

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Sixth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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## CONTENTS

*[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XV, Sixth Session, 2005/1927 (Saka)]*

No. 11, Wednesday, December 7, 2005/Agrahayana 16, 1927 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCES .....	1—2
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
★ Starred Question Nos. 202-205 .....	2—30
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
★ Starred Question Nos. 206-221 .....	30—61
Unstarred Question Nos. 2070-2283 .....	61—303
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE .....	303—308
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
Fifteenth Report .....	308
STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES	
Fourth Report .....	308—309
SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS	
(i) Re: The circumstances leading to the resignation of Shri K. Natwar Singh, Union Minister without portfolio) from the Council of Ministers following the Volcker Committee Report and subsequent revelations .....	309—322
(ii) Re: Reported suicide by the farmers in Maharashtra and other parts of the country .....	339—343
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Situation arising out of damage caused by floods due to heavy rains in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto .....	343—375, 421—432
★ Dr. Chinta Mohan .....	343, 347—350
★ Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal .....	344—347, 368—372, 421
★ Shri A. Krishnaswamy .....	350—352, 421—422, 426—428
★ Shri P. Mohan .....	352—353

\*The sign+marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri K. Subbarayan .....	354
Shri E. Ponnuswamy .....	355—356
Shri Ananth Kumar .....	357—361, 424—425, 430—431
Shri M. Shivanna .....	361—362
Dr. C. Krishnan .....	363—364
Shri N.S.V. Chitthan .....	364—365, 423—424
Shri K.V. Thangkabalu .....	365—367, 422—423
Shri S.K. Kharventhan .....	367—368
Shri S.S. Palanimanickam .....	372
Shri Shivraj V. Patil .....	425—426, 428—431
<b>WAREHOUSING (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) BILL, 2005 .....</b>	<b>375—376</b>
<b>MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 .....</b>	<b>376</b>
(i) <b>Need for gauge conversion on Dindigul, Coimbatore section and upgradation of amenities at the Madurai, Tirunelveli and Dindigul railway stations in Tamil Nadu</b>	
Shri N.S.V. Chitthan .....	376—377
(ii) <b>Need to extend Rajkot and Porbandar bound trains up to Veraval for promoting tourism in Junagarh district, Gujarat</b>	
Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad .....	377
(iii) <b>Need to accord group 'C' Government servant status to Anganwadi workers in the country</b>	
Shrimati Krishna Tirath .....	377—378
(iv) <b>Need to introduce a direct train connecting Mahua, Dhola and Ahmedabad in Gujarat</b>	
Shri V.K. Thummar .....	378
(v) <b>Need to ensure that the royalty on mineral resources is spent for the welfare and developmental activities in the exploration zone in Gujarat</b>	
Shri Jivabhai A. Patel .....	378—379
(vi) <b>Need to withdraw the move to shift Dabolim International Airport from Dabolim to Mopa in Goa with a view to safeguard the interest of people engaged in tourism sector</b>	
Shri Alemao Churchill .....	379—380
(vii) <b>Need for construction of a Road under Bridge at railway crossing near Kanavi Veerabhadra temple at 298 km. on Sholapur—Mangalore section in Karnataka</b>	
Shri G. Karunakara Reddy .....	380
(viii) <b>Need to allocate adequate funds for early completion of Kanpur Multi-Purpose Project in Orissa</b>	
Shri Ananta Nayak .....	380—381



SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(ix) Need to take suitable measures for reconstruction of dilapidated building of Main Post Office at Konch Nagar in Jalaun Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma .....	381
(x) Need to provide office accommodation and travel facilities to office bearers of Panchayats and Nagar Palikas in the country Shri Ram Swaroop Koli .....	381—382
(xi) Need to expedite completion of on-going Hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh Shri Kiren Rijiju .....	382
(xii) Need to sanction setting up of handloom Production-cum-Design Development Centre and an export mart in Fulia, West Bengal Shri Alakesh Das .....	382—383
(xiii) Need to allocate funds for development of tourism in Howrah district, West Bengal Shri Hannan Mollah .....	383
(xiv) Need to introduce a super fast train between Moradabad and Mumbai Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq .....	384
(xv) Need to provide special economic package for revival of sugar industry in Uttar Pradesh Shri Harikewal Prasad .....	384
(xvi) Need to expedite completion of pending irrigation projects in Palamu region, Jharkhand Shri Manoj Kumar .....	385
(xvii) Need to streamline rehabilitation measures being extended to Tsunami victims in Tamil Nadu Shri D. Venugopal .....	385—386
(xviii) Need to develop Lonar Crater in Buldana Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra as a tourist resort Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul .....	386
(xix) Need to release additional stock of fertilizer to the State of Andhra Pradesh to meet its shortage in the State Dr. M. Jagannath .....	386—387
(xx) Need to confer Indian Citizenship on nearly 500 Malayalee Muslims in Kerala facing threat of deportation to Pakistan Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar .....	387—388
<b>DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193</b>	
i. Role of India in WTO with particular reference to the forthcoming 6th Ministerial Conference of WTO in Hongkong .....	389—420, 432
Shri Prabodh Panda .....	389—394
Shri Ajit Kumar Singh .....	394—396
Shri Kharabela Swain .....	396—400
Shri Madhusudan Mistry .....	400—403

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Rupchand Pal .....	403—408
Shri Mohan Singh .....	408—409
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav .....	410—414
Shri C. Kuppusami .....	414—415
Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil .....	416—418
Shri K.S. Rao .....	418—420
Shri B. Mahtab .....	432—436
Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa .....	436—437
Prof. M. Ramadass .....	437—440
Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar .....	441—443
Shri Haribhau Rathod .....	443—444
Dr. Chinta Mohan .....	444—445
Shri Hiten Barman .....	445—446
Shri P.C. Thomas .....	446
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav .....	446—447
Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu .....	447—448
Shri Kamal Nath .....	448—457
II. (i) Serial bomb blasts in Delhi on 29.10.2005	
(ii) Terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir	
(iii) Naxalite attacks that took place in Jehanabad, Bihar on 13.11.2005 and	
(iv) Naxalite attack that took place at home Guard Training Centre, Girdih, Jharkhand on 11.11.2005 .....	457—458
Shri Nikhil Kumar .....	457—458
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions .....	459
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions .....	460—466
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions .....	467—468
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions .....	467—468

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005/Agrahayana 16, 1927 (Saka)*

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

*[English]*

### OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, Shri Kammodilal Jatav and Shri S.T. Quadri.

Shri Kammodilal Jatav was a Member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989, representing Morena Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, Shri Jatav was a Member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1980 to 1984.

Shri Jatav was a Member of Committee on Papers Laid on the Table from 1985 to 1987 and Committee of Privileges in 1989.

Shri Jatav also served as the Chairman of State Warehousing Corporation, Madhya Pradesh from 1982 to 1984.

A committed social worker, Shri Jatav was actively involved in welfare activities for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Kammodilal Jatav passed away on 7th September, 2005 at Morena, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 76.

Shri S.T. Quadri was a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1984, representing Shimoga Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.

Shri Quadri served as Member, Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

An engineer and steel technologist by profession, Shri Quadri served the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravati in various capacities. He was nominated as the Director, Salem Steel Plant, Tamil Nadu by the Government of India in 1976. He visited several countries

of the world for holding technical discussions and expansion activities of the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravati, Karnataka.

A committee social activist, Shri Quadri endeavoured for spread of education and strove for betterment of the lot of the needy and the poor. He was the founder President of Taj-Ui-Ulum Education Society, Bhadravati; life patron of Millath Education Society, Shimoga and patron of Azad Girls High School, Shimoga. Shri Quadri was also associated with various other organisations like Karnataka State Haj Committee and Rotary and Century Clubs, Bangalore.

Shri S.T. Quadri passed away on 15th November, 2005 at Mysore, Karnataka at the age of 73, after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the death of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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.*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you afterwards. I appreciate your sentiments. Please co-operate with me. You may raise it in a proper manner. I am not minimising the importance of your matter.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

#### Mobile Telephone Services in Rural Areas

\*202. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government has not been able to provide satisfactory mobile telephone services in rural areas despite the technological advancement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any targets have been fixed with regard to the expansion of mobile telephone services in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for provision of adequate mobile telephone services in rural areas?

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) Government has been making efforts to provide telephone network (including that for mobile services) in the rural areas progressively.

(c) and (d) While no targets have been fixed with regard to expansion of mobile telephone services in rural areas, it is expected that most of the villages with a population of more than 2,000 will be covered by mobile network by the end of 2007.

(e) In addition to the support provided for the normal rollout plans of the telecom service providers, Government is examining the feasibility of providing support for creation of infrastructure for mobile services in rural areas from the Universal Service Obligation Fund.

*[Translation]*

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: I am not at all satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister given in response to my question. Through you, I had asked the Government whether the mobile services provided in the rural areas were satisfactory or not? This part has not been answered. Another question was what steps have been taken by the Government to provide adequate mobile services in the rural areas? This part has also been left unanswered. The reply of the Government is that it is expected that most of the villages with a population of more than 2000 will be covered by mobile network by the end of 2007. Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the

Government works along expectations? NDA Government had ignored the rural areas. So one can easily see their fate. The rural people have high hopes from the UPA Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken by the Government to provide mobile telephone services in the rural areas? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes silence is also a virtue.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that it is a continuous process. In fact, we are in the very early stages. Our tele-density or penetration is only 10.4 throughout the country. It is a fact that in the urban areas, the penetration level is high. It is up to 50 per cent. It is a sad fact that rural areas are still in the process of getting connected. Out of 600 district headquarters in the country, more than 589 districts have been covered. But the satisfactory levels are yet to be reached. It is a continuous process. The process is being done. The Government is actively pursuing this process. The Government PSUs are rolling out plans in this regard. Even the private sector companies are coming to the rural areas.

*[Translation]*

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the figures given in regard to tehsil 1.74 per cent mobile facility is being provided in rural areas as against 28.25 per cent facility provided in urban areas while private companies are providing better mobile facility in rural areas. The penetration level of Hutch company is 22 per cent in villages, whereas Reliance has 32 per cent, then why BSNL is not able to provide good service despite having so many facilities. It appears that they are working in connivance with private companies. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are likely to be taken by him to improve the services of BSNL on the lines of private companies.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Minister.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that BSNL services are

pretty good and the customers are after it. That is the reason we have a huge waiting list for its mobile services. People are seeking the BSNL connections because of its excellent services.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that there has been substantial expansion of mobile telephone services in rural areas, however, there are certain SDM headquarters which have not been covered as on date. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would provide mobile services in the SDM headquarters of rural areas.

*[English]*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I can talk about the BSNL. We have started the roll out obligations. We will be completing our roll out by the end of this year. Most of the district headquarters have been covered. As I said, it is a continuous process. When we cover more areas, new customers seem to be coming to the BSNL and to the other service providers. We will definitely be rolling out our obligations. We have also set up an ambitious target of 250 million phones by 2007. So, the roll out is going to take place probably in the next year. I can say that the services of the BSNL is improving. The roll out has already started. In this financial year the BSNL will be rolling out nearly 14.2 million new mobile services.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mobile network connections provided in the rural and urban areas of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh be beyond capacity as a result of which lines are constantly busy and despite dialing correct number it is not rightly connected. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are likely to be taken by him to mitigate such problems?

The Hon. Member said right now that there is some connivance with the private companies; it is quite true because private companies are providing much better facilities. The network installed in my constituency by Air Tel and Reliance are providing much better services than BSNL. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons behind it?

*[English]*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that this is what I was precisely saying. The services of the BSNL are so much sought after. There is so much demand for the BSNL services. Sometimes over capacity is taking place. To avoid over-capacity, the overloading, BSNL has started installing new BTS to handle this issue. This is a process. I can assure the hon. Member that by the end of January, the traffic will definitely be eased out and it will be a better service.

The reason for the other service providers to have better quality service is that they do not have that much of traffic and they have very less customers whereas BSNL has got much more customers.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.P. Abdullakutty.

He raised his hand and now goes away.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, BSNL is doing.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sukdeo Paswan.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, new connections are proposed to be provided by the end of the year 2007. Hon. Minister has given this assurance. However, through you, I would like to state that a BSNL tower has been installed in my constituency but it is neither functioning nor approval has been accorded to it whereas Reliance has been providing its services in Firisganj for months. BSNL tower has been installed there but approval has not been given for it. My constituency is 12 km away from the border of Nepal. So through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that how approval was given to Reliance and why BSNL has not started functioning over there?

*[English]*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: For this specific question, I will get back to the member.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have you expressed sorry?

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Yes, Sir.

Our consumers are facing problems in terms of shortage of prepaid connections, network jamming because lack of infrastructure is becoming a major problem. Minister, Sir, how do we overcome this problem?

Sir, companies such as Nortel Telecom, which have been awarded the work for improvement of telecom in South Kerala, are running behind schedule. What steps have been taken against this multinational company?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member is right. We have been having some delays because of roll-out of a particular company. They have started. We have had a review meeting with them and they have promised that by March of next year, they will be able to roll out their targets and meet them.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, I would like to ask. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have got a list of 27 Members. Sorry, I cannot accommodate all.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, BSNL, particularly in Maharashtra Circle recently announced. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are a leader now. You cannot put questions!

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, about six months back, BSNL, Maharashtra Circle, had announced that they would erect about 20 BSTS towers in my Constituency in Pune rural. As soon as they announced the list of places for erecting the mobile towers in Pune district, immediately thereafter Reliance and other private companies have already started their services whereas

BSNL officers are still telling me that they are in the process of ordering the equipment, and this will take another six months. The main reason that they—BSNL officers—are giving us is that the problem of deputation of ITS officers in BSNL has created problem and the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question briefly.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: BSNL is losing money to the tune of more than Rs. 600 crore on particularly this issue. I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government is planning to erect those towers in this year which were announced and are given in the list of BSNL towers.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I do not have the specific details as far as the question put by the hon. Member is concerned. If the hon. Member passes on the details, I can do something. Not only in his constituency but also the BSNL is rolling throughout the country. We are trying to achieve the target. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That shows his popularity without infrastructure!

DR. R. SENTHIL: Thank you, Sir. Many hon. Members have already pointed out regarding the gap between the capacity and subscription. I would just like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has got any figures with regard to the actual capacity and the actual subscription as also the gap. Has the Government got any time-bound plan to bridge this gap?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Right now, I can give the Member the actual capacity available but that will not solve the purpose; that will not be a direct answer. I can give the details to the hon. Member later.

MR. SPEAKER: You have a very thankless job because everybody wants a mobile in this country. That is good. You may try to do it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, mobile telephony has contributed significantly to the increase of the tele-density in the country. Unfortunately, the rural areas still have only, I suppose, less than about 1.8 as the tele-density. Certainly, mobile telephone is the best way, as I think, of improving upon that. I know that it was because of the visionary approach of the Government way back in the 1980s that there has been

a tremendous increase and improvement in our tele-communication services. We learn from the reply of the hon. Minister that the Government is examining the feasibility of providing support for the creation of infrastructure for mobile services in rural areas from the USO Funds. So, that is what is ought to be done. I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. What is the progress? What are, in fact, the impediments in not granting or entering into agreement under the USO for extension of mobile phones in the rural areas?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I think, most of the hon. Members' questions are towards rural connectivity. I would like to answer them in a more comprehensive way.

Let me tell the hon. Members this. Initially, most of the operators, private operators, were coming to the cities. Now, the cities are getting saturated. The operators have to start going to the rural areas because the market is there. More than 70 per cent of the population is living in the rural areas. Right now, all the operators are moving towards the rural areas. The BSNL has an advantage because the BSNL has first started in the rural area. Now, it is there. The capacity is now there with a lot of constraints too. The Government has realised that. Mobile is the fastest way of reaching any customer. So, it is better than a fixed-line connection. The Government is now in the policy of making sure that through the USO Fund, we can have some passive infrastructure like towers and shelters which can be shared by a number of operators so that the roll-out in the rural areas, to the non-profitable areas is faster. The Government is in the process. We are doing it. I think, by next year, we will be starting that.

#### **GDP Growth Rate**

\*203. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target for the annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been fixed for the current five year plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage increase in the annual growth rate required in agriculture, industry and service sectors to achieve the target;

(d) whether any schemes have been formulated to achieve the envisaged growth rate in each of these sectors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the additional funds required to implement the schemes?

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

#### **Statement**

(a) to (c) The targeted growth rate for the Tenth Plan (measured in terms of GDP at market prices) was 8.1% per annum. The growth rate for the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan is estimated to be 6.5% as per the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Tenth Five Year Plan had targeted to achieve a growth rate of 4.0%, 8.9% and 9.3% for agriculture, industry and services sector respectively. The achievement in the first three years of the Plan works out to 1%, 7% and 8.6% per annum respectively for these three sectors. This would imply that in order to achieve the original targets of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the average annual rate of growth of these sectors would have to be 8.5%, 11.7% and 10.3% respectively for agriculture, industry and services sector in the last two years of the Plan.

(d) and (e) The growth rates of the economy and of the broad sectors are the outcome of a complex process involving a large number of factors. It is not possible to formulate any scheme or programme which can necessarily ensure the achievement of the envisaged growth rates. In the Tenth Plan (2002-2007), a number of schemes and programmes have been formulated for the purpose of enhancing the growth and development of the economy. Some of these schemes and programmes are directly growth augmenting, but there are many others, particularly in the social sector, that may not directly raise the growth rate, but have an impact on human welfare and sustainability of the growth process. The Schemes and Programmes formulated for raising the rate of growth and development have been listed in the Tenth Plan Document and the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), which have been placed in the Parliament Library. The funds requirement for these schemes and programmes are reflected in the Annual Plans and the Union Budget. These can change from time to time, depending upon the situation and the pace of implementation.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I would like to say that the agricultural sector employs about 70 per cent of our workforce, and contributes about 20 to 25



per cent to our GDP. For every rupee a farmer's purchasing power increase by, India's GDP increase by three rupees. Hence, if India is to progress, then rural India has to be enriched. The cooperative movement and sectors would spearhead this rural reformation.

The assets of LIC, ICICI, UTI, IFCI and IDBI are to the extent of a total phenomenal growth of Rs. 4,70,027 crore. How much of their assets are invested in stock-market related securities? How much of their assets are invested in the co-operative sector? It is reported that LIC has invested one per cent of its assets in the co-operative sector as against the 90 per cent in the stock-market related securities. Is this true? If so, what steps the Government is taking to increase LIC investments in the co-operative sector whether it is for localised co-operative power stations or co-operative rural warehousing facilities for the storage of agro-commodities?  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him answer. Your question is about GDP growth rate. Now you are asking for the information about investment.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: It is about GDP growth rate. It is related to how much we invest in rural India.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: She wants to know how much is invested in rural India.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Member that I do agree that there has been a lower growth rate as far as agriculture is concerned. Now, I would like to share with the hon. Member the steps which have been taken by our present UPA Government to give the highest priority for the growth rate as far as agriculture is concerned.

Therefore, Sir, the outlays for the agriculture and the allied sector have been increased during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06. The planned outlay of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation was increased from Rs. 2,650 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4,179.32 crore during 2005-06. In the case of the Department of Animal Husbandry as well as the allied areas also, the increase is very much substantial. Sir, as far as the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Let him complete. You have another question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Would you not allow the Minister to reply?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, as far as the question relating to how much has been invested under the LIC is concerned, I need a separate notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. This does not relate to it. Yes, second supplementary.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, my second supplementary is also tangential which is—if we had power regularly in 24 hours a day x 7 days a week supplied to the agricultural sector—how much would the Government envisage India's GDP increase by?

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got any estimated if power was made available?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, now, as it has been pointed out by the UPA Government from time to time, the highest priority is now given to provide regular supply of electricity to the rural areas and that is why under the 'Bharat Nirman', nearly 1,25,000 unconnected villages are going to be connected under this special programme. As the Hon'ble Member is aware, a good care is being taken and the details have been worked out.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you, Sir. As GDP indicates only average growth rate of the country as a whole, whether targeted growth rate in terms of GDP for the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) does reflect the state of economic uplift of the economically weaker sections of the Indian people, particularly, the BPL people? If yes, the hon. Minister may please give details about the growth rate in terms of economic progress of the BPL people during the first three years of the Tenth Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. What details? It is because the supplementary is not for details.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: If no, he may kindly indicate what steps the Government of India has initiated to ameliorate the distress of such people during the Tenth Plan?

MR. SPEAKER: It is only on growth rate.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, as far as helping the poorest of the poor people to rise their standard of living is concerned, a number of schemes have already been launched. I would like to share with the hon.

Member the efforts which are being made now as far as taking care of addressing the problems of the poorest of the poor is concerned. Sir, under again the 'Bharat Nirman', special care has been taken to provide irrigation facilities. Apart from that, there are other programmes which have been directly addressed to take care of the problems of the poorest of the poor. One of the major programme which has been launched is the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana. The objective is to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line by organising them into self-help groups. As the hon. Member is aware, in the last Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has announced increasing the allocations to the credit facilities to be given, particularly, to the self-help groups. Nearly, 1,20,000 self-help groups are being covered under this programme.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given, I want you also to hear this.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Better attend to the Question yourself before giving advices.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, the hon. Minister has answered:

"It is not possible to formulate any scheme or programme which can necessarily ensure the achievement of the envisaged growth rate."

If the hon. Prime Minister himself has to say that it is not possible to have any scheme or programme to have an expected growth rate, I am sorry, the country cannot go in the right path. Sir, inter-linking of rivers is one which can increase the production of the country by crores of rupees. The Andhra Pradesh Government has envisaged to bring 65 acres of land into cultivation in the coming four or five years which can increase the production to an extent of crores of rupees. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are giving suggestions to him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is going to provide enough money to the Government of Andhra Pradesh either by way of giving guarantee to secure foreign loan or Central assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the trouble.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, just a minute. Before you make that comment.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen. Sit down please. You have not read the written answer. It says: "One scheme cannot be identified. There are many schemes have to be taken together to have the GDP rate." Therefore, instead of asking me to look into this matter, you should have to read it carefully.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, I require a special notice. I will be most happy to share whatever information is required to be there.

Sir, the hon. Member has referred to irrigation. I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, Sir, that under the budgetary allocation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), our present Government has increased the allocation from Rs. 2,800 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4,500 crore. So, that would give an indication that how our present Government is really concerned. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He was asking about inter-linking of rivers, foreign allocation and all that.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: About all those things, I will be most happy to answer, provided he gives a separate question.

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Thank you, Sir. In 1952, the GDP growth rate in the agriculture sector was to the tune of 69 per cent. Now, it has come down to 22 per cent. It means the agriculture sector in the rural areas is totally neglected from the beginning of the Government. I find out in the answer that the Minister has stated that the targeted growth rate was 8.1 per cent annum. The growth rate for the first three years is estimated to be 6.5 per cent according to the Mid-Term

Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Tenth Five Year Plan had targeted to achieve a growth rate of four per cent. The achievement in the first three years of the Plan works out to one per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Therefore, I would like to know—for such an important sector—whether the Government or the Prime Minister would think of a separate Budget like the 'Railways' have for 'Agriculture'. It is because the Minister has already replied that Rs. 2,000 crore are only provided in addition to earlier Budgets.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, the hon. Member is well aware that the growth rate in the agriculture sector has come down. The growth rate in the agriculture sector has been affected due to erratic monsoon condition as well as inadequate public investment. Now, this particular thing has been taken into consideration by the UPA Government. That is why, a number of schemes have already been envisaged. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is there going to be a separate Budget—'yes' or 'no'?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, the suggestion which the hon. Member has made, we will certainly look into the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will be a revolutionary step.

*[Translation]*

MOHD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply of the hon. Minister and even in the reply to supplementary question and we all agree that the contribution of GDP is reducing from agriculture and rural sector and the Government is also not able to achieve its target. The story of declining contribution and suicide by farmers have a link. Hon. Minister has stated that the Government has not been able to launch any scheme so as to enhance the contribution of GDP albeit efforts are being made in this direction. However, the outcome of the urban bias, be it in the field of technology, investment for public or private sector that whether any specific programme is being launched by the UPA Government to enhance the contribution of Gross Domestic Product from the rural sector? During Tenth Five Year Plan, the situation was different, however, does the Government

have any target specific programme for the changed scenario? Whether the hon. Minister has prepared any target specific programme by according priority in order to make up the backlog for increasing the share particularly of industrial sector in GDP contribution.

*[English]*

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, as the hon. Member knows, recently the Prime Minister made the announcement about taking up a new and very big initiative to help the rural poor which is called Bharat Nirman. It is going to take care of the deficiencies which are there in rural areas. Apart from that, the Prime Minister has also taken an initiative to constitute a Committee under his Chairmanship to take care of rural infrastructure.

These are some of the things which have been directly focussed to see that rural India, particularly the poorest of the poor and the people below the poverty line, get a better deal. Therefore, our Government is making all the efforts which are needed to see that rural India is given a better deal and the GDP growth rate, as far as rural India is concerned, is enhanced.

#### **Academic Standard of Private Medical Colleges**

\*204. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding sub-standard education and lack of facilities in some of the private medical colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government against such colleges?

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

#### **Statement**

(a) to (c) Permission to establish a new Medical College, increase in intake capacity or for starting new courses of study is given under the provision of the Act by Central Government, after ascertaining the availability of both faculties and infrastructure through Medical Council

of India (MCI), the recommendatory body set up for this purpose. MCI before making its recommendations for allowing for establishment of new College or for grant of annual renewal of permission wherever stipulated, conducts necessary inspections of the colleges for satisfying itself of the facilities available as per the required norms. The colleges are also inspected periodically by MCI even after the degree is recognized, for maintenance of the standard.

Accordingly, complaints regarding lack of facilities received by the Government is forwarded to MCI for taking appropriate action. Of late, Government also deputed its team to verify such complaints. Since in the process of evaluation of the facilities for maintenance of standard in Medical Colleges is dependent on the Inspection undertaken by the MCI, the entire procedure of Inspection including appointment of inspectors is being reviewed and streamlined by the Government to make it more transparent and effective.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my friend Mr. Ramadoss can really play with his words. It is quite fine. In a long reply, he has said that the Central Government gives permission to establish medical colleges on the basis of the report of the Medical Council of India. Then he says that because of complaints received, they are sending their own Inspectors. Then, again he says that the entire thing depends upon the Medical Council of India.

MR. SPEAKER: He is saying it because that is the law of the land.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That is the puzzle and the Minister is puzzled. Anyway, Sir, that is my preface.

The point is, there is a mushroom growth of private medical colleges throughout the country because it is more profitable to invest money in education than to start an industry. Corporates are going for it. I do not complain about it. Let the private sector be opened up for medical education. But the question is, if the medical education is substandard, if the facilities are not forthcoming, then we are producing substandard doctors because some parents have huge money to send their children to private medical colleges. If we are producing substandard medical practitioners, then medical care will be in jeopardy.

MR. SPEAKER: It is obvious.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Yes, it is obvious, but the hon. Minister must know the obvious.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not think he does not know. He is quite capable. If you sit there, you will give a similar answer.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, after being in Parliament for a long time, if you believe that the Government would not change, then what is the inspiration for us remaining in Parliament?

MR. SPEAKER: Government will change.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: My specific question is this. I was in Hyderabad recently. Hundreds of medical students from private medical colleges came to me, including doctors. They complained that the private medical colleges do not have their own hospitals, they do not have requisite upgraded teachers and they do not have laboratories. Laboratories are being outsourced, teachers are being outsourced and only they have a building of their own.

