

Page 2, line 23, for "k", *substitute* "(1)". (6)

Page 2, line 25, for "l", *substitute* "(m)". (7)

Page 2, line 26, for "(m)" *substitute* "(n)". (8)

Page 2, after line 26, *insert—*

'(o) "Vice-President" means Vice-President of the Council;'. (9)

Page 2, line 21, for "(n)", *substitute* "(p)". (10)

Page 2, after line 42, *insert—*

'Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression "company" includes 1 of a public financial institution as defined in 1956 section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956.'. (11)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 9 – Certificate of Practice

Amendment made :

Page 4, for lines 46 and 47, *substitute—*

"9. (1) No member of the Institute shall be entitled to practice unless he fulfils the qualifications as may be specified and obtains from the Council a certificate of practice.".

(12)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 and 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 12 – Composition of Council of Institute

Amendments made:

Page 5, for lines 38 to 40, *substitute—*

"(a) a minimum of nine and not more than twelve persons from amongst fellow members to be elected by the fellow and the associate members of the Institute in such manner as may be prescribed :

Provided that a fellow of the Institute, who has been found guilty of any professional or other misconduct and whose name is removed from the Register or has been awarded penalty of fine, shall not be eligible to contest election,—

(6) in case of misconduct falling under the Schedule of this Act [except Part IV (B)], for a period of three years; or

(ii) in case of misconduct falling under Part IV (B) of the Schedule of this Act, for a period of six years.

after the completion of the period of removal of name of the fellow from the Register or the payment of fine is made, as the case may be; and

(b) (i) an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, to be nominated by the Central Government to represent the Ministry of Finance; ". (13)

Page 5, line 41, for "(b)(i)", substitute "(ii)". (14)

Page 5, line 44, for "(ii) not more than three persons", substitute "(iii) not more than two persons". (15)

Page 6, line 4, for "holding an office of profit", substitute "holding a post". (16)

Page 6, for lines 7 to 12, substitute—

"(4) One-third of the members of the Council referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (2) shall retire as soon as may be on the expiration of every second year by rotation but shall be eligible for re-election.

(7) Any person nominated under clause (b) of the sub-section (2) shall hold office for a period of six years from the date of his nomination unless he is removed earlier by the Central Government and shall be eligible for re-nomination :

Provided that he shall be given an opportunity of being heard before such removal.". (17)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Clause 14 – Re-election to Council

Amendments made :

Page 6, for lines 23 and 24, substitute—

"14. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), a member of the Council elected under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 12 shall be eligible for re-election but not for more than two consecutive terms.". (18)

Page 6, line 26, for "re-election", substitute "election or nomination" (19)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 16 – Establishment of Tribunal

Amendment made:

Page 6, for line 39, substitute—

"term and who is not a sitting member of the Council or who has not been a candidate in the election under dispute; and". (20)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 – President, Vice-President and Honorary Secretary

Amendment made :

Page 7, line 5, for "another member", substitute "one of the member". (21)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 18 – Resignation from membership and filling up of Casual Vacancies

Amendments made :

Page 7, for lines 28 and 29, *substitute–*

"member or he has been found guilty of any professional or other misconduct and awarded penalty of fine or if his name is, for any cause, removed from the Register under the provisions of sections 24 and 30." (22)

Page 7, for lines 30 to 35, *substitute–*

"(3) A casual vacancy in the office of a member of the Council shall be filled by fresh election or by nomination by the Central Government, as the case may be, and the person elected or nominated to fill the vacancy shall hold office only for the remainder of the term for which the member in whose place he was elected or nominated would have held that office :

Provided that no election shall be held to fill a casual vacancy occurring within one year prior to the date of the expiration of the term of such member." (23)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 19 – Functions of Council

Amendment made :

Page 8, for lines 21 and 22, *substitute–*

(n) the carrying out, by granting financial assistance to persons other than members of the Council, or in any other manner, of research in the actuarial science." (24)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 20 was added, to the Bill.

Clause 21 – Committees of Council

Amendment made :

Page 8, after line 31, *insert–*

"Provided that the number of co-opted members shall not exceed one-third of the total membership of the committee." (25)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 21, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 22 – Finances of Council

Amendments made :

Page 9, for line 9, *substitute–*

"fund in any security as it may deem prudent consistent with the" (26)

Page 9, *after* line 10. *insert*—

"Explanation. — For the purposes of this sub-section, the "Securities" the expression shall have the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956, as amended from time to time". (27)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 22, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 22, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 23 to 26 were added to the Bill.

Clause 27 — Appointment of Prosecution Director

Amendment made :

Page 10, *for* lines 30 and 31, *substitute*—

"other employees to assist the Disciplinary Committee in making inquiries in respect of any information or complaint received by the Council under the provisions of this Act.". (28)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 27, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 27, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 28 — Authority, Council, Disciplinary Committee and Prosecution Director to have powers of civil court

Amendment made :

Page 10, lines 34 and 35, *omit* "the Council". (29)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 28, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is wrong there?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are more than sufficient.

Clause 29 — Action by Council on Disciplinary Committees Report

Amendment made :

Page 11, line 6, *for* "Director to", *substitute* "Director or itself". (30)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is :

"That clause 29, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 30 — Member to be afforded opportunity of being heard

Amendments made :

Page 11, line 7, *for* "a professional", *substitute* "a professional or other". (31)

Page 11, *after* line 13, *insert*—

"to impose such fine as it may think fit, which may extend to five lakh rupees.". (32)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 30, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 31 – Professional and other misconduct defined

Amendment made :

Page 11, for lines 17 to 21, substitute—

Professional or other misconduct defined. "31. For the purposes of this Act, the expression "professional or other misconduct" shall be deemed to include any act or omission provided in the Schedule, but nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or abridge in any way the power conferred or duty cast on the Disciplinary Committee or the Prosecution Director to inquire into the conduct of any member of the Institute under any other circumstances." (33)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 31, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 31, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 32 – Constitution of Appellate Authority

Amendments made :

Page 11, line 27, for "has been", substitute "had been". (34)

Page 11, line 30, at the end, insert "and who are not sitting members of the Council". (35)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 32, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 32, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 33 – Term of Members of Authority

Amendment made :

Page 11, line 31, for "a term of five years", substitute "a term of three years"; (36)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 33, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 33, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 34 – Procedure etc. of Authority

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 34 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was negated.

Clause 35 – Officers and other staff of Authority

Amendment made :

Page 11, for lines 38 to 40, substitute—

Procedure, etc., of Authority. "35. The provisions of section 22C, section 22D and section 22F of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 shall apply the Authority in relation to allowances and terms and conditions of service of its Chairperson and members, and in discharge of its functions under this Act as they apply to it in the discharge of its functions under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949." (37)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 35, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 35, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 36 – Appeal to Authority

Amendment made :

"Page 11, line 44, for "made available to", substitute "of." (38)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 36, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 36, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 37 – Penalty for falsely Claiming to be a member, etc.

Amendments made :

"Page 11, line 46, for "within thirty days", substitute "within ninety days". (39)

"Page 12, for line 2, substitute "period of ninety days, if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not". (40)

Page 12, for lines 12 to 15, substitute—

"Provided that the Authority shall give an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned before passing any order." (41)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 37, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 37, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 38 – Companies not to engage in actuarial practice

Amendment made :

Page 12, for lines 27 to 29, substitute—

"shall be punishable on first conviction with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, and on any subsequent conviction with imprisonment which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees, or with both." (42)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 39 to 43 were added to the Bill.

Clause 44 – Functions of Board

Amendments made :

Page 13, line 36, for "Chairman", substitute "Chairperson". (43)

Page 13, line 38, for "the Board", substitute "the Council". (44)

Page 13, for lines 39 to 41, substitute—

"(2) The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall be appointed from amongst the persons of eminence having experience in the field of law, education, economics, business, finance, accountancy or public administration." (45)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 44, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 44, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 45 and 46 were added to the Bill.

Clause 47 – Expenditure of Board*Amendment made :*

"Page 14, line 5, for "Chairman", substitute "Chairperson". (46)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 47, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 47, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 48 to 54 were added to the Bill.

16.00 hrs.

Clause 55 – Power of Central Government to make rules

Amendment made :

Page 15, line 26, omit "Chairman". (47)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 55, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 55, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 56 – Power to make regulations*Amendments made :*

Page 15, omit lines 44 and 45. (48)

Page 15, line 46, for "(g)", substitute "(f)". (49)

Page 16, line for "(h)", substitute "(g)". (50)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 56, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 56, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 57 – Power of Central Government to issue directions for making or amending regulations

Amendments made :

Page 16, for lines 19 and 20, substitute—

"(g) qualifications required for a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) and the form in which an application may be made under sub-section (2) of section 9;" (51)

Page 16, omit lines 21 and 22. (52)

Page 16, line 23, for "(i)", substitute "(h)". (53)

Page 16, line 25, for "(j)" substitute "(i)". (54)

Page 16, line 26, for "(k)", substitute "(j)". (55)

Page 16, line 28, for "(1)", substitute "(k)". (56)

Page 16, line 30, for "(m)", substitute "(1)". (57)

Page 16, line 32, for "(n)", substitute "(m)". (58)

Page 16, line 34, for "(o)", substitute "(n)". (59)

Page 16, line 36, for "(p)", substitute "(o)". (60)

Page 16, line 38, for "(q)", substitute "(p)". (61)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 57, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 57, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 58 to 60 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule*Amendment made :*

Page 19, after line 40, insert—

"PART IV

Other misconduct in relation to member of the Institute generally

A member of the Institute, whether in practice or not, shall be deemed to be guilty of other misconduct, if—

(A) (1) he is held guilty by any civil or criminal court for an offence which is punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months;

(2) in the opinion of the Council, he brings disrepute to the profession or the Institute as result of his action whether or not related to his professional work;

(B) he is held guilty by any civil or criminal court for an offence which is punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding six months." (62)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Amendments made :

Page 1, line 4, for "2005", substitute "2006". (2)

Page 1, for line 10, substitute—

"a reference to the commencement of that provision." (3)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-sixth", substitute "Fifty-seventh". (1)

(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, I have a small submission to make. We are scheduled to take up discussion on the report of Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry now. However, if you allow the hon. lady Minister for just two minutes she will make a preamble on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005. After her preamble, discussion on Item 25 could be taken up. Debate on the Bill can be concluded afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the morning this issue was raised and hon. Speaker had issued instruction that. . . .(interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am not denying that, Minister of Petroleum is making his preparations. Shrimati Renuka Choudhary will only move the Bill and debate will take place later on. It will only take two minutes.

16.07 hrs.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION
OF CHILDREN) AMENDMENT BILL, 2005**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Item No. 22 – Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity, and all the hon. Members who are sitting here in the House. For those of my colleagues who are absent in this House, the tragedy is that they have not understood the importance of bringing about a Bill like this.

16.08 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair]

By the year 2020, India is foreseen to be holding the largest and the youngest productive force in the world. That largest, youngest and productive force is the juveniles of today, the children of today, who will grow up to earn and return to this country many more times.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 is a comprehensive legislation to provide justice, opportunities to children of India for both their growth and development. This is based on the provisions of the Indian Constitution and the four broad rights of the UN Convention on the Rights of Children including rights to survival, protection, development and participation. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 comes into force with effect from 1st April, 2001. One of the important amendments of this present Bill is to include the definition of adoption. Those of us who have tried to adopt have known the heartache and the terrible

agony of waiting and trying to choose a child while many children do not have the choice to choose a home.

The inclusion of the child beggars in the definition of children in need of care and protection and it is proposed that the children should not be put up in the police lockups. This is something that we have to sensitise ourselves. If we want to make criminals of children only then we take them to the police lockups. We do not put children in jails, and all the inquiries for juveniles in conflict with law should be completed in time. Quite ironically sometimes the children grow up with that sword hanging over their neck when they do not know when justice will take place.

It is felt that the State Governments should regularly review the pendency of cases because the responsibility and the onus of this falls directly on the States. However, there is a huge time lag there. It is sad state affairs that they do not bother to see how many cases are pending before the local Juvenile Justice Boards and the Child Welfare Committees.

No juvenile, this is of our opinion, who is in conflict with law should be placed in a home for a period exceeding three years.

There is a window of opportunity for them to go out from there. No juvenile can be imprisoned for any term. There is a special duty placed upon newspapers and media. I would seek the attention of the media in this case that media will be protective of these juveniles in the event of their reporting. In fact, there is a fine of Rs. 25,000 if the media was to show the face of these children or to reveal their identity. This is in order to ensure that children remain in camera and that they will have a right to be able to rehabilitate in the privacy so that they are not branded and no trial is there in media against them and that there is no unnecessary and undue public exposure which can be detrimental for the child's psychological development and rehabilitation. We also feel that all organizations of housing children should be registered by the State Government so that there is some accountability and responsibility.

Section 62(a) places duty upon the State Government to constitute a child protection unit for the State and child

protection unit of every district consisting of such officers and other employees as may be appointed by the Government to take up matters relating to children/juvenile with a view to ensuring the implementation of this Act. As all of us know, my dear friends, it is not for want of laws. We have enough laws in our country which would enable us to do and reach the goal that we all set out to. However, implementation of these existing laws is a whole different story. It is imperative that we can hold the people accountable to see that these institutions will in fact deliver us as per the law that this particular Act would bring about. Overall, this Act is to provide better facilities and services to all children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law are looked after in good institutions so that they are rehabilitated. If we do not understand the delicacy of this matter, what will happen is that we would facilitate the hazardous of these children who then grow upto be adult criminals for which the State and country will continue to spend in trying to rehabilitate them. Hence, it would be better if we remain sensitive to these at the earlier levels and time so that we can have better facilities and better transition of these children who are in conflict with law. Then, they can grow up as responsible citizens of this country.

These proposed amendments will help my Ministry and the State Governments in ensuring effective implementation of the provisions for Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) and also to ensure provisions for care, protection and treatment by catering to their developmental needs towards child friendly approach which is actually the real motive of this Act.

Today, most of you would have woken upto read newspaper headlines where the Ministry of Labour has agreed that children below 18 years of age should be deemed as children and that they cannot work in any jobs so that they are entitled to the advantages of childhood. All children below 18 are uniformly defined today that they are children and children should be entitled to their human right of having the childhood which would mean that they will have learning, better awareness, nutrition, training in traditional skills, mid-day meal scheme, access to

immunization and a better working of home atmosphere so that they are removed from hazardous jobs as well as other jobs. They, at least, begin to get a beginning and an opportunity to understand as to what being a child is all about.

It is unfortunate that due to our population norms, most of our children are made into beggars. Most of you have seen the news where human beings have volunteered and had their limbs amputated so that they could beg. So, you can imagine the horror stories that surround children of beggars who are forced into begging, who are forced into hazardous jobs where they have no entitlement to any decent human norms and they are made to earn for able-bodied parents. Hopefully, this amendment to the Juvenile Justice Act would first bring about a facilitation for easier adoption. For those of you, who have tried to adopt as I have, you would find that it is a minefield of problems. Today any citizen of this country can adopt, under the Juvenile Justice Act and you will be having a better facilitation without having to deal with one religion or the other.

I also want to thank the Members of the Standing Committee who have really worked hard round the clock and who have given us very valuable inputs. Some very good suggestions have come and they are very good learning grounds for us. My Ministry and I stand advised by the hon. Members.

I now look forward to the cooperation and support of the hon. Members to all the amendments that were proposed here by my hon. colleague.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, be taken into consideration."

We shall continue the discussion on this Bill later. Now, we shall take up Item No. 25, discussion under Rule 193, Shri Prabodh Panda.

16.16 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Report of Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry regarding alleged disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the very outset, I must express that I feel proud to raise this matter, by way of a Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193. This matter is of national concern. The whole nation has strong emotions and sentiments in this regard.

I rise to initiate a discussion on the Report of Justice N.K. Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry regarding alleged disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, one of the most charismatic figures of our freedom movement, a great national hero of our freedom movement, and also on the memorandum of Action Taken by the Government on the Report.

Since Independence, three Commissions or Committees were set up. The Mukherjee Commission is the third one. There is no precedence in our country of setting up three Commissions or Committees on the same issue. It is quite natural that it shows the great importance attached to this issue. The issue is about the alleged death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in a plane crash at Taihaku Airport in Famosa, which is familiarly now known as Taiwan and that accident occurred – it is alleged – on the 18th August, 1945.

Netaji might be dead even before Independence or afterwards. But the whole nation is deeply eager to know and get apprised of the genuine information of his extreme consequences. Nobody can deny that our whole nation, irrespective of the party cadres, holds high respects, remembrance and admiration to the tallest figure, the outstanding figure of our freedom movement.

It is needless to mention here that he is regarded as the distinguished son of our great motherland who was endowed with a tremendous revolutionary zeal and who added a new dimension in the pale stream of our freedom movement. Not just that; beyond the frontier of our country, he set off and formed the *Azad Hind* Movement; with high admiration, we can recall the memory of *Azad Hind* Movement, the formation of Indian National Army which greatly shook the foundation of the British imperialist forces at that time. That left an indelible mark on the nation.

Sir, the point is that the controversy over the death of such a great patriot surfaced since 1945, just after the announcement was made from the Tokyo Radio on 23rd August, 1945. The announcement was, 'that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had died in a plane crash on 18th August, 1945.' There was a controversy on that report. As that report was full of controversies and could not be relied upon, under strong popular demand from different parts of our country, it was decided to conduct a proper inquiry to know the correct information about the alleged death of Netaji in a plane crash.

It is revealed from the records that the then Prime Minister of our country, Pandit Jawahar Lai Nehru declared on the floor of the Parliament on 5th March, 1952 that the report submitted to him by Shri S.A. Aiyer, the former Information and Broadcasting Minister of Provisional Government of Azad Hind had to be taken as authentic. What is said in that report? Shri S.A. Aiyer said in his report that during his visit to Japan in 1951 he went to Renkoji Temple and met the priest Muchizuki. Muchizuki, the Priest of Renkoji Temple stated in his letter dated November 25, 1953 to the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lai Nehru that the persons who had brought the alleged ashes to the temple in 1945 were strangers to him and they never met him after that.

Not only that, it would not be out of place to mention here that Shri Aiyer in his book, "Unto Him A Witness", which was submitted to Khosla Commission, categorically stated that it was he who drafted the Domei dispatch on the basis of which Reuters circulated the alleged death

news. Aiyer further stated in this connection that without visiting the alleged spot of the alleged crash and without meeting Habibur Rehman, a comrade, a co-passenger of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, he had drafted the dispatch on the basis of what he heard from some Japanese officers. So, based on the report of the Japanese officer, he drafted the report. It could not satisfy the Members of the Parliament and the people of the time. So, under the leadership of Pandit Nehru, Shah Nawaz Committee was set up to conduct an inquiry over the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in a plane crash.

The Committee produced a report but it was not adopted unanimously. Out of three members of that Committee, one important member happened to be the elder brother of great Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. His name was Shri Suresh Chandra Bose. He submitted a dissent note. Since that report was not unanimous, the controversy remained. It was not removed.

Again another one man Commission was set up, namely, Khosla Commission and its report came on 11.07.1970. The observation and findings of both the Commission and the Committee were that Netaji succumbed to his injuries sustained in a plane crash at Taihoku and that the ashes had been taken to Tokyo. But these findings were not satisfactory. Therefore, the controversy still remained. It could not be removed.

Then, one writ petition was filed before the High Court of Calcutta. The Division Bench of Calcutta High Court directed the Union Government on 30th April, 1998 to launch a vigorous inquiry on the same subject. It was followed by a unanimous resolution adopted by West Bengal Assembly on December 24, 1998. So after that the Government of India appointed one more Commission under Justice Mukherjee Commission. What was assigned to the Mukherjee Commission? It was asked to conduct the inquiry on five aspects – (i) whether Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is dead or alive; (ii) whether he died in a plane crash as alleged; (iii) whether the ashes kept in Renkoji Temple of Japan are the ashes of Netaji; (iv) whether he died in any other manner and if so what is

the place and when did he die; and (v) if he is alive, then what is his whereabouts? So, this Mukherjee Commission was asked to give the report as soon as possible within six months but it was not possible as it was time consuming. So, they had to work hard for not less than six years and it submitted the report. After that the Government of India tabled the Memorandum of Action on the report on 17th May, 2006.

It was said that the Government would table a memorandum on the Action Taken on the Report within six months of the submission of the Report. But the Government was unable to do so. A number of reasons and explanations were given for this. All these explanations given were technical in nature. What were the explanations given? The explanations given, for delay in tabling of the Memorandum of Action Taken on the Report was that there was a lot of time consumed for translation and printing and also for consideration of the Report by the Government, its approval by the Cabinet and lastly it was said that Parliament was adjourned. Now, today we have to believe that due to constraints of printing and translation, the Government was unable to table the memorandum of Action Taken on the Report of the Commission. All these reasons, it seems, are shallow and the fact is that the Government did not take this seriously. They had taken the matter casually and had delayed the tabling of the Memorandum of Action Taken on the Report.

Sir, the Government responded on only two points of the Report of the Commission. The first point was that Netaji did not die in a plane crash. The Mukherjee Commission, out of the five points that they were to investigate on, had investigated on four points and one point was left out. The point that the Commission did not investigate on was how and in what manner Netaji died. The Commission had investigated on the other four points and gave their Report. The Commission came to the conclusion that Netaji was no more living and that he was dead. They also had contented that his death was not owing to any plane crash. Therefore, the story made out that he died in a plane crash is not credible. There was no sufficient ground to believe that. The Commission had

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

narrated several instances in the Report and has concluded that this story about his death owing to a plane crash was a concocted and a manufactured story. The Commission even quoted a well-known journalist, belonging to INTUC, of that time. He has written a book and the Commission quoted from that book also.

The second issue on which the Commission has commented on is a very sensitive issue and that is about the ashes, supposedly to be that of the late Netaji, that were kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan. The Commission has contended that it was not of the late Netaji but was one of the late Okahara Ichiro. All these information are there in the Report.

But I am sorry to say that in spite of the hard work, in spite of their findings, the Government of the day is not in a position to believe it and not in a position to agree with the Report submitted by the Commission. They are not only denying the Report submitted by the Commission itself but they are also denying the observation of the then Prime Minister in 1978. The then Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai, while replying in this House itself made the following statement on 28th August, 1978. I would quote from his statement :

"There have been two inquiries into the report of the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the air crash on 18th August, 1945 at Taihoku airfield during his air journey to Manchuria, one by the Committee presided over by Major General Shah Nawaz Khan and the second by a one-man Committee of Inquiry headed by Shri G.D. Khosla, a retired judge of the Punjab High Court. The majority Report of the first Committee and Shri Khosla held the Report of the death as true. Since then, reasonable doubts have been cast on the correctness of the conclusions reached in the two reports and various important contradictions in the testimony of witnesses have been noticed. Some further temporary official documentary records have also become available. In the light of those doubts and contradictions and those records, *Government find it*

difficult to accept that the earlier conclusions are decisive."

This statement was made by no other person than the then Prime Minister in this august House. But the Government of the day are also denying the observations and findings of the Mukherjee Commission. Not only are they denying the Report of the Mukherjee Commission but they are also denying the observations and demands of the Prime Minister who had made this statement in this august House.

My point is, all these have created nothing but confusion. Mystery was not solved but more confusion was created, confusion regarding his death, confusion regarding the plane crash, confusion regarding the ashes stored in the Rankoji Temple. We are ashamed that in spite of all these, we are paying homage to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose since Independence at the Japanese temple. We should be ashamed for that. It is not a very ordinary issue. It is not only this question but there are other questions involved in this issue.

The Commission has made some serious remarks in regard to the attitude shown by the Government towards the Commission. They are very serious. The subject of inquiry is on the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

But what was the attitude of the Government officers towards the Inquiry Commission? In the Report of the Commission, a remark has been made that some files and documents had not been produced by the Government of India in spite of repeated reminders. In spite of repeated reminders the Government officials did not produce the files and documents to the Commission. This is a serious allegation. Secondly, file was not available as it has been destroyed. This is a separate thing. The Government should reply and respond to these allegations.

They have just come to the conclusion that they did not agree with the Report of the Commission. They did not give any reason or explanation as to why they did not agree with the findings of the Commission. There is only one page of White Paper.

Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government, the whole House and of the nation to this issue. This is not an ordinary issue. This is about no other than Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. He was one of the topmost and charismatic figures of our freedom movement. No one can deny his passionate patriotism and his national fervour. Posterity will ever remember him with reverence. No one can remove this reverence of our nation to him.

I know that it is very difficult to find out genuine information about his death. But how did the Government come to the conclusion that the Report and the findings of this Commission is not agreeable? So, the present Report of the Commission, the stand of this Government; the stand of the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai; the reports about Renkoji Temple and his ashes, have all created a lot of confusion. The mystery has not been solved, but it remained.

I appeal, as this is the case of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, we should be serious. We should not take the matter in a casual manner. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose distinguished himself with his passionate patriotic zeal and revolutionary zeal. He formed the Azad Hind Government beyond the frontier of our country. It is known to all of us that he distinguished himself. We all adopted the slogan "Jai Hind". That slogan was given by Netaji himself.

I do not know whether this Government will appoint a new Commission or not. It is upto them. The Government should declare Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as the national martyr. We should pay our highest respect and homage to him, not in a casual manner and not in an apathetic manner as it is shown today.

With these words I initiate the discussion. The hon. Home Minister, Shri Shivrāj V. Patil, is present in this august House. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni, whom I respect a lot, is also now present in the House. Our senior colleagues are also present here. I am not blaming them. I am not standing here to blame them. I am just raising the matter for discussion so that we can give proper emphasis and

we discharge our responsibility in this regard as much as we can.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech. Jai Hind!

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this motion moved under Rule 193.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to point out to you and all the hon. Members that this is a 60 years old matter. If one has to understand the issue properly, one has to tell the tale of the last 60 years. In all humility, before I begin, I crave the indulgence of you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the hon. Members to speak at length on this subject. I shall certainly not repeat what my previous speaker, the hon. Shri Prabodh Panda, has said. I thank him for initiating this discussion. But I will have to give a little background.

When in the first week of August, 1945 the Second World War in the Asian Theatre came to a close after atom bomb were hurled over Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan resulting in the surrender of Japan, Netaji's Azad Hind Fauz had also to accept defeat. There were two alternatives before Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at that time. There were two alternative courses of action. One was to surrender to the Anglo-American Forces, and the second was to go to another country, seek asylum and continue to involve himself in the struggle for the freedom of our country. Since surrender was not in his nature, he chose the second alternative. While retreating, when he arrived in Bangkok, he told his associates that he has decided to go to the then Soviet Russia.

He also informed them that the Japanese Government agreed to help him to go to Russia. But Russia had also declared war against Japan just after the atom bomb was hurled. So, Japan could not guarantee to take him to Russia. But they offered to take him to Manchuria in North China.

The hon. Members would certainly recall that although China was under the reign of General Chiang-Kai-Shek,

[Shri Subrata Bose]

at that time officially, Manchuria was virtually – even then in 1945 – under the control of Communist China, under the leadership of Mao Tse Tung. So, he agreed and said: "Yes, you reach me up to Manchuria and then I shall make my way to Russia, on my own." He took a great risk. But that was his life. How many times did he take risks for the freedom battle? He escaped from Kolkata during the war, went to Germany traversing throughout North of India, Afghanistan, Soviet Russia and then to Germany. Any day, he could have been captured. Anywhere he could have been captured and that would have been the end of it. He did not bother.

Again, when the World War came to the Asian Theatre, he took the risk of coming from Germany to East Asia in a submarine where any time, any moment, he would have lost his life. But he took the risk. That was his nature. That was his life. He took the risk. From Bangkok, when he left on his way to Russia, he took six of his associates with him including Col. Habibur Rehman who, in this episode about the alleged air crash, in Taihuku in Taiwan, was the main evidence giver, supporting the theory of death by air accident of Netaji. Out of the six persons five are no more. But there is one survivor who is Col. Pretam Singh of the INA who is still alive, He lives near Dehradun. He appeared before the Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry to confirm to the Commission that Netaji was going to Russia. Japan told them after the plane reached Saigon, they could not accommodate all the Indians including Netaji in one plane. Netaji had to choose one out of those companions and the others would later be taken to Manchuria to join Netaji. The second part never happened. Netaji chose Col. Habibur Rehman.

From the Japanese Government document, it has been found that there is confirmation that Japan agreed to take him to Russia. It is not only that. There was also an escape plan. So, the plan included that as he left Saigon, Japan would announce that he had died in an air crash.

That was in the plan which has been found in the records of the Japanese Government. But the Japanese Government subsequently mentioned that what was

planned unfortunately happened and Netaji actually died in an air crash.

Shri Prabodh Panda has already described how the news was given out by the Government of Japan. According to the Japanese Government, the accident occurred on 18th August, 1945. It took them five days to deliberate and then announce to the world in a cryptic one line that Subhas Chandra Bose had died in an air crash. They did not mention the site on 18th August, 1945. It was later revealed and very intelligently Mr. S.A. Iyer, about whom Shri Prabodh Panda had already mentioned, was asked to draft a communique under their dictation, although I must say that Mr. S.A. Iyer himself has admitted that he was left at Bangkok and he was not one of those associates who was with Netaji after Bangkok. Suddenly he got a message, a very confidential message that Subhas Chandra Bose had died in an air crash in Taiwan and a plane is ready to take him to Taiwan to see his body and be present at the cremation so that he can be a witness.

When he got into the plane, he was under the impression that he was going to Taiwan, but the plane took him to Tokyo. Under the dictates of the Japanese Government, he drafted that communique which was released not by the Japanese Government through their own news agency, but through a private news agency, the DOMEI News Agency. It was picked up by Reuters and Reuters circulated it all over India. In those days, television was not there, the radio also was not that popular and we, in India, read it in the newspaper on 24 August, 1945 morning that shocking news that Subhash Chandra Bose had died in an air crash on 18th August, 1945. The people were stunned. Naturally, any news of this kind would shock the people of India.

What was Mahatma Gandhi's reaction? My father, late Sarat Chandra Bose was still then in prison. At least, the senior hon. Members of this House would know that he was the closest associate of Netaji both in his private life as well as political life. But his elder brother, the eldest of the sons, Shri Satish Chandra Bose was there. Mahatma Gandhi sent him a telegram. Mahatma Gandhi had always

been cryptic. His message was, 'don't perform 'Sradh'. That was the beginning of the doubt.

The British and the American intelligence agents were naturally following Subhas Chandra Bose. This accident was supposed to have occurred in 1945, on 18th August.

17.00 hrs.

On 25th October, 1945, there was a meeting of the British Cabinet in London, which was presided over by the then Prime Minister, Clement Atlee. After the elections, Winston Churchill's Conservative Party lost and the Labour Party came into power, just a little more than two months after the so-called air crash. This is available from a very authoritative book, 'The Transfer of Power', published by the British Government, giving the details of how India gained independence or according to the British how India was granted independence.

This 'Transfer of Power' Volume VI published from Her Majesty's Stationery Service, London, refers to the Minutes and Resolutions of a Cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Atlee, held on 25th October 1945. The Resolution branded Netaji as the only civilian renegade of importance. That is how they described Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. It is not a surprise, Sir. Then, the Cabinet dwelt on the method of how to try him. The question before the Cabinet was whether he should be arrested and tried, where he is arrested or whether he should be arrested and brought to India and tried in India. That is what they wanted to discuss.

In the meantime, the British India Government sent a third proposition to them. The British India Government suggested that the Cabinet must remember the consequences of trying him. In this context, they put forward a proposal in one of the internal correspondences, which was dated 23rd August, 1945, 'leave him, where he is and do not ask for his surrender'. The British India Government, in August 1945, sent this proposal to the British Government.

The Cabinet, at its meeting on 25th October, 1945, decided, the only civilian renegade of importance, Subhas

Chandra Bose, that it would be better to leave him where he is. So, the British Government even in August 1945 knew that Subhas Chandra Bose was not dead. It is not from any individual, but from the British Government itself.

In the meantime, Habib-ur-Rehman, who claimed to have seen Netaji being wounded, whole body in fire, coming down from the plane, which crashed, at Taihoku, tried with his hands to put off the fire but failed. He also claimed that he was there when he was taken to a hospital in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan.

He also claimed that he was a witness to his death. He came back to India, was under arrest first, and then he was released subsequently. In 1946, in the month of August, just one year after that alleged air accident, Col. Habibur Rahman came to our residence in Kolkata, met my father, late Shri Sarat Chandra Bose. They had a discussion for about 2½ hours. After that discussion, Sarat Chandra Bose came out and said: "Habibur is not speaking the truth." Then, Habibur Rahman went over to Delhi to meet Mahatmaji, the Father of the Nation, as Netaji called him. I still remember as a child hearing over the radio: "Father of the Nation, I seek your blessings in this holy war for Independence of our great country." He (Rehman) met Father of the Nation. Naturally, the representatives of the media asked him: "What has Habibur Rahman told you?" Once again, in a cryptic message to his countrymen, Mahatmaji said: "Habibur told me what his leader has ordered him to say." I leave it to the hon. Members' interpretation as to what Gandhiji meant. That doubt about Netaji's death was there. But the doubt about Netaji's death also vanished in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bose, you have taken about 25 minutes. Kindly be brief.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : I cannot be brief. I seek the indulgence of the House. If not now, I will continue tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Please let him speak, I have no objection. . . .(Interruptions)

I am only requesting him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not a barring him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bose, I am requesting you. You have taken about 25 minutes. Kindly be brief.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : The interim Government had taken over in 1946. Then, the Parliament was not there; the Central Legislative Assembly and the Central Legislative Council were there. Shri Patel, on behalf of the interim Government stated on the 30th of October, 1946 in reply to a question of Shri Mangal Singh on Netaji's alleged death that the Government was not in a position to make any authoritative statement on whether Netaji was dead or alive. Again, on 7th November, 1946, in an answer to a question in the House put by Yuvraj Datta Singh, Mr. A.E. Porter replied on behalf of the Government of India.

The reply says : "The Government is not in a position to make an authoritative statement on this question." So, it is not that after 60 years doubts have arisen. Doubts started from 1945 or from 1946. Then, we became independent, and our Government took over. So, doubts went on. It was not only the then Prime Minister who doubted the news of the death of Netaji in August, 1945 but there were many others.

In the last Budget Session, I had the opportunity to mention one thing. Yes, I happen to be a member of this family but Netaji does not belong to our family only. I am proud that I happen to be a Member of this august House. I speak not only on behalf of the family but also I speak as a Member of this august House, and I am proud to have this opportunity which I have now.

Questions were asked, continued to be asked by people everywhere and by our Legislators. The Parliament still had not come into operation. It came in 1952. Naturally, questions were faced by the then Prime Minister, the most revered Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1951, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru thought that he must make a statement

on this issue. He decided that he would make a statement in the Assembly itself. The then Prime Minister was also the Minister of External Affairs. He gave a notice.

Sir, I must say that I will be quoting a lot of notes from the Government files. It is not that I obtained them surreptitiously. I filed an affidavit before the Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, and I became a deponent. So, by being a deponent, I acquired the right of attending all hearings, cross-examined the witnesses either by myself or by my lawyers, and also had an access to all documents which were received by the Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry mostly from the Government of India, from different Ministries – very few from the Government of West Bengal and some from private individuals. They were made exhibits. So, they became public documents. As a deponent before the Commission, I could obtain the certified copies of them. In the normal course, the most respected Patilji would know more about this than myself. He is a lawyer. We pay a fee and obtain certified copies.

The then Prime Minister gave a notice. That was on 26th September 1951. The Prime Minister writes in a note, and I quote :

"It is for us to consider whether we should issue a public statement about this or not. . ." That means, Netaji's alleged death.

". . . In the balance, I am inclined to think that it would be desirable to issue some statement or to make it in Parliament. On the other hand, this may lead to some controversy, possibly even with Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's family. I think, the best course would be, for us, to draft some such statement and to send it to Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's family. After hearing from them, we could take a final decision about publication."

Most deferentially, the then Foreign Secretary submitted a note to the Prime Minister. Prime Minister's note was dated 26.9.1951, and the then Foreign Secretary's note was dated 27.9.1951. I quote what the then Foreign Secretary submitted to the PM :

"I told PM that it would be inadvisable for him to make a statement now. Whether or not Shri Subhas Bose is dead is not a live issue at the present. I may not have any doubt on the evidence that Shri Bose is dead, but PM's political opponent would utilise any statement made by him for propaganda purposes, particularly, in view of the forthcoming elections. I added that there is a significance reference in Habibur Rehman's statement to Netaji Bose's intention to get out of the plane at Tairan and to the intention of the Japanese Authority to let him cross over to the Russian held territory. Habibur Rehman is the really important evidence and those who still cherish the belief that Netaji Bose is alive and is somewhere in Russian held territory, will seize upon any piece of evidence in support of their theory. I also pointed out to PM that whereas according to Habibur Rehman, the dead body was cremated on the 20th August, 1945, according to the Municipal Certificate, the cremation took place at 6 p.m. on the 22nd August, 1945. One could understand a fictitious name being used in the Death Certificate, and in the Cremation Certificate. . . ."

Sir, a Death Certificate was issued in the name one Ichiro Oknra. It was meant to be, according to the Japanese, the Death Certificate and Cremation Certificate of Netaja Subhas Chandra Bose. He refers to that.

I quote, further :

". . . According to the Municipal Certificate, the cremation took place at 6 p.m. on 22nd August and not on 20th August as Habibur Rehman has said. One could understand a fictitious name being used in the Death Certificate and in the Cremation Certificate. But there was no necessity of using a fictitious date of cremation."

That is what he says. So, he advises the PM, in his own opinion, that it would not be perhaps correct to issue a statement.

This was the beginning of many such similar notes put up by the officers of the Government to the Cabinet

or to the Minister to ponder upon. I am saying that this was contrary to the Government's stance that Netaji had died in the plane crash. Although I was mentioning again and again 60 years, I must skip some years because otherwise I shall never finish.

Since the doubts were there, actually in December 1955, the Government constituted a Committee of Inquiry. Mr. Panda had referred to it. It is interesting to note this. Of the three Members of the Committee, the Chairman, Mr. Shahnawaz Khan was then the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government of India. In those days, there was a provision that they were like the Ministers of State or Deputy Ministers. The second member was Mr. S.N. Maitra, an ICS officer, and the third member, as the hon. Member has said, was one of the elder brothers of Netaji, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose.

The Committee did not go to Taiwan because of problems. In those days, I think the problem was more acute than what it is today. Just a few years before that, we had recognised the People's Republic of China, and Chiang Kai Shek had moved over to Taiwan. Since the People's Republic of China was recognised by us, we had no diplomatic relations any more with the Taiwan Government. We never had. We still do not have. But the Committee, inquiring and investigating into an accident, could not visit the site of the accident. The accident site was not visited. What happens? Unfortunately, we hear train accidents and plane accidents. The first investigation is done at the site. They could not do it.

It went to Japan. The Japanese Government put forward certain lists of witnesses. All were Japanese people. They had also furnished to the Inquiry Committee, through the Government of India, a list of witnesses in Taiwan. Since the Committee could not go to Taiwan, the Government of India requested the U.K. Government to obtain a report from the Taiwanese Government on the accident and on the availability of witnesses living in Taiwan, who had witnessed the air crash or who had been in the hospital or who could give material evidence to the fact of the air accident as well as the date of treatment of Netaji in the Taipei hospital. Taiwan Government sent a report through the U.K. Government.