MR. SPEAKER: What is to be done?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: In view of the serious complaints regarding substandard medical education being given by private medical colleges, what does Health Minister propose to do to ensure that the country do not produce substandard doctors in the country putting medical care in jeopardy?

I want a clear answer. What is his job?

MR. SPEAKER: Do not match him in the length.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, it was rightly said by you also that in fact we exchange seats. ...(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: We want to be there and exchange seats.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: No, only him personally and not the hon. Member. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, my good friend, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has said that I am good at words. I am a simple person, I do not mix words and I talk plain. As far as the question regarding permission of medical colleges, whether Government or private, is concerned, it has a process,

namely, as you have rightly mentioned that the State Government has to give an NOC; the university has to be affiliated. Then it come to the Central Government. We give it to the MCI to go and inspect it and give us a recommendatory request. After the recommendations, we give LOI and LOP, and then the final permission is given. This is the process which we can circumvent also.

Today, we are dependent on the Medical Council of India for going to these colleges, inspecting and giving us a report, whether positive or negative, and taking decision on that. Then we take up the issue whether to give permission or not. If, in between, we get some complaints, then we take up the issue. It is not like that the Medical Council of India's decision is final. If we have an issue or problem in midway, under the law, we have all the rights to send an inspection team or any other means and verify these aspects and then take a final decision accordingly.

Now, I will come to the issue of Hyderabad. Sir, I have also gone to Hyderabad, a lot of people had met me, not only in Hyderabad but also in Delhi. Lot of hon. Members had met me, along with the students. They had given me CDs about the so-called inspections done in some private colleges, which did not have much of the facilities also. Pertaining to some of these requests from the students and hon. Members, I have sent some of these cases to the CBI also.

Secondly, the Andhra Pradesh High Court had taken up this issue and they have said that about four colleges, which I could name, if you want, had some problems and they had requested the Government to take up the issue. Then, again the MCI was sent for inspection to these four colleges and the MCI gave a clean report that these colleges had requisite facilities and infrastructure. But then again, when so many complaints had been coming, we had again sent one team from the Central Government in concurrence with the State university where again these people had inspected these so-called colleges and found that there were some discrepancies in that.

So, we have a lot of other issues surrounding it and they do not concern my Health Ministry. But then we are trying to streamline it. I understand and share his concern. I am on his side. We want more quality medical education in the country.

The hon. Member has also mentioned about mushrooming of the private medical colleges. It is

unfortunate that today we have about 242 medical colleges in the country. Out of that, 127 are in the Government sector and 115 are in the private sector. In fact, out of 242 medical colleges, we have 152 colleges in only six southern States, like, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. That is 90 and odd colleges are there only in 24 States. So we need the State Governments to have more investment in the medical colleges and we need more doctors in the northern States, like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and North-East. We are into that and we are trying to help these Government colleges also. But then we are trying to regulate the system.

But then again the NOC is given by the State Government. We do not have anything against that. When the State feels that they need a college, then they give an NOC. So, according to the requirements of the State Government, these things are taken up. But again, I am very much concerned about the quality of medical education. We are taking steps to prevent these colleges which are not having any capacity.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, any more question after this answer.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, he has not answered my question. He has only given his observation. He is on my side. I agree, has his concern. But there are multiplicity of agencies, namely the State Government, the Medical Council of India and the Central Government. I agree to that. But primarily, the responsibility of ensuring the standard rests on the Central Government. Everybody in the country will hold the Government of India responsible if anything wrong is there. It is the truth, let us not dispute it.

Therefore, in view of the serious complaints that there is corruption and lack of facilities in many of the private medical colleges, will the Government of India—place do not outsource the responsibility to the State Governments or the Medical Council—particularly the Ministry of Health, undertake special survey of the private medical colleges and cancel the licences of the private medical colleges if they are found to be inadequate, and if their statements have been found to be false? ... (*Interruptions*) If these medical colleges do not have hospitals, it is a shame. There is a private medical college in the Southern part and you yourself are also associated with private medical colleges.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry to intervene. The process is there; The State Government is there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Government cancel the licence of the medical colleges after conducting a special survey in view of the complaints that we are getting? ...(Interruptions) Absolutely education mafia has taken over the private medical colleges. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him answer.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will not shy away from my responsibilities, and I take the responsibility of the medical education in the country. Even though we have various parameters of State Governments, Universities, Medical Council and the then the Government of India, yet again we are trying to restructure the medical education in the country. These are in different sectors. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am asking for special survey. I would like to know whether survey will be done. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please. This is not fair.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I am coming to that. In fact, I had a meeting with all the stakeholders about six to eight months ago, and got over the issues. I put forth my issue that I want quality education. Another issue is that the Medical Council of India is a recommendatory body. There had been a lot of complaints against the Medical Council of India about the functions, and vested interests taking over that, and all those issues. We are trying to take up that also because that is an important body which assists the Government in giving permission to these colleges. Now we are bringing in a Bill to amend Medical Council of India Act which has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha which is with the Standing Committee on Health of Parliament. That is one part of it. Another part is that now we are trying to go into the issues of how to regulate it. Today, for example, there are 242 medical colleges in the country but unfortunately there are not even 242 Professors of Anatomy in the country. Nobody takes up Anatomy as a subject. This is a pre-clinical subject. Nobody takes up Anatomy; nobody takes up Pharmacology or Biochemistry because they

want to go for Medicine or Surgery etc. which would give some more monetary benefits. So, we are facing things like that on these issues.

Another issue is that in some States like in the North-East you cannot have bigger hospitals because there are not many patients. Not many doctors, not many specialists are there. ...(Interruptions) I am coming to your question and on all these issues. This is a holistic view. We are trying to work out. In fact, we are trying to have continuing medical education, mandatory that in every five years they have a minimum 60 hours of continuing medical education to regulate all these things.

I am coming to the hon. Member's specific question.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants survey.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Coming to the specific survey, I think we could take a look into this issue of setting up a Commission for going into the infrastructure or the quality of all the private medical colleges in the country. I think we could look into that and we could take a survey of all the private medical colleges.

MOHD. SALIM: Also on how that mushrooming is there in that particular area.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: As regards mushrooming, I think it is the State Government's prerogative whether to give a permission or not. If the State feels that they need more colleges, they need more doctors, it is they who give NoCs. But then coming to the quality of infrastructure when we are dependent on the Medical Council and all the other sectors for the medical education, then definitely we need quality. I am the first one to advocate that we need more quality. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: you are proposing to appoint a Commission on that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes Sir, we will look into the issue. He has made a very valid point. As I said, I am already on his side.

I want quality in that. We will definitely undertake this issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The sooner the Commission is appointed the better it is. I thank you. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will have a Commission. You know that one of the Government colleges in Kolkata was not allowed by MCI to start courses. Even Government colleges were not permitted to run. Also those who are properly educated do not go to the villages.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, all of us need good doctors. For good doctors we need good medical education. Today when compared to China, our medical education is far superior. When compared to Russia, our medical education is far superior. Students from America are coming to join our medical colleges. The standard of medical education is very high in India. But there are some thorns in the Medical Council of India Act like migration of students from place to place. There are thorns in starting new medical colleges. Some time back, some Chief Minister was forced to resign for starting new medical colleges. These thorns have to be removed. I would like to know whether the Government is planning to remove these thorns in the Medical Council of India Act and also starting new medical colleges...

MR. SPEAKER: ... in the public sector.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: My colleague, Dr. Chinta Mohan, has rightly said that there were some issues. In fact, he has been bringing up these issues in the forums especially in this august House. He has raised concerns about the quality of the Medical Council and some specific issues in that Council also. So, we want a transparent Council. We want a Council which is accountable to the Parliament, accountable to the Government and accountable to the people.

I have been saying that in today's system we are dependent on so many structures for effective functioning. Today, even though the Medical Council of India is one of the arms of the Government and it has to assist its functioning, it feels that it is like a body, and it feels that the Ministry is the arm of the Medical Council. It is the other way round. So, there is no coordination today. That is why, we are trying to bring in more transparency into the Council and we tend to bring up this amendment. I earnestly request the House to take up this amendment as a whole. This amendment is not a wider amendment and this is on specific issues to streamline the procedures. Once these are done, I am sure that we could definitely have a very healthy and very quality productive medical education in the country both in the public as well as private sectors. At this juncture, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Chinta Mohan for bringing up these issues.

DR. P.P. KOYA: India, as a country, can be proud of the medical education because India has produced doctors who have served this country pretty well.

MR. SPEAKER: They are serving outside also. The Indian medical doctors are working there.

DR. P.P. KOYA: They have gone to the most developed countries like USA and Britain and manning the medical services. I am very happy.

Now, today's discussion is the falling of the medical standard. It is not only the question of treating the patients of this country but also our employment potential. Our reputation in the world scene has come down because of the crash or fall of the medical education in the Indian system. Our hon. Minister has agreed that it is because of the mushrooming of colleges in the private sector amounting to 115. There are so many agencies like State Government, Universities, Medical Council of India and the Health Ministry. Everybody put together could not control this falling of the standard in the quality of our medical education. So, do we have a comprehensive plan to check the fall in the medical standard?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I would like to thank my colleague, Dr. Koya for bringing out some of the issues. Sir, as you have rightly said, I am very proud to accept that especially the Indian doctors are some of the best in the world. They are serving in the developed countries. If you see some of the best centres in America or UK, the leading doctors are Indians. Approximately 40 per cent of the National Health Service in the UK is manned by the Indian doctors. So, we are producing quality doctors. But then again now in the last few years, the quality of medical education is not satisfactory. So, we are trying to revive it as a whole and we want to make it a global quality education.

Today if an Indian completes his MBBS or his post-graduation and goes out to another country, he is required to take another exam in that country. It is called qualification exam. It is because they do not recognize these courses out there because of lack of quality in these courses. So, we are trying to improve that.

As I said, we are trying to change the curriculum of the under-graduate as well as the post-graduate courses. It will take a little time because we have wider consultations as to how to go. This curriculum will be an international quality curriculum. This will be a very practical

curriculum. This will be more rural-oriented curriculum. This will be more social-oriented curriculum. We are thinking of a holistic programme of uplifting the medical education in the country. I am definitely very concerned, and being a doctor myself I know the status of what is there in the private sector as well as in the Government sector. We are definitely trying to take a lot of steps.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Suresh Kurup, if you have anything new, then you put a question.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, lack of infrastructure in the private medical colleges is only one side of the story. It is common knowledge that in this country these private medical colleges are given a free hand as far as medical education is concerned. They conduct their own examination. They see to it that those students who have entrusted money with them are given admission to these medical colleges. So, I would like to know whether the Government would bring a comprehensive legislation as far as controlling these private medical colleges is concerned. Also, will they streamline the medical education?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Coming to the exam part of his question, there are two issues. One is the so-called deemed medical universities. They have their own exam pattern. They have their own setting of question paper. They have their own fee structure because it is concerned with the HRD Ministry. They give permission for the deemed universities.

Coming to the other part, again the Medical Council of India (MCI) is responsible for these colleges conducting exam till the recognition at least, and for the quality of that. Then there are inspectors from the council. They go there and assist them in conducting these exams. But then this point of the hon. Member is well taken. We will try to restructure the pattern of the medical examination also. I cannot assure you but we will try to take up the issue because it is concerned with the entire country. We will take up the point which he has raised.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, many of the doctors are not going to the rural areas. Many of them are coming to Parliament instead.

MR. SPEAKER: What was your comment?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Many good doctors, instead of going to the rural areas, prefer to come to Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: They are trying to cure the health of the nation.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: My question is regarding some of the students who get into this wrangle. Their parents give a lot of money and they get into some of the colleges. After getting admission, they find that there is absolutely no facility. It is happening even in para-medical services like nursing.

Sir, I come across many cases where when the students want to come out of it, of course, they are not only not given the donation back but also they are not even given their certificates back. They keep the certificates saying that you got admission and you are losing the seat. Therefore, they ask him to pay the money for the entire course and then leave. Instead of saying the real fact, many of them say that because of the climatic conditions or other problems the students are not able to continue. So, this is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you referring to the capitation fee?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It is not only capitation fee. There is no record for capitation fee. They do not give back.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, carry on.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: They insist that the whole fee should be given. Will the Ministry see to it that they are in a position to come out of these colleges, at least, in the interest of the students who get into those colleges? Will such colleges be punished for taking such a position?

MR. SPEAKER: This is one of the problems that you have to keep in mind.

I could not go beyond three questions.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, he has wrongly said that instead of serving the rural areas, doctors are coming to Parliament. On behalf of all the doctors in the Parliament, I would like to assure him that all of us have done our rural service and then we have come to Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: We accept it on face value.



DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Coming to this pointed question on the issue of fees, he has said that the students have paid their fees and after that when they want to shift to a different college or a different profession, they are not giving back the fee. This issue concerns a particular institution because sometimes the institution feels that it loses its seat. They feel that after admitting the students they will lose their seat. I have also got some complaints. This is an issue which is to be taken up at the institution level and at the State level.

Coming back to the other issue about overall regulating the fees and the admission structure, we are trying to bring soon a Bill. A Bill is coming soon.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes seek admission to Government colleges very easily but as per the figure given by the hon. Minister, there are approximately 50 per cent private medical colleges wherein the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not able to seek admission owing to exorbitant fees and donation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is likely to formulate any policy whereby the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are able to get admission by paying a fixed amount of fee and join the mainstream of the society.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, this is a good question put up by the hon. Member. Again these are issues where the hon. Member is right. In some of the States, the deprived candidate cannot pay exorbitant fee in the private sector. When there is a Government quota, in the private sector he cannot pay the fee. Again it is the responsibility of the State Government to take up the issue. In Pondicherry, they have paid the fees for the students belonging to the SC, ST and OBC. They helped the students. There are a lot of sponsors. There are other issues like that. They try to help the students.

But then again, as I said earlier, we are trying to bring out a comprehensive Bill to ease out and regulate the fee structure throughout the country. The Bill is coming soon.

*[Translation]*

### Introduction of 3-G Technology

\*205. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make available 3-G Technology to mobile subscribers;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made available;

(c) the number of people enlisted in the waiting-list for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) Sim Cards at present;

(d) the schemes formulated by the BSNL to exhaust the said waiting-list;

(e) whether the Government has identified the reasons for delay in the availability of Sim Cards;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which introduction of 3-G Technology will reduce the waiting list?

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

### Statement

(a) and (b) While no timeframe has been fixed for introduction of 3G technology, it is expected that roll out of 3G services may commence in next financial year.

(c) BSNL has registered waiting list of around 13.2 lakh for Cellular Mobile connections as on 31.10.2005.

(d) BSNL has plans to expand its cellular network capacity by 14 million lines during the year 2005-06 to meet the existing as well as future demand.

(e) to (f) There is no scarcity of SIM Cards in BSNL. However, due to capacity constraints, SIM Cards are being issued by BSNL progressively commensurate with the capacity and to ensure Quality of Services. BSNL is augmenting its network continuously to meet the demand for its cellular mobile connections across the country.

(g) With the introduction of 3G technologies, it is expected that some of existing mobile customers opting for 3G services would migrate to 3G network, thus creating additional capacity in the 2G network for the new subscribers.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. Entire world is progressing leaps and bounds as far as technology is concerned and as per the information given here, no time frame has been fixed for the introduction of 3G technology. The basic thing is of frequency spectrum. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether third generation technology has not taken off due to failure. Owing to not to be able to reach on conclusion in regard to spectrum frequency, what would be the norm for making the spectrum available to mobile service operators if it has been decided?

*[English]*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, through you, I would like to answer the hon. member. The Member is not right in saying that the 3G technology is being stopped. Sir, 3G technology is being put under trial and it is taking place in Europe.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Sir, I have said that it has not been started and not that it has been stopped.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He says you have not started it.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: It is wrong on the part of the Member to say that we have not started. We have started the initiative. So, in fact, way back in 2003 we have asked for the opinion, suggestion or recommendation of the TRAI. But TRAI took two years and then it gave its recommendation.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Sir, he is wrong. It is written that it has not been started.

MR. SPEAKER: If there is any provision to give wrong replies?

*[English]*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: We have started the process but we are still discussing. We should also understand that the spectrum is a very scarce commodity. Sir, when in Europe, still 3-G is to start and trials are going on, we have to wait and see as to what is taking place there so that we amend and bring out a proper way of distribution of our spectrum and announce a policy.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that whenever a decision will be taken which of the two CDMA or UMPS technology is likely to be accorded priority by Bharat Sanchar Nigam and whether it is a part of well considered policy that the waiting list should not be reduced until the introduction of 3G technology?

*[English]*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: In this, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that as far as Department of Telecommunication is concerned, we are neutral to both CDMA and GSM technologies. In the case of BSNL, the market forces decided the technology. Whichever the market decides—whether GSM or CDMA—we are present in both the technologies. Whichever has got more demand, we will go into that.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

### Postal Saving Instruments

\*206. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount mobilized by the Union Government through small savings during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Department of Posts has decided to dematerialise the postal saving instruments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The information on the total amount mobilized by the Union Government through small savings during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d) A pilot as an experimental measure has been launched in Mumbai to dematerialize the savings certificates namely National Savings Certificates and Kisan Vikas Patra. The aim of the pilot is intended to explore the feasibility of Department's entry into the Depository Participant System. The pilot is being implemented in collaboration with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL).

On 16th October, 2003 the dematerialization of savings certificates was taken up in 10 Post offices of Mumbai and extended to 26 more Post offices on 12th February, 2004.

*Details of Demat Account (16.10.2003 to 30.11.2005)*

Type	Number of Certificates	Amount deposited (Rs. in Crores)
NSC	13,032	116.96
KVP	3,817	672.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,849</b>	<b>789.11</b>

**AIDS Awareness Campaign**

\*207. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) the amount sanctioned and spent on AIDS awareness campaign during the last three years;

(b) whether any new scheme to speed up AIDS awareness campaign is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether kits for conducting 'home test for virus that causes AIDS' are available to people in foreign countries like USA;

(e) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to make such test kits available in India; and

(f) if so, the time by which these are likely to be made available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) During the last three years, an amount of Rs. 209.59 crores was allocated for spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS. Of this, an amount of Rs. 132.69 crores has been spent. While efforts so far made have enabled us a spread awareness to an estimated 85% of the population, in rural areas there is till an awareness gap which varies between 20 to 25 percent. Therefore, innovative approaches are now being designed which focus upon promoting condoms both for the protection against HIV/AIDS as well as unwanted pregnancies, campaigns for promoting voluntary counselling and testing and taking the awareness generation initiatives to rural areas below the district level. These campaigns are addressing the youth and are being designed around using celebrities and the promotion of family values.

Home kits for conducting tests for the virus that cause HIV infection are available in developed countries. There is no proposal to make such Home Kits introduced in India at present.

**Expenditure of Health Care**

\*208. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 0.4 per cent of GDP is spent on health care in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase the percentage of GDP on health care; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir. The current public health spending is 0.9% of GDP in the country which is grossly inadequate to meet the health needs of the citizens.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which 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.

The main objective is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable health care, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of population. It is proposed to increase the expenditure in the health sector to the level of 2-3% of the GDP by increased contributions from the Central and State Governments.

#### Development of SoftNET

\*209. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Software Technology Park of India (STPI) has designed and developed softNET;

(b) if so, the salient features of the softNET;

(c) whether it is available to software exporters;

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

(e) the details of the units registered under the STPI so far; and

(f) the details of software exported by such member units during each of the last three years till date?

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

(b) The salient features of the SoftNet are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Software Technology Park of India (STPI) provides the Internet Protocol (IP) and International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) to the software exporting community on demand.

(e) 6417 units are registered under STP scheme as on 31st October, 2005.

(f) The Software Exported by STP member units during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Exports (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	74,019
2003-04	51,458
2002-03	37,176

#### *Statement*

#### *Salient Features of the SoftNET*

One of STPI's remarkable contributions to the software-exporting sector is provision of High-Speed Data Communication (HSDC) services, SoftNET, state-of-the-art HSDC network, designed and developed by STPI is available to software exporting industry. Since its inception, STPI has set up its own International Gateways at 46 locations for providing HSDC links to the software industry.

SoftNET services comprises of two types of services.

**A. SoftPOINT:** SoftPOINT is generally known as international Private Leased Circuit (IPLC), which provides dedicated connectivity between two global locations. SoftPOINT services are used by the IT industry to establish dedicated Data connectivity between their clients abroad and their offices in India and such links are generally used to send the developed software to their clients.

**B. SoftLINK:** SoftLINK service is Internet Leased Line service (nX64Kbps). The service was launched to cater to the rising demands of the industry for better quality and committed services. Today Softlink services enjoy a large customer base amongst STPI's datacom services.

#### **Access Network/Last Mile Connectivity (Local Loop)**

With the evolution of the IT industry in the early Nineties there was an escalated demand for greater bandwidth. While international bandwidth was available, there was a shortfall in the last mile connectivity. To

address this shortfall, STPI has set up its own digital Microwave networks using Point-to-Point and Point-to-Multipoint microwave networks, which cater to the primary needs of the customers. With the addition of Point-to-Point radio networks, the network was further strengthened enabling the delivery of a 2 Mbps, Nx E1 links over the last mile under the STPI's overall control. Besides last mile connectivity on radio, STPI also provides the last mile on fiber wherever feasible.

#### SAARC Summit

\*210. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC Summit was held recently at Dhaka;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed;

(c) the details of Indian representatives who attended the said Summit;

(d) whether matters regarding cross border terrorism, trade and commerce with member countries, etc. also came up for discussion;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether any agreements have been signed with SAARC countries on avoidance of double taxation, customs facilitation and setting up of arbitration council;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these agreements are likely to be implemented; and

(h) the details of benefits likely to be accrued to India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (h) The Thirteenth SAARC Summit was held in Dhaka on November 12-13, 2005. The Indian delegation was led by the Prime Minister. The other members of the delegation were Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M.K. Narayan, National Security Adviser, Shri Shyam Saran, Foreign Secretary and other senior officials of the Government of India.

The Summit had an exhaustive agenda. The Summit discussed a wide range of issues including regional cooperation in the areas of trade, commerce, poverty

alleviation, social challenges, national disasters, people-to-people contact and cultural cooperation. Other issues discussed at the Summit were SAARC's external linkages, strengthening institutional mechanisms and the funding mechanisms to implement various proposals.

The Summit also discussed cooperation in counter terrorism. There was a strong condemnation of terrorism in the Summit Declaration and a renewed commitment to eliminate this scourge. For the first time, there was a clear reference to avoiding double standards in tackling this challenge.

Three important trade facilitation agreements were signed at the Summit, namely:

- The Limited Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters
- The Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters
- The Agreement on the Establishment of SAARC Arbitration Council

The agreement on avoidance of double taxation is to enter into force 30 days after notification by the SAARC Secretariat regarding completion of all formalities, including ratification, by all SAARC member states, by June 30, 2006. The agreement on customs facilitation is to enter into force on January 1, 2006, upon completion of formalities, including ratification by member states, and issuance of notification by SAARC Secretariat. The agreement on setting up of the SAARC Arbitration Council is to enter into force after ratification by all member states and upon issue of notification by SAARC Secretariat.

The results of the Summit are in consonance with India's objectives and provide new opportunities to further the process of regional economic integration and cooperation in South Asia.

*[Translation]*

#### Tele-Density in Rural Areas

\*211. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) the percentage of tele-density in rural areas;

(b) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has suggested a change in direction of the current policy initiatives to boost phone connectivity in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to achieve the targeted rural tele-density by 2007?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The rural tele-density is 1.77 as on 30.09.2005.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has given its recommendation on 'Growth of Telecom Services in Rural India' in October 2005.

(c) The major recommendations of TRAI inter-alia are:

- Sharing of infrastructure to receive support from USO.
- Supporting backbone infrastructure through USO fund.
- Discount in Annual License Fee and Spectrum Charges linked with Rural Coverage.
- Development of suitable applications.
- Reduction of rural VSAT license fees and spectrum charges and provision of transponders at affordable rates.
- No right of way charges for networks in rural areas.
- Niche Operators to be supported from USOF and exemption from spectrum charges.
- No spectrum fees for usage of CorDECT and similar technologies in rural areas as well as for usage of 450 MHz.
- No prior SACFA clearance for deployment of towers upto 40 m. in rural areas.
- Funds collected as Universal Access levy should be made available to USOF.

Recommendations are being examined by the Government.

(d) Government is striving to connect all the villages in the country by telecom facilities to extend the benefits of planned development to the rural areas. Some of the steps taken by Government to improve connectivity in rural areas are as follows:

(i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 remaining unconnected villages excluding villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest area/Naxalite infested areas etc. by November 2007 with the support from Universal Service Obligation Fund. 13,078 VPTs have been provided as on 30.9.2005.

(ii) Provision of second VPT in the form of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in villages having population of more than 2,000 and having no PCO by September 2007. 15,946 RCPs have been provided as on 30.9.2005.

(iii) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into agreement with M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Reliance Infocomm Limited, Tata Teleservices limited (TTL) and TTL Maharashtra to provide Rural Phone Connectivity on demand on 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in their allocated areas by the first quarter of the year 2006.

#### **Nutritional and Health Related Requirements**

\*212. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an analysis of the largest figures of the National Sample Survey has shown that there are eight States in the Country where more than one-third of the rural population is deprived of intake of even 1800 calories per day;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) whether nearly three-fourth of the rural population, that is almost one-half of the population of the country, is unable to access the minimum nutritional and health-

related requirements should the correct standards be applied and intake of less than 2400 calories per day be taken as the benchmark for poverty;

(d) If so, the measures taken by the Government to deal with this situation; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) As per the 55th round of National Sample Survey (NSS) conducted in the 15 states in the year 1999-2000, the average per capita per day intake of Calories in rural India is 2149. The state-wise details are enclosed as statement-I.

(c) and (d) The estimate of the Planning Commission based the consumer expenditure data of the 55th round on a 30 day recall basis provided a poverty ratio of 27.09% in rural areas of the country in 1999-2000. The Government has been implementing various schemes/programmes to improve the nutritional and health status of the people apart from anti-poverty programmes. The details of the schemes/programmes are enclosed as Statement-II.

The Government has recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which seeks to improve the health status of the rural population with special focus on 18 (eighteen) states with poor health indicators and weak infrastructures. The Mission envisages convergence with other programme determinants including programmes relating to nutrition. The Government has also decided to expand the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme to have additional 1.88 lakh anganwadi centers.

(e) As per the Planning Commission, the poverty ratio has declined significantly to 27% in the year 1999-2000 in comparison to 56% in the year 1973-74. In addition, every forms of protein-energy malnutrition (kwashiorkor and marasmus), deficiency of vitamin C (scurvy) and deficiency of Thiamin (beri beri) are seen reduced significantly in the country. Severe forms of Vitamin A deficiency (keratomalacia) is noticed in very few pockets and there is significant reduction in iodine deficiency disorders in the country.

### *Statement I*

*Per Capita and Per Consumer Unit Intake of Calories in Rural Population in States as per the National Sample Survey Data conducted in the year 1999-2000*

Sl.No.	State	Calorie intake
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2021
2.	Assam	1915
3.	Bihar	2121
4.	Gujarat	1986
5.	Haryana	2455
6.	Karnataka	2028
7.	Kerala	1982
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2062
9.	Maharashtra	2012
10.	Orissa	2119
11.	Punjab	2381
12.	Rajasthan	2425
13.	Tamil Nadu	1826
14.	Uttar Pradesh	2327
15.	West Bengal	2095
	All India	2149

### *Statement II*

*Measures to improve the Nutritional and Health Status of the People*

- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distribution system.
  - Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.

(b) A National Nutrition policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various Departments of Government. The National Nutrition Mission has been set up.

3. Supplementary Feeding programmes

- (i) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS).
- (ii) National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Programme).

4. Programmes for prevention of Specific Micronutrient Deficiency disorders

- (i) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, pregnant women as well as children are provided with iron and folic acid tablets for prophylaxis and treatment of anaemia.
- (ii) Prophylaxis Programme to prevent Nutritional Blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency. This is also under the RCH programme.
- (iii) National Iodine Deficiency Disease Control Programme (NIDDCP)
- (iv) Pilot Programme for control of Micronutrient Deficiencies.

**Universal Service Obligation Fund**

\*213. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether telephone operating companies utilize Universal Service Obligation Fund for the development and expansion of telecom services in rural areas;

(b) if so, the names of the companies alongwith the amount utilised by them from the said fund during the year 2004-05 and the current year 2005-06 till date;

(c) the details of rural areas in the country where the said fund was utilised; and

(d) the details of works carried out in telecom sector from the said fund?

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

(b) The names of the companies along with the amount of subsidy disbursed to them during the year 2004-05 and the current year 2005-06 up to 30.9.2005 are:—

Sl.No.	Name of Service Provider	Amount of subsidy disbursed (Rs. in crores)	
		2004-05	2005-06 (till 30.9.2005)
1.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	1,311.42	762.99
2.	Reliance Infocomm Limited	0.90	3.71
3.	Tata Tele Services Limited	1.12	0.19
4.	Tata Tele Services (Maharashtra) Limited	0.95	0.70
5.	Bharati Infotel Limited	0.10	0
6.	Shyam Telelink Limited	0.10	0
Total		1,314.59	767.59

(c) and (d) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is providing financial support for the following major activities in rural and remote areas of all the States in the country:—

(i) Operation and maintenance of nearly 5.20 lakh Village Public Telephones (VPTs) covering more than 90% villages of the country.

(ii) Provision of VPTs in the remaining 66,822 uncovered villages which have more than 100 population and which do not lie in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.

(iii) Replacement of 1.86 lakh Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology VPTs.

(iv) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in 46,253 villages having population more than 2000 and having no PCO.

(v) Support for Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines installed prior to 1.4.2002 towards the difference between TRAI prescribed rental and the rental charged by the service provider for a limited period of 01.04.2002 to 31.01.2004.



- (vi) Support for RDELs installed after 1.4.2002.
- (vii) Provision of RDELs on demand in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) with effect from the first quarter of January 2006.

- (d) Details as per Statement-I.
- (e) Yes, Sir.
- (f) Details as per Statement-II.

[English]

### Visit of Nuclear Installations

\*214. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a visit of members of Atomic Power Regulatory Authority of the US to the nuclear installations in India was organized in February 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the purpose of the said visit;

(c) whether officials of other countries were also accorded the privilege of visiting our nuclear installations in the past;

(d) if so, the details of such visits;

(e) whether such visits are organized on reciprocal basis; and

(f) if so, the details of visits by the officials of the Indian Nuclear establishments to the nuclear installations in the US and in other countries during the last three years?

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

(b) As a part of the 5th Discussion Meeting under the nuclear safety co-operation work programme between the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) held in the office of AERB in Mumbai during February 7-11, 2005, the USNRC delegation visited the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on February 7, 2005 and the Tarapur Site on February 8, 2005. The leader of the delegation, USNRC Commissioner Mr. Jeffrey S. Merrifield and two of the US Embassy staff visited the Rawatbhata site on February 9-10, 2005.

(c) Yes Sir.

### Statement I

#### *Details of Foreign Officials who Visited Indian Nuclear Installations in the Past as a Part of Scientific Exchange*

Sl.No.	Date of visit	Particulars of visitors
1	2	3
1.	18.04.2002	The following Vietnamese nationals visited Board of Radiation & Isotope Technology (BRIT), Mumbai: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Dr. Hoang Van Huay, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology &amp; Environment, Vietnam.</li> <li>(2) Dr. Vuong Huu Tan, Chairman, Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC), Vietnam.</li> <li>(3) Dr. Huynh Van Trung, Director, Institute of Radioactive and Rare Elements, VAEC, Vietnam. and</li> <li>(4) Mr. Hoang Van Sinh, Secretary, Vietnam.</li> </ol>
2.	23.09.2002	The following foreign nationals visited BRIT to attend a Symposium: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Dr. Milan Hrabovsky, Czech Republic.</li> <li>(2) Dr. T.E. Burns, U.K.</li> <li>(3) Mr. Farmer D.E., U.K.</li> <li>(4) Dr. Anthony B. Murphy, Australia.</li> <li>(5) Prof. Patrick R. Taylor, USA.</li> </ol>

1	2	3
		(6) Dr. Brian Stewart, Italy.
		(7) Dr. Chen Xi, China.
3.	10.12.2002	Dr. Gerald W. Grandey, President, World Nuclear Association (WNA) visited Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research (AMD) for technical discussions.
4.	16.01.2003	High level delegation from Russian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (GAN) led by Mr. Yuri G. Vishnevskiy, Chairman, Federal Nuclear and Radiation Safety Authority of Russia visited Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
5.	10.11.2004	High level French delegation led by Mr. Alain Bugat, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, France, visited BARC.
6.	14.12.2004	Prof. Dr. Hartmut Michel, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, 1988, Director, Max-Planck Institute for Bio-Physics, Germany, visited BARC.
7.	11.01.2005	Prof. K. Wuthrich, Nobel Laureate, Institute of Molecular Biology and Phiphysics, Zurich, Switzerland, visited BARC.
8.	23.02.2005	German delegation led by Dr. Gerold Heinrichs, Indo-German Coordinator, German Embassy, New Delhi, visited BARC.
9.	23.03.2005	Prof. G.R. Choppin, R.O. Lawton, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Florida State University, USA, visited BARC.
10.	05.04.2005	5-Member delegation led by Lt. Gen. Xavier De Zuchowitz, Director General of the French Institute of Higher National Defence Studies visited BARC.

1	2	3
11.	20.04.2005 & 21.04.2005	4-Member Vietnam delegation consisting of the following visited BARC:  (1) Mr. Naguyen Thanh Binh, Dy. Director of DNRI,  (2) Mr. Vu Dang Ninh, Director of Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC)'s Admn. Department,  (3) Mr. Trinh Dang Heiu, Dy. Director of VAEC's Admn. Department, and  (4) Dr. Hoang Anh Tuan, Dy. Director of VAEC's Department of Planning and R&D Management.
12.	06.05.2005	Mr. Nguyen Duy Phap from Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC), Centre for Ore Processing Technology, Institute for Technology of Radioactive and Rare Elements, Vietnam visited AMD for training under Bilateral Co-operation Programme.
13.	06.05.2005	Mr. Pham Hung Vount and Mr. Tran Van Son, Center for Ore Processing Technology, Institute for Technology of Radiocative and Rare Elements, VAEC visited AMD for training under Bilateral Co-Operation Programme.
14.	07.09.2005	The following French officials visited Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (GCAR), Kalpakkam:  (1) Mr. Patrick Ledermann, Dy. Director, Nuclear Energy Division, CEA.  (2) Mr. Eric Proust, Head, Structure & Systems Modelling Department.  (3) Mr. Christian Chauillac, Simulation Programe Manager

1	2	3	1	2	3
	(4)	Mr. Phillipe Delaune, Dy. Director, International Relations CEA, and	(3)		Mr. Jean Pierre Mercier
	(5)	Mr. Denis Acker, Director, Directorate of Nuclear Energy, CEA.	(4)		Mr. Phillipe Dealune, and
			(5)		Mr. Abdallah Amri.
15.	September 2005	The following Korean nationals visited Heavy Water Plant (HWP), Manuguru:	17.	12.11.2005	The following foreign nationals visited NFC as a part of International Conference held at Hyderabad:
	(1)	Mr. Kim Yeong Gug	(1)		Mr. Ganpat Mani, USA.
	(2)	Mr. Kang Young Bok	(2)		Mr. Steve Polleck, Canada
	(3)	Mr. Jung Won Il, and	(3)		Mr. Pablo Schroeder, Argentina
	(4)	Mr. Youn Sam Choi.	(4)		Mr. Chang Young Joung, Korea
16.	26.10.2005	The following French Officials visited IGCAR on 26.10.2005:	(5)		Mr. Peter Beczar, Canada.
	(1)	Mr. Andre-Claude Lacoste	(6)		Mr. Hansoo Kim, Korea
	(2)	Mr. Oliver Gupta	(7)		Mr. Tae Kya Kim, Korea
			(8)		Mr. Luke Walsh, USA.

**Statement II**

*Number of Officials of the Indian Nuclear Establishments who Visited the Nuclear Installations in the US and in Other Countries during the last three years*

Name of Unit	No. of Indian Officials who visited various Nuclear Installations in the US & other countries yearwise								
	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
	US	Other Countries	Total	US	Other Countries	Total	US	Other Countries	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Institute of Physics</i>	6	11	17	4	11	15	4	9	13
<i>Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration &amp; Research</i>	—	2	2	—	5	5	—	5	5
<i>Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre</i>	10	19	29	18	21	39	13	20	33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Heavy Water Board	—	3	3	—	6	6	—	5	5
Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research	5	27	32	23	41	64	2	16	18
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	—	—	—	0	4	4	1	7	8
Board of Radtion & Isotope Technology	—	3	3	1	2	3	—	4	4
Atomic Energy Regulatory Board	—	13	13	2	6	8	3	3	6

### Ban on Hazardous Drugs

\*215. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the National Commission on Macro Economics and Health, certain drugs are not only non-essential but also hazardous;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban the manufacture and distribution of the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The background papers to the Report of the National Commission on Macro Economics and Health include a paper by Shri S. Sakthivel, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi on "Access to Essential Drugs and Medicine". This paper has made certain observations regarding irrationality of 10 branded products in the context of production priority of the drugs industry. It is observed in the paper that "Ten of the top 25 products sold in India in 1999 belonged to either one of these categories; Blood tonic cought expectoreht, non-drug, Analgesics, neutrients, liver drug etc. which are either hazardous,

non-essential or irrational". These are Becosules, Corex, Liv-52, Dexorgange, Digene, Combiflam, Polybion, Glucon-D, Evion and Revital.

Vitamin formulations like Becosule, Polybion and Evion, like other vitamin combinations, are marketed in accordance with the standards prescribed under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and are not considered irrational. Corex Syrup is used as Cough Syrup and Digene as Antiacid for symptomatic relief. Dexorange is a haematinic preparation containing element iron and is indicated for anemia which is prevalent in the country. Combiflam is an analgesic indicated for inflammation and pain for short term use. None of these products are considered as irrational or harmful in their intended use, as they are mainly used for symptomatic relief.

There is no proposal to ban the manufacture and distribution of these products at the present juncture.

### Promotion of Health Tourism

\*216. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether Health Tourism has enormous potential to create jobs and bring in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to start a website and create a database to promote Health Tourism in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to set up a National Accreditation Health board to accredit hospitals in order to ensure quality health care; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Medical Tourism in India has great potential due to strong India's comparative advantages on cost, quality and services in the health care sector. This is likely to generate increasing demand for healthcare facilities resulting in creation of additional infrastructure, employment generation and development medical manpower. Increase in tourist inflow for medical purposes will also enhance our foreign exchange earnings.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism on their website has already given details relating to Wellness Tourism which is one aspect of Medical Tourism. This site contains information on Ayurveda, Hi-tech Healing, Yoga, etc. giving details of treatment programmes, cost of facilities and list of select hospitals. A new visa category, i.e. Medical Visa to facilitate foreign nationals who wish to utilize specialized medical healthcare facilities available in India has been introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This will enable collection of data relating to flow of foreign tourists for medical purposes.

(d) and (e) The Central Government is examining the possibility of a regulation for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments to ensure quality healthcare services including norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation of such clinical establishments as well as maintenance of records.

#### **Rural Sports Programme**

\*217. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:  
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

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

(a) whether Rural Sports Programme launched in 1970-71 have achieved its desired objectives;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has not been able to harness emerging sports talents in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to promote sports activities in the country specially in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Rural Sports Programme was launched in 1970-71 with a view to tapping hidden talent in rural areas. Through this programme, Government has been able to generate awareness and interest in sports amongst the rural masses. This is evident from the increase in the number of participants at the national level competitions. Starting from 239 participants from 5 disciplines in 1970-71, we have now 3099 participants, from 10 disciplines, in 2004-05. This has also helped in spotting of talent hidden in the rural areas. A large number of sportspersons from the rural areas have joined the sports mainstream and are now participating in the regular open competitions organized by the sports associations/federations.

(c) and (d) 'Sports' is a State Subject under the Constitution and promotion of the same at State level is mainly the responsibility of the concerned State Governments and respective Federations. However, the Government of India, through its own Schemes and Schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments and Federations in promotion of sports. The Schemes of Government of India have definitely contributed in harnessing talents from rural areas.

(e) Under the umbrella scheme of 'Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities' of the Government of India, the Rural Sports Programme is being implemented throughout the country, through the Sports Authority of India. Under this programme financial assistance is provided to the States and Union Territories for organizing

sports competitions, in the rural areas, at the district, State and National level.

Sports Authority of India is also implementing the following Sports Promotion scheme in the country:—

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

The above mentioned schemes also benefit promising sportspersons from rural areas.

In addition, through following components of the Sports Infrastructure scheme under which grants were given till 1.4.2005, Government of India has supported creation of infrastructure:—

- (i) Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure
- (ii) Grant to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Playground
- (iii) Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges.
- (iv) Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces.

### Hepatitis B

\*218. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

- (a) whether Hepatitis B has emerged as a bigger problem than AIDS in India;
- (b) if so, whether India is world's second largest pool of carriers of the lethal disease;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases detected, State-wise; and
- (d) the strategy chalked out by the Government to check the alarming rise of Hepatitis B in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, Hepatitis B infection is several times more infectious than AIDS. India has the second largest pool of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) carriers in the world (next to China) and contributes to nearly 15% of the entire pool of HBV carriers in the world.

While separate data of Hepatitis B cases is not centrally maintained, State-wise number of cases due to Viral Hepatitis including Hepatitis B as reported by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence during the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 is enclosed as Statement.

Hepatitis B spreads through unsafe sex, unsafe blood transfusion, unsafe injection etc. and also from mother to child. Hepatitis B is preventable by ensuring precautionary measures. The Government has launched a pilot project of immunization of Hepatitis B free of cost for children below one year only. Hepatitis B vaccination has commenced and is continuing in 15 cities since 2002-03 and in 32 districts and Andaman and Nicobar islands since 2003-04.

While the general health care delivery system in the country is well equipped to handle various diseases, Hepatitis B is effectively tackled through preventive measures including vaccination. The following measures have been taken to prevent infection of Hepatitis B:—

- Central Government Hospitals personnel at high risk are being immunised against Hepatitis B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.
- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in blood banks.
- Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme is advocated.
- Health awareness campaigns regarding dangers of using non-sterile syringes and needles under National AIDS Control Programme are held.
- Guidelines have been issued to State Health Authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.

Vaccine for Hepatitis B is available in the country at affordable prices.

**Statement*****State-wise cases and deaths due to Viral Hepatitis reported during 2000-2004***

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27595	114	24530	38	16224	19	23094	110	28222	72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	621	2	299	7	NR	NR
3.	Assam	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	NR	NR
4.	Bihar	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	NR	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	*	*	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	NR	NR
6.	Goa	229	0	124	0	71	0	190	0	94	0
7.	Gujarat	3982	30	3891	21	2365	22	2752	15	5860	26
8.	Haryana	1086	6	2731	10	1085	9	1645	9	1978	136
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1464	1.	1275	0	1648	1	1924	1	2359	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6171	0	4226	0	6245	0	8432	0	8398	0
11.	Jharkhand	*	*	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	NR	NR
12.	Karnataka	24571	91	26256	189	32215	161	24954	108	48659	288
13.	Kerala	5521	8	4532	6	5323	7	7433	9	5405	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6620	11	3267	10	6112	32	9599	25	15859	28
15.	Maharashtra	40962	244	39911	234	29525	101	33515	118	48789	150
16.	Manipur	728	7	1558	0	426	0	310	0	310	1
17.	Meghalaya	301	1	500	0	472	1	419	1	764	1
18.	Mizoram	943	2	1183	11	1164	9	744	8	717	2
19.	Nagaland	408	0	144	0	157	0	127	0	27	0
20.	Orissa	14011	107	7334	38	715	48	2500	39	2446	40
21.	Punjab	1796	1	4881	19	6652	26	5169	22	1536	6
22.	Rajasthan	1601	39	2955	89	1758	36	2076	39	2272	53
23.	Sikkim	594	5	409	1	322	2	414	2	372	5
24.	Tamil Nadu	1740	4	1632	1	3177	2	6476	2	11261	7
25.	Tripura	113	8	1784	9	105	2	242	3	1187	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
26.	Uttar Pradesh	988	24	1885	14	N.R.	N.R.	2964	1	2	1
27.	Uttaranchal	.	.	N.R.	N.R.	5431	13	N.R.	N.R.	NR	NR
28.	West Bengal	5831	157	6303	265	7032	264	6527	198	6771	212
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	252	8	536	2	698	8	467	12	258	2
30.	Chandigarh	219	3	310	8	451	5	398	11	300	1
31.	Dadar & Nagar Havelli	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	232	0	227	0	675	3
32.	Daman & Diu	41	0	6	0	24	0	23	1	6	0
33.	Delhi	4077	162	6374	164	5053	139	7476	262	10656	143
34.	Lakshadweep	258	0	71	1	22	0	19	0	20	1
35.	Pondicherry	932	5	654	9	534	5	872	3	736	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>153034</b>	<b>1038</b>	<b>149262</b>	<b>1147</b>	<b>135859</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>151287</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>203939</b>	<b>1122</b>

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

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

2. N.R. implies 'not received'.

### Indo-EU Summit

\*219. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sixth Indo-European Union Summit was held in Delhi recently;

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

(c) whether several agreements were signed on the occasion;

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

(e) whether a declaration to fight terrorism was also made during the Summit;

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) the stand taken by EU with regard to the Indo-US pact on nuclear cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Sixth India-EU Summit was held on September 7, 2005 in New Delhi. UK PM Tony Blair, in his capacity as President-in-office of the Council of Ministers of the EU led the EU Delegation. The Indian delegation was led by the Prime Minister. A comprehensive Joint Action Plan was adopted by the two sides to implement the India-EU Strategic Partnership. A Political Declaration was also issued on the occasion.

(c) and (d) India and EU initialled the Framework Agreement on cooperation in the Galileo Project on September 7. Galileo is a EU-led Satellite Navigation system aimed at providing more accurate and reliable service for growing global navigation needs.

(e) and (f) No Sir. However, the Political Declaration issued at the Summit, among other things, reaffirms condemnation by both sides of all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, irrespective of motives. The two sides also agreed to undertake joint efforts to fight terrorism. In this regard India and the EU agreed to establish contacts between



the respective Counter Terrorism Coordinators, work towards blocking access to terrorist financing and co-operate in the fight against money laundering.

(g) The EU does not have a common position on this subject.

#### **Decentralization of Annual Plans**

\*220. SHRI B. MAHTAB:  
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has given instructions to all the State Governments to prepare annual plans at local level and district level;

(b) if so, the number of States which has followed the instructions;

(c) whether the Planning Commission is evolving any mechanism according to which all the schemes will be prepared as per the requirements of the districts and funds allocated on that basis only;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Planning Commission has conducted an economic survey of all the districts in the country; and

(g) If so, the special economic package granted to the most backward districts on the basis of the said survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes Sir. These instructions relate to the preparation of the Annual Plans of the States for 2006-07.

(b) No such assessment has been made by the Planning Commission as the process of finalization of Annual Plans of the States for 2006-07 will be completed only by the end of the current financial year.

(c) to (e) Detailed instructions have been issued by the Planning Commission to all the States to prepare their Annual Plan Proposals on the basis of the requirement of resources for the districts at least for items

of minimum needs as a first steps. However, the state Governments have also been informed that a similar exercise in respect of entire set of items to be implemented through/by the Panchayati Raj Institutions as a part of the plan should also be attempted.

(f) and (g) No economic survey has been conducted by the Planning Commission of all the districts of the country. However, 147 districts (115 backward districts and 32 districts affected by left wing extremism) were identified for coverage under the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, initiated during the Tenth Plan. The backward districts were identified on the basis of an index of backwardness comprising three parameters with equal weightage to each, namely, value of output per agricultural worker, agriculture wage rate and percentage of SC/ST population of the districts.

#### **Issuance of Passport Through Internet**

\*221. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:  
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made arrangements for the issuance of passports through internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the regional passport offices where the passports are currently available online;

(d) whether the Government proposes to hand over passport issuance work to outsourcing agencies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. With a view to minimising waiting time at the counters for submission of applications, the Government has initially provided the facility of registration of personal particulars by applicants through the internet at select passport offices viz. Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Lucknow, Mumbai and Trivandrum. After on-line registration, the applicant is given a date and time slot for submission of the application at the passport office at a designated counter. In case the applicant is unable to submit the application on the specified date, he or she will also

have the option to do so at a general counter on a subsequent date.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at this juncture to outsource passport issuance work.

#### Software Technology Parks

2070. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

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

(b) the main functions of these technology parks;

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

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) (46) forty-six Software Technology Parks (STPI) centres have been established in various States. The State-wise list of centers is enclosed as Statement.

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 and start up units. The datacom connectivity is a critical requirement for software exporters and STPI has been providing this service since inception.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up new STPI centers at Bhopal, Gwalior, Patna, Siliguri, Haldia, Berhampur, Kakinada, Agra, Goa, Shillong, Agartala and Gulbarga.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Statement

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

1	2	3	[Translation]
31.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	<b>Promotion of Pilgrim Tourists Places/Temples in Orissa</b>
32.		Jodhpur	
33.	Sikkim	Gangtok	2071. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:
34.	Tamilnadu	Chennai	
35.		Coimbatore	(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has taken any steps for the protection of pilgrim tourist places and temples in Orissa;
36.		Madurai	(b) if so, the details thereof; and
37.		Thirunavelli	
38.		Trichy	(c) the works executed for the conservation, development and modernisation of these places and the expenditure incurred during each of the last three years thereon?
39.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	
40.		Lucknow	
41.		Noida	THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India takes up the regular maintenance and conservation of centrally protected monuments and sites. The monuments and sites taken up for major conservation works in the Bhubaneswar Circle, Orissa during the last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon is enclosed statement.
42.		Allahabad	
43.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	
44.	West Bengal	Kolkatta	
45.		Durgapur	
46.		Kharagpur	

**Statement**

*The List of centrally protected monuments under the jurisdiction of the Bhubaneswar Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India on which major conservation/development and modernization works carried out and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years*

Sl.No.	Name of the Site/Monument	Rupees in Lakhs		
		Year/Expenditure		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jagannath Temple, Puri, District Puri	23.54	22.30	24.23
2.	Lord Lingaraj Temple, Bhubaneswar, Khurda	04.82	04.02	05.72
3.	Sun Temple, Konark, Puri	21.92	26.53	64.05
4.	Varahi Temple, Chaurasi, Puri	01.37	01.84	05.24
5.	Bhringreswar Mahadev Temple, Bajrakote, Dhenkanal	—	02.12	00.76

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Barabati Fort, Cuttack	—	12.05	15.80
7.	Rasik Ray Temple, Haripurgarh, Cuttack	—	—	02.09
8.	Kedareswar Temple, Choudwar, Cuttack	—	—	05.15
9.	Trilochaneswar Temple, Jaipur	—	—	05.33
10.	Excavated Site, Ratnagiri, Jajpur	—	03.07	08.50
11.	Transplantation & restoration of Mahakal Temple, Ratnagiri, Jajpur	—	14.73	05.48
12.	Excavated Site Phase II, Udayagiri, Jajpur	02.49	02.33	18.36
13.	Excavated Site, Lalitgiri, Cuttack	01.50	02.35	11.24
14.	Mahimamani Temple, Ragadi, Cuttack	01.00	01.05	—
15.	Rajarani Temple, Bhubaneswar, Khurda	00.72	—	08.44
16.	Bhaskareswar Temple, Bhubaneswar, Khurda	—	—	06.32
17.	Megheswar Temple, Bhubaneswar, Khurda	—	—	01.40
18.	Khandagiri & Udayagiri, Bhubaneswar, Khurda	01.48	01.40	08.72
19.	Brahmeswar Temple, Bhubaneswar, Khurda	07.00	03.87	—
20.	Gangadharswami Temple, Kotakola, Ganjam	—	—	03.90
<b>Total:</b>		<b>65.84</b>	<b>97.66</b>	<b>200.73</b>

[English]

**Income Gap between Rural and Urban Population**

2072. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a gradual increase in the income gap between the rural and urban population;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) According to the information available from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (National Accounts Division), the per capita income measured in terms of Net Domestic Product (NDP) was Rs. 1245 for the rural and Rs. 2888 for urban areas respectively in 1980-81, at current prices. The corresponding per capita incomes were Rs. 5783 and Rs. 13525 for 1993-94, at current prices. No information giving the rural-urban differences in income level is available after 1993-94.

The per capita income measured in terms of per capita NDP for urban areas was 2.32 times higher than

in the rural areas in 1980-81. The corresponding ratio for the year 1993-94 was virtually the same at 2.34 times.

(b) In view of the negligible difference in the ratio of per capita NDP in urban and rural areas as indicated in part (a) above, does not arise.

(c) The Tenth Five Year Plan gives priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty and accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices.

#### **World Bank Assistance for Drinking Water Projects**

2073. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to approach World Bank for assistance for drinking water projects in West Bengal, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal on National Water Quality and Sustainability Programme was posed by the Deptt. of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development to Deptt. of Economic Affairs for seeking assistance from World Bank for a sum of Rs. 5300 crore (US \$ 1.2 billion) for nine States viz Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Deptt. of Economic Affairs has forwarded the proposal to World Bank.

Besides this, another proposal on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, namely, Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project, is under active consideration of World Bank for possible funding. The proposed Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project proposes to cover all the districts in the State to benefit 1.5 million rural population in about 1000 Village Panchayats. World Bank has provided PHRD grant of US \$ 898,500 to Government of Uttaranchal for preparation of Detailed Project Report, which is under preparation.

#### **Financial Health of National Institute of Siddha**

2074. SHIR K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Siddha (NIS) Chennai, is facing acute financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the central assistance provided to this institute by the Government during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(d) whether any new research schemes have been introduced in the institute recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c)

(Rupees in crore)

2002-03	4.00
2003-04	10.00
2004-05	4.75
2005-06 (B.E.)	5.00

(d) and (e) Yes, Being a teaching institution, research topics for dissertation are being allotted to the 2nd year PG students numbering 27 in all six branches. The names of research topics taken are (1) Non-specific Leucorrhoea. (2) Osteoarthritis. (3) Pernicious Anaemia and (4) Cervical Spondylosis, etc.