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According to the Taiwan Government sources, as they told to Justice Mukherjee when he went to Taiwan, they could not find trace of any of the witnesses whose names were given. That report was received by the Government of India before the Shahnawaz Inquiry Committee completed its deliberations. That way, the fact of receipt of a report from Taiwan Government was never disclosed by the Government of India. This information came to the Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry from the papers of the U.K. Government. The U.K. Government files contained a note by an official of the British High Commission that the original report of the Taiwan Government has been handed over to the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and the date as was given is a date when the Shahanawaz Committee of Inquiry was still functioning. This report never saw the light of the day. It was not given to the Shahanawaz Committee of Inquiry, it was not given to the Khosla Commission of Inquiry, it was not given to the Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry.

The Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry found a file of 1956. The file number was there. The title of the file was—Death of S.C. Bose. It was a Government of India's file. The Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry thought that that report must be in that file. They called for the file from the Government of India. The Government of India told them that the file had been destroyed.

Sir, that is the beginning of a sad tale of suppression of facts and information by our Government, by the Government of free India, in respect of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and destruction and reported missing of files. The Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry relentlessly asked for the file. An important document like the Taiwan Government's report was not there. This is a very sad tale of suppression of facts, suppression of information, destruction of material files, destruction of relevant files and missing of relevant files. You go through these. If the hon. Members go through these, if they have the patience to go through volumes 2-A and 2-B of the report, you will only find how the Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry failed to get the files from the Government of India.

It was said, perhaps hinted, that the Taiwan Government, suddenly after 60 years, they have given a concocted report as if they could be influenced by the Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry.

That just did not happen. It was not so. In 1956, the first report of the Taiwan Government had come and this was suppressed. I wonder. No, I think, it would be wrong for me to say that. So, I will not say. After all, I am speaking in the Parliament. I must restrain myself. I am not addressing a public meeting. This is the beginning, I say, from the Government of free India. With respect to the first evidence that we had found, from 1956, there has been a continued, not an effort, but intention to destroy files, get files missed so that the truth does not come out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bose, you may kindly tell how much more time you will take. I am not barring you.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Sir, after 60 years, this matter of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is being discussed in Parliament. Most humbly, I would submit to you and also to the hon. Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, please let him continue. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly be as brief as you can. I am not barring you.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : I think, I will have to continue till tomorrow. . . .(Interruptions) I have to crave the indulgence of the House. I do not know if I am boring them. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to take other business also because time allotted for this discussion is two hours only. You have taken 55 minutes by now. I am not barring you. I am requesting you.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Sir, let him continue tomorrow. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am only requesting him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, my request is that he should be allowed to put forth his point of view.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not barring them. I am just requesting him to put forth his point of view in a nutshell.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am only requesting him.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Sir, it is upto you. Whenever you tell me to stop, I will stop.

The Inquiry Committee was divided. Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and Shri S.N. Moltro held the view that Netaji died in the air crash, but the other Member, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, did not agree with them. He cited certain facts.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, I just request you that the debate can continue for as many hours as the Speaker will decide. The Government has no objection. The only thing is that I seek the indulgence of the hon. Member who is speaking that in the very said House the Reports of Khosla Commission and Shah Nawaz Commission have been debated from all sides and those are being quoted every now and then. Those are already in the possession of the House. If the hon. Members want to speak, they can take the help of those researched documents of the Parliamentary Library and the proceedings of the House. If the hon. Members repeat all that which has been stated by the earlier speakers in those debates and take time to elaborate those points, I think, the Session will have to continue upto 31st August, 2006 because it will take hours together to discuss those volumes. Therefore, I will humbly submit that since Shri Bose is very much knowledgeable on this matter from his point of view, he may take his time, but unless there is a decision as to how long the debate will continue, I cannot scale down other business of the

Government and the other side in the House. That is my only submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with you. So, I have requested him to be as brief as he can.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Sir, I would again humbly submit to the hon. Minister that I have to mention certain facts. I am not reading whole of the Reports of the two Commissions of Inquiry. Quite a number of Japanese witnesses were there.

17.35 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Is it a fact that when the Report of the Shah Nawaz Commission was written initially, the third member agreed to accept the findings and later on, he changed his mind.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : I agree with the hon. Minister, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, but he had the right to change his mind.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Is it a fact or not? This is all that I want to know from you.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Certainly, this is a fact. As I said, you are very correct.

Three of the Japanese witnesses said that they were navigators of the plane. When they were asked where did the crew sit – in the front or at the back, each of them said that they did not know about it. Such witnesses were produced before the Shah Nawaz Committee. There was one witness who said : "We all got down from that plane in Taipei, and the plane took off with Netaji." This was his version, and it was for the Committee to either accept it or reject it.

I want to mention that the Government had every right to accept the majority view of the Committee, but the dissenting view of the third witness was not only rejected, but it was not even placed before the Parliament. I believe

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that majority judgement will naturally be accepted when a bench, in a court of law, gives a dissenting judgement, but the dissenting judgement also goes on record. In this particular case, the Government ensured that it did not go on record.

The report of the Inquiry Committee was that the Government does accept the views of the Committee. The Prime Minister himself declared it as the majority view. But we find from the Government files – which were given to the Commission of Inquiry – that the Prime Minister himself had written letters differently to members of the family, after the Government had accepted the majority report or majority view of the Shah Nawaz Inquiry Committee.

Shri Suresh Chandra Bose was a Member of the Inquiry Committee, and he wrote a letter to the then Prime Minister in 1962, and the then Prime Minister replied to him on 13/05/1962. I would like to quote what the Prime Minister wrote in it. It states that :

“... You asked me to send you proof of death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. I cannot send you any precise and direct proof. . .”

In 1964 another member of the family, my elder brother late Shri Amiya Nath Bose, wrote to the then Prime Minister. He was also a Member of this Parliament at one time. He wrote that: “Since there were still doubts in the minds of the people, I think that a Commission of Inquiry should be set up and it should be chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.”

The PM replied to him on 22nd April, 1964, about two weeks before his sad demise. What did he write to him? He wrote: “I agree with you that a proper inquiry should be held into the matter of Subhasji's death. But I do not think that the Chief Justice of Supreme Court would agree to chair such an inquiry.” He was a very close associate of Netaji for many years, right from 1921. He had his own doubts, although as a Government it accepted the majority report of Shah Nawaz Committee. Pandit Nehru died, and the doubts went on. In 1970, the then Prime Minister, most

respected late Shrimati Indira Gandhi appointed a Commission of Inquiry with Justice G.D. Khosla as the Chairman. By appointment of a Commission of Inquiry, naturally, it can be interpreted but I do not know if the hon. Home Minister will agree with me, it virtually rejected the earlier Report of the Committee of Inquiry. It may be so or it may not be so. But the Commission also must have seen the papers of Netaji.

There is one difference between the Shah Nawaz Committee of Inquiry and the Khosla Commission of Inquiry. Justice Khosla naturally thought that he must go to Taihaku, and the Government made arrangements for his visit. But unfortunately, he did not meet the Taiwan Government officials. He said that in his Report. He did not or could not see the site of accident because that Taihaku Airport was no more in existence when Justice Khosla visited Taiwan after 1970. He did not visit the crematorium, but he writes that some people in the Hotel where he was staying pointed out to him that the hotel overlooks the place where Taihaku Airport was. That is what we saw also in Taiwan. As a deponent, I had the right to attend the hearings. So on my own, I had also gone to Taiwan. When Justice Mukherjee Commission had gone to Taiwan, we also went to see that place. We found the hotel, we found the Museum, we found residential houses, but the site of accident was no more there. He did not visit the crematorium either to obtain the cremation reports. He visited the hospital, but the hospital had changed hands and they told him that they had no more records of 1945.

Justice Khosla – rightly or wrongly, I may agree or I may not agree, you may agree – also concurred with the Shah Nawaz Committee's majority report that Netaji died in the accident. But again, if you go through the report you would find that he said that he did not really get proof of his death, that there is no proof or evidence of his being alive either, or he survived that air crash. Therefore, he would accept that theory that he died.

But a major change in the Government's stand came in 1978.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bose, can I make a humble request? Only two hours were allotted for this discussion.

We have a time constraint. How long do you want to speak now?

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : I think I will take some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you can confine your speech to Justice Mukherjee Commission of Enquiry.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : In all humility I submit that if the House would like to transact any other business now, give me an opportunity to continue tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much time do you want?

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : I think at least an hour more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is very difficult.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : This is a matter which the people of the whole country want to know about in detail.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Of course, it is a matter of national importance. We do accept it. That is why a discussion was allowed on this topic. But confine your speech to the report of Justice Mukherjee Commission of Enquiry.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I would like to again make a submission. The hon. Member will also appreciate this. There are very distinguished and knowledgeable Members in this House to take part in this debate. They also have enormous volumes to present in the House. If this goes at this pace, as I said, it would not end even by 31st of October. The distinguished Member belongs to the family of Netaji. The family also has two different points of view but I would not like to join issue on that now. What I want to submit is that time to be allotted for these Short Duration Discussions is decided by the BAC. Since the hon. Member desires to stop now and continue tomorrow, let him do that. We could decide about the time tomorrow morning in the leaders meeting. We have no problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Could you continue tomorrow? We have some other business to be transacted.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : I do not mind doing that. As a Member of the House, I would also like to see that the House transacts other business, certainly. But, please allow me to continue tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you can continue tomorrow. If you can conclude within five minutes, you can go on now.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : That is not possible, Sir. I will not be doing justice to a justiciable case.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But we have some difficulty. If you could sort out things and help us, it will be better. Or, please continue your speech tomorrow.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, let him speak upto six o'clock and then continue tomorrow. The other items of business can be taken up at six o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bose, please continue till six o'clock and then you can continue tomorrow.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : All right, Sir.

I was talking about the change in the approach of the Government which took place in 1978. I will be very brief on that. Hon. Member Shri Prabodh Panda has already mentioned it. He had quoted also from the then Prime Minister's speech in Parliament. That was the first occasion when the Government's approach or thinking on the subject underwent a change officially.

In this case, before I conclude, I would only mention that as far as the change is concerned, there has been another very important occasion when the Government admitted differently. I would skip that and come back again post-1978. What I would mention is that before Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Centenary is observed, to honour him the Government awarded *Bharat Ratna* posthumously. The *Bharat Ratna* became the subject matter of judicial action and the Government was asked by the hon. court that since it declared a posthumous award, it must submit to the court the proof that they have that Netaji is dead. Then, the Government changed its stand and its response was to withdraw or cancel the *Bharat Ratna* award. Not that it mattered to Netaji as to

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whether he was given a *Bharat Ratna* award or not. Then, it admitted that it has no proof that Netaji was dead. Later, the Government was preparing to celebrate the Netaji Birth Centenary. As I was talking of the change in the attitude, the approach of the Government, 1978 was the first instance; and the withdrawal or cancellation of *Bharat Ratna* award was the second instance when the Government admitted that it had no proof of Netaji death. I have completed the incident of 1978. I will come to 1999 when an inquiry was appointed. Hence, that by itself will take time, I would crave your indulgence this time not for an extension of time but allow me to complete seven minutes before six o'clock so that when I continue, I can start on a new chapter.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We have to make a statement. There was a direction from the hon. Speaker in the morning on the matter raised by the distinguished Member, Shri Mohan Singh. I was advised so, and I accordingly brought it to the notice of the hon. Petroleum Minister, who was kept busy with the Delegation. He was very kind to send me a statement immediately. I sought your permission so that MoS can read out the statement.

17.54 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re: Gas Supply to the proposed Dadri Power Plants of NTPC and Reliance Energy Limited

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, the attention of this august House has been drawn by the hon. Member of Parliament, Shri Mohan Singh regarding non-supply of gas for the two proposed power generation projects of NTPC and Reliance Energy Limited at Dadri in Uttar Pradesh.

*Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 4557/2006.

The hon. Member has expressed anguish over delays caused by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas in approving gas price/formula for supply of gas by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to the above mentioned two power projects of Uttar Pradesh. The gas price relates to the likely supplies of gas from the block KG-DWN-98/3 (also known as D-6 block) located in Krishna-Godavari deepwater off the coast of Andhra Pradesh which was awarded to the consortium of Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resources Limited under the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

It may be mentioned that NELP, which was formulated by the Government in 1997 and operationalised in 1999, provides for stable fiscal terms to the companies and *inter alia* freedom to the contractors to market oil and gas in India. This was an incentive offered under NELP to attract investment and technologies especially for more challenging areas such as deep waters. The Production Sharing Contract, PSC sets out in detail, rights and obligations of each party to the contract.

The specific issue raised with regard to the approval of the price formula by this Ministry relates to the proposal dated 14th April, 2006 received from RIL for approval of the formula for determining gas price for the purpose of computing cost petroleum, profit petroleum and royalty and for other purposes under the contract. RIL had sought approval for the formula as agreed between them and Reliance Natural Resources Limited, RNRL on 12.1.2006.

17.56 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

The proposal was examined in accordance with the contract provisions. The provisions of the PSC provide for valuation of natural gas on the basis of competitive arms-length sales and enjoin upon the contractor to sell all natural gas to the benefit of the parties to the contract. It may be mentioned that a significant share of the surplus generated under the PSC flows to the Government in the form of profit petroleum, royalty, etc. These have direct

relation to the gas price adopted for valuation under the contract. Therefore, for the purpose of the contract, the Government is required to approve the gas price formula for valuation of cost petroleum, profit petroleum and royalty, etc. However, the Government is not a party to the Gas Sales Agreement, GSA arrived between the seller and the buyer.

It may be noted that the transaction between RIL and RNRL is a part of their demerger agreement and does not meet the PSC criteria of 'arms-length sales.' The Government, after seeking certain clarifications and examination of the proposal, conveyed its decision to RIL on 26th July, 2006. Therefore, it would be incorrect to say that the Government took almost a year to convey its decision on the proposal. It may be added that it is the duty of this Ministry to encourage the contractors under the PSC to expeditiously bring the discoveries to production. In this, there has been no delay on the part of this Ministry. The time taken by the Government to convey its decision regarding the gas price formula approval has no bearing on the likely production date of the fields.

To our knowledge, NTPC has no contract with RIL for the supply of gas to its Dadri Project in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, this Ministry has no role to play in approving any gas formula for NTPC's Dadri Project from RIL.

I wish to assure the hon. Member and the House that the decision of the Government on gas price formula is strictly in accordance with the terms of the PSC and at the same time, follows the principle of minimal intervention in day-to-day commercial operations of the investor companies. The Government is also committed to ensuring that there is no revenue loss to the public exchequer while approving the gas price formula in the PSC regime.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a project of national importance. . . .*(Interruptions)*
Many things have not been disclosed in the statement.
. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion is permissible without notice. He made the statement and there ends the matter. We shall go to the next item.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has made a Statement and there ends the matter. If you want any discussion, you may give notice and the matter can be discussed. There can be no further discussion.

(Interruptions)

18.00 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other Hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

MR. CHAIRMAN : As per rule, there can be no discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may listen to the Minister. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to speak.

18.01 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, I assure the hon. Member, Shri Mohan Singh, who had raised this issue on which the Minister has made a Statement, that if the Member is not satisfied and wants to raise more queries, I would request him, through you, to give a Calling Attention Notice. I will make the Minister agreeable to respond to his queries.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you may give a Calling Attention Notice.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, it is now 6 O'Clock. Zero hour should be taken up now. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI : We should start debate on juvenile justice. We have to sit till 8 p.m. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Please take up zero hour first and then take up next item. . . . (Interruptions)
You are a Minister. It is your will. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rule does not permit it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The hon. Speaker has decided, it was announced also, that we shall sit up to 8.00 p.m. from 1st August to 18th August.

Secondly, the Juvenile Justice Amendment Bill has already been placed before the House. The Minister has also mentioned its preamble and now the discussion will start. If there are many speakers, the discussion may continue and if not, it will be passed and then we can take up 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: My request is that zero hour should be taken first. Then the next item should be taken. Please take the view of other hon. Members also in this respect. Only then other item should be taken up. There should be a some routine for it. You should take up zero hour first. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time fixed for the House, not only for today but every day, is 8.00 p.m. A Bulletin has also been issued extending the time of the House upto 8.00 p.m. every day, to compensate for the days on which we have decided not to sit.

We have passed on to the Juvenile Justice Bill.
Madam, you can speak on the Bill.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : First take up zero hour then run the House. The entire House is unanimous on Zero Hour. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : As per the Agenda, the left out item is Juvenile Justice Bill. You may give a Calling Attention Notice. Certainly, the hon. Speaker will admit it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAWA : I am talking about zero hour. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not be a party against the rule.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will go strictly as per the rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : In the morning, the hon. Speaker allowed the Members to raise this issue. All the Members connected with the issue rose in their respective seats. Then the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs told that the Minister will be making a statement. Accordingly, the Minister has made a statement. Now further discussion can be held only as per the rules. You can either give a notice for a Calling Attention or you can follow some other procedure. Now we will have a discussion on the Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, the concerned Minister is not here. Who will reply to the debate? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. lady Minister moved the Bill and she will respond to the debate. She will be back in five minutes. I would note down the points raised by the Members. She would reply to them in her reply. This is the practice which is being followed always. . . . (Interruptions). There is official business of the House. So, I cannot agree to the suggestion for postponing the Government business for 'Zero Hour'. It is not possible. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Madam Sumitra Mahajan to speak and that alone will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister made a statement. Now, there can be no discussion on 'Zero Hour' matter. We will be creating a very bad precedent.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : You have told in the morning that zero hour should be taken at this time. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI : Zero Hour will not be taken up now.

18.09 hrs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION
OF CHILDREN) AMENDMENT BILL,
2005 – contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan to speak on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let her speak.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate. There can be no discussion regarding 'Zero Hour'

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Mahajan.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Hon. Chairman, Sir, the bill which we are going to discuss today is really a very important Bill. The need to bring in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill is long felt. If we see that all the children below the age of 18 years are the future of the country, they account for almost 30 per cent of the population of the country.

As for the circumstances in this regard, I do not want to talk about the entire world but if we look in the Indian context, we find that there are several reasons responsible for it and one of them is the family reasons and the changed circumstances is the other reason. Both father and mother are doing the jobs, fragmentation of family is also one reason and if we go into all these reasons, one finds that they affect the children in many ways. We say that we would make the children strong future generation of the country, but we find that this strong future generation of the country has gone astray. Poverty is not the one reason for it. We see that the poor children who are roaming on the roads with empty stomach tend to commit many crimes due to hunger. This is also one of the reasons. Besides, at times children fall in the bad company, this is also one reason. Besides, the children who are kept in special homes, they are kept with grown-up children. Some grown-up children have habitually criminal tendency and keeping small children with such children results in many ill-consequences and many such instances are there before us.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today cultural vitiation is also spreading in the country. Besides, the poor children,

*Not recorded.

[Shri Sumitra Mahajan]

children from good families or those belonging to high society also commit crimes, these are many such instances. In addition to all these things, it takes years together in dispensing justice to these children and till they get justice, they are kept in special homes, but what is the condition of special homes, I am elaborating it further. These children have to pass several years in these special homes and at places in some special homes, their life is hellish. Besides, there is one more thing, some children are not criminals but they are compelled into beggary. Their parents desert them and they move here and there. No body is there to look after them. And the number of such children is no less in our country. But actually it is the responsibility of the society and the Government to look after them keeping the above in view, the need to bring in some necessary changes in the old Juvenile Act was felt and this Juvenile Justice Act, 2005 is before us and incorporating all such amendments. The Standing Committee has also discussed it in details and has given some suggestions also, and some of the suggestions have been accepted by the Hon. Minister. It may be that some suggestions might have escaped her knowledge, therefore, I feel that a detailed discussion on this bill is needed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, if you go to a police station and ask the police personnel there about the juvenile justice, it is possible that more than 90 per cent of them might not be knowing about it. Protection officer or special officer there may not be knowing about this word. This is the condition of our India today.

Actually, there is a need for dealing with such children psychologically because they are not criminal by nature, Because young children are of impressionable mind capable of being moulded in any shape one likes. Therefore, it seems that if a child goes astray, then we elders are responsible for it, be they parents or people engaged in different vocations. Today, children are employed in many industries. Children are considered better for doing some minute works. Children do the glass

work in a better way, so they are misused in such work. Thus starts the misuse of children. And if such a child is arrested, then he would be produced before the board and then Board would decide whether the child should be returned to parents after persuading them or to any institution or to any foster parents i.e. those who are ready to keep him for some days. The words like guardian, foster parents or fit persons or fit institutions etc. have been used here in the Bill. I want to sound a note of caution here whether such provisions as above have been made in the Bill after careful consideration. But here we have to be extra cautious so as to ensure that a child does not land in wrong hands again because there are so many institutions who would come forward and would say they would care for the child as we have both types of experiences about the NGOs. I would not say that all the NGOs or the voluntary organisations are bad. I also won't say that the couple who wants to adopt the child is also bad. But while framing the rules in this regard, we will have to see that restoration and protection of the child i.e. restoration, when it comes to adoption of the child, be it a child or a criminal or a child who has gone astray, the rules and regulations for adoption should be very strict keeping all the related aspects in view.

When we talk about a Police Station, I have found that there is no such officer at any police station who understands the psychology of children. Generally, it is difficult to find a policeman who understands the anthropology in general, because he thinks that had he known the anthropology, he would not have been a policeman. Because, he thinks that if he spares the baton he cannot be a policeman, this is the general feeling of the Police. Therefore, an officer who understands the anthropology or has understands the anthropology or has undergone any special training should be posted at Police Stations because if a child is arrested while committing any crime or several times while begging or roaming on the roads, he is first taken to Police Station as is the practice in vogue here. Besides running awareness and training camps, we would have to keep a strict watch to ensure

that a special officer for this purpose is posted in each of the police stations. Innumerable laws are being passed. Earlier, we had passed the Domestic Violence Bill regarding excesses against women. I know for a fact that such laws do not stop violence against women. . . .(Interruptions) But I want to remind you of the provisions regarding special officers laid down under the said laws. We have laid down the provision of a special officer at the district level or the taluka level under the Domestic Violence Bill. We have passed the laws but we have to keep a watch on what happens later. We would have to keep a strict watch and it would be better if we fix a time-frame for ensuring compliance of the provisions laid down in the Bill.

I would like to make another point. It is written here and it is a fact that nowadays the media wants to draw the attention of the world towards every small incident. It is not a wrong desire. But such stories are mostly based on criminals and they highlight the ways in which crimes are being committed. The provision that you have made is necessary. When a child is apprehended he is not dubbed a criminal. A juvenile in conflict with law is not deemed to be a criminal. Quite often the child is ignorant. He is simply not aware that he has committed any crime. Sometimes he acts in anger. Older people often lack tolerance. These are just small children. When they lose their temper and commit an act of crime they are unaware that they have committed a criminal act. When such acts are reported in the newspapers and their photographs are published they may have to bear the stigma for life. Actually what we want to ensure through this Act is that these children are given time to reform themselves. That is why they are sent to remand homes and special homes so that they may be trained in some vocation or the other and brought into the mainstream. This is the basis for making this law. Therefore, the provision of a penalty of Rs. 1000 on any newspaper or media person contravening the law which forbids making public the identity of child offenders, is a good provision.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : No, the penalty is Rs. 25,000.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : As per the Bill it is Rs. 1,000.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : It is Rs. 25,000.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : You have not given the amendment also.

The Bill says:

"Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1), shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to one thousand rupees."

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : No, it is Rs. 25,000.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : It is not seen in your amendment also.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I had mentioned it when I spoke on the preamble. I said that it is Rs. 25,000.

We will see to it that it is corrected.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : The Standing Committee has suggested this. They have given two suggestions.

[Translation]

Rs. 1000 has no value. But I thank you for increasing this penalty to Rs. 25,000. I had said that if a woman is looking at it then she would consider it from all angles. You may make another provision that the Rs. 25,000 levied as penalty would be used for welfare of children. It would be a very good thing if you do so. As everyone knows, juvenile means all children who are below 18 years of age, therefore the clause should distinguish between 'juvenile in conflict with law' and children. You have accepted this

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

suggestion as well and made the necessary amendment. I thank you for this.

I would like to ask the Minister for another clarification. I would like it if I am proved wrong here as well. Lines 7 to 9 in page 4 under Statement of Objects and Reasons states the reasons for introduction of the Bill and the provisions that are intended to be laid down. It says that special schools would be established for the children. The procedure for producing children before the board or the child welfare committee has been described and you have said that the children would remain with the police for most part but it is also written here.

[English]

To extend the scope of adoption of a child to childless parents, you have made it as couples. That is also very good as also to limit the same under the Juvenile Justice Act to citizens of India only. The amendments made by you include the line that, 'No adoption under the Section shall be allowed unless the child and the parents are the citizens of India.

[Translation]

I have not been able to understand why have you omitted this line. You have written in the Amendments. 'Omit lines 7 to 9'. This should not be done. You are aware of this and I also got to know of such incidents when I had toured Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka when I was Minister, where children had been rescued. Some organisations run by foreigners used to buy tribal children under the pretext of placing them under adoption. Adoption was merely a pretext. Small children whose ages ranged from nine months to year and a half were bought by one organisation and later on the horrible fact had come to light that the children were rescued half starved from such people. It is not known were they were given for adoption. The dead bodies of such children were also recovered. Such incidents in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have come to your notice as well. Now that we are slowly

coming to believe that the country is on the path of development, we should also take the responsibility for the care of our children. Why should we think of allowing foreigners to take them or of making even a small allowance in this regard. The authorities who have all rights in this regard fail to do their duty. They have a twofold duty of giving good service to those interested in adoption and of carrying out a thorough investigation into their back-grounds. But this is not done. Previously too, the experience was that since the authorities were based in the Centre they were reluctant to go to Bangalore to investigate matters. The powers are delegated to the local Collector or some other official but they do not follow the rules properly.

Hence, it is my request that the children should be given for adoption to Indians. We can investigate the voluntary organisations in the country and keep control on them. The two lines which you propose to omit should not be omitted. You have said in the Objectives, "That the same under the Juvenile Justice Act to citizens of India only." Please do not change this. Do not omit these lines. This is my request.

18.27 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Sir, as you have acceded to all other things, I would like to make another point. You have acceded to another legitimate demand that the child should be produced within 24 hours excluding journey period. Therein, it has also been provided that he/she should be kept in police lock up or jail, this is also fine but one proviso should also have been added, that is 'not with adults' because sometimes it happens that the police may have to keep the child at the Police Station only as they have to produce him/her within 24 hours and they may need time to find an institution wherein they should keep the child. This remains a concern till the child is produced before the Board in order to ensure that the child does not come in contact of criminals. So, it will be better if the words "not with adults" are added. So, although you have incorporated

several good provisions in it, it will be better if the words "not with adults of criminal background" are added.

You have entirely excluded the local authority, it is not good. You must think over this aspect. The people of village Panchayat, district Panchayat or local authority better know the habits and temperament of a person and they may be aware of the actual reason why somebody has expelled his child from his home. The local authority knows better all the circumstances, but the same has been entirely left out. It should not happen. The local authority should not be left out even if it has not been given any powers but at least to take the advice of the local authority it should not be deleted. My suggestion is that the Government should think over this aspect.

You have included even those children who are left to beg on streets. We have seen that ill treatment is meted out to the children to make them beg and even their limbs are amputated so that they receive more alms. These children should not be kept with such persons. These children have to be kept some where till they get a home. So such children should be kept in special homes.

Sir, we have to see the Statewise number and condition of Special Homes. I am not referring to or blaming any particular State or condition of Special Homes is bad in every State. The names of two or three Special Homes of West Bengal have figured wherefrom children ran away quite frequently because of inadequate board and lodging facilities. Several States have no Special Homes at all. Special Homes should be constructed in such States and that wherever there are no such special homes the authorities should think over as to where these children are to be kept.

Sir, I agree that the State Governments have to implement it but I want to inform that in several States the boards have not been constituted till now. After West Bengal, now I come to Madhya Pradesh otherwise Priya Ranjan Dasmunshiji will say that I am finding faults only with West Bengal Government. This is true that committees

have not been constituted in all the districts in Madhya Pradesh, these committees have been constituted only in few districts. My request is that such committees should be constituted in all the districts.

Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that good classification has been made in this Bill but I request that effective rules and regulations within the time limit be framed in this regard as well as boards be constituted in all the districts – this responsibility lies with the Central Government. The Central Government can monitor it but actually the State Government has to implement it. Monitoring at central level should be good. It should also be kept in mind that at the time of framing rules, the boards are also constituted that too within time limit—then only it can be effective.

Sir, as I have said earlier, there is no awareness. The police even do not know any act under the title Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act enforced in their State. Such cases keep dragging with the police and the judiciary for long times. Such cases come up before the boards as well and the children are kept in these homes for two to three years. To my mind, this is not good. I would suggest that awareness programmes for police and other related parties should be conducted and the children should not be kept in Special Homes for long time because they are not criminals. They are either forced to become criminal or have become criminal by chance or they are criminals in making. Besides this, some children are abandoned by their parents. I would even say that they are either the result of our own misdeeds or abandoned by their parents or they are on the streets due to poverty. So the hon. Minister has a great responsibility to shoulder. She has put her best efforts to give this bill such a good shape that she should try her best to see that it is implemented with equal seriousness.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must appreciate overwhelm-

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

ingly our hon. Minister who has taken a special care and initiative to give a human touch and a sense of passion to the needs of our future generation.

The Bill was earlier introduced in Parliament in the year 2003 and later on some public Interest Litigation was filed and so there was an imperative need to correct the loopholes and lacunae which were observed by various organisations, including the concerned Standing Committee. The hon. Minister had already made 11 modifications to this Bill. Therefore, I support the Bill in no uncertain terms, because no noble soul can deny the welfare of children.

Sir, the objectives of the Bill are intended towards getting the children their rights and welfare and shifting it to a jurisdictional and crime prevention model. We are all concerned of our future assets because in today's world, children are the worst victims in terms of work, in terms of poverty and so on.

18.38 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

Madam, in her speech while piloting the Bill the hon. Minister herself cited as one of the evils. She said that doctors get enticed to amputate the limbs of human body. Doctors are regarded as demigods in our society, but sometimes they appear as demi-devils. I would like to refer to the UNICEF Report here. It has been stated in that report that over 14 million children have been forcibly displaced within and outside their home countries and between 8,000 and 10,000 children are killed or maimed each year by landmines.

UNICEF Executive Director, Veneman, told the Council that children continue to be targeted in today's armed conflicts and they are the first to suffer from poverty, malnutrition, poor health as a result of the upheavals caused by war. Since 1996, approximately two million children have died as a result of war, at least, six million

have been injured or physically disabled and 12 million have been homeless. The trend of present day's insurgency and even various Governments also throughout the world are employing children taking advantage of their immaturity, taking advantage of their other deficiencies in their lives. So, the Bill is a very contemporary one and it is the need of the time for this kind of a legislation so as to mitigate the sufferings and the outrage faced by our children.

Madam Chairman, neglecting children means loss to the society as a whole. If children are deprived of their childhood, socially, economically, physically and mentally, the nation gets deprived of potential human resource for social progress, economic empowerment, peace and order for social stability and for good citizenry. But over the years, it was the felt need for the protection of the children. Therefore, if we observe the evolutionary process, we will find that before Independence, various persons contemplated over this issue.

In this Bill a very salient feature has been observed by me and that is the non-institutional approach. Actually, in the Long Title of the principal Act, the scope has been widened to include institutional and non-institutional approaches. It is a very salient feature of this Bill.

The first effort for introducing non-institutional treatment and training of juveniles was made as far back as in 1850, when the Apprentices Act was passed. It was regarded as the precursor of juvenile legislation in India. In the year 1953, Children's Bill was proposed. In the same year, the Women and Children Resolution Licensing Bill was proposed. In the year 1977, Children (Amendment) Bill was proposed. In the Year 1986, Juvenile Justice Bill was passed and in the year 2000, the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection of Children Bill was passed.

So, in that process of evolution, we have come to this point that this issue now has been divided into two components.

One of them is juvenile in conflict with law, that Madam Chairman, you have already narrated very explicitly; and the second is children in need of care and protection.

A number of provisions have been made to realise the objective of this Bill. In this amendment, 'adoption' means the process through which the adopted child is permanently separated from his biological parents and becomes the legitimate child of his adopted parents with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to the relationship. It is really a very revolutionary step. But in the same issue, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned Minister as to what are those non-institutional approaches that you have conceived. As we think that non-institutional approach has been foster home, sponsorship, or any other kind, there are a number of schemes available in the private sector also. Then which are those non-institutional approaches which are being considered? It is because it is a fact that in the name of foster home, a number of children are being victimized, traded, exploited and abused; a number of atrocities are being committed upon them which have been revealed in various newspapers also. So, the Minister should be careful before delivering anybody to any foster home. There, at least, a fair degree of measure should be contemplated for the selection of those families. Stringent guidelines need to be considered.

Madam, you had very rightly pointed out that in West Bengal, Lilua, Barasat, and Dhrua Ashram had gained notoriety because the juveniles which had been accommodated there, after fled from those homes. The reason is that those homes are a poor apology of any accommodation, let alone recreation and other facilities. They are only providing some accommodation; it would not suffice the objective. It is because the Bill itself provides that those juveniles should be given flexible period of leave that may be given to child on special occasions like examination, marriage of a relative, death of kith and kin, or accident or serious illness of parents, or any emergency of the like nature. That means, juveniles—irrespective of

their being in any home—should be given a familial touch so that they cannot consider themselves as an outcast or an estranged section of our society.

But the fact is that due to lack of sanitation, squalor, due to lack of any kind of recreation facilities, and due to various kinds of torture, assault and even starvation, those juveniles are compelled to flee those areas. Naturally, there shall be no meaning of this kind of legislation if the State Governments are not well concerned of it. They should sensitize the psychology of the juvenile and meet the needs of the juvenile population of our country.

Furthermore, I will refer to a very salient point to the hon. Minister that most of the juveniles are having a very difficult time before trial because trial court is not available in every district. Those juveniles in conflict with law are to travel hundreds of kilometers away before getting their award. So, I think, the Ministry will be in conflict with the Law Ministry, if it is not resolved. It is because if the objective of the Bill is to give relief and mitigate the sufferings, then you have to have a Juvenile Justice Court in every district. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take up this matter with the concerned authority.

Our Constitution recognizes special status for children through articles 15 (3); 24; 39 (e) and (f); and 45. India's National Policy for Children was adopted in 1974. However, still we are contemplating over this issue. It clearly demonstrates that in spite of having a plethora of laws that we have, we have not been able to realize the objectives which had been enshrined in our Constitution.

Madam Chairman, every child brought into the world as a new thought of God. The children are evergreen, ever fresh with radiant possibilities.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : Madame Chairperson, I welcome this Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri P. Mohan]

Children) Amendment Bill, 2005, on behalf of Communist Party of India (Marxist). This comprehensive Bill with so many amendments seeks to bring about heartening change to Juvenile Justice system in the country. At the outset, I would like to thank Hon'ble Minister for piloting this Bill which seeks to bring about a zealous reformation.

I would like to bring to the notice of this august House drawing the attention of the Chair and the Hon'ble Minister that adult crimes and such acts by children are two different things and they have to be handled in a distinct fashion. Those who violate law knowing fully well that they are committing criminal acts quite against their conscience are criminals and most often they are adults and thereby adult criminals who have to be punished under law. Whereas children who are driven to their wits end due to poverty, ill treatment and harassment and are forced to commit unlawful and anti-social acts, are not criminals but are juveniles who have got to be reformed. They know not what they do and commit such acts due to situation and company they have cultivated. It is innocence and ignorance that make them vulnerable. They are even compelled by or driven to such circumstances by unscrupulous anti-social elements to commit crimes. Since they do it due to the circumstances, they should not be treated on a par with the adult criminals and should not be lodged in jails and kept in lock-ups or taken to police stations. They can be changed and cultivated for the better to become useful citizens of the country. Many of my colleagues who spoke ahead of me including the Chairperson gave many examples and cited many instances to drive home the point that the society has responsibility to treat these children to emerge as good citizens. I, as an individual and the party I belong to, i.e., CPI (M), strongly believe in this and we must give opportunity to the children who are the future of this country that is why we need to have a corrective Juvenile Justice system. Our erstwhile Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

loved children and that is why our country celebrates every year his birthday as Children's Day. Even in our mythology we find Kannan (Lord Krishna) was born in a prison. It only shows that all those who go to prison or who come out of prison are not criminals. Of those who are in the jails all of them are not bad. Government has spelt out many reforms and corrective measures in the form of amendments to the earlier Act to clearly demarcate and differentiate justice systems available to adults and adolescents, especially juveniles thereby ensuring care and protection for the children. Family conditions, poverty, loss of parents, even when there is single parent loss of mother and lack of mother's care, social conditions and the legislations by the Government, have all played a role in the conditions available to children. Though we have a legislation abolishing child labour, we have the practice still in vogue. There is a Free Verse in Tamil, "Carrying a bag bigger than him, the boy finds himself near a bin at the street corner, he is searching life as he goes on searching the dustbin". All my colleagues present in this august House will all agree with me that we witness such scenes and see such children everyday in our life. Thousands and lakhs of children are still there as rag-pickers and street children. Such children who do not know what is in store for them in their lives, are often forced to commit unlawful activities. It is a pathetic and helpless situation. The society must have concern for them and deal with them in a kindlier fashion. Not only family situation, but also societal influence that has a bearing on their formation.

Even our Chairperson, while she was participating in this discussion, narrated certain instances to point out how cruelly children were treated or being treated in lock-ups and police stations. Such children can still be redeemed and reformed to emerge as useful citizens and even leaders in the future. But if they are taken to police stations, such children are not being treated with a right perspective and the police force have not been given adequate training in this regard to treat gently the children.

This Bill seeks to do justice to children, i.e., the juveniles from being taken to police stations and regular prisons. I appreciate the Government for the concern it has got for the future citizens of the country. But have we changed the ways of handling of these children at the hands of police and the society?

In my city Madurai, recently, I happened to see the plight of a nine year old girl who was working as a servant maid in a household. When the house owners found one of their jewels missing one day, gave a complaint to the police suspecting the girl to be the culprit. When it was brought to my notice, I went to see the condition of the girl, if only to find her with all her fingers both of hands and legs in a bad shape with blood oozing still. She was hit hard with the edge of a roller on every finger insisting on her to accept her crime, which she did not. She was kept in the police station for five days when I saw her in that pitiable condition. It is appropriate to have brought a Bill like this to change the system of taking juveniles to police stations where it is not a rare thing to find crude people with cruel mentality.

This Bill seeks to bar the media to publicise the identity of these children who are taken to Children Welfare Committees and Enquiry Boards. I appreciate the initiative of the Hon'ble Minister to have enhanced the fine to be levied on erring media from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 25,000/-. At this juncture, I would like to request the Minister to explain clearly the provision to permit such publicising in the interest of the children concerned. That needs to be defined well.

19.00 hrs.

Even the speech by the Prime Minister aimed at the welfare of the nation is not published on the front pages of newspapers. They normally prefer sensational stories like, some Prema, committing some crime, getting priority in the media. They crave for her interview and publish the same gleefully. Even this fine of Rs. 25,000/- is not a very

big sum for them. I can understand that this provision is there as a deterrent but whether they can be really checked is yet to be seen. There is a tendency to go for sensationalism and, hence, we have to be careful with the media.