#### **Implementation of Schemes/Projects in Assam**

2075. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes/projects on Urban Development being implemented in Assam, location-wise;

(b) whether any International Cooperation and Technical Assistance for the purpose has been provided in Assam during the last five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of centres of National Cooperative Housing Federation operating in Assam;

(e) the funds released to Assam under the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme (ILCS), location-wise;

(f) the mechanism evolved for monitoring of schemes/projects undertaken in Assam;

(g) whether Non-Governmental Organisations have also been involved to monitor the schemes/projects; and

(h) if so, the details of such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Increase of MBBS Seats**

2076. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representation from the Government of Orissa to increase MBBS seats at the three Government run medical colleges in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Central Government is permitting increase in seats in MBBS course as per the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1993, as amended and Regulations made thereunder. Under the above provisions proposal was received in August, 2002 for increase in MBBS seats in Government Medical College at Cuttack. Based on the recommendations of Medical Council of India, increase in seats from 107 to 150 in medical college at Cuttack was permitted in 2003.

However, subsequently in the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 the college did not provide adequate facilities as per MCI norms and, therefore, renewable of permission for admission of fresh batch of students against the increased intake capacity in these years could not be granted. Proposals for increase in MBBS seats from 107 to 150 at Government Medical Colleges at Burla and Behrampur were received in August, 2003. The MCI after inspection of these medical colleges did not recommended any increase in view of various deficiencies. The proposals for increase of MBBS seats in these medical colleges were therefore disapproved. No fresh proposal from these colleges have been received thereafter.

#### **Standard of Medical Education and Hospital Facilities**

2077. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee appointed by the Apex Court has started that some States are attempting to dilute high standards in medical education and hospital facilities in the country;

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

(c) the number of litigations pending as on date challenging the decisions of the Medical Council of India (MCI) relating to recognition, increase in the number of seats and introduction of new courses in medical colleges and hospitals; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure strict compliance of MCI norms in medical education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its Order date 20.11.2002 appointed an Ad-hoc Committee of experts to assist the Medical Council of India (MCI). The Committee in its report submitted to the Court made some recommendations on the working of the Council which inter-alia observed that the Universities and State Governments need to be sensitised towards the issue of enforcement of the minimum norm and standard prescribed by the Council. The Court had directed the Central Government to file its reply in the matter. The matter is, therefore, subjudice.

(c) As per information furnished by MCI, 265 cases are pending in various Courts in India in which the prayer is against MCI.

(d) The permission to establish a Medical College, increase in intake capacity or for starting the higher course of study is granted only after the MCI verifies the availability of infrastructure and faculty through inspection. The MCI also conducts periodic inspection of recognized colleges to ensure maintenance of standard and cases of colleges which are not adhering to the minimum standard are proposed as per the provisions of Section 19 of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

#### Promoting Sports among Women

2078. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme 'National Sports Championship for Women' started in 1975, aims at promoting sports amongst women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance allocated by the Union Government especially to the State Government of Gujarat during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The scheme of 'National Sports Championship for Women' started in 1975, aims at promoting sports amongst women. Under the scheme, national level competitions are preceded by holding of lower level competitions (Block, District & State level) for which States/UTs are provided financial assistance as per norms. The scheme is implemented through the Sports Authority of India. The pattern being followed at present for Central financial assistance is as under:

(i) Block level competition	Rs. 1000 per block
(ii) Distt. level competition	Rs. 3000 per Distt.
(iii) State level competition	Rs. 10,000/- per State
(iv) Smaller States and UTs	Rs. 500 per State/UT

(c) The Ministry did not receive any proposal from Gujarat State for the release of funds during the last three years. Amount of financial assistance released to the States/UTs during the last three years is enclosed as Statement.

#### *Statement*

#### *National Sports Festival for Women*

*Details of Funds/Financial Assistance Released to the States/UTs for Lower Level Competitions during the last three years i.e., from 2002-03 to 2004-05*

Sl.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	—	209,000/- (2001-02)	209,000/- (2003-04) 2,09,000/-
2.	Bihar	4,40,800/- (2001-2002)	4,46,000/-	4,46,000/-
3.	Chhattisgarh	1,45,600/-	—	—
4.	Goa	—	22,600/-	—
5.	Himachal Pradesh	91,000/-	91,000/-	91,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	—	1,33,600/-	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	74,800/-
8.	Rajasthan	2,48,200/- (2000-2001)	2,48,200/-	—
9.	Kerala	—	—	1,43,200/- (2003-04)
10.	Orissa	1,00,000/-	—	1,93,600/- (2003-04)
11.	Punjab	1,43,200/-	—	10,000/- (for State level competition only)
12.	Tripura	45,000/-	45,000/-	46,000/-
13.	Karnataka	1,96,000/-	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	49,000/-
Total		14,09,800/-	11,95,400/-	14,71,600/-

*[Translation]***Accelerated Urban Water Supply Scheme**

2079. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities in Gujarat where the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Scheme has been implemented;

(b) whether the progress of work related to the said scheme in these cities is very slow;

(c) if so, the efforts made by the Government to accelerate the pace of work of the said scheme; and

(d) the success achieved as a result of the said efforts?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) The names of the towns in Gujarat where the AUWSP has been implemented are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The schedule for implementation of the projects under AUWSP is indicated in respective detailed project report (DPRs). Depending upon the size and type of the projects, two to three years are usually required for implementation of the projects. As per the information provided by the implementation agency, all AUWSP projects Sanctioned upto 2001-02 have been completed. Out of the 22 Schemes sanctioned in 2002-03, 13 have been completed and 9 projects are in advanced stage of execution. 4 schemes have been sanctioned in 2003-04 out of which 3 are in advanced stage of execution. 19 schemes have been sanctioned in 2004-05 out of which tender process has been completed for 6 schemes and 13 are at advanced stage of tender process. The overall progress of work is satisfactory in implementing the scheme.

(c) The progress of implementation of the scheme is monitored through review meetings and field visits. Nodal officers have been appointed for each State to review the progress of the projects and the pace of implementation. The last review meeting by Secretary (UD) was held on 20.10.2005.

(d) Out of 51 projects sanctioned upto 31.3.2004, 39 projects have been completed (76% completed). Of the remaining 12 schemes sanctioned upto 31.3.2004, the weighted average rate of progress of work is 73%.



**Statement****State: Gujarat***Towns where the AUWSP has been implemented in Gujarat*

Sl.No.	Name of Town	District
1	2	3
1.	Dharampur	Valsad
2.	Bantva	Junagadh
3.	Mendarda	Junagadh
4.	Dhrol	Jamnagar
5.	Okha Port	Jamnagar
6.	Jodia	Jamnagar
7.	Barwala	Ahmedabad
8.	Surajkaradi	Jamnagar
9.	Kheralu	Mehsana
10.	Khedbarahma	Sabarkantha
11.	Visavadar	Junagarh
12.	Adityana	Junagarh
13.	Chikhli	Navasari
14.	Vanthali	Junagarh
15.	Salaya	Jamnagar
16.	Devgadh Baria	Dahod
17.	Ranabav	Porbandar
18.	Kutiyana	Porbandar
19.	Damnagar	Amreli
20.	Lathi	Amreli
21.	Beyt	Jamnagar
22.	Babra	Amreli
23.	Santrampur	Panchmahal
24.	Paliyad	Bhavnagar

1	2	3
25.	Lalpur	Jamnagar
26.	Padadhari	Rajkot
27.	Chotila	Surendranagar
28.	Ranpur	Ahmedabad
29.	Mandal	Ahmedabad
30.	Waghai	Dangs
31.	Bodeli	Vadodara
32.	Hariji	Patan
33.	Chanasma	Patan
34.	Kanodar	Banaskantha
35.	Chhapi	Banaskantha
36.	Vinchhiya	Rajkot
37.	Jetalsar	Rajkot
38.	Shivrajpur	Panchmahal
39.	Vertej	Bhavnagar

**Rules for Learning Foreign Languages  
by IFS Officers**

2080. SHIR BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rules framed for learning foreign languages for the officers of the Indian Foreign Service;

(b) the procedure adopted for the selection of languages;

(c) whether the rules regarding the selection of languages were violated or altered in the year 2001 and 2002;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Every officer of the Indian Foreign Service is normally confirmed in Service only after passing an examination in a foreign language allotted to him for compulsory study. For this purpose the Government sanctions expenditure on attending a course in the particular language at an institution abroad during his first posting as a Third Secretary (Language Trainee). No reward/allowance is admissible for study of compulsory foreign language. Officers are normally expected to pass the prescribed examination in the compulsory foreign language within a specified period. The Government also offers incentives for officers who study and pass prescribed examinations in additional foreign languages.

(b) The selection of languages for compulsory study is based on an assessment of the need for language proficiency of officers of Ministry of External Affairs in areas of importance, as determined from time-to-time in accordance with evolving international scenario.

(c) There was no violation/alteration in the rules regarding the selection of languages in the year 2001 or 2002.

(d) to (f) The question does not arise.

#### Compensation to Gulf War Victims

2081. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Organisation (UNO) has provided full compensation in lieu of loss suffered by Indian citizens during the Gulf War;

(b) if so, the details of the beneficiaries; and

(c) the details of amount provided as compensation in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No, Sir. It is the exclusive responsibility of the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) to scrutinize, evaluate the compensation application and decide on the quantum of payment or entirely reject a claim.

Under Article 40, sub clause 4, of the Provisional Rules For Claims Procedure, UNCC decisions are final

and not subject to review or appeal on procedural, substantive or other grounds.

(b) and (c) As per UNCC guidelines the UNCC list of individual approved claims is confidential and can only be revealed to the concerned claimants. The details of total claims filed, approved and amount received from UNCC and paid to claimants are given in the attached statement.

#### Statement

(As on 1.12.2005)

Total number of claims Registered with Special Kuwait Cell Ministry of External Affairs		Total amount claimed (in US \$)
Category A	110,511	\$ 424,237,500/-
Category B	386	\$ 867,500/-
Category C	39,955	\$ 771, 964,457/-
Category D	999	\$ 315,125,486/-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,51,851</b>	<b>\$ 1,512,394,943/-</b>

#### Total number of approved claimants category-wise

Category A	-104,980
Category B	-183
Category C	-40,486
Category D	-841
<b>Total</b>	<b>-146,490</b>

Total amount paid to the claimants : 922,503,053.57  
(for all Categories)

Total amount received from United Nations Compensation Commission : 949,317,809.52  
(for all Categories)

[English]

#### Nuclear Exports to India

2082. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada has joined the growing number of countries who have resumed nuclear exports to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the countries who have agreed to start nuclear exports to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) During his visit to Canada from 25-27 September 2005, the then External Affairs Minister had discussions with the Canadian Foreign Minister on the issue of civilian nuclear cooperation. The two countries have agreed to develop a bilateral framework for nuclear safety collaboration. Government is engaged in an ongoing dialogue with a broad range of countries on the need for lifting restrictions to enable full civilian nuclear co-operation with India.

#### **Lymphoedema Cases**

2083. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to launch a programme for the management of Lymphoedema cases at the doorsteps with the Mass Drug Administration of single dose of Diethylcarbamazine (DCE); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Govt. of India has already launched the programme for elimination of lymphatic filariasis which has following strategies:

- Annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) of single does of DEC (Diethylcarbamazine citrate) for 5 years or more to the eligible population to interrupt transmission of the disease. The National Filaria Day was observed on 11th November, 2005 for Mass Drug Administration (MDA) of single does of DEC (Diethylcarbamazine citrate)
- Home based management of lymphoedema cases and up-scaling of hydrocele operations in identified CHCs/Distt hospitals/medicals colleges.
- Capacity building of health care workers for home-based management of Lymphatic filariasis cases.

During 2004, as per reports received from 18 districts, 82 hydrocelectomy camps were organized and 2072 hydrocele operations were conducted.

During the year 2005, 440 faculties in 69 medical colleges were trained for imparting training to district level trainers in management of vector borne diseases including managemnt of Lymphodema cases through Primary Health Care system.

#### **Setting up of Sub Marine Station In Kolkata**

2084. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up a submarine station near Kolkata to provide better access to internet; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said station is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) All International Long Distance Operations are free to choose location of submarine station depending upon techno-economic feasibility. So far Government has not received any proposal for setting up of a submarine cable landing station near Kolkata from any operator.

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

#### **Expert Committee on Coal Sector**

2085. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Expert Committee to carry out a continuous and comprehensive review of the coal sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition and terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) the action, if any, taken by the Committee so far; and

(d) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the development of coal sector?

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

(b) The Government have set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.L. Shankar to review the functioning of coal sector in the country. The terms of reference of the Expert Committee are as under:

- (i) Measures for meeting the demand-supply gap in coal in the short, medium and long-term.
- (ii) Measures to improve productivity of man and machinery in Indian Coal Sector, particularly in Coal India.
- (iii) Introduction of cutting edge technology.
- (iv) Measures to convert Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDI) into a Center of Excellence for Planning and Research in coal sector.
- (v) Restructuring of CIL to make it a World class company.
- (vi) Other matters that the committee may consider important for the general improvement in the functioning of the Coal Sector.
- (vii) Examining the merits of opening up trading in coal.
- (viii) Examining the current policy of captive coal mining and considering recommendations which might reduce the demand-supply gap.
- (ix) Examination of major recommendations suggested by M/s KPMG Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.

Other members of the committee are as under:—

- (i) Dr. J.J. Irani, Director, TATA
- (ii) Shri P.K. Sen Gupta, former Chairman, Coal India Limited
- (iii) Shri P.V. Sridharan, Sr. Visiting Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- (iv) Shri S.K. Mahajan, former Adviser, Planning Commission.

(v) Shri S.P. Sethi, Adviser (Energy), Planning Commission.

(vi) Shri Pradeep Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal.

(vii) Member Secretary of the Committee.

(c) and (d) The Committee has met various stakeholders and held discussion with them. It has also invited suggestions from the interested and the concerned by inserting an advertisement to this effect in the national dailies. The Committee is expected to submit its first report shortly.

### National Sports Policy

2086. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National sports policy will be declared during the winter session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government already has in place the National Sports Policy, 2001. The main features of the Policy indicated therein are as under:—

- I. Broadbasing of Sports and achievement of excellence in sports at the national and international levels;
- II. Up-gradation and development of infrastructure and ensuring access to sports equipments of high quality;
- III. Support to the National Sports Federations;
- IV. Strengthening of scientific back up and coaching support to sportspersons;
- V. Incentives to sports persons;
- VI. Enhanced participation of women, tribals and rural youth;

- VII. Involvement of the Corporate Sector in sports promotion; and
- VIII. Training and development of coaches, sports scientists, judges, referees and umpires;
- IX. Promotion of tourism through sports; and
- X. promoting globalization through sports.

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

*[Translation]*

**Assistance for Promotion of Sports in Rajasthan**

2087. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance provided by the Union Government to promote sports in Rajasthan during the last five years;

(b) whether schools of Rajasthan have been provided any assistance in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) further efforts being made by the Government to promote sports in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of the State Governments including Rajasthan for creation of various sports facilities in this direction by providing Central assistance for creation of various sports facilities under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes in accordance with the approved pattern subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Government. The Sports Infrastructure schemes have been transferred to the State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and all State Government were informed accordingly in February, 2005. No funds have been allocated in the budget for 2005-06 for sports infrastructure schemes. Thus, fresh proposals for the Sports Infrastructure projects have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. The details of Central assistance provided for promotion of sports in Rajasthan including assistance to schools during the last five years have been given below:—

Sl.No.	Name of the Federation	Central assistance released (Rs. in lakh)				
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure	774.98	872.50	1057.99	2906.98	1787.99
2.	Grants to Rural Schools	242.68	343.87	310.99	399.63	482.45
3.	Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities & Colleges	454.4	669.04	665.98	1080.25	1472.00
4.	Grants for Installation of synthetic Surfaces	200.00	385.00	120.67	200.00	150.00

In addition, Sports Authority of India (SAI) runs the following schemes promotion of sports in Rajasthan.

- (i) National Sports Talent Scheme
- (a) Guru Nanak Khalsa School, Sri Ganganagar

- (b) Bhupal's Nobles High School-Udaipur
- (ii) Schools adopted for indigenous games and Martial Art
- (a) Madhyamik Adarsh Vidya Mandir Nagwas Bandhikuien, Dhosa

(b) Padma Banani DAV Public School, Bnani  
Gram Pindwara, Sirohi

(iii) Adopted Navodaya Vidyalayas

(a) Navodaya Vidyalaya Teilwansi, P.O. Bhavi,  
Jodhpur

(iv) Adopted Akharas

(a) Luv Kush Akhara Bhilwara

(v) Akhara that has been provided equipment  
support

(a) Guru Hanuman Vyayamshala, Patel Maidan,  
Ajmer

(vi) SAI Training Centre

(a) STC Jodhpur

(b) STC Alwar.

*[English]*

#### **Mobile Ambulances to Primary Health Centres**

2088. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn a scheme to  
supply well equipped mobile ambulances to the Primary  
Health Centres throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of  
the States where such ambulances are likely to be  
provided;

(c) the details of the total cost estimated for such  
arrangement; and

(d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to  
become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI  
PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, one  
Mobile Medical unit is proposed to be provided per district  
in the all states of the country under National Rural Health  
Mission (NRHM), with the objective of taking health care  
to the doorsteps of public, especially in the underserved  
areas.

The Guidelines for the scheme are being formulated.

*[Translation]*

#### **Legislation for AIDS Control Programme**

2089. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to  
bring a new legislation for effective implementation of  
AIDS control programme in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI  
PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The  
government proposes to bring out a HIV/AIDS legislation  
to address issues of stigma, discrimination, access to  
testing, treatment and counselling, informed consent,  
assuring a safe working environment, promotion of  
strategies for reduction of risk, access to health  
information, redressal mechanisms, protection of the rights  
of women and children infected by HIV etc.

*[English]*

#### **Pak Proposal for Solution of Kashmir Issue**

2090. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has submitted any proposal for  
the solution of Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) No  
formal proposal has been submitted by Pakistan for  
resolution of the Kashmir issue.

#### **Shortage of Staff**

2091. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of staff in the Postal &  
Telegraph departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any of the States have pointed out the said problem; and

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

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

#### Department of Posts

(a) and (b) There is no general shortage of staff in the Department of Posts, though there are routine vacancies in Circles arising out of retirement, resignation, deputation and death of the incumbents.

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

(d) The process of filling up of approved vacancies by recruitment and by promotion is a continuous process and an ongoing exercise.

#### Department of Telecom.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given as under:

Sl.No.	Group	Shortage of Staff
1.	Group 'A'	77
2.	Group 'B'	177
3.	Group 'C'	45
4.	Group 'D'	118

(c) No, Sir.

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

#### Sports Stadiums

2092. MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of sports stadiums established in the country by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted by the Authority for the establishment of Sports Stadiums in the country;

(c) whether the SAI proposes to establish any stadium in Uttaranchal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has not established any stadium in the country. However, SAI maintains five stadia in Delhi which were handed over to SAI after Asian Games 1982. In addition SAI maintains sports infrastructure given by states for running their various Sports Promotion Programmes.

(b) to (d) In view of reply given to part (a) above, question do not arise.

(e) There is no scheme for construction of stadium in SAI.

[Translation]

#### CBI Raids

2093. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any investigation into the matter regarding leak of information on the raids conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) across the country;

(b) if so, the names of the officers involved therein alongwith the action taken against them;

(c) whether any measures have been taken to check recurrence of such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof:

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

PACHOURI): (a) to (d) On the basis of the media reports that the information regarding the Special Drive launched by CBI on 30.9.2005 had leaked, the CBI is conducting verification into the matter. CBI has sensitised its field formations and has instructed them to take extra precautions during mobilization of manpower/logistics for Special Drives.

[*English*]

#### **Jewellery of Nizam of Hyderabad on Public Display**

2094. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jewellery of Nizam of Hyderabad is proposed to be shifted from Bombay to Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad in December 2005 in connection with foundation day of the Museum;

(b) whether the jewellery will be on public display;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has made adequate security arrangements to safeguard the jewellery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) An exhibition of the Nizams' Jewels is being organised at Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad for public display. The dates of the exhibition are yet to be finalised. Adequate security arrangements are being made in consultation with CISF, IB, Ministry of Home Affairs and other concerned authorities.

#### **Preservation of Ancient Manuscripts**

2095. SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI:  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a museum of ancient manuscripts (Punthi Sala) which was set up in 1920 is presently being run by private initiative of "Central for Study and Documentation of Rarh Culture" in Vadul Village of Bankura District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether eminent researchers and scholars from various Indian Universities as well as from abroad

frequently visit this Museum for research and documentation; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to preserve these ancient manuscripts in Sanskrit, Bengali and Vaisnav Literature?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Mission for Manuscripts has offered to provide the assistance for cataloguing the precious manuscripts collection of the institution as well as preventive conservation treatment through the local Manuscripts Resource Centre. The representatives of the Museum were invited by the Calcutta University, which is the Mission's Manuscripts Resource Centre in West Bengal, for an Orientation Course on Manuscripts at Bishnupur held on 19-19 April, 2005.

[*Translation*]

#### **Ancient Language Status to Sanskrit**

2096. YOGI ADITYA NATH:  
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:  
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being followed for according status of 'ancient language' to a language;

(b) whether the Government has decided to accord Sanskrit language the status on ancient language; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has created a new category of languages called 'classical languages' and not 'ancient languages'. The criteria for classification of a language as a classical language is as under:

- (i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
- (ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.



- (iii) The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
- (iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

(b) and (c) As per Notification issue by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Sanskrit Language satisfies the above criteria and has been classified as a 'Classical Language'. There is no such category as ancient language.

#### **Commonwealth Games**

2097. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is providing any subsidy for Commonwealth Games;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all sports organizations of the country have been taken into confidence in order to organize the Games successfully; and
- (d) if so, the details of the construction works relating to Games carried out so far and the amount spent by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) While approving the proposal of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for bidding for the Commonwealth Games, 2010, Government has given guarantee to underwrite any shortfall between revenue and expenditure of the Organizing Committee (OC). Government has so far provided Rs. 20.88 crores to IOA/OC towards Commonwealth Games, 2010.

(c) Organizing Committee Commonwealth Games 2010 (OC) is a non-government non-profit autonomous organization headed by President, Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Four representatives of National Sports Federations are members of the Executive Board of OC. OC is responsible for conduct of the Commonwealth Games 2010.

(d) The final decision on venue for sports events and Games Village had not yet been taken. No amount has been sanctioned on construction of venue infrastructure and Games Village till date.

*[English]*

#### **CBI Investigations against High Officials**

2098. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted investigations against high officials of the Central Council of Homoeopathy including officials from Institutions like the National Institute of Homeopathy, Kolkata;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any evidence of corrupt practices have been detected against them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

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

(b) to (d) A case of criminal misconduct has been registered by the CBI against the Present, Vice President of Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi for abusing their position in granting recognition to various Homoeopathy Medical Colleges in violation of norms and guidelines of Government of India. A case of possessing assets disproportionate to the known sources of income has also been registered by the CBI against the Director, National Institute of homoeopathy, Kolkata.

(e) CBI is investigating the cases. However, the Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy has been suspended from the service on account of his arrest by the West Bengal Police in another case.

#### **Grants to Rural Schools**

2099. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to release the already sanctioned grant to Rural Schools;

(b) if so, the time by which the same would be released;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reconsider to resume grants to rural schools;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) 'Sports' is a 'State' subject under the Constitution. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create basic sports infrastructure throughout the country. Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this direction by providing Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes including the scheme of Grants to 'Rural Schools for Purchase Sports Equipment and Development of Playground' in accordance with the approved pattern subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Government. The Sports Infrastructure schemes have been transferred to the State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and all State Governments were informed accordingly in February, 2005. No funds have been allocated in the budget for 2005-06 for sports infrastructure including Scheme of Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of Sports equipment and development of playfield. Thus, fresh proposals for the sports infrastructure project have to be funded by the State Government from their own sources. However, Planning Commission has recently informed that funds will be provided for on-going approved sports infrastructure projects during the X Plan only Subject to availability of funds Central admissible assistance will be considered for release for the already approved cases including rural schools during the X Five Year Plan on receipt of requisite documents viz. Utilisation Certificate/completion certificate etc. from the grantee agencies.

#### **Malpractice by ASI Officials**

2100. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue collected from the entry points of each protected monuments does not reflect the actual number of tourists as reported in the *Times of India* dated September 26, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether ASI employees deputed at entry points of these monuments in the country have devised several ingenious ways of pocketing a part of the ticket money they collect from the tourists;

(d) if so, the estimated loss of revenue suffered by the Government during each of the last three years; year-wise;

(e) the action taken by the Government against the officials found guilty; and

(f) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The revenue collected from the entry points of the protected monuments should reflect the number of visitors to the monument. Though it had been reported in the *Times of India* dated 26th September 2005 that there are malpractices adopted by the employees, no specific case has been brought to the notice of the ASI so far.

(e) As no incident of malpractice in ticketing has been so far reported, the question of taking action against the guilty officers does not arise.

(f) It has since been decided to install automated access control system in some of the monuments where the number of visitors is large like Red Fort, Qutb Minar, Humayun's Tomb, etc. The automated system will be in a position within a short time.

#### **Heritage Map**

2101. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to launch a heritage map on built heritage monuments, sites and antiquities;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, it is proposed to prepare a national inventory of built heritage and sites, and a National Register of antiquities under the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities, the proposal for which is submitted for approval by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).

*[Translation]*

#### **Action Plan for Protected Monuments**

2102. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has submitted any action plan to the Government for the maintenance and protection of protected monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Archaeological Survey of India has not received any action plan for the maintenance and conservation of centrally protected monuments from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Sound and Light Show in Temple**

2103. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh seeking permission to conduct a sound and light show at the thousand pillared temple in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India

wrote to the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) for formulation and commissioning of the proposed Sound and Light Show at Warangal Fort. It has been informed by the APTDC vide letter dated 14.7.2005 that the proposal has been submitted to the Government of India, Ministry of Tourism for sanction under "Central Finance Assistance" for the year 2005-06, which is under consideration.

#### **Damage to Paintings in Ajanta Caves**

2104. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the damage caused to the paintings and other objects in Ajanta Caves due to seepage caused by the heavy rains;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused to the paintings; and

(c) the measures taken for preservation of these paintings and other objects?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Heavy rains have caused seepage in some of the caves. However, there had been no direct flow over the painted surfaces.

(c) Concealed drains have been provided at locations having significant seepage of rain water. Further measures for surface water management are being taken up on the basis of the geo-technical studies carried out by the Geological Survey of India.

#### **Shilpa Gram Project**

2105. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of the Shilpagram project at Guwahati;

(b) the details of programmes being implemented in Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra at Guwahati and other cultural centres under clause VI of Assam Accord; and

(c) the total allocation, amount utilized and achievements made in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) North East Zone Cultural Centre began setting up the Shilpagram at Guwahati in December 2003 at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.98 crores which was sanctioned by the Govt. of India in 2002-2003. Later, this year, another grant of Rs. 82.00 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Govt. of India for completion of the Shilpagram. The construction work of Shilpagram is in its final stage and it will soon become functional.

(b) Through out the years of its existence since 1998, the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra is organizing a number of festivals, workshops on various streams of art forms of north East, major art exhibitions, seminars and discussions, lectures series etc. They are also having a ethnographic and heritage museum. The Kalakeshtra has also brought out a large number of publications.

(c) As part of the Assam Accord, the Govt. of India had given an assistance of Rs. 18.85 Crores for construction of the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra. The State Govt., through grants-in-aid, funds the day-to-day functioning of the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra.

*[Translation]*

#### Opening School of Music, Theatre and Art

2106. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether owing to the paucity of adequate training institutes in the country, the talented students interested in Music, Theatre and Art are not getting adequate opportunities;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to open at least one School of Music, Theatre and Art in each State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The mandate of the Ministry of Culture is to promote

literary, visual and performing arts. The teaching of Music, theatre and Arts does not come within its functional spectrum. There are many private institutions and individuals (Gurus) who are involved in teaching of Music, Theatre and Art. However, the Ministry through its autonomous institutions, extends scholarships to the young and talented artists of the country. The number of applicants for these scholarships is large.

(b) to (d) At present, there is no proposal to open a school of Music, Theatre and Art in each state of the Country. The following universities/teaching institutions are totally dedicated to teaching of Music, Theatre and Art:—

- (i) Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh, Chhattisgarh.
- (ii) Bhatkhande Music Institute, Locknow, U.P.
- (iii) National School of Drama, New Delhi.

In addition about 171 universities have departments of Music/Theatre and Arts and about 44 colleges are providing training in Music, Theatre and Arts.

*[English]*

#### Restoration and Conservation of Old Temples in Foreign Countries

2107. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any requests for restoration and conservation of old historical Hindu Temples in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Requisite information is being collected from the Ministry of External Affairs.

#### Bharat Nirman Programme In Andhra Pradesh

2108. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited Andhra Pradesh on August 21, 2005 to launch the second round of land distribution programme of the State Government;

(b) if so, whether a special package was offered to Andhra Pradesh under the Bharat Nirman Programme for the development of rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time schedule fixed to complete the projects under the programme?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The time frame for achievement of the Bharat Nirman targets is 4 years (2005-2009).

*[Translation]*

#### **Maintenance of Protected Monuments in Rajasthan**

2109. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted any action plan to the Union Government for maintenance and conservation of protected monuments in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Archaeological Survey of India has not received any action plan for the maintenance and conservation of centrally protected monuments from the State Government of Rajasthan.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Use of Land for Mining**

2110. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has contacted the district authorities regarding the use of land for mining; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Land is acquired by Eastern Coalfields Limited under Land Acquisition Act, 1894, Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 and by means of transfer made by State Govt. in case of land vested in State Govt. and also by virtue of direct purchase from the tenants. Status of acquisition cases now in progress are as follows:

- (i) For Nakrakonda 'B' Colliery under Bankola Area notification under section 4(1) of Land Acquisition Act has been published on 16-8-04 for acquisition of 137 hectares of tenancy and patta land. Land value of Rs. 189 lakhs, as per revised estimate has been deposited to Land Acquisition Collector, Burdwan on 6.11.04.
- (ii) For 19 hectares of Govt. vested land, General Manager, Bankola Area has written to District Land & Land Reforms Officer, Burdwan on 4.10.05.
- (iii) For acquisition of 209 hectares of land under Land Acquisition Act for Ronai Patch under Kunostoria Area, Site Selection Committee at District level recommended the proposal to Govt. of West Bengal on 26.10.04.
- (iv) For acquisition of patta land for Damalia Patch under Satgram Area, the company has submitted proposal on 7.1.05 to Land Acquisition Collector, Burdwan. It has been discussed in Sub-Division level Site Selection Committee on 22.11.05.

*[English]*

#### **E-Governance in Urban Local Bodies**

2111. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised the project on E-governance in urban local bodies;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in finalisation of the project;

(d) whether the Government has also any plan to design a National Mission on e-governance in Municipal bodies across the country; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said project and Mission are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) to (e) A 'National Mission Mode Project on e-Governance in Municipalities' is being formulated by the Ministry of Urban Development, covering 423 cities/towns having population of one lakh and above, for implementation during the period 2005-06 to 2009-10. The EFC Memorandum on the project has been circulated to all concerned Ministries for their comments. The details of the project are yet to be finalized. The delay in finalisation of the project is because of the consultation process with selected urban local bodies, State Governments and concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India for designing the project, preparation of cost estimates, etc. However, the project is likely to be finalized and launched by the end of this financial year, 2005-06.

*[Translation]*

#### Development of Tribal Areas in Madhya Pradesh

2112. SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of schemes implemented for the development of the tribal areas during the last five years till date, year-wise;

(c) the funds allocated for the said schemes; and

(d) the present status of the works started under the Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Under tribal sub Plan, 26 Major & 5 Medium ITDPs, 30 MADA pockets and 6 clusters have been identified in Madhya Pradesh. Detailed Information is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) to (d) In the tribal backward Tribal Sub Plan areas, various departments are executing Tribal Sub-plan, SCA to TSP and Article 275(1). The detailed information is given in Statement-II enclosed.

#### *Statement I*

*The Tribal Sub-Plan area is divided into 26 major, 5 Medium Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs), 30 MADA and 6 clusters, in Madhya Pradesh*

Sl.No.	Division/District	Name of ITDP/MADA/Cluster		
		ITDP	MADA	Cluster
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Indore Division</b>				
1.	Jhabua	1. Jhabua 2. Alirajpur		
2.	Dhar	3. Dhar 4. Kukshi	1. Badnawar	
3.	Khargone	5. Khargone 6. Maheshwar		

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Badwani	7. Badwani		
		8. Sendhwa		
5.	Khandwa	9. Khandwa	2. Aandhawadi	1. Pamakhedi
			3. Pipalkota	
6.	Indore		4. Mhow	
	<b>Ujjain Division</b>			
7.	Dewas	10. Bagli (Medium)		
8.	Ratlam	11. Sailana		
	<b>Jabalpur Division</b>			
9.	Mandla	12. Mandla		
		13. Niwas		
10.	Dindori	14. Dindori		
11.	Balaghat	15. Baihar		
12.	Seoni	16. Lakhnandone	5. Seoni	
		17. Kurai (Medium)		
13.	Chhindwada	18. Tamia	6. Lahgadua	
		19. Sounsar		
14.	Jabalpur	20. Kundam	7. Bargipatan	2. Pratappur
			8. Sehora	3. Hinotiya
15.	Narsingpur		9. Narsingpur	
16.	Katni		10. Maudwara	4. Mohari
	<b>Rewa Division</b>			
17.	Shahdol	21. Shahdol	11. Beohari	
		22. Jaisingnagar		
18.	Anuppur	23. Pushparajgarh		
19.	Umariya	24. Bandhavgarh		
20.	Sidhi	25. Devsar		
		26. Kusmi		

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Satna		12. Maihar	
			13. Nagod	
			14. Raghurajagar	
			15. Amarpatan	
22.	Rewa		16. Piprahi	
	<b>Bhopal Division</b>			
23.	Betul	27. Betul	17. Prabhatpattan	
		28. Bhainsdehi		
24.	Raisen		18. Sitwani, Bareil	
			19. Goaharganj	
25.	Sehore		20. Ichhwar, Nasrullaganj, Budhani	
26.	Hoshangabad	29. Kesla (Medium)		
27.	Harda	30. Harda (Medium)		
	<b>Sagar Division</b>			
28.	Sagar		21. Deori Kala	
29.	Panna		22. Pawai	
30.	Chhatarpur			5. Kishangarh
31.	Damoh		23. Jabera	
			24. Tendukheda	
			25. Hata	
	<b>Gwalior Division</b>			
32.	Guna		26. Guna	
			27. Chachoda	
			28. Persolia	
33.	Shivpuri		29. Shivpuri	6. Kotla
			30. Pohri	
34.	Shoepur	31. Karahal (Medium)		



**Statement II****A. Tribal Sub-Plan—State Plan** (Rs. crore)

Year	Tribal Sub-Plan			
	Budget Provision	Allotment	Expenditure	% to allotment
2001-02	623.85	620.20	505.46	81.50
2002-03	818.83	824.69	686.72	83.27
2003-04	899.41	962.73	839.00	87.15
2004-05	1409.82	1365.75	1176.57	86.15
2005-06	1544.91	1365.63	403.31	29.53

(Progress Upto Sept. 2005)

**B. Special Central Assistance—Tribal Sub Plan** (Rs. In crore)

Year	Budget Provision (Including suppl.)	Released Amount From GOI	Expenditure	%age to released amt.
2001-02	72.02	78.33	62.25	79.47
2002-03	91.70	78.33	87.94	112.27
2003-04	80.23	74.59	70.33	94.28
2004-05	87.38	91.40	70.50	77.13
2005-06	104.44	76.61	N.A.	N.A.

**C. Article-275 (1)** (Rs. In crore)

Year	Budget Provision (Including suppl.)	Released Amount From GOI	Expenditure	%age to released amt.
2001-02	58.77	43.46	43.45	99.97
2002-03	72.05	40.52	40.52	100.00
2003-04	52.87	38.22	35.36	92.52
2004-05	66.48	51.74	41.87	80.92
2005-06	50.86	48.99	N.A.	N.A.

*[English]***Leasehold Conversion Scheme**

2113. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3883 on April 19, 2005 and state:

(a) the main features of the leasehold conversion scheme including reference to General Power of Attorney (GPA) as originally notified on approval by the Union Government; and

(b) the modifications effected therein subsequently by the Chandigarh Union Territory Administration?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]***National Income and Per Capita Income**

2114. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state the actual National Income and the Per Capita Income of the country for the year 2004-05, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): The National Income also known as Net National Product (NNP) and Per Capita Income at 1993-94 prices for the country during 2004-05 are Rs. 13,54,599 crore and Rs. 12,416 respectively. The State-wise per Capita income for the year 2004-05 is not available for all the states. However, State-wise estimates of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at current and constant (1993-94) prices for the previous three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement****State-wise Per Capita Income at Current and Constant (1993-94) prices**

(In Rupees)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Per Capita NSDP (State Income) at Current Prices			Per Capita NSDP (State Income) At 1993-94 Prices		
		2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17932	18820	20757	10809	10634	11333
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15701	15589	17393	9401	9086	9678
3.	Assam	11132	12074	13139	6066	6221	6520
4.	Bihar	5007	5683	5780	3342	3928	3557
5.	Jharkhand	10129	11544	12509	6587	7614	8247
6.	Goa	51076	53092	NA	27603	28071	NA
7.	Gujarat	19607	22838	26979	13232	14539	16779
8.	Haryana	24851	26974	29963	14181	14694	15721
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21570	22671	24903	11326	11655	12302
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	13320	NA	NA	7541	NA	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Karnataka	18196	19865	21696	12029	12518	13141
12.	Kerala	20287	22776	24492	10762	11605	12328
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12125	11483	14011	7699	7015	8284
14.	Chhattisgarh	12032	12244	14863	7400	7250	8383
15.	Maharashtra	24055	26291	29204	14642	15580	16479
16.	Manipur	12683	13658	14766	7445	8048	8751
17.	Meghalaya	15813	16803	18135	9905	10262	10795
18.	Mizoram	19704	22207	NA	10505	10833	NA
19.	Nagaland	18911	NA	NA	11674	NA	NA
20.	Orissa	9897	10208	12388	5802	5665	6487
21.	Punjab	25625	26032	27851	15195	15264	15800
22.	Rajasthan	13621	12745	15486	8763	7917	9685
23.	Sikkim	18822	20456	21586	11232	NA	NA
24.	Tamil Nadu	20326	21740	23358	12484	12696	12976
25.	Tripura	17383	18676	NA	9664	9969	NA
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9320	9870	10817	5603	5496	5702
27.	Uttaranchal	13260	NA	NA	7937	NA	NA
28.	West Bengal	17499	18549	20896	10380	10951	11612
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25999	28340	NA	15679	15880	NA
30.	Chandigarh	47680	51341	57621	28697	29899	31865
31.	Delhi	44422	47441	51664	26306	27528	29231
32.	Pondicherry	37926	45431	50936	22827	25740	28107

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.

[English]

**Procurement of Computers and Peripherals  
on Hire Basis**

2115. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies have procured computers and peripherals on hire basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether purchase of computer peripherals would have been economical than obtaining them on hire basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of expenditure incurred during 2004-05 are as follows:

Company	(Rs. in lakhs) Expenditure
Coal India Limited (Head quarters)	69.47
Eastern Coalfields Limited	288.14
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	366.08
Central Coalfields Limited	312.59
Western Coalfields Limited	176.70
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	397.47
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	165.00
Northern Coalfields Limited	34.70
North-Eastern Coalfields	3.78
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited	154.34

(c) and (d) As per information furnished by CIL, hiring turns out to be economical than purchase due to fast development in computer technology, fast obsolescence of models, availability of maintenance support and higher machine up time even in remote locations in coalfield areas.

#### Putting an end to Deputation System

2116. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARULAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to discontinue the system of deputation of officers to and from Government Departments/Ministries etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### Per Capita Expenditure on Basic Facilities

2117. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita expenditure incurred by the Union Government on the urban population of the country to provide basic facilities like roads, sanitation, drinking water, power etc., during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the per capita expenditure incurred on Delhi during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to bring in parity in the expenditure incurred on the small and medium cities vis-à-vis the metropolitan cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*English*]

#### DDA Mega Housing Project

2118. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has awarded mega housing project at a very high rate;

(b) if so, the details of the construction of the mega housing projects, the rate thereof and the reasons for awarding at such a high rate; and

(c) the action the Government proposes to take against the officials responsible for causing financial loss to DDA?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it awarded Mega Housing Projects in two categories namely:

- (i) Turn key basis; and
- (ii) Item Rate basis

Details of Mega Projects awarded on Turn key basis are enclosed in Statement-I enclosed. Details of Mega

Project awarded on Item Rate Basis are given in Statement-II enclosed.

DDA has reported that prescribed procedures were followed while awarding the Mega Housing Projects, and all the projects were awarded after due deliberation and discussions, keeping in view the justification of rates worked out on the basis of then prevailing market rates.

DDA has further informed that its Vigilance Cell took up investigation in respect of mega Housing Projects on Turn key Basis.

**Statement I**

**Statement of Mega Projects awarded on Turnkey Basis**

Sl.No.	Name of scheme	Zone	Agency	Rate at which awarded
1	2	3	4	5
1.	C/o 1256 LIG Houses on Turnkey basis in Pocket A,B,C,D, Group-I, Sector B-2, Narela	North	Unity Infra Project Limited	Rs. 7190/- per Sq. Mt. and Rs. 100/- per Sq.Mt. To be paid extra if pile foundation is required.
2.	C/o 1160 LIG Houses on Turnkey basis in Pocket E.F.G,H, Group-II, Sector B-2, Narela	North	Unity Infra Project Limited	Rs. 7190/- per Sq. Mt. and Rs. 100/-per Sq.Mt. To be paid extra if pile foundation is required.
3.	C/o 630 LIG houses on Turnkey basis in Sector 18, Rohini	Rohini	Unitech Limited	Rs. 7190/- per Sq.Mt. of plinth area of the flat.
4.	C/o 760/756 LIG houses on Turnkey basis at Sector 14, Dwarka	Dwarka	VRM (India) Limited	Rs. 7190/- per Sq.Mt. of plinth area of the flat.
5.	C/o 850 (Actual 795) Mass Housing (170 HIG/340 MIG/304 LIG) at Vasant Kunj near Sultan Garhi on Turnkey basis	SWZ (India) Limited	Ahluwalia Contract	Rs. 7365/- per Sq.Mt. of plinth area of the flat.
6.	C/o 5500 LIG houses at Bakkarwala on Turnkey basis:			
	(i) C/o 1380 LIG houses at Pocket-C	EZ	L&T	Rs. 7190/- per Sq.Mt. of plinth area of the flat.
	(ii) C/o 900 LIG House, Pocket B-2	EZ	Unity Infra Projects	Rs. 7190/- per Sq.Mt. of plinth area of the flat.

1	2	3	4	5
	(iii) C/o 900 LIG Houses, Pocket B-1	EZ	Gammon India	Rs. 7190/- per Sq.Mt. of plinth area of the flat.
	(iv) C/o 100 LIG Houses, Pocket-D	EZ	Unity Infra Projects	Rs. 7190/- per Sq.mt. of plinth area of the flat.
	(v) C/o 1320 LIG Houses, Pocket-A	EZ	Ahluwalia Contract (India) Limited	Rs. 7190/- per Sq.Mt. of plinth area of the flat.

*Statement II**Statement of Mega Projects awarded on ITEM Rate Basis*

SI.No.	Name of Scheme	Zone	Agency	Rate at which awarded
1	2	3	4	5
1.	C/o 852 HIG/MIG/LIG at Vasant Kunj at Mehrauli-Mahipalpur Rd. near Sultangarhi Tomb. SH: C/o 416 houses i/c C/o basement, internal water supply, sanitary installation, electrification, lifts, fire-fighting and external water supply/sewerage/SW drain/installation of pumps and tubewells, roads & paths and site development etc. complete in Group-I	SWZ	M/s LARSEN & Toubro Ltd	10.98% above DSR 1997
2.	C/o 852 HIG/MIG/LIG at Vasant Kunj at Mehrauli-Mahipal Road near Sultangarhi Tomb. SH: C/o 436 (311 MIG & 125 LIG) multi-storeyed & four storeyed houses i/c C/o basement, internal water supply, sanitary installation, electrification, lifts, fire-fighting and external water supply/sewerage/SW drain/installation of pumps and Tubewells, roads & paths and site development etc. complete in Group-II	SWZ	M/s Engg. Project (India) Ltd.	10.13% above DSR 1997
3.	C/o Mega Housing Project (2304) HIG/MIG/LIG Houses) behind Pocket D-6 Vasant Kunj. SH: C/o 240 HIG, 104 MIG & 120 LIG multi-storeyed houses i/c C/o basement i/c internal water supply, sanitary installation, electrification, lifts, fire-fighting & external water supply, sewer, SW drain, electrification, installation of pumps & tubewells, road & paths and landscaping etc. complete-Group-I	SWZ	M/s Ahluwalia Contracts India Ltd.	11.64% above DSR 1997

1	2	3	4	5
4.	<p>C/o Mega Housing Project (2304 HIG/MIG/LIG Houses) behind Pocket D-6, Vasant Kunj.</p> <p>SH: C/O 240 HIG, 104 MIG &amp; 120 LIG multi-storeyed houses i/c C/o basement i/c internal water supply, sanitary installation, electrification, lifts, fire-fighting &amp; external water supply, sewer, SW drain, electrification, installation of pumps &amp; tubewells, road &amp; paths and landscaping etc. complete-Group-II</p>	SWZ	M/s Unitech Ltd.	11.76% above DSR 1997
5.	<p>C/o Mega Housing Project (2304 HIG/MIG/LIG Houses) behind Pocket D-6, Vasant Kunj.</p> <p>SH: C/O 240 HIG, 104 MIG &amp; 120 LIG multi-storeyed houses i/c C/o basement i/c internal water supply, sanitary installation, electrification, lifts, fire-fighting &amp; external water supply, sewer, SW drain, electrification, installation of pumps &amp; tubewells, road &amp; paths and landscaping etc. complete-Group-III</p>	SWZ	M/s Vilayati Ram Mittal	11.52% above DSR 1997
6.	<p>C/o Mega Housing Project (2304 HIG/MIG/LIG Houses) behind Pocket D-6, Vasant Kunj.</p> <p>SH: C/O 240 HIG, 104 MIG &amp; 120 LIG multi-storeyed houses i/c C/o basement i/c internal water supply, sanitary installation, electrification, lifts, fire-fighting &amp; external water supply, sewer, SW drain, electrification, installation of pumps &amp; tubewells, road &amp; paths and landscaping etc. complete-Group-IV</p>	SWZ	M/o Vilayati Ram Mittal	11.45% above DSR 1997
7.	C/o 440 HIG (MS) houses at Sector 19 (B), Dwarka, Phase-I	Dwarka	M/s EPI Limited	12.82% above DSR 2002
8.	C/o 266MS HIG DUs in Sector 18B, Dwarka i/c sanitary, Water Supply and internal development, Gr. I	Dwarka	M/s Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd.	12.82% above DSR 2002
9.	C/o 302 Multi Storeyed HIG DUs in Sector 18 (B), Gr. II, Dwarka, Phase-II	Dwarka	M/s Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd.	12.82% above DSR 2002

1	2	3	4	5
10.	C/o 504 MIG & 360 LIG houses in Sector 18 (B0 at Dwarka, Ph-II	Dwarka	M/s L&T Limited	4.38% above DSR 2002
11.	C/o 490 HIG (Multi Storeyed) houses in Sector 18B, Dwarka	Dwarka	M/s vilayati Ram Mittal	0.32% above DSR 2002
12.	C/o 457 MIG (Multi Storeyed) houses in Sector 18B, Dwarka	Dwarka	M/s Vilayati Ram Mittal	0.23% above DSR 2002
13.	C/o 198 HIG houses at Sector 12, Dwarka	Dwarka	M/s Unitech Limited	5.48% above DSR 2002

### Weightage to Physical Education

2119. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give more weightage to physical education in the grading system in schools for greater involvement of students in games;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote sports as a career to sustain the attraction of youths;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Central Board of Secondary Education, which is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, follows the National Core curriculum where adequate thrust to Physical Education has been given.

(b) In so far as classes I to X are concerned, Physical Education is a compulsory subject and it is internally evaluated by the concerned schools. At the senior school, the provision exists for the students appearing Physical Education as an elective subject.

(c) to (e) "Sports" is a State subject. Promotion of sports is mainly the responsibility of State Governments

are respective National Sports Federations, which are autonomous bodies.

### Special Status to Medical Colleges

2120. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to give any special status like "deemed university" to any medical colleges in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) On the basis of recommendations of University Grants Commission, the Central Government in the Department of Secondary and Higher Education has accorded status of "Deemed to be University" in terms of section 3 of UGC Act to the following 14 medical colleges:—

1. Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal.
2. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science, Bangalore.
3. Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune.
4. Padmashree Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Nerul, Navi Mumbai.
5. Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pimpri, Pune.
6. Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Loni District. Ahmednagar.
7. Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad, Satara.



8. D.Y. Patil Medical College, Kolhapur.
9. Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute, Chennai.
10. Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Salem.
11. Bharat Institute of Higher Education & Research, Chennai.
12. SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Chennai.
13. Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai.
14. Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad.

#### **Fixed Tenure for Bureaucrats**

2121. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to consider fixed tenure for top bureaucrats in posts like Home Secretary, Defence Secretary, IB Director, Raw Chief, etc.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Rule 56 (d) of the Fundamental Rules provides that the Central Government may, if it considers necessary in public interest so to do, give extension in service to the Cabinet Secretary, Defence Secretary, Home Secretary, Director, Intelligence Bureau, Secretary, Research and Analysis Wing and Director, Central Bureau of Investigation, for such periods as it may deem proper, on case to case basis, subject to the condition that the total term of the incumbents of the above posts who are given such extension in service, does not exceed two years.

#### **Classification of Telecom Services**

2122. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for classifying telecom services as Fixed Line, Fixed Wireless Phone (FWP) and Mobile phones;

(b) whether private operator have not been successful in the wireline segment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) In case of Fixed Line and Fixed Wireless phones the subscriber connection is strictly confined to the premises of the subscriber where the telephone connection is registered whereas in case of mobile phones the subscriber can move within the Short Distance Charging Area, service area or across service area.

(b) and (c) The licences are technology neutral and private operators are free to provide connections by wireline or wireless technologies to their subscribers. As per the available information the private operators have provided 8,83,874 wireline connections till 31.10.2004 which is less in comparison to mobile phones provided by them.

(d) Since licences are technology neutral, no steps are required to be taken by the Government in this regard.

*[Translation]*

#### **Amendment of Right to Information Act**

2123. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: .  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Right to Information Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith 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) Government has, so far, not taken any decision to amend the Right to Information Act.

(b) Does not arise.

### Funds for Family Welfare Programmes

2124. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds sanctioned by the Government for Family Welfare Programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the funds sanctioned for the purpose are inadequate; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The approved outlay for Family Welfare Programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the Annual Plans is as under:

(Rs. in crores)	
Period	Approved Outlay
Tenth Five Year Plan	26126.00
Annual Plan 2002-03	4930.00
Annual Plan 2003-04	4930.00
Annual Plan 2004-05	5780.00
Annual Plan 2005-06	6424.00

(b) and (c) Public spending on health is presently less than 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The National Common Minimum Programme has suggested raising public spending on health to at least 2 to 3% of GDP over the next 5 years. Given this objective and the need to provide accessible, quality and affordable healthcare, the National Rural Health Mission has been launched requiring a steady flow of funds to augment infrastructure in deficient states and build up and mobilize adequate manpower.

*[English]*

### Availability of Basic Medicines in Hospitals

2125. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding many hospitals in Delhi not having basic medicines required for burn injuries;

(b) whether many hospitals in Delhi do not have burn wards or existing burn wards are sometimes shut down;

(c) if so, whether the recent bomb blast victims in Delhi were asked to purchase medicines from outside and the amount in majority of the cases has not been reimbursed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Well-equipped facilities are available to treat the burn patients in Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital in Delhi. Facilities are also available to treat burn injury patients in Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and Deen Deyal Upadhaya Hospital under the supervision of Surgical discipline.

So far as the Central Government Hospitals are concerned, appropriate medicines were provided to the victims of Bomb Blast.

### Raising of Kashmir Issue

2126. SHRI M. APPADURAI:  
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times and places where the issue of Kashmir has been raised by India and Pakistan during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by both the countries in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government has received requests from many countries including Britain to mediate as a third party between India and Pakistan on this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Pakistan has raised the Kashmir issue repeatedly at various international fora. Government's principled and consistent position on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir is that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

(c) and (d) India has not received any request from a third country to mediate between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Under the Simla Agreement, both India and Pakistan are committed to address bilateral issues peacefully through bilateral dialogue. Jammu and Kashmir is one of the subjects in the framework of the Composite Dialogue. There is no scope for any third party role or mediation.

#### **Constitution of Group of ASEAN**

2127. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of slow progress on a free trade deal among SAARC nations, the Government is planning a free trade agreement with the 10-member group of the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN); 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) The Committee of Experts on the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) met in Kathmadu on 29-30 November, 2005 to settle outstanding issues to ensure entry into force of the SAFTA Agreement, as agreed, with effect from 1 January, 2006. India signed a framework agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with ASEAN on 8 October, 2003. Negotiations are currently underway with ASEAN for the establishment of an India-ASEAN Free Trade Area in goods.

#### **Clearance to New Drug Applications**

2128. MOHD. MUKEEM:  
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

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

(a) the details of the new drug applications received during 2005 both for single ingredient and fixed dose

combination including the names of the medicines; the name of the companies and the date of the applications;

(b) whether approval has been granted to each of these applications; and

(c) if not the details of pending applications alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per records, the new drug applications received during 2005 both for single ingredient and fixed dose combinations are about 1074.

Approval of new drugs is a continuous process. The details of drugs including fixed doses combinations approved for the first time in the country is available at website *www.cdsc.nic.in*. Approvals for subsequent applications are being granted simultaneously on the basis of Bio Equivalence (B/E) study reports and quality control reports etc. Rest of the applications are under various stages of evaluation such as Bio equivalence studies, clinical studies, expert opinion etc.

The time taken for approval varies from 3 months to 2 years, depending on the nature of the drug and time taken to generate required data.

#### **Changes in Indian Medical Service**

2129. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce changes in the Indian Medical Service to bring about professionalism in health sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any suggestions/views from the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which these changes are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) There is no Service under the Government which is named as Indian Medical Service. Therefore, the question of introduction of changes in the Indian Medical Service does not arise.