As far as adoption of these juveniles, it has been stated that Indian citizens would get preference. I welcome this. In the absence of childless parents or single parents coming forward to adopt these juveniles, it has been stated that they can be given in adoption to fit persons and fit institutions. We have to be very careful. I am afraid the word 'fit' needs to be defined in its entirety. We all know the horror stories of children being adopted by unscrupulous individuals and at times heartless foreign nationals. Even during tsunami in Tamil Nadu, such destitute girls and children were sought to be adopted by individuals and institutions, especially from foreign countries. Based on the worst experiences, we have heard enough the adoption of those children were sought to be prevented them. Such adoption by some unscrupulous agencies have resulted in cruel exploitation of such juveniles.

We need to ensure whether the schools meant for these juveniles or the observation homes where they are put to follow strictly the guidelines to provide care and protection to these juveniles. There must be an independent monitoring mechanism to oversee the functioning of such homes and the condition of juveniles there. Such children who are below 18 have to be handled with care and responsibility. So, there must be Monitoring Committees in every district. When this amendment Bill is being passed, I would like to add my suggestion that we must go in for setting up Monitoring Committees in the interest of ensuring justice to the juveniles. We must ensure that all the provisions of this amended Act are implemented effectively to safeguard the interests and welfare of these helpless juveniles.

MADAME CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P. MOHAN : Just one minute Madame, I am concluding my speech. Such oversee committees to monitor the working of such observation homes must comprise of retired judges, social activists from voluntary organisations, psychiatrists and child specialists. Such monitoring committees must be set up in every district all over the country. My colleague Mr. Chowdhary suggested that there must be separate judiciary set-up for the juveniles. I cannot but agree with you. Within 24 hours such children are expected to be produced before the Board or the Children Welfare Committee as provided for in this legislation. We all know that it is all being honoured more in its violation. It has become almost normal that those who have been detained for more than 72 hours are produced before the Courts as though they have been arrested just then. Rules are bend and laws are violated by law enforcing agencies and it is not something uncommon. Hence, I urge upon the Government to go in for separate judicial fora to implement Juvenile Justice Act for speedy trial and disposal on a fast track mode. This is my humble suggestion.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to look into the grey area of handling the cases of the adolescent aged between 18 and 21. It is during this period that they become matured persons who may step into the adult criminals' category. Borstal Schools are there for these adolescent youth above the age of eighteen but below the age of twenty one. They are not fully grown men and women as yet but well past the stage of continuing to be children any more. I urge upon the Government at this stage to look into the welfare of such adolescents in that age bracket to have suitable welfare measure in the form of apt justice system. With the hope that the Government will look into this aspect also and with an appeal to the Government on behalf of my party CPI(M) in this regard, let me conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Hon. Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Juvenile Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

It is true that in our speeches we always speak that only children are the future of the country. As provided for in the Bill, it is true that the British had made a beginning for construction of a Juvenile Home for young delinquents by enacting a law in 1897. Not only this, the Care and Protection of Children Act has been implemented in 11 States and many Union Territories so far including Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

The Human Rights Commission has given instructions to enact such Acts in other states also, It can be seen today that the economic condition, bad company and addiction are responsible for spoiling children. We will have to pay special attention towards it. I was going through a report which says that this Act is not in force in Jammu and Kashmir whereas it is very much needed there. There is also a need to pay special attention towards it. A survey has also been made in the capital of the country according to which more than 20 gangs are active here having a large number of children mainly from Bangladesh, Bihar, Western Uttar Pradesh and some are from South India also.

While travelling towards our constituencies we see young children earning their livelihood mostly by washing cup-plates in dhabas and tea shops. They are also helpless because their families cannot survive if they will not do so as they have old parents and the responsibility for the marriage of their sisters also lies on them. Besides, we also see that this problem is more prevalent among the children living in the slum clusters. Our present films affect mostly because, nowadays, films promoting juvenile crime are being made. Madam Chairman, through you, I would like to say that the Government should pay attention towards it and all such films which promote juvenile crime and sexual exploitation should be censored.

I have seen in Uttar Pradesh that children are also stealing mobile phones nowadays. When you go for shopping or for buying vegetables then you will find them engaged in stealing mobile phones, purse and money. As far as the condition of Juvenile Homes and jails is

concerned, they are managed by the social welfare department in Uttar Pradesh. I had the privilege to serve as the social welfare Minister in the Uttar Pradesh Government in 1998. I saw that the condition of the Juvenile Homes and jails was very bad there. The condition of the room where children live is extremely pitiable. The children do not even get food nor is there any arrangement for their education while the Government has provided for both. My suggestion is that a Committee of such NGOs should be formed which are engaged in this field to look into the affairs of Juvenile homes or observation homes. The Committee should go there from time to time to see the condition there and whether the assistance and the facilities provided by the Government are being provided to the children or not.

Madam Chairman, I was going through a report which gave figures that 36,000 minors are arrested every year in the country which is shameful for us. These figures are for the whole of the country. I think that special attention should be paid to it.

Recently, I have been observing that as far as their bail is considered that also is beset with problems. Recently, the High Court, Kolkata has passed an order that any Juvenile cannot be given punishment for more than three years. It is a very good order and the Government should implement it. Hon. Madam Chairman, you had rightly said in your speech that children are like soft clay which can be given any shape as desired. It is true that if we will keep them in jails for longer time...*(Interruptions)* Today, the children face this problem owing to helplessness, starvation and unemployment. The Government of India had made a declaration in 1974 to formulate a national policy for the welfare of the children. National Children's Council was established under the Chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister at that time.

It would be better to use the term juvenile criminal for children below 18 years of age. Crores of children are forced to become a labourer even today. The Child Labour Eradication law should be enforced strictly. This problem can be solved only when children will not become labourer for which we will need to formulate a comprehensive

scheme. There is a need to bring the children to the mainstream of the society when they become adult and only then we can do something in this regard. On the other hand, there are children growing up under the Government's protection and the hon. Minister should pay special attention to it. There should be some arrangement for providing reservation for them in the Government jobs. On reaching adulthood, these children should be provided reservation in the Government jobs, only then we can get rid of this problem.

The maximum number among the neglected children is that of the beggars. Today, several gangs are active which make children beg and in the evening these children deposit the money with their boss.

19.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

There is a need to arrest and punish such gangs involved in pushing children into beggary. No Committee has been formed for monitoring of such gangs except in Delhi, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Kamataka and Haryana while it should be there in every state. With these few suggestions, I would like to just say that the Government should make proper provision for including the children of 18 years of age in the Education Bill as defined in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 and contemporary law. In addition to that, provision should also be made for providing nutrition to the children of 6 years of age and proper and essential resources for giving employment oriented education to the children aged 14-18 years under primary ECCE and there should be a Bill for those provisions only after that we can get rid of these problems.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before I call the next hon. Member to speak, I would like to make the request that I want to finish this discussion by 7.48 p.m. At 7.48 p.m., the reply will start. So, the hon. Members should speak for two to three minutes only. I have a list of about 12 Members.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005. The UPA Government has initiated a humanitarian move permeated by the feelings of human rights. Through this amendment our government is taking an important step in the continuous process of improvement in law. I thank hon. Shrimati Renuka Chaudhary for this. I want to say that inclusion of child beggars in it is an important step. There has been a long tradition of use of small children by the organised criminals and in recent past numerous inhuman incidents have started taking place. You have taken a very important step to check such incidents.

As the hon. Members who spoke before me said, such facilities should also be provided to the youth between the age group of 18 years to 21 years so that they could get an opportunity to get reformed and play an active role in nation building. As per the report for the year 2004 it could be implemented in eleven states and Union territories only. I want to say that there is a need to lay special emphasis on its implementation in all the states after this amendment. The department should prepare an action plan to deter children from committing crimes and if possible the provision for this should also be made through this amendment Bill. Atmosphere greatly affect the children coming of age. There should be some prevention Act for atmosphere. If the bad habits of guardians or people in surrounding areas affect them adversely, then there should be a provision in this Bill to improve such atmosphere. I think this will be definitely taken into account.

So many things are said about the orphans and juvenile homes and we ourselves hear and see that saviors themselves become devours. Despite all out efforts there was no such provision in the laws enacted by our government or by the earlier governments. Therefore those people have a tendency of a fascist or dictator and child

abuse at large scale is taking place at such centre despite all the rules and regulations being there in place. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how this can be controlled and set right. There is a need to engage good N.G.O.s in it. I agree with the views expressed by my predecessor that organised criminals are making children commit heinous crimes. There is a need to root out this problem. First of all there is a need to cut the root and only cutting of stem will not do. There is a need to locate the root of this problem. Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that through this amendment there is a need of fast track justice. A discussion is going on this since long but this need is not being met. I don't think that this cannot be met. An at par special provision should be made for this so that the children whom we are going to lodge in the juvenile homes for reform could also be get spoiled therein in five years. We must be concerned about this also. Through this amendment a provision has been made for not keeping the children in police custody, which is a very appreciable step. You have made a deep study of practical aspect that in police custody absolutely condemnable treatment is meted out to the children. That should be checked completely. The atmosphere in the juvenile homes, schools and health care centres fore development of children should be very good. Allocation for them should be enhanced. Our approach should be a welfare approach. They should have the complete right to get an opportunity to enjoy their life and to get reformed. With these words I thank you and strongly support this amendment Bill.

[English]

*SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005. Let me participate in this discussion expressing my views on behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Sir, recently, when a four year old boy in the village of Haryana fell into a deep bore, the trauma of the boy, his parents and the entire village was shown live on various T.V. channels, which drew the attention of the entire nation so to say. The help was readily pouring in. The Government under the stewardship of Dr. Manmohan Singh led by the Chairperson of the UPA, Madame Sonia Gandhi responded readily with the humanitarian concern the problem deserved. Trained Army personnel alongwith the fire brigade were also there to rescue the child. On this occasion, I would like to express hearty thanks and congratulations to the Prime Minister and Madame Sonia Gandhi. I would also like to place on record the deep appreciation and hearty congratulations from Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi the Leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Now, I rise to support this Bill on behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). The amendments suggested to the Act are very important in the sense that some relaxation in formalities and procedures have been proposed. The idea of not disclosing the identity of the juvenile child is very good. But I also propose that any enquiry by the Board or any Authority shall be held in camera. Moreover, the penalty suggested for disclosing the identity of the juvenile is very less and many newspapers and media network may take advantage of the meager penalty and may disclose the identity and earn lakhs of rupees in the process. It is proposed that any juvenile shall be produced before the Committee without any loss of time but within a period of 24 hours excluding the time necessary for the journey. I suggest that even this 24 hours is very long and efforts should be made to produce the child before the Committee immediately and arrangements for journeys, etc., should be made without loss of time.

Sir, I take this opportunity to mention the inadequate facilities in the children's home or shelter homes for the rehabilitation of these children. You may be aware that many children run away from these homes and these

incidents are not rare. The reason for such incidents are due to inadequate care by the staff, inadequate facilities for their education, for their health and for their well-being. Once the staff handling these children come to know that they have committed some offences, then their attitude changes and they do not handle the children properly and ill treat and harass them and misbehave with them. Incidents of even sexual harassment are not rare. I demand that once the child comes out of a rehabilitation home or a children's home, he should be a good citizen of the country with a good education, good health and good character. He should not become a criminal again or take recourse to anti-social and criminal activities. Of course, the State Governments are doing their best but due to inadequate funds they are not in a position to support any major scheme for accommodating these children homes. In fact, I would suggest the Central Government should contribute funds for the modernisation of children's home by contributing the full amount and without expecting any share from any State Government. Of course, the contribution by the Central Government can be limited to genuine children home which are duly approved by the State Governments.

Another proposal which has been mooted is for adoption of children offenders to childless parents, to single parents and others of Indian nationals. Here, I would like to mention that the adoption procedure devised by the Central Government is very cumbersome even for normal children and unless the procedures and formalities are not relaxed for these children, I am afraid that these children can never be given in adoption and once they are not used to any family environment, I am sure that they would take up anti-social activities. So, the Government should ensure that all procedures and formalities should be relaxed at least for these special children so that they can be given in adoption easily. For this, the rules should be amended.

I also welcome the proposal regarding flexible period of leave that may be given to a child on special occasions like examination, marriage of relatives, etc. Here, I also

[Shri E.G. Sugavanam]

demand that the children should be allowed leave liberally for examinations, marriages and they should also be allowed to attend functions in their schools and in their families. In order not to deprive of these children of any recreation or enjoyment, functions and celebrations should be held on important occasions in the children home and films and other programmes can also be screened and they should have access to sports and games. There should be provision for regular health check-up of these children.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, under the Chief stewardship of Dr. Kalignar Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, all school children were given free mid-day meals, free education including uniform and textbooks, etc. Now, nutritious egg is also given twice a week. Even in the Government schools, the children get best education and students from rural areas get preference in higher and technical education institutes. The point I am driving home is once the children get good education and all facilities, their minds will not be diverted to anti-social or criminal activities and they will develop as good students and ultimately good citizens of the country. I would suggest that all State Government should emulate the example of Tamil Nadu and the Central Government should assist the State Governments liberally in their endeavours.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur) :

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must extend my heartfelt thanks to you for allowing me to speak on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005.

As the hon. Minister stated, we feel proud about our children because they are our real wealth. Our dream is that by 2020 India will be a super power. Keeping this in view this progressive legislation has been introduced by the hon. Minister.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2006 to make it more humane and child-friendly. The object of the amendments is to plug the loopholes in the existing Act and make children less vulnerable to crime.

As we find, nowadays the number of crimes is mounting upon with the advent of cyber crimes thereby creating sensation in the country. It is found that children from the affluent families are more involved in this type of crimes as a result of which they are involved in violent activities like murder, theft, etc.

The initial law was introduced in the year 1996 and subsequently it was amended in 2002. This amendment has been brought with a view to bring reformation in the minds of children in order to avoid their involvement in such type of crimes.

As a trial court lawyer, I have got some experience in these cases and I will give you an example. In a case of murder, for causing disappearance of evidence, a teenage girl, who was a student of Class IX, was booked under section 302/201 of the Indian Penal Code.

She was facing the trial in a Juvenile court and the trial continued for five years. My humble submission in this regard is that unless in letter and spirit this Act is implemented it would never serve the interests of the juvenile nor the real justice will never reach the people of this country.

Now a days, it is found that children are employed for begging; they are abducted; and a racket is operating even to the extent of removal of kidneys. They are employed for pick pocketing. An eminent social reformer of Orissa, Shrimati Rama Devi took a dynamic step in this regard. She said that children are our wealth and all reformative measures must be taken by the social reformers in order to bring them to the main stream of the society.

As I find, in this case, some dynamic provisions have been made that producing juveniles before the Juvenile court within 24 hours of arrest; making it mandatory to register the age of the juvenile because at the time of production, the age can be determined.

I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that Birth Register is a public document and on the basis of which the age of juvenile can be well determined. In such circumstances, the question of taking evidence does not arise because the Birth Register being a public document can be well accepted but the court of law. That apart, the other aspect that I would like to highlight is the real dynamic step taken by the hon. Minister with regard to the provision of allowing the Juvenile to mix with their family. Other aspects are there to provide for a flexible period of leave that may be given to a child on special occasions of examination, marriage of relatives, death of kith and kin, an accident or serious illness of parents or on any type of emergency or the like nature. This will no doubt bring radical change in the mind of the juvenile so that they can be mixed with the social stream.

I would like to suggest a few aspects for your kind consideration. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not few, but one or two.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Police agencies must be made an independent agency to deal with the juveniles and they must be given special training. It is found that when a juvenile is involved in a case, in order to avoid their own responsibility at the time of forwarding to the court, they used to mention their age – 20 to 21. In fact, they are minors. Unless they are properly trained to deal with in such circumstances, the implication of innocent juveniles in the case of serious nature of crimes cannot be ruled out.

My second suggestions is that the trial of the case must be concluded within a time-bound period. Section 14

provides that the inquiry is to be concluded within four months. Practically, it is never implemented and in spirit, it is never done.

Thirdly, the supervision of children in children's homes and observation must be brought under the control of a competent authority. Otherwise, it is noticed that during the said period of stay, they fall victims to other abuses like sexual abuses, etc. Hence, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that unless some social measures in letter and spirit is taken, the implementation of the Act may not be so fruitful.

With these words, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for introducing this progressive legislation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It seems that you are a practising lawyer.

Shri P. Ravindran, please make only points.

*SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN (Thiruvananthapuram) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome this juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005; and let me add, it is not enough to pass this Bill; we have to ensure that the changes envisaged in the Bill are properly implemented.

We are eloquent about children, we also talk about their welfare. Our first Prime Minister, Chacha Nehru, is remembered for his love for children. But we do not pay enough attention to our children. They are used for trade. There are agencies in our country that utilise children for begging and collect their money on a daily basis. These agencies do not fall under the purview of this Bill. When we enact it, our concern should be to find out as to how effectively we can improve the lot of the children and make them better individuals.

We have jails for juveniles. If any juvenile delinquent goes to these jails, they come out as confirmed criminals.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

[Shri Pannian Ravindran]

What the country needs is a system that can transform juvenile delinquents into responsible citizens. Today, we don't have such a system. Even in the jails for juvenile delinquents, they get narcotic drugs. Even children are used in the business of drug trafficking. They are used as part of flesh trade.

There are agencies that operate exclusively for such nefarious activities. There are not enough provisions to prosecute and punish such agencies. Such agencies are powerful. When this Bill is eventually enacted, we need State level agencies to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Bill.

The Minister said earlier in her speech that there will be Implementation Committees. They should be effective and shall not remain mere name sake committees. These Implementation Committees should examine and evaluate the problems faced by juvenile delinquents on a periodic basis.

We have imposed penalties against those who publicise the name or photograph of juvenile delinquents. But there are also officials in juvenile homes, who neglect the juveniles and even encourage them for unlawful activities. There should be ways and means to book such officials and punish them.

If we can effectively enforce the reforms envisaged in the Bill, we can make our children responsible citizens. To ensure it, those children who reach juvenile homes, should be provided with facilities for studies, recreation and to engage themselves in sports and games. There should be a psychiatrist in every juvenile home.

The activities of juvenile home should be based on the mental and intellectual abilities of different children. I welcome this Bill, which has taken into consideration the socio-political changes in our society during the past five years. Apart from the effective implementation of the changes included in the Bill, the entire Government

machinery should co-operate and the task is of too wide a scope for the Minister alone to handle.

I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, first of all I would like to thank the hon. Minister because she herself is a woman and she has brought in an amendment in the Bill pertaining to children and tried minutely that such amendments are effected so that children could live comfortably. Sir, on children day we all make tall talks about making the future of children better but all our talks prove customary. But if we actually want to think about the children and want to shape their lives we will have to ponder over as to why they tilt towards crimes at the tender age and why they are compelled to involve in illegal activities.

Child delinquency is such a reality of the Indian society which cannot be over sighted. Every year 3600 minors are arrested for various crimes. No human being is a criminal by birth. Family feud, adverse circumstances of family and financial circumstances turn him a criminal. Several times if children are ill-treated at homes or they are ignored, they run away from their homes and fall in the clutches of the criminals and turn big criminals. This has also come to light that some people who have good image in the society, are so cruel that they even amputee arms and legs of children to make them beggars and they spoil their lives for meager amount of money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the amendment. I have seen that there are juvenile homes in our area. A mention of 18 years has been made here but in section 2 Juvenile Justice Act 2000 under the definition of juvenile a juvenile or boy upto the age of 18 years has been defined. In the previous juvenile justice Act, 1986 age of 16 years for boys and 18 years for girls was defined because the boys and girls between the age group of 16 to 18 years commit maximum heinous crimes.