**Shortage of Trained Nurses**

2130. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of trained nurses in the country;

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

(c) the short-term and long-term plans formulated by the Government to meet this shortage; and

(d) the steps taken to check the migration of nurses to foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) According to the information available, there is no shortage of trained nurses in the country. So far 8.65 lakh nurses have been registered with various State Nursing Councils in India. As per an estimate, about 30,000 to 35,000 Nurses qualify every year. Although there is no shortage of trained nurses in the country, Government has taken several steps to further augmentation of the availability of trained nurses. These include upgradation of Schools of Nursing and Colleges of Nursing, establishment of New Nursing Colleges, financial assistance to strengthen schools and colleges of nursing, organizing continuing education programme for nursing personnel to upgrade their knowledge and skills etc. As per the recommendations of High Power Committee, State Governments were requested to improve the working conditions of Nursing personnel.

**GSM Lines Project**

2131. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has imposed restriction on sub-contracting GSM lines project as reported in *The Business Standard* dated November 7, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which public sector undertakings in the business of telephone equipments are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in the process of formulating a tender for expansion of its network by around 60 millions lines. As reported in the *Business Standard* of 7th November 2005, thrust in the procurement is intended to encourage indigenous production of mobile equipment in a specific time period including setting up of production base in the country by prominent vendors of GSM equipment.

(c) As per the procurement policy of BSNL and directions of the Government of India, M/s Indian Telephone Industries, a PSU of Department of Telecommunications may get order under PSU reservation quota up to 30% of the total quantity.

*[Translation]*

**Meghdoot Award**

2132. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) the number of postal employees conferred with Meghdoot award during the last three years; and

(b) the details of postal employees specially from Maharashtra conferred with the award during the said period, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of postal employees conferred with Meghdoot Award during the last three years is as under:

Year	Number
2003	Nil
2004	06
2005	06

(b) The details of the postal employees conferred with the Meghdoot Award during the said period are as under:—

**Year 2003:** Nil

**Year 2004:**

Category	Number	Location	State
Gramin Dak Sevaks	01	Onikeri	Karnataka
Postman/Group 'D'	01	Nalagarh	Himachal Pradesh
Postal Assistants/Sorting Assistants	01	Badaun	Uttar Pradesh
Supervisors	01	Bangalore	Karnataka
Inspectors of Posts/Assistant Superintendents of Posts	01	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir
Group 'B' and Group 'A' officers upto Senior Time Scale	01	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh

**Year 2005:**

Gramin Dak Sevaks	01	Damal	Tamil Nadu
Postman/Group 'D'	01	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh
Postal Assistants/Sorting Assistants	01	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
Supervisors	01	Kolkata	West Bengal
Inspectors of Posts/Assistant Superintendents of Posts	01	Mysore	Karnataka
Group 'B' and Group 'A' officers upto Senior Time Scale	01	Mumbai	Maharashtra

### **Total Sanitation Campaign**

2133. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
MOHD. SHAHID:  
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding availability of clean toilets in the country;

(b) if so, the amount spent on the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) during the first half of the current year;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government regarding the percentage of population without clean toilet facility;

(d) if so, the percentage population deprived of clean toilet facility till date and the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):  
(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

*[English]*

### **Proposal to Make Siachin as "Shanti Shikhar"**

2134. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in response to our Prime Minister's offer to make Siachin as "Shanti Shikhar", the Pakistan

President demanded that India vacate its aggression on Siachen; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The Prime Minister, on his visit to Siachen in June 2005, had said that it was time to make Siachen a symbol of peace. In response, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson had said that India has to vacate the aggression made in 1983 to make Siachen a peaceful area.

(b) India rejects Pakistan's charge of Indian aggression in Siachen. Siachen is one of the subjects being discussed in the framework of the Composite Dialogue. India's position on the Siachen issue is that authentication of the presently held positions had to be the first step before any redeployment of troops is considered.

#### Setting up of Bio-IT Park

2135. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to set up a Bio-IT Park at Hyderabad;

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

(c) the present status thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(d) the funds likely to be earmarked for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The Department of Information Technology (DIT) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have designated a project for Bio-IT Park to be set up in the form of a Public Private partnership. The selected private promoter would decide the location of the Bio-IT Park from a short list of six locations viz. National Capital Region (NCR), Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai.

#### Sports Hostels in Tamil Nadu

2136. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to open sports hostels to promote sports in Tamil Nadu during the year 2005-06;

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

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) In view of reply given to part (a) above, questions do not arise.

(d) "Sports" is a State subject and promotion of the same at the State level including construction of sports hostels is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Government of India, through various schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of State Government in promotion of sports at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior levels. At present SAI is running two training Centres in Tamil Nadu, one at Chennai and another at Salem, which have hostel facilities.

#### Telephone Directory by Private Operators

2137. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telephone Directory of subscribers of mobile and landline telephone is not being provided by private operators;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of subscribers of private operators in the country with special reference to Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for all private operators to publish Telephone Directory for the benefit of public; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given its recommendations on "Printing of Telephone Directory and Directory Enquiry Services" for basic and mobile telephone services. The same are being examined in the Department of Telecommunications.

The total number of subscribers of private operators in the country in respect of Landline, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is 6,16,14,368 and specifically in Gujarat is 43,24,676 as on 31.10.2005.

*[Translation]*

#### **Joint Working Group between India and Pakistan**

2138. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have constituted a joint working group for lifting the ban on telecast of programmes of Indian television channels in Pakistan;

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

(c) whether the issue to resolve the problems being faced by the correspondents for visiting each other's country has also been covered under the agenda of the said joint working group;

(d) if so, the complete agenda of the said group; and

(e) the time by which other items of agenda are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, India and Pakistan have agreed to have technical level working groups under the Joint Commission, of which one will be on Information.

(c) to (e) The agenda for the technical level working groups have not been decided yet. However, India has been unilaterally facilitating the visit of correspondents.

#### **Women Sports Instructor in Co-educational Schools/Colleges**

2139. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talented girls/women are deprived of sports opportunity due to non-appointment of women sports instructor in Government co-educational schools and colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote sports among the girls/women folk;

(c) the number of Government co-educational schools/colleges in the country where there is no woman sports instructor; and

(d) the number of woman sports instructors in Government co-educational schools/colleges especially in Maharashtra and the number of such schools/colleges that does not have woman sports instructors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATES OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a), (c) and (d) Most of the schools and colleges come under the purview of State Government. No information regarding number of woman sports instructors in such schools and colleges of State Governments is centrally maintained. So far as schools and colleges under the Central Government are concerned, requisite information is being collected.

(b) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is implementing women oriented sports programmes through Sports Authority of India which include (i) National Sports Championship for Women, and (ii) Special Scholarship for Women.

In addition, the following programmes of Sports Authority of India also promote sports among women:—

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
2. Special Area Games (SAG)
3. SAI Training Centres (STC)
4. Centres of Excellence (COX)

[English]

### **Bilateral Relations with Iran**

2140. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint declaration between India and the Islamic Republic of Iran issued on January 25, 2003, in New Delhi, envisaged various bilateral measures for furthering of mutual socio-economic interests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken by both sides towards implementation of the same;

(d) whether any assessment of the status of the joint declaration has been made following the change of regime in Iran recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) India and Iran articulated their vision of a strategic partnership for a more stable, secure and prosperous region and for enhanced regional and global cooperation between the two countries. Partnership between the two countries was agreed in various fields, including trade and commerce, energy, transit, strategic dialogue, defence, culture, combating terrorism and science and technology.

(c) Bilateral cooperation is promoted through a regular exchange of high-level as well as working level visits, and regular meetings within the framework of institutional mechanisms like the Joint Commission, a Strategic Dialogue and a Special Working Group on the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. On the sidelines of the JCM, there have been meetings of the Joint Business Council. Sale-Purchase Agreement for import of 5 million metric tonnes per annum of Liquefied Natural Gas from Iran was signed in June 2005 between GAIL/IOC/BPCL and National Iranian Gas Export Co. Ltd. subject to ratification

by the Iranian side. Indo-Iran bilateral trade amounted to US \$ 4.132 billion in 2004-05, registering a growth of more than 43% over the previous year. Defence cooperation was marked by exchange of goodwill visits of ships in 2003 and 2004 between the two countries. There have been regular meetings between the National Security Advisors of both countries. On the cultural front the two countries have set up a Common Cultural Heritage Fund under the aegis of which a joint stamp on Kabir and Hafez was released in 2004. Turkmenistan transit corridors through Iran into Russia and Central Asian countries. Iran has facilitated the transit of personnel, equipment and procurement of some vital supplies for the construction of the Zaranj-Delaram road in Afghanistan that will provide Afghanistan with an alternative route to the sea.

(d) and (e) India-Iran relations are deep and are underlined by civilisational ties that go back by several millennia. We have reiterated our desire and endeavour to developing relations with Iran at the highest level. In consultation with the Iranian side, the 15th JCM has been fixed tentatively for March 11.12.2006.

### **Nehru Yuva Kendras in Orissa**

2141. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Nehru Yuva Kendras functioning in Orissa at present, location-wise; and

(b) the details of grants received by the Kendras during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The details of Nehru Yuva Kendras functioning in Orissa at present, location-wise and the grant received by them during the last two years are given in the Statement enclosed.



**Statement**

*Details of Nehru Yuva Kendras, location-wise and grant received by them during the last two years.*

Sl.No.	Location of NYK	Amount received in Rupees	
		2003-04	2004-05
1.	Balasore	835912	959607
2.	Bolangir	1466036	872798
3.	Mayurbhanj (Baripada)	795297	2122086
4.	Ganjam (Berhampur)	973268	1355753
5.	Kalahandi (Bhawanipatna)	1104471	1221260
6.	Dhenkanal	972228	921901
7.	Keonjhar	734431	875165
8.	Koraput	797530	1529999
9.	Phulbani	817202	973174
10.	Puri	945675	1526962
11.	Sambalpur	1038956	655534
12.	Sundergarh	1087291	818430
13.	Cuttack	1432789	1224690
14.	Naupada	680373	824481
15.	Khurda (Bhubaneswar)	1279141	1447104

**Upkeep of Taj Mahal**

2142. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNESCO has made suggestions for the upkeep of Taj Mahal at Agra and maintenance of its surroundings and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) and (b) The UNESCO-ICOMOS Joint Monitoring Mission to Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Silkri visited

Agra in January, 2004 and suggested improvements to the surroundings and environment of the Taj Mahal. The mission suggested that the river and the surrounding area within a defined distance from the monument should be cleaned so as to enhance its aesthetics.

An extract of the report is enclosed as statement.

(c) A consultant has been identified for the preparation of a comprehensive management plan which would address the recommendations of the mission.

**Statement**

*Main Findings and Recommendations: State of Conservation of World Heritage Properties in the Agra District*

**2.1 State of Conservation of the Taj Mahal World Heritage property and assessment of the "Taj Corridor Project"**

The mission examined the issues related to the proposed "Taj Corridor Project" in cooperation with the Indian authorities, and assessed the potential negative impact of this project on the World Heritage property and also identified the urgent conservation and management needs.

**(a) The "Taj Corridor Project"**

As the mission members never received any project plans or details, most of the information is either verbal or from the media. It is obvious that this project was very ambitious and if carried out would have caused serious damage to the World Heritage properties of the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. To assess the possible "tangible" damage, additional experts' reports are necessary in the fields of hydrology and stability of riverbanks, as well as of the specific river in question.

The project is not continuing, as a very courageous decision by the relevant Indian authorities has been taken to stop this project on which millions of US\$ have already been spent.

What remains on site is a dry wall of local red sandstone (about ten meters wide), built into the bed of the Yamuna river. The purpose of the wall was to create a promenade that could be a place for commercial and tourism activities. There is also a sloping revetment of the riverbank, made of the same red sandstone.

This project, located between the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort, would have certainly caused visual and cultural damage to the heritage values of these properties, as they were built facing the river that plays a very important role in the design of these sites.

A commercial development along the river would probably have been a "death sentence" to the commercial life of the town of Agra. The members of the mission suggested that a development plan for the whole area and town should be prepared. Such a plan would prevent similar experiences to that of the "Taj Corridor Project", which could have caused serious damage to the World heritage properties and to the development of Agra itself. It is also important to indicate that the river, although very attractive from a distance, is extremely polluted. Cleaning the river and preventing it being used as a sewage canal should become a priority, at least in this important section between the two properties.

**(b) Plans and state of conservation of the Taj Mahal:**

Not surprisingly, such an important and much-visited site is continually being conserved and maintained. The work being conducted is very impressive and the use of traditional workmanship is of high quality.

New plans for improved visitor management have been presented, the main idea being to attract visitors to areas other than solely the main axis. The aim is to avoid the over-use of this axis, to show other parts of the monumental complex, to keep visitors on site longer and provide better services and information using two identical visitor centres in two of the side courtyards. This will necessitate incorporating two doors into an original wall, which will not compromise in any way the cultural and visual aspects of the property.

The contrast between the extraordinarily beautiful inner area of the compound and the immediate vicinity is striking. This is not simply a matter of funding but of planning and management. The mission recommended that the Indian authorities should clean and enhance the whole area surrounding the monument, within a defined distance, as such an important monument deserves.

*[Translation]*

**Shortage of Doctors**

2143. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the shortage of doctors in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to take any measures to make up the said shortage;

(c) the total number of doctors registered with the Medical Council of India at present;

(d) the total number of doctors, being registered every year;

(e) the total shortage of doctors in proportion to population during the current year;

(f) whether the Government has made any State-wise assessment in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the number of medical Colleges; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (i) There is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors in the country. As per information available with the Government a total of 6,53,513 Allopathic doctors have been registered with the Medical Council of India (MCI). Besides around 25000 MBBS doctors pass out of Medical Colleges every year adding to the strength of the doctors in the country. During the year 2004 and 2005 (upto October, 2005) 18541 and 9549 doctors respectively were registered with MCI. According to MCI, the doctor population ratio in the country is approximately 1:1772. Besides, there are around six lakh Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathic doctors registered with their respective Councils. If the practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy are also taken into account the ratio of availability of doctors to the population will work out much favourably. However, there is an imbalance in the availability of doctors between different regions in the country. The requirement for opening of new medical colleges are assessed by the State Government concerned and Central Government grants permission on the basis of Essentiality Certificate issued by them.

*[English]***Shortage of Mobile Connections in Karnataka**

2144. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) connections in Karnataka;

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

(c) the time by which the shortage of BSNL Mobile connections is likely to be met; and

(d) the number of BSNL Mobile subscribers in Karnataka as on date, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, due to constraints in the GSM network capacity, release of BSNL Cellular connections is controlled.

(b) and (c) BSNL is in the process of augmenting its cellular network in Karnataka by 8,02,354 lines and has set a target of releasing 5,00,000 cellular connections during the current financial year. Mobile connections are expected to be available on demand with the availability of capacities planned for roll out.

(d) For mobile operations, the circle is viewed as a local area and the subscriber can freely roam within the state. The number of cellular connections provided by BSNL in the State of Karnataka as on 31.10.2005 is 8,78,919.

**Building Indian Buddhist Temple in China**

2145. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has an opportunity to build the first Indian Buddhist temple in China;

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

(c) the extent to which Indian heritage is likely to be boosted in China as a result thereof?

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

(b) The decision to construct an Indian-style Buddhist Temple in Luoyang, China was finalized with the conclusion of a Memorandum to this effect during the visit of the Chinese Premier, Mr. Wen Jiabao to India in April 2005. Under this Memorandum, the Indian side would provide Rupees Five Crores to the Chinese side for the construction of the Temple, in addition to providing the Buddha idol and other accompanying material. The Indian side is also responsible for the architectural design of the Temple project, its blueprint, material specifications and landscape planning, as also architectural and expert supervision during the construction work. The Chinese side will provide land and also undertake the construction work. The design and the architect for the project have been selected by an Advisory Committee constituted by the Prime Minister. The construction work to be undertaken by the Chinese side is expected to begin in 2006.

(c) It is expected that the Temple, once completed, will become an enduring symbol of the centuries-old cultural exchanges between India and China, of which Buddhism is an important and integral part.

*[Translation]***Special Tour Package for Pak Tourists**

2146. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:  
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to send a proposal to Pakistan offering special tour package for Pakistan tourists in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether talks are likely to be held between the two countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The issue of group tourism has been discussed with Pakistan during talks in the framework of Composite Dialogue. During the first round of talks in August 2004, India

proposed that Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (DTDC) could start group tours to specific tourist places. There was no response from Pakistan to this proposal. During the second round of talks in July 2005, India once again proposed promotion of group tourism packages through select private tour operators and introduction of 14 days special tourist visa regime. There was no response from Pakistan to this proposal. India and Pakistan have agreed to have the third round of the Composite Dialogue from January to July 2006.

*[English]*

#### **Voting Rights to Overseas Indians**

2147. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to grant voting rights to overseas Indians;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Overseas Indians include Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) who are citizens of other countries and Non-Resident Indians (NRI) who are citizens of India still. To enable NRIs to become eligible to vote in general elections, the Representation of the People Act has to be suitably amended. A proposal to this effect is under consideration of the Government.

*[Translation]*

#### **Heavy Water Production**

2148. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of Heavy Water Plants is well below the target;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of actual production and the installed capacity of each of these plants during each of the three years, year-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. In fact, the target set for production of heavy water had actually been exceeded during each of the last three years.

(b) No applicable.

(c) Heavy Water being a strategic material, the figures of actual production are not disclosed.

The capacities of the operating Heavy Water Plants are given below:

Plant	Capacity
Manuguru	185 MT
Kota	80 MT
Hazira	80 MT
Thal	78 MT
Tuticorin	49 MT
Baroda	17.7 MT*

\*Heavy Water Plant, (Baroda) has been recommissioned and declared operational in April, 2004 after incorporating Ammonia Water Front End and is operating satisfactorily.

(d) Not applicable.

*[English]*

#### **Revision of Royalty on Coal**

2149. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of States have demanded for timely revision of royalty on coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a high level Committee has been set up to look into the question of revision of royalty on coal;

(d) if so, whether the Committee has given its recommendations;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

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

(g) the details of rate of royalty charged on various Grades of coal especially of G grade coal and middlings below this, Grade-wise; and

(h) the steps being taken to improve working of coal washeries?

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

(b) The State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Assam, Maharashtra and West Bengal have requested to revise the royalty on coal.

(c) to (f) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, has been constituted on 2.6.2005 to consider revision of rates of royalty on Coal and Lignite. The Committee has sought the views and comments of the States, both through Questionnaires as well as formal interactions. In view of the complexities involved in the matter of determination of royalty on coal on ad-valorem basis vs. tonnage basis, this matter was referred to the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister for examination. The recommendations of the Council have been received and the Committee shall take them into consideration before finalizing its report.

(g) The existing rates of royalty on coal, grade-wise, fixed on 16.8.2002 are as under:

(Rupees per tonne)

Coal Group	Coal Royalty rates	
	States other than West Bengal	West Bengal*
<b>Group-I:</b>	250.00	7.00
Coking Coal — Steel Grade-I & II, — Washery Grade-I		
<b>Group-II:</b>		
Coking Coal — Washery Grade-II & III	165.00	6.50
Semi-coking Coal — Grade-I & II		
Non-coking Coal — Grade-A and B		
<b>Group-III:</b>	115.00	5.50
Coking Coal — Washery Grade-IV		
Non-coking Coal — Grade-C		
<b>Group-IV:</b>	85.00	4.30
Non-coking Coal — Grade-D and E		
<b>Group-V:</b>	65.00	2.50
Non-coking Coal — Grade-F and G		
<b>Group-VI:</b>	90.00	—
Coal produced in Andhra Pradesh		

(\*The Government of West Bengal is also levying Cess and so the rates of royalty revised after 1981 have not been made applicable.)

The specifications of each grade of coal are as prescribed under clause 3 of the Colliery Control Order, 2000.

(h) The following measures have been taken by the concerned coal companies to improve the working of coal washeries:

- (i) Revival plans for renovation/modernization and replacement of old equipments and structurals have been prepared on the basis of schemes prepared by CMPDIL.
- (ii) Various jobs related to modernization of washeries are either in progress or completed in some washeries.
- (iii) Various steps have been taken to enhance the raw coal availability to the washeries such as mining by hired Heavy Earth Moving Machinery in isolated patches, extraction of coal below railway line, replacement of worn-out coal extraction equipment in underground mines, speeding up acquisition process to restart halted open cast mines and introducing new equipments such as continuous miners in underground mines.

#### **Inadequate Fund Allocation to AYUSH**

2150. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of AYUSH has not been provided adequate funds to implement the scheme of quality education, spread of Indian Systems of Medicine and production of quality drugs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the gap between the funds demanded by the Department and final allocation made by the Ministry of Finance/Planning Commission during the last three years; and

(d) the major schemes which had to be deferred for want of adequate allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) There has been an

increase in the Plan allocation of the Department of AYUSH in the last three years as mentioned below:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Amount Demanded by Deptt.	Budget Allocation	Revised Budget Allocation
2002-03	150.00	150.00	105.00
2003-04	175.64	150.00	135.00
2004-05	181.00	181.00	200.00
2005-06	514.00	350.00	300.00

There has been a substantial increase in the Plan provision of the Department of AYUSH in 2005-06 as compared to 2004-05. It cannot be said that any Scheme of the Department of AYUSH or any project of the Department of AYUSH has been deferred for want of adequate allocation.

#### **Denial of Visa to Indian by Russia**

2151. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many prominent Indian Industrialists have been denied visa to Russia in spite of personal guarantee from Indian Ambassador to Russia;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has lodged any complaint with the concerned authorities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, there are no such cases where, despite personal guarantee from the Ambassador of India, visas have been refused to prominent Indian Industrialists.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Archaeological Museum in Ahmedabad**

2152. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up an Archaeological Museum in Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) At present there is no proposal to set up a museum at Ahmedabad, as there exists already a site museum in Lothal, Ahmedabad District, which is about 80 kms from the city.

#### **Contingency Plan for Contagious Diseases**

2153. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has prepared any contingency plan to prevent outbreak of contagious diseases in the areas which have been hard hit by the recent rains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any grant or assistance has been provided to the Government of Karnataka; 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) Health sector contingency plan to deal with public health situation in the aftermath of floods is circulated to the state Government in pre-monsoon period. Guidelines on investigation and control of outbreaks of water borne diseases prepared by National Institute of Communicable Diseases is also sent to the affected States. Depending upon the nature and extent of disaster and on the request of State Government, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organizes emergency medical relief in terms of providing manpower, essential drugs and consumables to tide over the crisis. Disease surveillance activities are mounted and public health measures are instituted to

prevent outbreak of epidemic prone diseases and to contain them if it has to happen.

The flood affected states were assisted by release of funds from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). For such purpose central damage assessment teams were deputed to the affected States. *Ad hoc* release of about Rs. 357 crores to Karnataka were made from NCCF.

#### **Separate Department of I.T.**

2154. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a separate Department for Information Technology under Lakshadweep Administration;

(b) if so, the year in which the IT Department was constituted;

(c) the details of the projects and schemes to be implemented by the Department;

(d) whether technical and non-technical posts have been sanctioned/created/filled up to run the affairs of the Department;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which the Government proposes to create essential posts and make recruitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per information from Union Territory of Lakshadweep, there is a separate Department for Information Technology in the Lakshadweep Administration.

(b) IT Department was constituted on 5th June, 1999 in the Lakshadweep Administration.

(c) The details of the project and scheme for implementation are:—

— Public grievances redressal through video conferencing

— Distance education through video conferencing.

- Established Portnet under the Shipping sector, introduced web based ship ticket reservation system, cargo management system and intranet for the port department and other e-governance projects in the shipping sector.
- Web enabled Plan Monitoring Information System.
- Web Enabled Passport Application Acceptance System.
- E-granthalaya implemented in the Libraries.
- E-governance in Finance Department:
  - (i) Pay roll information system.
  - (ii) Accounts Monitoring Information System.
  - (iii) Budget Management Information System.
  - (iv) GPF Management Information System.
  - (v) PAO suite.
- E-governance in the Revenue Administration: Introduced E-governance to the lowest level of Administration and to provide citizen services to the grass route level etc. at the Sub-Divisional Office level.
- Information Technology in Schools:
  - (i) Establishment of Edusat.
  - (ii) Establishment of Community Information Centre—Vidyavahinin in 30 Schools.
- Powernet Project is a total E-governance project for the Department of Electricity:
  - (i) Consumer Energy System.
  - (ii) Inventory Management System.
  - (iii) Remote Data Acquisition System for SPV Power Plants.
  - (iv) E-governance Applications like Pay Roll, GAF Management System, Accounts Monitoring and Information System, etc.
- Established Local Area network at various offices including Secretariat, Lakshadweep.

(d) and (e) No separate posts have been sanctioned/ created or filled up to man the Information Technology Department. However, the IT Department is functioning with the available staff in the Administration.

(f) At present there is no proposal to create posts and recruitment to the Information Technology Department.

#### **Ancient Idols Stolen from Temple**

2155. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 53 Ancient idols worth Rs. 100 crore placed in a temple had been stolen from Hansi, Haryana recently;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the ancient idols placed in the temples?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) According to the information furnished by the Haryana State Police, 32 Astadhātu Sculpture, 14 brass and 5 silver Panch Meru and 2 plates (Patra) made of Bronze (Kansa) were reported to be stolen from the Jain Temple, Hansi, Haryana on the intervening night of 25-26 October 2005. The value of the idols have not been assessed.

(b) and (c) A case has been registered *vide* FIR No. 401 dated 26.10.2005 under section 457/380 IPC at City Police station, Hansi. The investigation has been taken up by the Hansi District Police.

(d) The idol theft has not occurred from any of the centrally protected monuments.

The District Police, Hissar has intensified day and night patrolling around the temples and other religious places.

#### **Bottlenecks in Telecom Networking**

2156. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all private operators have to seek Point of Interconnection (PoI) from the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) before start of the commercial operations;

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



(c) whether due to lack of adequate POIs, bottlenecks have increased in telecom networking;

(d) if so, the steps taken or propose to be taken in this regard;

(e) the details of requests for Pols pending with the BSNL from private operators, operator-wise; and

(f) the steps being taken to expedite these requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) For ensuring completion of inter-operator calls, interconnection is required between various private and public telecom service providers. It is not mandatory to seek Point of Interconnection from Bharat Sanchar Nigam limited before the start of the commercial operations.

(c) and (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has noticed congestion in the networks and directed on 29th November 2005 to 11 service providers to ensure that the Quality of Service parameters in their network are within the benchmark laid by the TRAI for various parameters in the Regulation on Quality of Service of Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services 2005. Monitoring of congestion and necessary corrective step thereafter is a continuous on-going process in the operation and maintenance of telecommunication network.

(e) and (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Prosecution by CBI**

2157. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases for which permission had been sought by the Central Bureau of investigation (CBI) for prosecution during the year 2004 and the current year, till date, year-wise;

(b) the number of cases out of them accorded permission for prosecution and;

(c) the details of cases in which the Government did not grant permission alongwith the reasons therefor in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) CBI had sought sanction for

prosecution from competent authorities in respect of 1735 public servants in 891 cases during 2004 and 2005 (upto 31.10.2005). Out of these cases, sanction for prosecution has been accorded against 1382 public servants in 787 cases till 31.10.2005. Sanction for prosecution has been refused in respect of 74 public servants in 35 cases by the competent authorities. While considering cases for according sanction for prosecution, each case is examined separately by the concerned authority and a decision taken on merit of the case.