The new Act provides relief to such boys or girls and they turn habitual criminals by the time they come of age. Therefore, either this age be reduced from 18 years or the boys or girls who are older than 16 years be kept separate because the boys who are of 18 years age are adult and the boys younger to them living with them in the juvenile homes are spoiled by the older boys. They inculcate bad habits in them. They themselves become friends and it becomes very difficult to control them. In section 41 of the Juvenile Justice Act a provision of adoption has been made but there is no mention of legal procedure of transfer of moveable and immoveable property of the adopting parents to the adopted child whereas there is the provision of transfer of property in the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act. That is why people give priority to adopt a child under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act in place of the Juvenile Justice Act.

The provisions of upbringing and maintenance under section 42 and of enforcement under sections 43 in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 need to be widened. Moreover, this concept is new to the country and a lot of work is yet to be done in this regard. Hon. Minister, Sir, instead of awarding punishment to the vagabond children, it should be the duty of the Government to rehabilitate them and provide proper facilities for their growth and nurturing their talent. Many a times the fundamental rights of children are violated in custody as they do not get education and are even deprived of the basic medical facilities. They are forced to live under inhuman conditions as they get insufficient food to eat and dirty beds to sleep. It should be ensured that all the children are benefited from the Government rules and our meaningful activities and live their life with self-respect once again.

The number of the Juvenile Justice Boards and the Children Welfare Committee is very little in proportion to the number of juveniles against whom criminal cases are going on in the country. Therefore, budget should be earmarked for them and it should be properly implemented

in every state. Empowered Committees should be constituted for monitoring. Any child kept in custody should not be awarded punishment of undergoing forced labour. They should also not be deprived of hygiene, environmental hygiene, education and basic counseling etc. More attention should be paid to their education. Chanakya has said that we will have to increase the number of jails if we do not educate the children and open school for them. We should pay attention to ensure that our children are educated and that they live good life. It will be good for the children if they are not taken into custody before the case. Priority should be given to the settlement between both the parties. The children should be protected from the violence and exploitation in custody otherwise resentment and a feeling of revenge develops in them and they feel that whatever they have been doing all this while is right. They should be given emotional support with the help of a psychiatrist.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude my speech by saying one more thing in the end. We come across news items in most of the newspapers that a criminal mentality develops in the young minds after watching crime related serials on various TV channels in the country and they end up doing acts of murder or robbery unknowingly. I demand that telecast of serials showing crimes by such TV channels in the country should be banned.

Sir, similarly it can be seen that western style of romance is shown on many TV channels in the country which perverts the mentality of young minds resulting in an increase in crime in schools. Therefore, I request that the obscene romance of western culture being shown on TV channels in the country should be discontinued.

Sir, the young children who are a victim of commercial exploitation or any other kind of exploitation and are caught committing some crime, should not be placed in the category of criminals rather they should be provided better services so that they can regain their place in society and join the mainstream of the country.

[English]

SHRI D. NARBULA (Darjeeling) : Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support this Bill. The object of this Bill is to bring reforms in the society. I agree with that and I do appreciate it. I would congratulate the hon. Minister for her efforts and also the Members of the Standing Committee with whose efforts these amendments have been introduced.

The Central Government would pass this Bill but its implementation fully depends on the State Government. The objects of this Bill cannot be achieved unless the State Governments implement it fully. I would like to give certain suggestions while supporting this Bill. First of all, as the hon. Minister has rightly said, when a juvenile is apprehended by the police, he should not be kept in the police custody. In the meantime, the hon. Minister should think that arrangements should be made to keep these juveniles in a separate place other than the police custody. For instance, in my district, there is no juvenile court. There is no provision for these juveniles to be kept in a separate place other than the police custody. So, this provision should be provided first. Unless and until these provisions are made, this Act cannot be properly implemented.

Secondly, awareness of the Juvenile Act is very important. People living in the interior do not know about this. Unless and until people are made aware of this Act, it cannot bring the desired effect in the society. Another important point I would like to make is that juvenile is counted to be a person below the age of 18 years. Unless and until a speedy trial court is established, it will not fulfil the purpose. Suppose a trial starts when a juvenile is 16 years of age and the trial continues for more than six years. In that case, when the trial is completed, the juvenile has already attained the age of a major. What would be the consequences? I would like to know whether he will be treated as a juvenile or an adult when the case is completed. I had come across such a case when I was practising in the court.

There is a provision that strict action would be taken for disclosing these things. It is very important. But this should be strictly followed. For instance, there is a ban on child labour but it is not followed in the country. Similarly, whatever amendments have been introduced in this Act, should be properly implemented.

[Translation]

SMT. JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for presenting the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005. This Bill was introduced in 2003. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare considering its importance. It has been reintroduced here after much deliberations by the committee. Even in that, we are going to amend several provisions and sections and I thank the members of the standing committee and hon. Minister for that.

Sir, no child is a criminal by birth. There are many reasons behind his becoming a criminal which have been explained very nicely by Sumitraji. Therefore, I would not like to go into details but say few things, which come to my mind now. Firstly, the police give harsh punishment to the child in custody and this leads to the next situation. I remember one incident which is a true incident. There was a child who was very talkative and he could take other in with what he said. Police took him into custody when he started doing some petty crimes and thereby pushed him on the path of crime even outsmarting him on this count. His mother had already died and he had two sisters and a grandfather. The sisters had already proved their talent and become gold medalists. But, the police used the child to file a suit against his own grandfather and incited him to do some heinous crimes in that house after grabbing the house property. His photo was published in the newspaper and on the other page of the same newspaper were published the photos of his sisters who had won gold medals. On being asked why their brother's photo has appeared in the newspaper, the sisters replied that the reason behind the publication

of their photos is different from that of their brother as they had won the gold medals but they had nothing but grief and tears on publication of their brother's photo.

I would like to urge that there is a need to monitor the places and the persons turning the children into criminals. We have made such provisions in the sections of the Bill that institutions have also been included. Besides, it is also necessary to monitor the child, his house and how much love he gets from parents. Such an atmosphere is extremely necessary for the children. Sir, besides there are many criminal elements bent on kidnapping the children and making them helpless by amputating their limbs or taking out their eyes so that the children get the maximum alms. I do not believe that the police do not know such people or places. Police of every police station know such people and the places from where they operate. There is also a need to consider this as the need for providing stricter provisions keeping all things in mind is felt even more if the administrator is going to talk about the welfare of the children.

Our hon. Member Shrimati Neeta Pateriya has given very good suggestions. I associate myself with her and thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important Bill.

One of things that I wish to mention here regarding this Bill is that the institutions in which the juvenile offenders are sought to be rehabilitated are starved of funds. These institutes are suffering from Budget constraints and adequate funds are not being provided either by concerned State Governments or the Central Governments. I do not know how these institutions could be given more funds in order to provide them with proper facilities so as to enable them to look after the juvenile offenders in a better way.

The second point is that we would require a very sensitive police personnel to handle such juvenile offenders. Perhaps, women police officers would better handle these offenders. These juvenile offenders normally get very afraid of these male police officers and moreover, they need to be treated with certain amount of tenderness if you really wish to rehabilitate them. In order to do such a thing, these institutes would need good conditions and responsible police personnel. I think both the things should be taken note of.

I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill and I hope it will go a long way in creating a good and just society.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ram Kripalji, time has been allotted to Alok Kumar Mehtaji from your party. Time may be allotted to you to speak on the bill provided you confine your speech to one-minute.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : I will try. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you as you have given me time to speak on this important bill.

Madam, I am looking towards you only. I especially express my gratitude to you as you want to save the future of this country and improve the condition of children who are our foundation. The 30 per cent children of this country are the foundation and the development of the country depends on them. But the recent trends indicate that children are being exploited; organised gangs are getting big crimes done through them. Some are forcing them in drug peddling, while some are forcing them to beg after making them beggars. Recently a sting operation was conducted. Hon Members discussed the issue how children are being maimed or revealed through sting operation. The Government should make a provision for stringent punishment for those who do injustice to children and try to play with the future of this country. There should be a special provision of punishment in law for those who exploit children in an organised manner. If we do not look

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

after our children who are our future engineers, doctors, leaders and who are the very foundation and future of our country then situation may worsen in days to come. Particularly, we have to strengthen the economic condition in those areas of the country where there is poverty and unemployment. We have to pay attention to the poor children of villages or children living in slum areas whose parents force them to work due to their utter helplessness. Nevertheless UPA Government is running various programmes for this purpose. I think we shall have to pay special attention towards the problem of non-availability of education. I would like to offer some suggestions in this regard. This time Hon. Minister of Education has made provision for 44 per cent and work is being done in this direction.

I would conclude after giving one-two more suggestions. As you have told me to conclude in one-two minute, I shall follow your instruction. The condition of juvenile homes where children are kept is not good and are in dilapidated condition. I am not talking about the entire country. I am talking about my State and my constituency Patna...(Interruptions). I would like to tell about the things I know. As a hon. Member said that juvenile homes of entire country are not upto the mark, the condition of these homes has to be improved. Madam, the Government should allocate some amount for this purpose to ensure the availability of some kind of means of entertainment alongwith education and medical facilities there. You should make availability of teachers there who can provide vocational training to children. When children come out from the juvenile homes they remain unemployed. Moreover when they convicted to undergo the sentence of 4-6 months or for a year whatever be the period of sentence, they simply required to do nothing but serve their term of punishment. Therefore, an arrangement should be made to make them self dependent during their term so that they can do some job after coming out of the juvenile homes. I think it would be an effective step.

As some hon. Members have mentioned that the programmes being telecast on T.V. Channels nowadays are adversely affecting not only the minds of children but also grown ups. Why are you not getting such telecast discontinued. Please take some concrete measures to get it discontinued so that children are not affected in any way. It is having a impact on children. You must have seen superman serial which is being telecast and children are copying him. The situation has come to such a pass that one child even jumped from a roof, recently. All these serials should be strictly checked. Laws should be formulated to ban such programme so that minds of children are not adversely affected by such programmes.

I would like to submit that since there is a paucity of time we can discuss it at later stage.

20.00 hrs.

Following your order now I would like to conclude and thank hon. Minister. I would like her to consider my suggestion and formulate a law in this regard so that it may be a effective law and the concerns raised by you as a mother, as well as other Members like you may be addressed. You are a mother and many mothers have expressed their views in the House. The mothers are more compassionate than fathers. Since we are fathers we can be less compassionate. The compassionate mother is sitting there, earlier she was Minister, She might have tried for this but that might not have been implemented earlier. So you should try to realise it now. We know that you are committed towards making a strong India as your views clearly reflect that we can play a helping role in the making of a better India by improving the future of our children. I support this bill.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time of the House was up to 8 O'clock, therefore, I would like to extend the time till the passage of this Bill.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : It is injustice to us. You have fixed the time for zero hour. You said that you will take up zero hour after that...
(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : We have been informed in the morning that we have to speak at 12 O'clock during zero hour...(Interruptions). This is injustice to us...(Interruptions). We want protection from you.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the bill be passed first.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on records.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First listen to me. The leaders of all party were present in the meeting held in the morning and in that meeting it was decided that the House would sit daily till 8 O'clock therefore, till 8 O'clock it is session. There is nothing new if it continues one or half an hour more or less. The House will continue till 8 O'clock daily for some days.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After that there will be zero hour.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : Sir, with your permission, I would like to offer two suggestions. The

*Not recorded.

Government should made a strict law that the children below 18 years of age should not have mobile phones irrespective of whether they belong to high class families or middle class families. The mischiefs being done through mobile phones cannot be tolerated. My request is that an order should specially be issued that no student should being mobile phone in school irrespective of whether he or she is award of a rich or any influential person.

My second suggestion is that some people beg on roadsides. Some families have become professional beggars. Girls, boys and mother of such families beg at different points and regroup in the evening. I request that all the beggars should be concentrated at one place. In this way we will be able to know as to which gang is behind this and the Government will be able to give facilities and education which it intends to give them. I want to request the Government to kindly pay attention to this problem.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, thank you very much. First of all, I want to thank all the hon. Members who had the patience and the commitment to sit late in the evening and have listened so patiently and more importantly who have given such valuable suggestions. We are definitely going to be taking cognizance of some of them.

Now, first of all, I want to thank Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan who has paved way for this debate today here. I wanted to clarify to her – to all of you for that matter – and I am going to randomly refer to all the suggestions you have all made.

We had a meeting with the Minister of Home Affairs and I am also on record where I had written to the Minister of Home Affairs that we should at least have 33 per cent of women police in addition to the existing police. Even to implement the basic IPC sections, we do not have

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enough women in the police force. He was kind enough to take cognisance of that and he said that he would do what he can...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : It is good news.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : So, that is some good news for all of us.

Now, some hon. Members had raised the issue whether the child who is adopted is going to be safe or not. Yes, the new definition of adoption gives all rights on to the adopted child. So, adoption also vests the rights to inherit property and everything comes automatically when the child is adopted.

Now, some hon. Members were concerned about the children courts which we are going to establish under the Children Commission. We are going to form the new Commission. For the first time, there is going to be a Child Commission in India after our Independence. I cannot think of a more historic time than when India is going to be 60 years old that we are going to get our first Child's Commission here where children issues and children themselves are going to be treated with their independent identity. These will have fast track courts which will dispense with the children's problems that we are going to address.

Now, some hon. Members have expressed their concerns over the condition of the staying homes. As they were concerned, I am also concerned as Minister, more importantly; I am concerned as a citizen and as a mother that we know the horror stories of our homes. Sometimes *[Translation]* We keep the children above 18 in homes. *[English]* We do not keep them involved with the youngsters who are below 18 years of age *[Translation]* Who are kept separately. Surendra Kumarji had mentioned. I want to tell you *[English]* that the amendment has proposed no punishment of staying homes for more than

three years. *[Translation]* We do not want to keep anyone for more than three years in any home because it is right that the environment changes and those children have to leave the place to see the outside world. *[English]* So, we do not keep them for more than three years and we do not recommend that they should be kept.

To the query raised by the hon. Member who, I think, just left, now we look at what facilities we can give to these children and how to protect them and how to implement them.

[Translation]

As regards implementation, all of us know that there is no dearth of laws in our country, but we hesitate to implement law on all counts. Had it not been so, there would not have been foeticides at present, women would not have been set on fire for dowry. But how to implement law. Firstly, our police stations are always busy; secondly there is none to respond, and thirdly it is very unfortunate that in every situation women and children are made to sacrifice in every problem. *[English]* Children's are the most disposable commodities in our country even today. *[Translation]* All of us are Members of Parliament and all of us have separate constituency. I am to write a letter to you asking therein the number of shelter homes in your constituency; do we provide money to Anganwadi; do we want to send kids there and whether vigilance committee has been constituted in every district as on date?

I think it would be better if this subject is taken up simultaneously in Vigilance Committee and Monitoring Committee and thus we would be able to keep watch on our constituencies. We would be able to see the condition of our shelters and to see whether the teachers employed there come or not. You need not go anywhere yourself for this. You have your own workers who will inform you everything if you desire. Thus, if we ourselves take the responsibility of our home district, it will be convenient because we alone cannot do anything while sitting here. As we know that State Governments hesitate to implement

the rules desired to be implemented by the Central Government. It is not the subject in their priority. The condition will the same remain if we do not realise the reality and convince ourselves that the youth get the right to vote on attaining the age of 18 and women living in villages are also out vote bank after attaining the age of 18 years. *[Translation]* It has nothing to do with any party; it has no limitation because it is a question of our country *[English]* I think there is no politics in this *[Translation]* we may work together on this matter.

Adhirji rightly suggested that we need budget. We are unique people. We expect result without spending money. We do not have funds to set up Anganwadi centres at many places. If we hire spaces on rent for Anganwadi Centre, you also know as to what type of place we get. Even otherwise, how much space can we hire on rent. These are some constraints and hurdles. If all of you extend help, I will try to do this during Eleventh Plan. *[English]* if you put pressure on the Planning Commission and the Finance Minister, we would get the money for this. *[Translation]* Because, if we spend some money at present, we would be able to provide nutritious food to our children, we would provide them good environment, then only it would be cheaper for us because the Government has to spend 26 per cent more in dealing with the problem of malnutrition. You know that one is never cured of malnutrition. If our youth is weak, then how will they run the country tomorrow? It will be a nuisance for us. If we do not strengthen the coming generation we would not be able to stand on our own. *[English]* It is important that we recognize the children and we given them their due. Our children are not involved in any armed conflict anywhere in India.

[Translation]

They only suffer where extremism is going on, where naxalism is going on and where insurgency is going on such as in North eastern states. My own district shares border with Chhattisgarh where children suffer the most as the terrorists kill the parents leaving the children as

orphans. We all have to think as to how to keep them safe in the affectionate patronage of their mothers. We are also striving to further strengthen this ministry in the XI plan so as to widen its reach in the nook and corners of the country. Then only, children's problems can be effectively resolved. The new J.J. Board set up recently is proposed to be put in place in all the districts. We are making efforts to make it functional within one year of its commencement. Identification of juvenile is also being talked about and it is also being said here that it should be counted from the date of commission of offence and that if someone commits a crime at the age of 18 years then what will be the age afterwards? But what we want to say is that if a child commits a crime at the age of 18 years and three months then he would also be treated as a juvenile. *[English]* It is counted from the time when the crime has been committed. Of course, we put children under lock up. I am not going into that issue now. None of us is going to agree to that. *[Translation]* They are not animals but small kids whose role models have been wrong personalities. At times they get astray owing to weaknesses of parents. I would like to congratulate Smt. Sumitra Mahajanji and all other hon. Members for discussing this Bill in the sensitive manner it ought to be as it is not statistics, it is not share market. Such things are not attached to it. It is a quite sensitive issue. *[English]* We cannot put it under just blank and white rules. *[Translation]* We have to tackle this issue with sensitivity and we have to take care of such children. *[English]* These was a suggestion regarding independent agencies to deal with juvenile investigation. I think it is a very good suggestion. I am not making any assurance or promise, but it is something we have also been debating *[Translation]* that how can be ensure independence of investigating agencies. We all very well know as to how the people are treated in Police Stations. Being in politics, we all at some time or other have witnessed the inside atmosphere of Police Stations. *[English]* But I also want to tell you that the Home Minister has been kind enough to extend partnership in informing the police. *[Translation]* This was my grievance that the laws made here do not reach the police official in rural areas. The Police inspector

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does not have any knowledge of the new legislations enacted here. At times police's behaviour is rule because they are not aware of the law. When it is brought to their notice their position becomes quite awkward. We would like to launch a big campaign with ministry of Home Affairs for sensitization of the police and the ministry of Home Affairs has, in turn, given us the assurance to extend full support in our endeavour. *[English]* I hope that soon we should be able to get the material in the form of CDs and we should be able to put it in the cable television network. *[Translation]* These days, cable network is reaching villages and police as well public will be informed about it. *[English]* But it is a very difficult task given the fact that in our country we have women also who are dependent on the children. *[Translation]* That we have to see. I would like to state about imposition of fine for violation is mentioned by Smt. Sumitra Mahajanji because at times issues are made sensational and hyped by media which make their life difficult. Rehabilitation of that child also becomes difficult as some sort of star quality is attached to him or her. *[English]* It becomes a problem for them to lead normal lives. *[Translation]* Therefore, keeping it in mind this provision has been made therein with a fine of Rs. 25000/-. I would like to congratulate Media here that media persons of IBN-CNN were talking about a report on a child but had expressed their inability to show that child due to enactment of this law. Media should realize its responsibility and should not make the child centre of Media as it is also their duty to protect the child.

As a mother I would like to advise that children should not be given cellphones. But in a democracy how should I ask the parents that it is they who give cellphone to their kids otherwise children do not have the money to buy the cellphones, how should I teach such parents? These children are immature and they get easily affected by seeking the movies or other things *[English]* and sometimes that leads to misuse, but we cannot deny that it is a great communication system. It is not just about for

the poor children or the schools meant for them, rather today we are more concerned about so called big and five star schools because drugs and wine are available nearby the premises of such schools. I think that is a fundamental question, more because people like us are also residing near such schools.

[English]

We should not allow this. Drugs and alcohol are available at the school premises.

[Translation]

Though there is law for it, it is not implemented.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : The Government does the wrong thing as this cannot happen without the permission of the Government.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : This is the point where we become weak when we think that it is not ours but their responsibility. As our houses are there, our servants are also busy there, so it is the responsibility of all of us. It is not the weakness involving just one day or one Government but this has been going on for generations...*(Interruptions)* *[English]* We should collectively... *(Interruptions)* I appreciate that.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Why is the permission given to open wine shops near the schools?...*(interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Unless and until there is social checking and the involvement of the common man, how is it possible? Therefore it is the responsibility of us all, irrespective of whether they may belong to this side or that side of the House.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Jayaben has also said *[English]* and I want to thank each one of them including Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

All of them have taken time off to discuss on this issue patiently. [English] I am deeply grateful. I am also enriched by the knowledge that all of them have shared and by the valuable suggestions that they have given us. There are some amendments, which have to be adopted. I move that the Bill be passed.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : The right of adoption should be given to Indian parents also.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Yes, I am sorry, I wanted to talk about that. [Translation] There are about 20,000 orphaned Chinese children who have been given refuge somewhere or the other in the world. Here in India, the age of children increases due to several drawbacks and this does not happen. I hope, [English] and of course, Indians are given top priority. In-house adoption, in-country adoption is mandatory. [Translation] First we show the children to our countrymen. If a child is not adopted within 6 months in an orphanage, then we give a chance to outsiders, what you pointed out is correct. This nuisance and exploitation have taken place in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and at some other places. And if we foreclose that option also, then the children would become overaged, then no body adopts them and the end result is that they land in bad hands when they become adults, particularly this happens more with the girls.

It is a good thing that those who come for adoption of a child, they prefer a girl child and ask for the same. [English] Everyone who wants to adopt a child has come and said they wanted a daughter. [Translation] When they are asked, why is it so? They say that the girl would look after them...(Interruptions) [English] That is the only heartening piece of note. I want to assure you that. [Translation] we do keep a stringent watch. [English] We have made it easier for other communities to adopt also and I am optimistic that we will work out the preposition.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 – Amendment of Section 1

Amendment made:

Page 1, for lines 14 and 15, substitute—

"detention, prosecution, penalty or sentence of imprisonment of juveniles in conflict with law under such other law." (3)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 – Amendment of Section 2

Amendments made:

Page 2, after line 1, insert—

(i) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely—

(aa) "adoption" means the process through which the adopted child is permanently separated from his biological parents and become

the legitimate child of his adoptive parents with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to the relationship;

(ii) in clause (d),—

(I) after sub-clause (i), the following sub-clause shall be inserted namely:-

"(ia) who is found begging, or who is either a street child or a working child.";

(II) in sub-clause (v), after the word 'abandoned', the 'or surrendered' shall be inserted;

(iii) in clause (h), for the words "competent authority", the words "State Government on the recommendation of the competent authority" shall be substituted; (4)

Page 2, line 2, for "(i)", substitute "(iv)"; (5)

Page 2, line 6, for "(ii)", substitute "(v)"; (6)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment no. 7 to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children)

Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment no. 7 to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 5A – Amendment of Section 4

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 8, insert-

Amendment of section 4 '5A. In section 4 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for the words "by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute for a district or a group of districts specified in the notification", the words "within a period of one year from the date of commencement of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute for every district" shall be substituted.' (7)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That new clause 5A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 5A was added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

THE MINISTER OF STATE TO THE MINISTRY OF
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI
RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment no. 8 to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment no. 8 to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

**New Clause 5B – Amendment of
Section 6**

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 8, insert-

Amendment of '5B. In section 6 of the principal Act, in section 6 sub-section (1), the words "or a group of districts" shall be omitted.' (8)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That new clause 5B be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 5B was added to the Bill.

**Clause 6–Procedure to be followed
when claim of Juvenility
is raised before any
court**

Amendments made:

Page 2, line 12, omit "produced before it". (9)

Page 2, for lines 18 and 19, substitute "recognised at any stage, even after final disposal of the case, and such claim shall be determined in terms of the provisions contained in this Act and the rules made thereunder, even if the juvenile has ceased to be so on or before the date of commencement of this Act." (10)

Page 2, for lines 20 and 21, substitute–

"(2) If the court finds a person to be a juvenile on the date of commission of the offence under sub-section (1), it shall forward the juvenile to the Board for passing appropriate orders and the sentence, if any, passed by a court shall be deemed to have no effect." (11)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

**Clause 7 – Amendment of
Section 10**

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 28, insert "Provided that in no case,

a juvenile in conflict with law shall be placed in a police lockup or lodged in a jail." (12)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 – Amendment of Section 12

Amendment made:

Page 2, line 30, for "or placed under the care of any fit institution", substitute "or placed under the supervision of a Probation Officer or under the care of any fit institution or fit person". (13)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 14 to the juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 14 to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 8A – Amendment of Section 14

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 30, insert--

Amendment of section 14. '8A. Section 14 of the principal Act shall

be renumbered as sub-section (1) thereof, and after sub-section (1) so renumbered the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

"(2) The Chief Judicial Magistrate or the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate shall review the pendency of cases of the Board at every six months, and shall direct the Board to increase the frequency of its sittings or may cause the constitution of additional Boards." (14)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That new clause 8A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 8A was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 – Amendment to Section 15

Amendment made:

Page 2, line 34, omit "or until he ceases to be a juvenile, whichever is later"; (15)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill,"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 10 – Amendment to Section 16

Amendments made:

Page 2, for lines 38 and 39, substitute

'10. In section 16 of the principal Act,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words "or life imprisonment", the words "or imprisonment for any term which may extend to imprisonment for life" shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (2), for the proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted, namely:—'. (16)

Page 2, line 41, after "section 15", insert "of this Act". (17)

(shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 11 – Amendment to Section 20

Amendment made:

Page 2, for line 45, substitute--

"Explanation. – In all pending cases including trial, revision, appeal or any other criminal proceedings in respect of a juvenile in conflict with law,". (18)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 12 – Substitution of New Section for Section 21

Amendment made:

Page 3, line 12, for "one thousand rupees", substitute "twenty five thousand rupees". (19)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (I) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury]

be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 20 to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 20 to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 12A – Amendment of Section 29

Amendment made:

Page 3, after line 12, insert—

Amendment of '12A. In section 29 of the principal Act, Section 29. in sub-section (1), for the words "by notification in Official Gazette, constitute for every district, or group of districts specified in the notification", the words "within a period of one year from the date of commencement of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute for every district" shall be substituted." (20)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That new clause 12A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 12A was added to the Bill.

Clause 13 – Amendment of Section 32

Amendment made:

Page 3, for line 14, substitute—

'(a) in sub-section (1),—

- (i) in clause (iv), the words "authorised by the State Government" shall be omitted;
- (ii) the following proviso shall be inserted at the end, namely:— (21)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 13, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 14 – Amendment of Section 33

Amendments made:

Page 3, for line 22, substitute—

'(b) for sub-section (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

"(3) The State Government shall review the pendency of cases of the Committee at every six months, and shall direct the Committee to increase the frequency of its sittings or may cause the constitution of additional Committees" (22)

Page 3, line 23, for "(3)", substitute "(4)". (23)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Rs : Suspension Under Rule 80 (I)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 24 (Vide Amendments list No.1 circulated on 28.7.2006) to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 24 (Vide Amendments list No.1 circulated on 28.7.2006) to the Juvenile justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 14A – Amendment of Section 34

Amendment made:

Page 3, after line 27, insert–

Amendment of '14A. In section 34 of the principal Act, after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

"(3) Without prejudice to anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, all institutions, whether State Government run or those run by voluntary organisations for children in need of care and protection shall, within a period of six months from the date of commencement of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006, be registered under this Act in such manner as may be prescribed." (24)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That new clause 14A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 14A was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 16 – Amendment of
Section 41**

Amendments made:

Page 3, for lines 39 to 42, substitute–

'(i) for sub-section (2), (3) and (4), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:–

"(2) Adoption shall be resorted to for the rehabilitation of the children who are orphan, abandoned or surrendered through such mechanism as may be prescribed.

(3) In keeping with the provisions of the various guidelines for adoption issued from time to time, by the State Government, or the Central Adoption Resources Agency and notified by the Central Government, children may be given in adoption by a court after satisfying itself regarding the investigations having been carried out as are required for giving such children in adoption.

(4) The State Government shall recognise one or more of its institutions or voluntary organisations in each district as specialised adoption agencies in such manner as may be prescribed for the placement of orphan, abandoned or surrendered children for adoption in accordance with the guidelines notified under sub-section (3):

Provided that the children's homes and the institutions run by the State Government or a voluntary organisation for children in need of care and protection, who are orphan, abandoned or surrendered, shall ensure that these children are declared free for adoption by the Committee and all such cases shall be referred to the adoption agency in that district for placement of such children in adoption in accordance with the guidelines notified under sub-section (3)". (25)

Page 4, line 2, for "Board", substitute "court". (26)

Page 4, for line 3, substitute "(a) to a person irrespective of marital status;". (27)

Page 4, line 6, for "parents", substitute "couples" (28)

Page 4, omit lines 7 to 9. (29)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 – Transfer between children's homes under the Act and Juvenile homes of like nature within the state

Amendment made:

Page 4, line 14, after "institution of a like nature", insert "or to such institutions outside the State in consultation with the concerned State Government and". (30)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 18 was added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (I) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No.31 to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No.31 to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

**New Clause 18A – Insertion of New
Section 62A**

Amendment made:

Page 4, after line 19, insert—

Insertion of new section 62A
"18A. After section 62 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"62A. Every State Government shall constitute a Child Protection Unit for the State and, such Units for every District, consisting of such officers and other employees as may be appointed by that Government, to take up matters relating to children in need of care and protection and juveniles in conflict with law with a view to ensure the implementation of this Act including the establishment and maintenance of homes, notification of competent authorities in relation to these children and their rehabilitation and co-ordination with various official and non-official agencies concerned." (31)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That new clause 18A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 18A was added to the Bill.

**Clause 19 – Amendment of
Section 64**

Amendments made:

Page 4, for line 20, substitute—

"19. In section 64 of the principal Act,—

- (i) for the words "may direct", the words "shall direct" shall be substituted;
- (ii) the following proviso and Explanation shall be inserted, namely:— (32)

Page 4, for line 23, substitute"

- "case of a juvenile in conflict with law undergoing a sentence of imprisonment, who has ceased to be so on or". (33)

Page 4, line 29, for "decided in terms of the" substitute "decided in terms of clause (1) of section 2 and other". (34)

Page 4, line 32, after "period of the sentence", insert "but such sentence shall not in any case exceed the maximum period provided in section 15 of this Act". (35)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 20 – Amendment of Section 68

Clause 1 – Short title

Amendments made:

Page 4, for lines 41 and 42, substitute—

'(b) in sub-section (2),—

(i) in clause (x), after the words, letter and brackets "sub-section (2)", the following words, letter and brackets shall be inserted, namely:—

"and the manner of registration of institutions under sub-section (3)";

(ii) after clause (xii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—'. (36)

Page 4, for line 44, substitute "section (2), notification of guidelines under sub-section (3) and the manner of recognition of specialised adoption agencies under sub-section (4) of section 41;" (37)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems that the preparations which should have been there at the time of drafting the bill, were not there, that is why so many amendments have been moved.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I thought that you were saying that I had forgotten amendment No.37 after No. 36.

[English]

The question is:

"That clause 20, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 20, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 3, for "2005", substitute "2006."; (2)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhary)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-sixth", substitute "Fifty-seventh"; (1)

(Shrimati Renuka Chowdhary)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please don't waste even a minute. First of all, listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to say that we had extended the time of the House till the passage of the Bill. If the hon. Members of the House want, they can resume Zero-Hour, but we have so many notices, it would take two hours.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, we resume Zero-Hour for fifteen minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, I have a suggestion. You can lay the Speeches of the Hon. Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Its matter is not ready with us. You all may please conclude your speeches in one minute.

Shri Hemlal Murmu — Not present.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to speak on an issue which is very important for the country particularly for Jammu and Kashmir. All of you know that every religion is an article of faith to its followers. One blunder has been committed by the Shrine Board during the Amarnath pilgrimage. Everybody is amazed at the news that the man has tried to create God. They made an artificial ice linga in place of the one that used to take form on its own by the ice. The hon. Governor himself and his Committee were involved in it. Though they consider themselves superior in the world...(Interruptions) their this act of making an artificial ice linga has brought a bad name to

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the country and this led to decline in the number of the pilgrims visiting there...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : But the government there is your own....(Interruptions)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : First listen to me. What I want to say is that it is a matter of regret for all of us because every person has faith in his/her religion and tomorrow any body could say that by making artificial linga (God)...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may ask whatever you want to.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Sir, I will conclude within the time allotted by you. Please, listen to me, I am saying that this has hurt the faith in the centuries old 'yatra' and it has pained all the believers including me. Through you, I would like to say that it should be taken seriously and anyone responsible for the incident, whether he is a high official or individual, should be dealt with strictly to keep the faith of the people intact so that no one may dare to make the 'Linga' again. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada) : Sir, in the late eighties, Archer Government had brought in a regulation about permit-free training scheme for international medical graduates. Unfortunately, recently the UK Government has amended that Act retrospectively wherein even the existing doctors working in UK have to be retrenched and have to come back. So, they will be jobless. Recently, the Health Minister of Andhra Pradesh has taken up this matter in the Health Ministers' Conference also. So, what we need to do is that through diplomatic and political channels, the Indian Government should take up this matter with the UK Government so that not only they serve the National Health Scheme of UK but it will also help our Indian graduates to go abroad and get post-graduation. Later on, they can come back and serve our nation.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important matter in the House, District Haridwar should be seceded from Uttaranchal and be included in Uttar Pradesh again. Ten thousand persons from Haridwar had staged a demonstration at Jantar-Mantar yesterday which included our party leader Prof. Ram Gopalji, Rajnarayan Budholiaji, Prof. Baghel and myself. The Uttar Pradesh District Reorganisation Bill was sent to the legislature for consideration in 2000 by His Excellency, Mr. President under section 3 of the constitution which was passed twice and sent to the Central Government by the Uttar Pradesh Legislature expressing the resolve of keeping the whole of the district Haridwar within Uttar Pradesh. Haridwar was intentionally included in Uttaranchal owing to the biased attitude of the Central Government in which the then BJP Minister* is mainly responsible alongwith the Congress.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not a Member of the House. Expunge his name.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : The expectations of the 15 lakh people of Haridwar including the youth, farmers, businessmen, minorities, transporters, lawyers and teachers have been dealt a severe blow. People came out on the streets and the police fired on them resulting in the death of a farmer named Raghubir. Not only this, thousands of people were sent to the jails and the Uttaranchal Government is trying to terrorize and harass them by prosecuting them under various sections. There is harassment in the name of business. The businessmen and the transporters are bearing the burnt of double taxation of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. The people there are unable to get justice due to lack of officials in the courts....(Interruptions). The minorities and the dalits are being neglected and injustice is being done to them. The reservation for the backward category has been reduced from 27 to 14 per cent and 19 per cent for the dalits. The

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

farmers have been made slaves through land legislations. Eleven legislative assembly constituencies out of 12 have been included in delimitation and the proposal has been sent to the Central Government after passing it in the legislative assembly again in 2004. Through you, I demand the Central Government to include Haridwar, which is in Uttaranchal, back into Uttar Pradesh keeping in view the aspirations of its population of 15 lakh and the feelings of the crowd of 10,000 people who had gathered here yesterday....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to raise a very importance issue of my State. It is about requesting the Government to convert to broad gauge the railway lines in Gujarat. The works of upgradation to broad gauge of the railway line like Surendra Nagar-Dhrangadhra, extension of Rajkot-Veraval-Somnath line upto Kodinar, Mehsana-Patan, Bhuj-Dahej are yet to be carried out. Similarly, the works like providing additional track between Ahmedabad and Mumbai and rail connectivity to Hajira are also to be taken up as yet.

I urge upon the Government to carry out these works at the earliest.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : The Railway Minister Shri Lalu Prasad has recently announced that the railways has proposed to put a blanket plan on non-passengers entering the railway station platforms all over the country. Thereby the friends and relatives of railway passengers who either go to receive or send off their dear ones at the railway stations would be prevented from doing so.

This kind of ban preventing access to the Railway platforms would greatly cause inconvenience to the aged rail passengers, patients who travel for treatments, pregnant women and mothers with infants and children.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

The railway stations are not maintained like airports where the passengers get assistance to go upto the aircraft with their luggages. Even passengers moving with wheel chairs get adequate care during air travel at the airport with exclusive staff available for that purpose to help such passengers. The luggages and baggages are moved in trollies by men hired for this purpose by airlines companies. But in railway stations the platforms are long and there are trains with 24 or 26 coaches necessitating passengers to walk a long distance along the platform with luggages. Even the porters available there offer services at exorbitant rates. Hence, it becomes necessary for railway passengers to get help from their friends and relatives to move luggages or to identify the seats and coaches.

The practice of party workers and volunteers coming into railway stations to either receive or send off their leaders will be affected. It is doubtful whether such access to railway stations on such occasions can be stopped at all without giving rise to law and order problem.

Hence, I urge upon the railways to consider more feasible and user-friendly ways and means to decongest the railway stations both from security and amenity to passengers point of view.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fertilizer factory in Barauni which is the only fertilizer factory in Bihar has been closed long time ago. Already there is no factory in Bihar and even the only fertilizer factory, which was a source of livelihood for thousands of people, has been closed by the Government. Therefore, the families of all the employees and the people dependent on that factory are on the verge of starvation. Revenue is also being lost and the farmers are also incurring losses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers in the House and urge that the important

fertilizer plant in Barauni, Bihar which is lying closed, should be restarted immediately so that the problem of livelihood and starvation being faced by the employees and other people dependent on it can be solved and the opportunities for employment are made available which were lost as a result of its closure. With these words, I express my gratitude to you and once again draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards it that it should be restarted soon.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore) : Sir, due to heavy rains and ferocious tides in coastal Karnataka, several houses of fishermen have collapsed and several fishermen are also missing.

According to a statement of the Government of Karnataka itself, nearly 94 people have died due to natural calamities and 4,199 houses have totally collapsed. The total estimated damage is of the order of about Rs. 183.57 crore. This state of affairs is continuing for years together, but no proper steps have been taken like putting permanent structures like stonewalls, etc., which are required to stop further damage to life and property of fishermen as a result of erosion caused by sea.

In fact, the coastal protection project has already been approved. It is a project worth Rs. 135.95 crore, but funds are not released by the Central Government in spite of repeated demands by the Government of Karnataka, and also by me on the floor of this House on several occasions.

Therefore, I urge the Director, Coastal Erosion Directorate and the Central Water Commission to release the said amount without any further delay, and complete the project at the earliest in order to put an end to the danger on the life and property of fishermen in coastal Karnataka. Thank you.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Sir, I would like to associate with him.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : Sir, a few hours ago, the whole House was listening with rapt attention and with a sense of deep reverence to the memory of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, when we were discussing the Mukherjee Commission Report. This is the tradition in our country. Our country has a tradition of respecting the national leaders, whose contributions to the society are innumerable.