#### **Amendment in IMCC and HCC Acts**

2158. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 383 on March 2, 2005 regarding Introduction of Amendment Bills and state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised the proposal to amend the Indian Medicines Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973;

(b) if so, whether the Bill is likely to be introduced in this regard during the current session of the Parliament; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The IMCC (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and the HCC (Amendment) Bill, 2005 have been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23.3.2005 and were referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee (DRPSC). The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee has given its recommendations and the Deptt. of AUYSH in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is firming up its views on the recommendations of the DRPSC.

*[Translation]*

#### **Import of Tissue Culture Vaccine for Japanese Encephalitis**

2159. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
SHRI SISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:  
MOHD. SHAHID:  
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with China for the import of tissue culture vaccine for prevention of Japanese encephalitis as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated November 17, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the successful test of vaccine has been conducted with the cooperation of the Indian Council of Medical Research and the World Health Organisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total amount likely to be spent on the purchase of the vaccine;

(e) whether the Government proposes to develop such vaccines in the country itself; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS), an expert clinical and scientific advisory body reporting to World Health Organization (WHO), reviewed all the recent data on the safety profile of the live attenuated SA 14-14-2 Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccine. The committee acknowledge the excellent safety and efficacy profile of this vaccine.

(d) Total amount likely to be spent on purchase of this vaccine in coming five years is estimated to be about Rs. 85 crores.

(e) and (f) Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli is in the process of adopting the Indian Seed Strain & Technology that is being provided by National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune to develop a Tissue Culture JE Vaccine. Panacea Biotech Ltd. has collaborated with National Institute of Immunology, Delhi for development and production of Tissue Culture JE vaccine.

#### **Alleged Murder of Indian Worker in Afghanistan**

2160. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
MOHD. SHAHID:  
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an employee of the Border Roads Organisation of India, engaged in the construction of roads in Afghanistan, had been kidnapped and killed by alleged Taliban militants;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of Indian employees kidnapped in Afghanistan during the last three years;

(e) whether the Union Government has discussed this matter with Afghanistan;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the total number of Indian companies/Indians working in Afghanistan at present; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure the safety of these Indian companies/Indians?

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

(b) and (c) Yes. The Afghan Government is investigating the matter. The Indian Embassy in Kabul is in touch with Afghan Government to monitor the progress of the case.

(d) Two Indian employees were kidnapped on December 6, 2003 and one was kidnapped on November 19, 2005.

(e) to (f) Yes. Indian Government through its Embassy in Kabul is in constant touch with the Afghan Government, including at the highest level and has offered all assistance in the investigation.

(g) In addition to Government of India establishments, there are 21 Indian public and private sector companies in Afghanistan. According to information available, 1337 Indians are presently working in these companies, in Government of India establishments, in international organizations and in foreign companies in Afghanistan.

(h) A security advisory containing appropriate guidelines is being issued by the Embassy of India in Kabul to the organizations/companies in which Indians are working. In cases of specific perception of threat, the local Government is approached to provide security.

*[English]***Reduction in Rate of STD/ISD Calls**

2161. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the rate of STD and ISD calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will be applicable for both mobile as well as landline telephones;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. At present the PSUs, BSNL and MTNL, have no such proposal to reduce the rate of STD and ISD calls.

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

**Pending Cases/Disputes of Overseas Indians**

2162. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases and disputes are pending in various countries particularly in Gulf countries viz. payment of legal dues, death benefits, insurance money, salary arrears from the sponsors/employers, etc;

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

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

(d) 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) to (d) The

information is being collected from Missions/Posts abroad and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Mopeds for Delivery of Dak**

2163. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced mopeds for postmen for delivery of dak; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has considered provision of Mopeds for postman as one of the measures for improving delivery of Dak.

(b) The details regarding availability of mopeds, Postal Circle-wise is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Number of Mopeds supplied
1.	Assam	18
2.	Andhra Pradesh	48
3.	Delhi	70
4.	Gujarat	15
5.	Himachal Pradesh	01
6.	Karnataka	15
7.	Kerala	29
8.	Madhya Pradesh	08
9.	Maharashtra	63
10.	North East	14
11.	Orissa	04
12.	Punjab	08
13.	Uttar Pradesh	10
14.	West Bengal	34
Total:		337

**Coal Projects**

2164. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal projects sanctioned under the coal and lignite sector during the year 2004-05 and the projects proposed to be sanctioned during the current financial year;

(b) whether there is any delay in the implementation of the sanctioned projects;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the timely implementation of sanctioned projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) 13 coal mining projects and 2 lignite mining projects have been sanctioned during the year 2004-05. Coal India Limited (CIL) had identified 10 coal projects to be sanctioned during the current financial year 2005-06. Out of this, 2 have already been sanctioned. No new lignite project is proposed to be sanctioned during the current financial year.

(b) and (c) There is no delay in the implementation of the sanctioned projects.

(d) The steps taken for the timely implementation of sanctioned projects are:—

1. Reviewing/Monitoring of projects on monthly basis or at shorter intervals at the area level and also at corporative level.
2. Status of projects is reviewed at every Company Board meeting.
3. Mandatory review of the projects are carried out at company level when the expenditure of the project exceeds 50% of the sanctioned capital and appropriate action are taken.
4. Projects costing Rs. 100 crores & above, are reviewed by CIL Board.
5. A high level committee namely Projects Review Committee of CIL Board, reviews/monitors the projects from time to time.

6. A proper MIS system has been introduced in CIL for projects costing Rs. 100 crores & above.

7. Progress Reports in respect of projects costing Rs. 100 crores & above are also submitted to Department of Programme Implementation regularly by CIL.

8. Quarterly Project Review meeting is held in Ministry of Coal to review major projects costing Rs. 100 crores & above.

**Campaign against Hepatitis-A and B**

2165. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has launched a nation wide campaign against Hepatitis-A and B during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, whether arrangements for free vaccination of Hepatitis-A and B have been made in CGHS dispensaries and other Government hospitals;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Union Government is likely to make necessary arrangements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Hepatitis-A is being compared to other types and is not covered under routine immunization. In respect of Hepatitis-B, the Government has launched a pilot project of immunization of Hepatitis-B for children below one year of age. Hepatitis-B vaccination has commenced and is continuing in 15 cities since 2002-03 and in 32 districts and Andaman and Nicobar Islands since 2003-04. Hepatitis-B vaccine is given free of cost at all health facilities including CGHS dispensaries. Central Government Hospitals personnel at high risk are being immunized against Hepatitis-B.

**Kidnap of Hindus in Pakistan**

2166. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many men and women of Hindu community are being kidnapped in Southern Sindh province of Pakistan in order to force them out of that country as reported in the *Times of India* dated September 23, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any protest has been lodged by the Union Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The Pakistani press has been carrying reports of violence against citizens of Pakistan from minority groups, including Hindus. The annual reports of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), a reputed Pakistan based NGO, have also highlighted violence against Hindus in Sindh and other parts of Pakistan. The HRCP report for 2003 said that the number of reported cases of violence against Hindus as well as an expansion in discrimination against them, resulted in a distinct worsening in their plight over the year. HRCP in its report of 2004 stated that the Hindu community, based mainly in Sindh, faced discrimination under the law, as did all minority groups. They also faced incidents of violence.

**Blacklisted Private Hospitals/Diagnostic Centres in CGHS List**

2167. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the list of recognised private hospitals and diagnostic centres of CGHS has been renewed for Nagpur city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the earlier blacklisted private hospitals and diagnostic centers have again been included in the list;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the CGHS authorities against these hospitals/centres before their inclusion in the list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) 35 private hospitals and 14 diagnostic centres out of those who applied for recognition under CGHS in 2001, have been recognized on 15.4.2005 in compliance with the directions given by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Nagpur Bench, Nagpur.

(b) List of Hospitals and diagnostic centres are enclosed as Statement I & II.

(c) CGHS has not blacklisted any private/diagnostic centres in Nagpur.

(d) and (e) In view of the above, no action required.

*Statement I*

*Nagpur*

**Hospitals**

1.	Sushrut Hospital, Research Centre & Post Graduate Instt. of Orthopaedic, Ramdaspath.	Gen.Specialised treatment in Orthopaedics and Diagnostic procedures except Pathology & Radiology.
2.	Ortho Relief Hosp. & Research Centre, Dhantoli	Gen./Specialized Orthopaedic treatment including joint replacement, Arthroscopic surgery & Micro Discectomy & Accident & Trauma procedures.
3.	Avanti Instt. of Cardiology Pvt. Ltd., Dhantoli	Specialised treatment in Cardiology (except Cardiac Surgery & Interventional procedures) & General Cardiology diagnostic procedures like Tread Mill, 2D Echo & Color Doppler.

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4.	Ekvira Heart Instt., Ambazari Rd.,	Specialised treatment in cardiology & cardiology related interventional procedures except CABG.
5.	Bisne Heart Clinic, Ramdaspath. (Bisne Hospital Pvt. Ltd.)	Specialised treatment in Cardiology & related diagnostic procedures like computerized TMT, Color Doppler & 2D echo.
6.	Pande Memorial Hospital, Dhantoli	Specialised treatment in Neurology including Rehabilitation and related diagnostic procedures.
7.	Suraj Eye Institute, New Colony	Gen./Specialised treatment in Ophthalmology & related diagnostic procedures.
8.	Mahatme Hospitals Pvt. Ltd., Wardha Road	Gen./Specialised treatment in Ophthalmology & related Diagnostic Procedures.
9.	Dr. K.G. Deshpande Memorial Centre, Gokulpeth	Specialised treatment in Cardiac Surgery & Ophthalmology and related diagnostic procedures.
10.	Anjani Eye Hospital, Ramdaspath	Gen./Specialised treatment in Ophthalmology.
11.	Karandikar Maternity & Nursing Home & Eye Hospital, Shanker Nagar	General Ophthalmological treatment.
12.	Jaiswal Children Hosp. & Critical Care Unit, Central Avenue Road.	Gen./Specialised Paediatric treatment including Critical Care & related diagnostic procedures.
13.	Gillurkar Multi Speciality Hosp. Umed Road.	General Medicine, General Surgery & Urology only.
14.	Critical Care Unit, Wardha Road.	Specialised critical care treatment in Multi organ failure & High Risk surgical cases.
15.	Cancer Clinic, Wardha Road.	Specialised treatment in Cancer Chemotherapy.
16.	Amit Surgical & Maternity Hosp. & Laproscopic Surgery Clinic.	Gen. Surgery and Laproscopic surgery.
17.	Surgicare Clinic, WHC Raod.	Gen. Surgery and Urology only.
18.	Gupta Nurising Home, Laxmi Nagar.	Specialised treatment in Laser Anorectal surgery.
19.	Shrikhande Nursing Home, Hunuman Nagar	Laser Surgery treatment in Urology.
20.	Matru Sewa Sangh, Sitabuldi.	General purpose Treatment in Obst. & Gynae.

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| 21. | Ashwini Kidney & Dialysis Centre, Ramdaspath.   | Gen./Specialised treatment in Nephrology except Renal transplant.  |
| 22. | Kidney & Blood Pressure Clinic, Dhantoli.   | Specialised treatment in Urology & Nephrology except Renal Transplant.   |
| 23. | Midas Instt. of Gastroenterology, Ramdaspath  | Specialised treatment in Med. Gastroenterology (Endoscopy) & related diagnostic procedures.  |
| 24. | Gastro-Enterology & Endoscopy Centre, Wardha Road   | Specialised treatment in Medical Gastro Enterology (Endoscopy & ERCP) and related diagnostic procedures.   |
| 25. | Crescent Nursing Home & ICCU, Dhantoli  | Gen./Specialised treatment in Cardiology, Urology, Nephrology & Gen. Surgery.  |
| 26. | Nagpur Association for the Rehabilitation of Children & Adult With Orthopaedic & other Disabilities (NARCAOOD), Dharampath. | Physiotherapy only.  |
| 27. | Khare Dental Clinic & Implant Centre, Dharampath  | Gen./Specialised Dental treatment and Diagnostic Procedures.   |
| 28. | Advance Dental Hospital, Sadar.   | Gen./Specialised Dental treatment & related diagnostic procedures.   |
| 29. | Orange City Hospital & Research Institute, Veer Sawarkar Square.  | Gen./Specialised Treatment & diagnostic procedures except Cardiac Surgery & Cardiac Interventional procedures.   |
| 30. | Supertech Hospital & Research Centre Ltd., Dhantoli   | Gen. purpose treatment in Gen. Surgery & Orthopaedic & Specialised treatment in Paediatrics Surgery, Nephrology, Gastroenterology, Plastic Surgery, Critical Care & related Diagnostic procedures. |
| 31. | Lata Mangeshkar Hospital, Sitabuldi.  | General purpose treatment & diagnostic procedures.   |
| 32. | Rashtra Sant Tukdoji Regional Cancer Hospital, Manewada Road.   | Gen./Specialised Cancer treatment & related diagnostic procedures and Blood Bank.  |
| 33. | Janta Maternity Home & Hosp. Jaripatka.   | General purpose treatment and diagnostic Procedures.   |
| 34. | Shri Radhakrishna Hospital & Research Instt., Wardhman Nagar  | General purpose Treatment & diagnostic procedures.   |
| 35. | Nagarik Sahakari Rugnalaya & Research Centre Ltd., North Ambazari Road.   | General purpose treatment & diagnostic procedures.   |
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**Statement II****Nagpur****Diagnostic Centres**

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| 1.  | Advance Scanning Research Instt.<br>Pvt. Ltd., Ramdaspath                      | Gen. Radiological Diagnostic procedures.<br>including USG & Specialised diagnostic<br>procedures of MRI & CT Scan procedures. |
| 2.  | Medico Research & Imaging<br>(India) Pvt. Ltd. (MRI Centre),                   | MRI only.   |
| 3.  | Chandak Radiological Lab.,<br>Central Avenue.                                  | General Radiological Diagnostic procedures<br>including Ultrasound & Non-cardiac Color<br>Doppler.                            |
| 4.  | M/s Medical Imaging Centre, Sadar.   | General Radiological Diagnostic procedures<br>including Ultrasound.   |
| 5.  | Khemuka X-Ray, Ultra Sound<br>& color Doppler Clinic, Dhantoli.                | Gen. Radiological Diagnostic procedures<br>including USG & Non Cardiac Doppler.   |
| 6.  | K.K. Sonography, 2D Echo &<br>X-Ray Clinic, Kamptee Road.                      | Gen. Radiological Diagnostic procedures<br>including Ultra Sonography.  |
| 7.  | Rainbow Medinova Diagnostic<br>Service, Ramdaspath                             | Gen. Pathological Investigations &<br>Specialised diagnostic Procedures, Nuclear<br>Medicines & Spiral CT Scan.               |
| 8.  | Nagpur Reference Pathology Lab.<br>& Research Instt. Pvt. Ltd.<br>Ramdasopeth. | Gen./Specialised Diagnostic procedures in<br>Pathology.   |
| 9.  | Life Line Lab. & Blood Bank<br>(Central India Medical Trust)<br>Ramdaspath.    | Gen. Microbiological investigations, Blood<br>Bank, Component Lab. & Aphaeresis<br>Centre.                                    |
| 10. | Ayush Blood Bank,<br>Central Avenue Road.                                      | Blood Bank only.  |
| 11. | Pawan Path. & RIA Lab.,<br>Central Avenue Road.                                | General Pathological diagnostic procedures.<br>RIA & ELISA.   |
| 12. | City Path Lab., Lokmat Bhawan.   | General Pathological investigations.  |
| 13. | J.J. Diagnostic Centre, Gandhi Bagh.   | General Pathological investigations.  |
| 14. | Shree Vardhan X-Ray &<br>Ultrasound Clinic, Ramdaspath.                        | General Radiological Diagnostic procedures<br>including USG & Non-Cardiac Doppler.  |



### Setting up of Bone Banks

2168. SHIR E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up bone banks in various major hospitals in the country on the lines of blood banks;

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

(c) the hospitals identified for the purpose;

(d) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof; and

(e) the time by which bone banks are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) There is no proposal to set up bone banks in various major hospitals on the lines of blood banks. However, bone bank facility is available in AIIMS.

### Use of IT in Agricultural Sector

2169. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IT could play a major role in educating farmers in e-trading/commerce and in tracking down movement and flow pattern of commodities;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to use IT extensively to educate farmers in good agricultural practices including post-harvest management of fruits and vegetables;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are any proposals with the Government for providing village-level kiosks backed with proper marketing extension centres to provide wider access to farmers in a user-friendly manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC) have initiated pilot projects "Agricultural Resources Information System (AgRIS)" to facilitate extension services, including good agricultural practices.

(d) and (e) In addition to above, DAC in collaboration with NIC made the AGMARKNET project operational in 2200 Agricultural wholesale produces Markets located through-out the country. This project provides market prices information (Maximum Minimum and Nodal) on 300 commodities and about 2000 varieties. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have taken initiatives to display these prices information through their village level kiosks Centre (Rajiv Centres). The AGMARKNET data is available on the internet site (agmarknet.nic.in) free of cost.

Separately, Department of Information Technology is working on a Plan to establish 100,000 Information & Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Common Services Centres (CSCs) predominately in the rural areas across the country by the year 2007. Such Centres would have the flexibility to offer a mix of services (both Government and non-Government including localized services) that may be needed by the local community. These CSCs would be promoted on a sustainable entrepreneur-based model supported by the Central and State Governments.

### Financial Assistance for Maintenance of Meenakshi Temple

2170. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance given by the Archaeological Survey of India to Madurai Meenakshi Temple for its preservation and maintenance during each of the last three years;

(b) whether ASI proposes to establish a world class Museum and take up maintenance works to beautify the Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India has not given any financial assistance to Madurai Meenakshi Temple.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present.

*[Translation]***Profit of BCCI**

2171. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) earns a huge profit every year;

(b) if so, the total profit earned by the Board during the last three years and the current year till date;

(c) the names of the sources from where the Board earns profit; and

(d) the year-wise and head-wise amount spent for the development of sports facilities from the above fund during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) According to Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the profit earned by it during 2002-03 & 2003-04 are Rs. 10738.02 lakhs & Rs. 13,157.33 lakhs respectively. Profits earned in 2004-05 are not available with the Ministry. As regards current year, BCCI has informed that as the activities of the Board are ongoing, final position can not be ascertained at present.

(c) The sources of BCCI income are grant of Television Rights, Logo money and sponsorship money.

(d) In 2002-03, a sum of Rs. 10,974.76 lakhs and in 2003-04 Rs. 9,106.32 lakhs have been spent by the BCCI for the development of sports facilities. For 2004-05 and the current year, the details are not available for the reasons stated in para (a) and (b) above.

*[English]***Linking of Central Libraries**

2172. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to inter-connect and link all the Central Libraries in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds to be provided for the same; and

(d) the stage at which it stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. However, a project funded by the Ministry of Culture is undertaking retro-conversion of catalogues in the machine readable format for the libraries under its administrative control i.e. National Library and Central Reference Library, Kolkata, Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna and Central Secretariat Library, Delhi. Besides, the Ministry of Culture has initiated the process of digitisation of old and rare books and manuscripts in a few of its libraries and has fully funded the digitisation projects.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Assessment of Funds for Creating Infrastructural Facilities**

2173. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:  
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the funds required for implementation of schemes for creating infrastructural facilities in the country during the next five years;

(b) if so, the total estimated funds required for the purpose;

(c) the estimated funds required for each sector like power, communications, steel, petroleum, roads, railways, coal etc.; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to mobilize funds for the said purpose?

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

(b) and (c) The Committee on Infrastructure has estimated an investment of Rs. 1,72,000 crores in the Highway sector by 2012. In addition, under 'Bharat Nirman' a four year programme scheduled to be completed by 2008-09 estimates (including 2005-06) for the relevant sectors are as follows:

(In Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Component	Total estimated fund requirement	Budget allocation 2005-06 by Centre	Remarks
1.	Telephony	451	114	
2.	Roads	47,554	4,235	The states have to provide appropriate matching share as per the norms of the various schemes.
3.	Rural Electrification	23,300	1,285	
Total		71,305	5,634	

(d) The Government proposes to mobilize funds for creating urban infrastructure facilities through Public Private Partnership and Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV). The additional fund requirement for Bharat Nirman is proposed to be met through an appropriate mix of budgetary support, external aid, market borrowing and beneficiary contribution (in some cases).

*[English]*

#### Marketing of Drugs

2174. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some drugs are being marketed under established brand names even after they have changed formulation as reported in *The Pioneer* dated October 13, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the preventive measures being taken by the Government to curb the flow of such medicines in the market; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the pharmaceutical companies for misguiding the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Permission for manufacture of a drug formulation along with the brand name is granted by the State Licensing Authorities appointed by the State Governments under the Drugs &

Cosmetics Act. Manufacturers may sometime modify the composition of their formulation to improve it or to substitute an obsolete active ingredient while retaining the same brand name and indications.

#### Maintaining Records of Clinical Trials of Medicines

2175. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up a registry of records of all clinical trials of medicines under way in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether data of all ongoing clinical trials would be placed in public domain;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details of the clinical trials approved by the office of the DCG(I) would be made available at CDSCO website [www.cdco.nic.in](http://www.cdco.nic.in). This information includes the trial number, trial registration, data, responsible contact person, title of study, key inclusion and exclusion criteria, target sample size, recruitment status, duration of the trial, etc.

*[Translation]*

#### Sale of Coal at Low Price

2176. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neyvelli Lignite Corporation (NLC), Singarauli has sold the high grade coal at a low price resulting in heavy losses to the Government;

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

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) There is no company in the name of Neyvelli Lignite Corporation (NLC) located at Singarauli engaged in coal mining. Northern Coalfields Limited, Singrauli is engaged in coal production and this company has not sold high grade coal at a lower price.

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

#### Software In Indian Languages

2177. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government has distributed softwares of different Indian languages free of cost in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of beneficiaries; and

(c) the scheme of the Government with regard to maximum distribution of these softwares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Department of IT has distributed tools on CD-ROM for Tamil, Hindi and Telugu languages.

(b) The number of CDs distributed on demand are as under:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Tamil	Hindi	Telugu
78027	40108	13628

(c) CDs containing fonts and software tools are distributed on request free of charge. In addition fonts & software tools can also be downloaded free from the website: <http://ildc.gov.in>.

[English]

#### Enhancing Coal Production

2178. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared a five thousand crore coal production scheme to address the coal crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which production of coal is expected to increase as a result thereof; and

(d) the details of mines to be used for implementing the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) Coal India Limited has identified 16 opencast existing mines/projects, production from where can be enhanced yielding an additional 71.3 Mt of coal/year. The estimated investment for the increased production is Rs. 2690.80 crore. The identified projects (4 in Mahanadi Coalfields limited, 3 in South Eastern Coalfields Limited, 3 in Central Coalfields Limited and 6 in Northern Coalfields Limited) have adequate reserves, mine capacity and mine geometry for enhancement of production. The proposals have been submitted to the Public Investment Board.

#### Introduction of New Access Deficit Charge Regime

2179. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce New Access Deficit Charge Regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which new Regime is likely to come into force and its effect on subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) It is proposed that Access Deficit Charge Regime be migrated to revenue share basis from per minute basis.

(c) At present no date has been fixed for the same. It is likely to harmonize the Access Deficit Charge and may result in lesser charge to some of the present subscriber categories.

#### **Guidelines for Appointment of Staff in Medical Colleges**

2180. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:  
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:

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

(a) the details of the guidelines for appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff in the Medical Colleges in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any recommendation from the Medical Council of India (MCI) for the appointment/reduction of Staff in the Medical College;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take action on the said recommendations of the MCI; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The minimum requirement of staff (Teaching and Technical both) in the medical colleges having annual intake of 50,100,150 MBBS admissions are regulated by the Medical Council of India's "Minimum requirements for 50 MBBS Admissions annually Regulations, 1999" and "Minimum requirements for 100 MBBS Admissions annually Regulations, 1999" and "Minimum requirements for 150 MBBS Admissions annually Regulations, 1999" respectively. The Ministry has received proposals from Medical Council of India for amending these regulations. The matter is under consideration in consultation with various stakeholders.

*[Translation]*

#### **Capital Investment in Telecom Sector**

2181. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) the details of total capital investment in telecom sector till the end of March, 2004;

(b) the additional capital investment made in this sector during 2004-05;

(c) the investment out of the total capital investment made in the public and private sector respectively; and

(d) the number of telephone subscribers in the public and private sector separately till the end of March, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total investment in the telecom sector by public and private sectors is estimated to be about Rs. 1,85,000 crore till the end of March, 2004 as per various sources including the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

(b) and (c) There has been additional capital investment of about Rs. 22,000 crore during year 2004-05. The investment by BSNL is about Rs. 7,500 crore out of the above.

(d) The number of telephone subscribers (in lakhs) as on 31.3.2005 is as follows:

(i)	Public	:	520.88
(ii)	Private	:	462.84
Total		:	983.72

*[English]*

#### **DDA Housing Schemes**

2182. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA proposes to launch Housing Schemes during 2006-2007; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that new housing schemes are launched, as and when flats become available through new construction or through surrender/cancellation. At present, flats that become available in Janta & LIG Categories are taken up for allotment to waitlisted registrants.

*[Translation]*

#### Opening of Cyber Cafe in Villages

2183. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:  
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to open cyber café in villages of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objective behind such a move; and

(d) the time by which final decision is likely 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) to (c) Department of Information Technology (DIT) is working on a Plan to establish Information & Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Common Services Centres (CSCs) predominantly in the rural areas across the country. CSCs would have the flexibility to offer a mix of services (both Government and non-Government including localized services) that may be needed by the local community. These CSCs would be promoted on a sustainable entrepreneur-based model supported by the Central and State Governments.

(d) DIT has prepared draft framework outlining policy, strategy and contours of financial support for rapid proliferation of CSCs and is now in the process of preparing a project report for the Common Service Centers

scheme. No specific time frame has been fixed for a final decision. However, all efforts are being made for an expeditious decision in the matter.

*[English]*

#### Making Use of Nehru Yuva Kendras

2184. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYK) as an instrument for fostering secular values, national unity and against anti-terrorism in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government of India is already utilizing services of Nehru Yuva Kendras for fostering secular values, national unity and against terrorism in the country through a number of programmes like National Integration Camps, inter-state Youth Exchange Programmes, Cultural Programmes, Sports Promotion Programmes and celebration of National importance days & week.

#### International Criminal Court

2185. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Criminal Court formed in 2002 carries with their pledge of ending immunity of those guilty of genocide crimes and war criminals;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Article 27(2) of the statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) mentions: "Immunities or special procedural rules which may attach to the official capacity

of a person, whether under national or international law, shall not bar the Court from exercising its jurisdiction over such a person"

(c) India is not a Party to the ICC.

#### **Setting up of New Nuclear Power Plants**

2186. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:  
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has cleared four locations for setting up additional nuclear plants;

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

(c) the quantum of additional energy planned to be produced by each of them;

(d) the total quantity of electricity generated through Heavy Water Reactors and Light Water Reactors so far, separately;

(e) whether electricity generated through nuclear power plants is cost effective and has benefits over other sources of energy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to augment harnessing of atomic energy?

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

(b) The Government have accorded in-principle approval for the setting up nuclear power plants at the following sites:

- Kudankulam-Tamil Nadu
- Kakrapur-Gujarat
- Rawatbhata-Rajasthan
- Jaitapur-Maharashtra

(c) Detailed Project Reports for individual projects, based on the in-principle approval of the Government of India, are under preparation. However, the sites now approved by the Government of India are for a cumulative capacity of 6800 MWe.