As you know, late Shri Biju Patnaik was a leader of national stature. He also earned fame internationally, as he was a very good pilot. He was also a freedom fighter, and he spent many years in jail during the British rule. Further, on the instruction of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, he flew to Indonesia to save the hero of freedom struggle of Indonesia from the clutches of the Dutch rulers.

Shri Biju Patnaik was also a Member of this House several times. He was a former Union Minister, and he was twice the Chief Minister of Orissa. People in Orissa and outside Orissa also had great respect for him. On 28 of last month, the Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Naveen Patnaik, unveiled a full-size statue of Shri Biju Patnaik. Unfortunately, on the very same night, a group of miscreants beheaded and demolished the statue of Shri Biju Patnaik, and they showed utter disrespect to Shri Biju Patnaik. This action of the miscreants resulted in widespread resentment, anger and protest all over the State.

21.00 hrs.

Now also, in every part of the State, protests are going on. Ten persons have been arrested and the shocking thing is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : *[Translation]* What do you want from the Central Government? *[English]* What do you want the Central Government to do?

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : The persons who have been arrested belong to the Congress Party. They are workers of the Congress Party. One arrested

person is from the District Youth Congress. The whole House should condemn it; we condemn it. My appeal to the Congress leaders is let them advise their workers not to indulge in such heinous crimes. They are office bearers of the Congress Party. One person whose name is*. Let the Congress leaders advise their workers and leaders not to indulge in such heinous crimes. The whole House should condemn it. There is widespread resentment, and day before yesterday, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathi and all other hon. Members raised this issue in this House. You were in the Chair at that time. The whole House should condemn it. Let the Congress Party advise their people in Orissa not to indulge in such heinous crimes.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : Sir, this is a direct allegation and I take objection to it. You have to expunge those remarks. How can you say that? We are ready for an inquiry if you substantiate it.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The name of the party taken by the hon. Member will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : ...*This is the attitude of the Congress Party towards national leaders like Shri Biju Patnaik.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a State matter. Your Party is in power there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : The hon. Minister should not try to shield the culprit. It is a cowardice act; it is a heinous crime.

*Not recorded.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI (Puri) : We are all associating with what he has stated. Kindly give instructions to that effect....(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE : You cannot do that. Can you prove that the Congress workers have done that? If you want an inquiry, we are ready for that. But you made an allegation, you can not get away like that.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : While associating myself with what Shri Prasanna Acharya said.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is a State matter. What can the Centre do in a State matter?

[Translation]

All hon'ble Members who want to be associated with that matter should give their names in writing on a slip. They shall be associated.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB : On 17th of April, 1927, when he passed away, he was a Member of this House, both the Houses were adjourned. That was the time when the whole nation paid respects to that late lamented leader. He was elected to this House when all other twenty constituencies went in favour of the Congress Party.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mehtabji, Shri Prasanna Acharyaji have already spoken on this subject, therefore your speech will not go on records.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I am just making a request that we should rise above partisanship. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE : If anything is done, if any inquiry is to be made, we are ready to do that. But you cannot make allegations like that, and sit in judgement too.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI (Puri) : Who says 'no' ? Do it.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that there are two tehsils named Dharchula and Munsari of Pithauragarh in Uttaranchal....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE : We have the greatest respect for Late Biju Patnaik.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI : Sir, we are all associating.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said that all hon'ble members who was to be associated should give their name writing on slips. They shall be associated.

[English]

Hon. Members, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathi, Shri B. Mahtab, Shri Brahmananda Panda, Shri Kharabela Swain, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Shrimati Archana Nayak and Shri Sugrib Singh are associating with the matter raised by Shri Prasanna Acharya.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are two tehsils namely Dharchula and

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

Pithauragarh in the border district of Pithauragarh in Uttaranchal where there is large population of Scheduled Tribes and forest dwellers. Both the tehsils are located in inaccessible and snowy area. That is why there is neither any industry nor any agricultural activity is carried out there. As a result of this the economic condition of the inhabitants of these tehsils is weak and miserable. A long standing demand of the inhabitants of these tehsils is that both these tehsils should be declared tribal tehsils.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a unanimous proposal has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of Uttaranchal for declaring Dharchula and Munasari tehsils of Pithauragarh district in Uttaranchal as tribal tehsils. In this regard hon. Prime Minister has in January 2004 at Dehradun declared the said tehsils as tribal tehsils but these tehsils have not so far been declared as tribal tehsils. So the people of this area is in mood of agitation. Therefore, I demand that both these tehsils should immediately be declared tribal areas.

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem) : Sir, last week, the Veerappa Mallya Overseeing Committee submitted its report to the hon. Prime Minister with regard to 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in higher educational institutions in the country.

This Oversight Committee was constituted in order to ensure that action is taken immediately for implementation of reservations for OBCs in institutes of higher education. However, to our utter surprise, the Committee recommended a staggered implementation of the 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in institutes of higher education. This is not acceptable to us. More than 60 per cent of the people in the country are deprived of the right to join institutes of higher education. A number of reports have come out day after day that certain institutions of higher education like IIMs and IITs in the country are not willing to cooperate with the Government in this regard. One stray

incident that has happened in some area should not be taken into consideration. The will of the majority people should be taken into account. We, therefore, urge the Government to immediately bring the Reservation for OBCs Bill to Parliament and have it passed in this Session itself. Then only the OBCs will get their due share in higher education.

The most important factor is that everybody should accept the rule of law in the country but it is not happening. The 27 per cent reservation is a right of the OBC people as enshrined in the Constitution and being implemented since 1994-95. However, to our dismay we are not getting due representation in the Government jobs because there is no opportunity in the education sector. Higher education is a must and they should get educational opportunities. Then only they will be able to get jobs in Government service. That is why I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India to come forward and implement this reservation policy from this academic year itself so that there would not be any delay. If any delay takes place there will be total injustice to the OBC community at large in the country.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, we want to associate with this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Those who want to associate themselves with this issue may please send slips to the Table.

Now, Shri P. Mohan, Dr. K.S. Manoj and Dr. Karan Singh Yadav are associating with the matter raised by Shri Thangkabalu.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAIK (Kendrapara) : Sir, woman is depicted indecently in the print media as well as electronic media to sell consumer items and to amass wealth. Printing vulgar pictures and posters of women in newspapers has become the order of the day. It has a negative effect on the growing youngsters. Our culture is being destroyed. The moral value of women in the society is being depicted as a commodity.

So, I request the Union Government to take immediate remedial measures to bring suitable amendments in the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 to make it more stringent.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an advertisement was published for the recruitment of 3016 gangmen and to other posts in 2006 at Bilaspur by the Railway zone of Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh. In response to this advertisement 824000 people applied for group D posts. As many as 287000 applicants were called to appear in the examination and rest 537000 applicants were rejected despite submitting bank draft and bankers cheque of Rs. 40. Majority of the rejected candidates were from Bilaspur of Chhattisgarh State. Out of 287000 candidates 4553 were appointed 4413 people were from Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh who were not appointed and they were overlooked. I just want to say that there is no difference between bank draft and bankers cheque, both were of the value of rupees 40. Candidates from other States viz. Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan have been called.

Sir, there is a ratio of five candidates to one post but instead of the ratio of five persons to one post only one and half candidates were taken. After that candidates were selected. Out of these 3016 posts, 2054 are from Bihar, 481 from Jharkhand, 275 from Rajasthan and only 329 candidates have been selected from Chhattisgarh. It smacks of irregularities and bungling. People from Bihar are taken in large number while lesser number of local people are selected. It gives rise to doubt that people close to the Minister of Railways might have benefited by selecting candidates through committing irregularities and bungling. I would like to request to conduct an enquiry regarding ignoring local people and Chhattisgarh and the rejection of 587000 applications.

I would also like to state that earlier in 1998 and 2000 for recruiting the candidates for the posts of gangmen group D, physical test was conducted initially in which tests

like running and weight lifting were conducted. But this time first of all candidates are being selected and thereafter physical tests are being conducted. I request Central Government to conduct an enquiry into all these matters, cancel the list of selected candidates, re-examination should be conducted and a fresh result be declared. The present result should also be withheld.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Deputy Speaker, Sir, 165 million tonnes of iron-ore was produced in India during 2005-2006. Out of the above, 75 million tonnes of iron-ore was used up by the Indian Steel Industry and 90 million tonnes was exported. If such large-scale exports continue, our natural iron-ore wealth would be exhausted in 25 years and we would have to take resort to imports. The market would not be able to meet our own requirements. As per the reports of the Ministry of Mines the cost of extraction of iron-ore is estimated to be Rs. 300 per tonne. Although iron-ore is being exported at Rs.1600 per tonne, the Government is not receiving any part of the profit. Why is it so? I request you to impose a ban on the export of iron-ore. I have with me some cuttings from the newspapers, "Punjab Kesri". It has been written therein that Kamal Nath has made a mockery of the slogan, "Sonia ka hath, garibon ke saath", that Kamal Nath has broken the back of the Indian Steel Industry and that Kamal Nath has bankrupted the Indian Sponge Iron industry.

I do not wish to take much more of your time as I have been given limited time to speak but I would like to ask the Minister why the Government is not receiving any portion of the revenue generated through this sector. China produces 10 per cent more steel than us. Even so, it imports iron-ore. The situation today is similar to that which existed at the time the East India Company used to operate. It is my request that export of iron-ore be banned at the earliest and our natural wealth be saved.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hirapur Panchayat in Banda Legislative Assembly area in Sagar which is my constituency in Madhya Pradesh has been yielding raw iron for a long time. This area falls in the Bijawar Tehsil in Chhattarpur

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

district and is spread out in a 90 km. long and 40 kilometer wide radius between Banda and Sayagarh. Large quantities of iron is being extracted from this area since the time of British rule. In that period only a particular community used the iron to make utensils and weapons. Now, the mineral mafia is exporting the iron extracted at the upper most level by making nominal payment to the labourers. Nearly 21 applications have been submitted for getting a lease from the Department of Minerals. Since this land falls under reserved forest area category, the applications for lease take a long time in being processed and are sanctioned with great difficulty. If the Government gets a special survey conducted in this area and establishes industries based on raw material then many direct and indirect benefits would accrue to the people and new employment opportunities would be generated.

Hence, I request the Union Government through you, to get a survey conducted by the Department of Minerals in order to establish steel industry in Hirapur in Sagar to utilize the iron extracted from that place.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 16 schemes for Rajasthan have been sanctioned under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme of the Union Government with an estimated project cost of Rs. 375.67 crores. 10,090 villages and 4163 settlements (dhanis) are proposed to be included for electrification under the sanctioned schemes. 16 schemes with an estimated project cost of Rs.673.88 crores with Rural Electrification Corporation under which 2927 villages and 2433 settlements have been included for electrification. The Rajasthan Government has been requested to sanction the said schemes time and again and a request in this regard has been made to the Chief Minister Vasundharaji vide letter dated 21 March, 2006. The rural areas in these districts cannot be issued domestic electricity connections as long as the 16 schemes in respect of the said districts are not sanctioned. I would

like to demand that the Union Government instructs the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Corporation to sanction the said schemes expeditiously.

With these words, I end my statement.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Thank you, Sir. I want to draw the attention of the House and the hon. Minister of Railways to the problems faced by the women in local trains of Sealdah Division. They met the DRM of Sealdah Division, but he did not recognize them.

In the local trains in the Sealdah Division, earlier, the two women bogies used to be one after the other. But nowadays, the Railway authorities have put one women bogies in the front of the train and another at the rear of the train, and there is vendors' compartment immediately next to the women's bogies. The why of curds water and other goods from the vendors' compartment fall on the platform, which is next to the women's bogie, with the result whenever the women come on to the platform, to board, they get slipped and regular accidents take place.

They have already given their representation to the DRM; the DRM has neglected the women passengers and that is the reason why I am raising this issue in the Parliament. Women have got together in the Parliament Street for a *dharma*, for legalising their womanhood and for making one-third reservation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your demand?

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Why were those women neglected in the Sealdah Division? That is why, I am raising this issue. I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to look into the matter so that the two women bogies can be put one after the other and the vendors' compartment may be kept away from those compartments of women. That would be better because this would not cause any accidents.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Government, through you, to provide full quota of wheat for Rajasthan as per its requirement under the Public Distribution System. Sir, I am very sorry to state that unfair treatment is being meted out to Rajasthan and that its share of wheat has been reduced drastically. Not even ten per cent of the APL families in the State are being provided wheat. Similarly, the 25.66 lakh BPL families in the State are not getting adequate quantity of wheat under the scheme. Antyodaya Annapurna Yojana is in a worse state. The Supreme Court has issued instructions to the Union Government to provide ration to the poor through the APL, BPL, Antyodaya and Annapurna schemes but the Union Government is flouting the orders of the Supreme Court and meting out a stepmotherly treatment to Rajasthan.

Hence, I would like to request the Union government, through you, that Rajasthan be provided wheat for the APL, BPL families as per its requirement. I would like to make another point. The State Government has written in this regard many times but no action has been taken so far. The State Government has made a request for 13.86 lakh metric tonnes of wheat and an assistance of Rs. 1474 crores but the Union Government has disregarded its request. Due to this reason the poor are not getting any help.

Sir, it is requested, through you, that the Government provide wheat for APL, BPL consumers in Rajasthan.

With these words I conclude my statement.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Sir, this is a very important matter with regard to Rajasthan. Hence, my name may also be associated with this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I associate his name.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Panji) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have had a discussion on the Juvenile Justice (Amendment) Bill today but I want to quote an

incident related to the same Ministry. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India vide their letter dated 17th July, 2006 had invited the national award winning children within the age group of 13 to 16 years from various States of the country to attend an international programme to be held in Mongolia from August 1 to 8. They were scheduled to leave Delhi on the 30th July. Their visas to go to Mongolia were ready but on the night of the 30th July, they were informed that the trip had been cancelled so they should go back to their respective States. They were sent back to their States without assigning any reason....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your demand?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK : I want to say that the same Ministry has done such an injustice to the children of 13 to 16 years of age. Fathers of these children had also incurred expenditure on journey with them but had to return. The children had been felicitated by their respective schools. Now you can imagine how embarrassing they must have felt when they went back to their schools. That is why through you, I want to say that the officers in the Ministry has done injustice to the children which should be examined and the officers responsible for that should be punished.

SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE (Wardha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister in his package to Vidarbha has announced waiver of interest on the loan of farmers but in absence of clear directions in this regard the farmers are still facing difficulties. For example, the farmers against whom recovery proceedings are on in the courts, are not getting loans even today. There is no clear cut policy in sight with regard to the farmers who had taken loans for irrigation system or tractors and the said items had been attached owing to which even the bank officers are in a fix.

A survey report says that the farmers who took up ancillary profession like dairying or any other profession,

[Shri Sudhakar Vaghmare]

did not commit suicide. In view of that, announcement of 75 per cent was made for animals like cows and buffaloes but due to arbitrariness of the officers, the poor farmers are being looted. The Government has neither any control on it nor pays any attention towards it. It was stated that utmost care would be taken in this regard but despite announcement of the package by the Prime Minister nothing is being done in this regard. I, therefore, urge the Government to implement the package announced for Vidarbha.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Sir, just now we have discussed the problems of children. Children are the future of our nation. About 34 per cent of our population is below 14 years. Out of this 34 per cent of the total population, nearly 47 per cent of the child population is malnourished and under weight. Lack of food security and poor nutritional status affects the physical growth, intelligence, behaviour and learning abilities of children and adolescents, especially during the development period of brain from zero to three years age. To tackle this problem, we had implemented Integrated Child Development Scheme in 1975 but until now only 50 per cent of child population is covered under this Scheme. Now there are around eight lakh *Anganwadi* Centres in our country.

We need 14 lakh *Anganwadi* workers to cover the entire population of children, adolescents, pregnant woman and nursing women for implementation of the ICDS programme. *Anganwadi* workers and helpers play a pivotal role in the functioning of this programme. There are about 15 lakh *Anganwadi* workers and helpers in our country. But they are very meagerly paid. They work for four to five hours a day but they are very meagerly paid. They are staging a *dharna* in Jantar Mantar since last week. Around 10 to 15 thousand workers are participating in the *dharna* to seek the attention of the Government for redressal of their grievances.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : A lengthy discussion has already taken place on this. What do you want?

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ : So, I would like to urge upon the Government to universalise the ICDS programme and also to regularise the services of the *Anganwadi* workers to strengthen the programme.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is Kevaladeo National Birds Sanctuary at Bharatpur in Rajasthan which has been declared an international heritage by the UNESCO. This is the second largest birds sanctuary after Africa. Birds from Siberia and Russia and other parts of the world migrate to this place after flying thousands of kilometers. Besides being main attraction for the bird loving tourists across the world, this is the main support to the economy of Bharatpur. In different 18 ponds in the area of the sanctuary, a specific water level is maintained. It is necessary to maintain the continuity of the said water. If it is not maintained, various birds who migrate to Ghana Birds Sanctuary, go back to their places. For this purpose 500 MCF water was reserved in the year 1991 but sometimes the farmers block the water flow and the Ghana Birds Sanctuary suffer a great loss for want of water. Therefore, I demand that the scheme of bringing Chambal water to Ghana Birds Sanctuary estimated at Rs. 100 crore which was sent to the Central Government be sanctioned. Apart from this, quantum of Yamuna water should especially be fixed for Ghana Birds Sanctuary at Bharatpur. Birds of 376 species migrate to this place and even breed here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, presently the Rajasthan Government bears the entire expenditure of its maintenance but the Rajasthan Government cannot afford to meet the required expenditure thereon. The Central Government is, therefore, requested that in order to maintain continuance of water supply of the Ghana Birds Sanctuary, all the schemes forwarded there to should be sanctioned.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whenever the issue of providing reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or other backward classes in the educational institutions, universities, medical, engineering or management courses has been taken up, the elite class opposes the very idea of such reservation but at the same time advocates the idea of providing scholarship or other assistance to these classes. The Central Government has been running a post-matric scholarship scheme but it is very sad to say that the OBC students pursuing university, medical, engineering, B.Ed. courses in Rajasthan are not getting post-matric scholarship. Even the hostellers are not getting the same. Whatever little scholarship is disbursed, that is disbursed in the year end. Such situation is prevailing not only in the case of OBCs but also in the case of SCs and STs. Last year, the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes resorted to gherao the Directorate of Social Welfare then some funds were allocated by the Central Government.

I, therefore, would like to urge the Ministry of Social Welfare and Empowerment that since new session has started so it should make an assessment of eligible OBC, SC and ST students and allocate required funds so that the students get scholarship in the beginning of the session otherwise the students cannot afford to carry on their studies with borrowed money. I wish to convey this matter to the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment through you, Sir.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, right now, two honourable Members Shri Kailash Meghwal and Dr. Karan Singh Yadav have raised very important issues relating to Rajasthan. I request you to associate my name with these two issues.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Name of Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava may be associated with these issues.

[English]

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY (Anantapur) : Sir, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh is continuously a drought-affected district for the past several decades. It is treated as next only to Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. Earlier there was drought twice in three years. But in the past seven years, there has been drought every year. The farmers who are unable to face the situation are forced to commit suicide. Though the *kharif* season has started over two months ago, there is no rainfall at all. Out of 63 mandals in our District, only a minimum of rainfall of 21 mm was there and that too in only twenty mandals, whereas it was to be 177 mm. Till now there is a minimum rainfall in 25 mandals only and farmers have sown the seeds. Due to acute shortage of rainfall, the seeds are not sown and the farmers are in great distress.

I would urge upon the Government of India, through you, to immediately come to the rescue of the farmers of Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh and to take long-term measures for providing alternative sources of irrigation and see to it that the problems of the farmers are solved. The issue is very serious and it needs immediate attention of the Government of India and remedial measures should be taken to help the farmers of the District.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

21.31 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 3, 2006/ Sravana 12, 1928 (Saka).

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