(d) The current capacity of 3360 MWe (15 reactors) consists of 3040 MWe (13 reactors) from Heavy Water Reactors and 320 MWe (2 reactors) Light Water Reactors. The Light Water Reactors (LWRs) (2 numbers) are in commercial operation since the year 1969. The Heavy Water Reactors HWRs have entered commercial operation from the year 1973 to 2005 progressively.

The total electricity generation so far has been 181 Billion units (BUs) from HWrs and 70 BUs from LWRs.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. The nuclear power is competitive at locations away from coal mines. The existing nuclear power capacity of 3360 MWe (15 reactors) will be increased to 7280 MWe with the completion of projects under construction.

#### **Rural Telecom Services by Private Operators**

2187. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:  
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether mandatory provision of rural telecom services by private telecom operators was removed in the year 2003;

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

(c) whether the digital divide between the rural and the urban areas has increased since then;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reimpose mandatory provision on private telecom operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Consequent upon announcement of guidelines for migration of Basic Service Operators to Unified Access Service Licence Regime, various private basic telecom operators migrated to unified Access Service Licence after payment of prescribed entry fee equivalent to that of fourth cellular service licensee in the respective service areas.

On migration, the roll out obligations changed as for Fourth Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) as per details below:—

- (i) At least 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District headquarters will be covered within three years from the date of migration.
- (ii) The licensee shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District headquarters.
- (iii) Coverage of a DHQ/town would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required street as well as in-building coverage.
- (iv) The District Headquarters shall be taken as on the effective date of Licence.
- (v) The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 505 District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision.
- (vi) There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.

(c) The rural tele-density as on March 2003 was 1.49 as compared to urban tele-density of 14.32. As on 30th September 2005, the rural tele-density has increased to 1.77 as compared to urban tele-density of 31.25. The telecom service providers are not going for faster roll out in rural areas mainly because of commercial unviability of providing communication infrastructure in rural areas.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

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

#### **Eco-City Project**

2188. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to develop Eco-City project to beautify small cities with large population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of cities which have been identified for the purpose;

(d) whether the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation has been approached for support in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board has initiated a programme called Eco-city Programme.

This Programme has been conceptualized for improving environment and achieving sustainable development through a comprehensive urban improvement system employing practical, innovative and non-conventional solutions. The Eco-city Programme was initiated to bring visible environmental improvement in small and medium towns. The following towns have been taken under the first phase of Eco-city Programme to bring visible environmental improvement (1) Vrindavan (UP), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Puri (Orissa), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Kottayam (Kerala), Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu). In these towns the project area includes only the core area (2-4 sq.km) of the towns and not the entire town. The objectives of the project are to:

1. Identify priority environmental improvement projects through participatory approach.
2. Design and detail the prioritized environmental improvement projects; and
3. Create environmental landmarks that show visible environmental improvement.

The specific projects to be taken up under the programme include:

1. Traffic and Transportation System-Construction/Improvement of roads, parking facilities, pavements, signage, pedestrian zones, etc.
2. Drainage and Sewerage System
3. Plantation and landscaping
4. Solid Waste Management
5. Others depending on local needs.

(c) In the first phase in the 10th Five Year Plan period six towns namely, Vrindavan, Puri, Ujjain, Kottayam, Tirupati and Thanjavur have been taken up.



(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. United Nation Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has been approached by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) during November, 2005 for furthering the objectives of Eco-city Programme both as value addition to the ongoing projects in the six cities as well as programmatic co-operating for enriching this holistic initiative through more research, capacity building, partnership/networking with model cities for other part of the world. Ministry of Environment has approached UNIDO for exploring the possibilities of synergizing common area of interests.

#### Development of Personality of Youth

2189. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes undertaken by the Government to develop the personality of youth in the country and also involving them in various nation building activities;

(b) the quantum of funds allocated for the said programmes during the last three years;

(c) the quantum of funds which remained unspent; and

(d) the reasons for not utilizing the entire allocated amount for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) National Service Scheme (NSS), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented in the Universities and Colleges with financial assistance from Central Government and the respective State Governments. The aim of the scheme is to develop personality of the students through community service. In addition, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan implements schemes of the Ministry which *inter-alia* include personality development of non-student youth.

(b) to (d) Details of funds allocated and funds remained unspent, alongwith reasons for not utilising the entire allocation for the said programmes during the last three years are as under:

(Rupees in crores)

Year	NSS			NYKS		
	Funds allocated	Funds unspent	Reasons for not utilising the entire allocation	Funds allocated	Funds unspent	Reasons for not utilising the entire allocation
2002-03	21.70	Nil	Does not arise	29.63	2.72	Funds allocated for West Bengal remained unutilised due to non-implementation of national Reconstruction Corps (NRC) Schemes.
2003-04	21.63	Nil	-do-	22.18	2.46	-do
2004-05	22.19	Nil	-do-	26.78	5.43	Due to delayed deployment of National Service Volunteers, slow progress in registration of youth clubs in some states and non-implementation of NRC Scheme in the State of West Bengal.

[*Translation*]

### New Technique to Combat Dengue

2190. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has recently discovered a new technique to sweep out the Dengue mosquito or its eggs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of deaths caused by mosquito-borne diseases in each State, particularly in Jharkhand, during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected.

(c) The number of deaths caused by Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis and Malaria for the last three years and current year in the country, state-wise including Jharkhand is enclosed as Statement.

### *Statement*

#### *Deaths due to Mosquito borne diseases*

States/UTs	2002			2003			2004			2005 (Provisional)		
	Malaria	Dengue	JE	Malaria	Dengue	JE	Malaria	Dengue	JE	Malaria	Dengue	JE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	0	3	3	3	5	183	2	1	3	10	2	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	72	0	150	53	0	49	54	0	64	83	0	52
Bihar	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	28	1	0	64
Chhattisgarh	3	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0
Goa	15	0	0	1	2	0	7	0	0	2	0	0
Gujarat	17	0	0	65	9	0	89	4	0	0	1	0
Haryana	0	0	40	0	4	67	0	0	27	0	1	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	31	0	0	13	0	0	39	0	0	8	0	0
Karnataka	33	1	15	22	7	10	27	2	6	7	12	5
Kerala	8	2	0	7	68	2	12	8	1	0	8	0
Madhya Pradesh	30	0	0	22	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0
Maharashtra	43	18	16	85	45	115	61	22	0	14	1	29
Manipur	9	0	1	17	0	0	8	0	0	2	0	0
Meghalaya	41	0	0	38	0	0	29	0	0	19	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Mizoram	35	0	0	48	0	0	72	0	0	61	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	465	0	0	333	0	0	283	0	0	132	0	0
Punjab	0	2	2	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan	11	5	0	66	11	0	20	5	0	0	1	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	8	36	0	0	9	0	0	1
Tripura	5	0	0	13	0	0	16	0	0	10	0	0
Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	133	0	8	237	0	0	228	0	1	1387
West Bengal	152	0	105	214	0	1	180	0	1	111	34	1
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	0	2	0	0	35	5	0	3	0	0	9	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1539</b>

[English]

**Guidelines for Opening of New Medical Colleges**

2191. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the function of the Medical Council of India;

(b) the guidelines for opening of new Medical Colleges or increasing seats; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure compulsory inspection before permitting opening of new Medical Colleges or increasing seats in the existing Medical Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The main functions of Medical Council of India are as follows:—

- Maintenance of Indian Medical Register, grant of provisional/permanent registration to persons having recognized medical qualifications obtained from India and abroad.
- Maintenance of uniform standards of medical education.
- Conducting inspections/visitations of medical colleges.

- Sending recommendations to the Government with regard to recognition/derecognition of medical qualifications.
- Recommendation to the Government with regard to reciprocity with foreign countries in the matter of mutual recognition of medical qualifications.
- Issue of good standing certificates to registered medical graduates.

(b) and (c) The detailed guidelines for opening of new Medical Colleges or increasing seats have been prescribed in the "Establishment of New Medical Colleges Regulations, 1999" notified under the Section 10(A) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. As per these Regulations, the Medical Council of India is required to conduct physical inspection for evaluation of infrastructure and faculty etc. before making recommendations regarding establishment of any medical college or increase in capacity to Central Government for its approval.

*[Translation]*

#### **Extradition of Alleged Accused of Mumbai Blasts**

2192. YOGI ADITYA NATH:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has succeeded in the extradition of Abu Salem, the alleged main accused in the 1993 Mumbai blasts, from the Government of Portugal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI has given any assurance to the Government of Portugal in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount spent on the extradition of the accused?

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

(b) The Portuguese authorities permitted extradition of Abu Salem Ansari on 19th October 2005 following an extradition request made by the Government of India in December 2002. He was extradited to India on 10th November, 2005.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of the Republic of India provided guarantees to the Portuguese Government according to which Abu Salem Ansari to be extradited to India would not be punished with the death penalty or with a prison term exceeding 25 years. According to the Portuguese Constitution, these guarantees were required before his extradition could be processed.

(e) The requisite information is being collected and will be made available.

*[English]*

#### **Allocation of Coal Blocks**

2193. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal blocks are allotted to private sponge iron owners for linkage of coal;

(b) if so, whether the coal-block in Mijia Block Development area in West Bengal was allotted to private sponge iron owner;

(c) whether one of the owners of that block has created problems for another owner whose productivity is much more higher than that of the former;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Coal blocks are allocated to producers of power, iron and steel and cement for mining of coal for captive use in their power, iron & steel or cement plants. Production of iron & steel includes production of sponge iron as well.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. In the Mijia Block Development area, the Ardhagram coal block has been offered for allocation jointly to M/s Sova Ispat Ltd. and M/s Bengal Sponge Manufacture Mining Pvt. Ltd. (BSMML), which is a consortium company, with Sova Ispat as leader.

They have also been asked to indicate jointly their preference for the options offered to work the mine, along with a draft agreement, to the Ministry, before formal allocation of the coal block is made to them.

### Side Effects of Birth Control Patch

2194. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that women who are using Birth-Control Patch are exposed to serious side effects as reported in The Hindustan Times dated November 12, 2005;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government is aware of a news item published in the Hindustan Times of 12th November, 2005, regarding the side effects of a Contraceptive patch Ortho Evra.

(b) As per the information available from the US Food & Drug Agency USFDA site collected through the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, the recent evidence suggests that this product exposes women to higher levels of Estrogen than most birth Control Pills.

(c) Ortho Evra Contraceptive Patch is not being used in the Family Welfare Programme of the Government of India.

### Inclusion of China in SAARC

2195. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal are lobbying for immediate inclusion of China in SAARC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has objected to the same;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether this issue was raised during the recently concluded SAARC meeting;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (g) The decisions in the SAARC Summit are taken by consensus. The recently held SAARC Summit in Dhaka welcomed and agreed in-principle with the desire of the People's Republic of China to be included as "Observer". The Summit further decided that the SAARC Council of Ministers will decide modalities in this regard in their Twenty Seventh Meeting in July 2006.

### Opening of Post Offices

2196. DR. K. DHANARAJU:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether any target was fixed to open new Post Offices and Branch Post Offices in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, whether the target has been achieved;

(c) if so, the details of achievements in this regard, location-wise;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Targets were allotted for opening of new Departmental Sub Post Offices and Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04. No Plan targets are being allotted for opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices and Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices since the year 2004-05. However, where proposals are found to be justified, post offices are being opened by relocation in consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Plan.

Details of targets allotted for opening of DSOs and EDBOs to Tamil Nadu Karnataka and achievements made during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 are given in statement-I enclosed.

Location-wise details of post offices opened in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 are given in statement-II and III respectively.

Location-wise details of post offices opened by relocation process in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka during the year 2004-05 are given in Statement-IV.

**Statement I**

*Details of Targets allotted for opening of DSOs and EDBOs to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and achievements made during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04*

Name of State	Targets allotted and achieved							
	2002-03				2003-04			
	DSOs		EDBOs		DSOs		EDBOs	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
Tamil Nadu	1	1	5	5	1	1	6	6
Karnataka	1	1	9	8*	1	1	8	4**

\* 1 EDBO during the year 2002-2003 could not be opened in Karnataka as not more than 8 proposals in the year 2002-03 were found justified on departmental norms.

\*\* 3 EDBOs during the year 2003-04 could not be opened in Karnataka as not more than 4 proposals in the year 2003-04 were found justified on departmental norms.

DSOs—Departmental Sub Post Offices

EDBOs Extra Departmental Branch Post Office.

**Statement II**

*Location-wise details of Post Offices opened in Tamil Nadu during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04*

Sl.No.	Name of post office opened	Classification of area	District
1	2	3	4
<b>Year 2002-03</b>			
1.	Sennavaram EDBO	Rural	Tiruvannamalai
2.	Pruthicheri EDBO	Rural	Thanjavur
3.	Pottapalayam EDBO	Rural	Sivaganga
4.	Kamrajnagar EDBO	Rural	Selam
5.	Kannapadi EDBO	Tribal	Selam
6.	Friday Market DSO	Rural	Kanyakumari
<b>Year 2003-04</b>			
1.	Pathampatti EDBO	Rural	Pudukkottai
2.	Arampoondi EDBO	Tribal	Villupuram

1	2	3	4
3.	Keerathur EDBO	Rural	Pudukkottai
4.	Sri Ranganathapuram EDBO	Rural	Tirunelveli
5.	Vathalmalai EDBO	Rural, hilly	Dharmapuri
6.	Sangupuram EDBO	Rural	Tirunelveli
7.	Mullulurichi DSO	Rural	Selam

DSOs—Departmental Sub Post Offices

EDBOs—Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices

***Statement III***

*Location-wise details of Post Offices opened in Karnataka during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04*

Sl.No.	Name of post office opened	Classification of area	District
<b>Year 2002-03</b>			
1.	Hedge Nagar NDSO	Urban	Bangalore Urban
2.	Herohalli EDBO	Rural	Bangalore Urban
3.	Kagekana EDBO	Rural	Dakshina Kannada
4.	Anantawadi EDBO	Rural	Uttara Kannada
5.	Kooluru EDBO	Rural	Chikmagalur
6.	Maargankop EDBO	Rural	Belgaum
7.	Vaggadkallu EDBO	Rural	Chikmagalur
8.	Gottigehalli EDBO	Rural	Bangalore Rural
9.	Jeerabandi EDBO	Rural	Raichur
<b>Year 2003-04</b>			
1.	Tonachikoppal NDSO	Urban	Mysore
2.	Brahmur EDBO	Rural	Uttara Kannada
3.	Giddikuruvinakoppa EDBO	Rural	Belgaum
4.	Sorekunte EDBO	Rural	Tumkur
5.	Tenkarmidiyur EDBO	Rural	Udupi

NDSO—Non Delivery Sub Post Offices

EDBOs—Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices

**Statement IV**

*Location-wise details of Post Offices opened by Relocation Process in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka during the year 2004-05*

Sl.No.	Name of post office opened	Classification of area	District
TAMIL NADU			
1.	Madras High Court, Madurai Bench DSO	Urban	Madurai
KARNATAKA			
1.	Gerusoppa Jyothinagar DSO	Urban	Karwar
2.	Kendriya Sadan DSO	Urban	Bangalore Urban
3.	Sri Sahyadri Colony EDBO	Urban	Uttara Kannada
4.	Bhutharamana hatti DSO	Rural	Belgaum
5.	K.S. Factory EDBO	Rural	Bellary
6.	Kanchugaranahally EDBO	Rural	Bangalore Rural

DSO—Departmental Sub Post Office

EDBOs—Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices

*[Translation]*

**Enhancing Capacity of Narora Atomic Power Station**

2197. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from Uttar Pradesh to enhance the capacity of Narora Atomic Power Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested Government of India to set up additional nuclear power station at Narora.

(c) to (e) The potential of the site at Narora, U.P. to accommodate additional units has been recognized. However, location of additional units at this site would be subject to meeting the requirement of the energy alternatives available to a region, availability of funds to set up the plant, the overall nuclear power programme of the Government and techno-economic considerations.

**Setting up of All India Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy**

2198. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up 'All India Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy' on the lines of AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its location; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI



PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is a proposal under consideration to set up an All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) under the Department of AYUSH at Sarita Vihar, New Delhi. Details of the proposal are being worked out.

#### **Closure of Mines**

2199. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several coal mines in the country have been closed down and many others are on the verge of closure on the issue of environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees rendered/likely to be rendered jobless and the assets lying unutilised or likely to be rendered useless due to closure or likely closure of coal mines;

(d) whether the cases of seeking necessary permission on the issue of environment and paying compensation to the affected people are being examined by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

*[English]*

#### **Combating TB/Cancer**

2200. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons afflicted with Tuberculosis (TB) and Cancer during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of NGOs engaged in combating and rendering care to TB and Cancer patients;

(c) the funds allocated to them during the last three years, till date;

(d) whether any measures are being contemplated to eradicate TB and also make treatment of Cancer affordable to the common man;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) It is estimated that every year about 18 lakh new cases of tuberculosis are occurring in the country of which about 8 lakh are infectious new sputum smear positive cases. A statement indicating State-wise number of TB cases detected and put on treatment under the National TB Control Programme during last three years is given.

There are about 2–2.5 million cancer patients at any point of time as per estimate based on National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR. There are about 7-9 lakh new cancer patients every year in India. The State-wise data is not available.

(b) and (c) About 1800 NGOs are involved under the RNTCP in the country. The amount given to these NGOs in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is Rs. 62.95 lakh, Rs. 129.23 lakh, Rs. 160.65 lakh and Rs. 200.42 lakh respectively.

In cancer during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, 20, 17 and 10 NGOs have worked and have been given grant to the tune of Rs. 752 lakh, Rs. 530.83 lakh and 24.5 lakh respectively. During the year 2005-06, No NGO has been given any grant so far.

(d) to (f) To control TB, National Tuberculosis Control Programme was launched in the country in 1962. This could not achieve the desired results. Therefore, Revised National TB Programme (RNTCP), widely known as DOTS which is a WHO recommended strategy is being implemented since 1997 in a phased manner with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum of positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. Diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of x-ray helps in detecting infections cases and monitoring their treatment on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes and consumed by the patients under direct observation of the DOT provider and patients are regularly monitored

so that they complete their treatment. By November 2005, 1065 million (95%) of the country's population in 607 districts have been covered under the programme. The remaining districts are undergoing preparatory activities for adoption of revised strategy at the earliest and the entire country is expected to be fully covered during this current year 2005.

The Project districts have reported treatment success rate of more than 85% which means that more than 8 out of every 10 patients put on treatment under the revised strategy are being successfully cured as against

below 4 in the earlier Programme. To make the make more accessible to larger segments of the population and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to also involve the community, medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme.

In so far as treatment of Cancer is concerned, the financial assistance is being provided to Government institutions for development of Oncology Wing. Government institutions are providing Cancer Treatment either free or at subsidized rates to the general public.

**Statement**

*State-wise detail of TB cases detected and put on treatment under the Programme during last three years*

Sl.No.	State	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	524	566	595
2.	Andhra Pradesh	100505	119368	109365
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3123	2232	2057
4.	Assam	18038	20459	28551
5.	Bihar	37520	33361	24422
6.	Chandigarh	1727	2058	2208
7.	Chhattisgarh	14295	15724	23822
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	32604	38847	43809
11.	Goa	1138	0	509
12.	Gujarat	61415	73133	80626
13.	Haryana	31703	30908	33606
14.	Himachal Pradesh	12691	13312	13458
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	9142	8632	6089
16.	Jharkhand	16336	13538	20031
17.	Karnataka	57276	57449	65403
18.	Kerala	23923	24878	25439

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	48675	54224	68260
21.	Maharashtra	117554	130676	143766
22.	Manipur	5556	5095	5042
23.	Meghalaya	2730	2669	3800
24.	Mizoram	1456	1631	2035
25.	Nagaland	933	1763	2707
26.	Orissa	27152	27080	43238
27.	Pondicherry	2541	2322	1203
28.	Punjab	20000	22449	23304
29.	Rajasthan	93462	98144	105596
30.	Sikkim	1250	1403	1724
31.	Tamil Nadu	80895	89616	96639
32.	Tripura	1032	1197	924
33.	Uttar Pradesh	207670	153459	164406
34.	Uttaranchal	14725	11194	10872
35.	West Bengal	81485	89836	104026
<b>Total</b>		<b>1129076</b>	<b>1147223</b>	<b>1257532</b>

Note:- The increase in reporting of TB Cases in comparison to previous year is attributed to increase in access to RNTCP as well as good case detection rate due to improvement in the Programme management and the Programme becoming more popular.

#### **Status of Homoeopathic Medicines**

2201. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the editorial of the famous science magazine 'The Lancet' has dismissed homoeopathic medicines as placebos in its September 2005 issue;

(b) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. 'The Lancet' in its issue of 27 August, 2005 editorially commented on the homoeopathy's lack of benefit.

(b) and (c) Homoeopathy is a scientific system of medicine in use in a large number of countries including India. The Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India is committed to development of the Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy and mainstreaming them in the national health care delivery network. Director, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy had sent a rejoinder to Lancet on the above article but the same has not been published by the Lancet.

**Telecommunication Facilities in Tribal Villages of Orissa**

2202. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribal villages provided with telecommunication facilities in Orissa;

(b) the number of villages yet to be provided with telecommunication facilities;

(c) whether the Government has set any target to cover all the tribal villages in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Out of 18,477 Tribal villages, 13,171 Tribal villages have been provided with telecommunication facilities in Orissa.

(b) 5,306 Tribal villages are yet to be provided with telecommunication facilities as on 30.11.2005.

(c) and (d) Out of 5,306 remaining unconnected villages in tribal areas, 4,268 villages will be covered by Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPT) progressively by November 2007. The remaining 1,038 are not planned to be covered due to reasons such as, de-populated villages/ villages having population of less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas, etc.

**Migration of Indian Technical Personnel**

2203. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indians having high technical qualifications are migrating to foreign countries to cater to the demand of skilled labourers in the Information Technology Sector;

(b) if so, the extent of loss caused by this brain drain;

(c) whether several posts in the Information Technology Sector are lying vacant in India as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof, category-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Indian Software companies and technical manpower undertake onsite projects and jobs for overseas companies in industrialized and developing countries to meet requirements of clients and execute specific projects. However, as per estimates of National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), in the last three years, nearly 20,000 IT professionals have returned back to India due to growing opportunities in this sector.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Golden Triangle Project**

2204. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:  
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce the Golden Triangle Project for bringing change in the medicine system as reported in the '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated September 24, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether financial assistance will be provided to the farmers for cultivating medicinal plants with a view to set up medicine processing zone;

(d) if so, whether hospitals with such a system of medicine are likely to be set up in the States; and

(e) if so, the details of the funds likely to be spent for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Golden Triangle Partnership (GTP) is not intended for bringing change in the medicine system. The GTP concept is aimed to set up an integrated technology mission for the development of Ayurveda and traditional medical knowledge based on synchronized working of modern medicine, traditional medicine and science with a special budgetary support. Under this Scheme, three organizations namely Department of AYUSH/CCRAS, CSIR & ICMR would work together to undertake scientific validation and development of safe, effective and standardized classical Ayurvedic, Siddha & Unani products for the identified disease conditions of national/global importance.

(c) and (d) No such provision has been made in this Scheme.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Vaccine to Combat Cervical Cancer**

2205. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has tied-up with a US firm to produce a vaccine to combat cervical cancer in the country;

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

(c) whether the said vaccine is at experimental stage in trial at present; and

(d) if so, the time by which and the price at which the said vaccine is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Indian Council of Medical Research is exploring the possibility of carrying out clinical trial of a preventive vaccine to combat cervical cancer in the country. The time and the cost factor of the vaccine against the cervical cancer is related to the outcome of the clinical trials and therefore, can be decided only after these are carried out.

#### **Indo-UK Cooperation to Check Terrorism**

2206. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and UK have decided to work together to evolve international norms for zero tolerance on global terrorism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) During the visit of Prime Minister Tony Blair to India (8 September 2005) both sides agreed that there can be no justification whatsoever for terrorism on any grounds-religious, political, ideological or any other.

India and UK have established a Joint Working Group for strengthening cooperation to combat terrorism. The Joint Working Group provides a framework for cooperation in various ways, including through exchange of information and assessments on terrorism, training and curbing drug trafficking.

#### **Investment in ILD Infrastructure**

2207. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Service Providers (ISPs) and International Long Distance (ILD) operators are free to set up their International bandwidth cables;

(b) if so, the number of cables installed during the last three years, operator-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken for investment in ILD infrastructure?

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

(b) Operator-wise details of cables installed are given as under:

Name of Operators	Nature of Cable	Connecting places
1. Bharti Infotel Ltd.	1. i 2 i cable	1. Chennai to Singapore
	2. SE-MEA-WE 4	2. Connecting South East Asia, India, Middle East Asia and Western Europe.
Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	1. Falcon Cable	Mumbai to Oman
Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	1. TIS Cable	1. Chennai to Singapore
	2. SE-MEA-WE 4	2. Connecting South East Asia, India, Middle East Asia and Western Europe.

(c) Government has announced reduction in the entry fee, licence fee and has eased licence conditions.

(b) The approximate cost of adding these wireline telephone, year-wise is as under:

**Wireline Telephone Subscribers**

2208. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of wireline telephone subscribers added by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years;

(b) the total cost of adding these wireline telephones, year-wise;

(c) whether the cost incurred has been subsidized by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF);

(d) if so, the details of funds disbursed from USO Fund;

(e) whether the BSNL has incurred operational losses on wireline telephones; and

(f) if so, the extent to which it has been subsidized through Access Deficit Charge (ADC)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, details of the net addition in wireline telephone subscribers of BSNL during each of the last three years are as under:

Year	Telephone Subscribers
2002-03	2212469
2003-04	18679
2004-05	423845

(Rs. in Crore)

2002-03	7352.13
2003-04	5113.75
2004-05	2771.60

(c) and (d) Disbursement of Rs. 114.85 crore and Rs. 480.19 crore during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively from the USO Fund has been made for rural household DELs installed with effect from (w.e.f.) 01.04.2002 to 31.03.2004 in 1685 specified Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs). BSNL has entered into an agreement with DOT to provide rural household DELs in 1267 specified SDCAs w.e.f. 01.04.2005. For Rural Household DELs installed during 2005-06 in these SDCAs, USO Fund has reimbursed Rs. 59.822 crores till now.

(e) and (f) The estimated operational losses on account of rural wireline telephony during the last three years are as under:

	(Rs. in Crore)
2002-03	7960.80
2003-04	9528.88
2004-05	9792.23

A part of the losses have been compensated by support from ADC. The amount of ADC billed from date of introduction i.e. 01.02.2004 to 31.03.2005 is Rs. 1122 Crores.

### Corruption in Ministries/Departments

2209. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has detected corruption in various ministries/departments of the Union Government as reported in the Hindi daily 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated November, 7, 2005;

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

(c) the names of the ministries/departments detected by CVC as most corrupt; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), in the year 2004, various organizations/Departments imposed penalties on 4298 officials on the advice of the CVC. CVC has not made any categorization of various organizations/Departments on the basis of prevailing corruption.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to check corruption like formulating and implementing effective anti-corruption policies and practices; constituting preventive anti-corruption bodies (CVC/CBI), establishing systems based on transparency competition and objective criteria in public procurement and management of public finances; and enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005 enhancing public access to information.

### Impact of Mining on Monuments in Hampi

2210. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hampi is in the UNESCO endangered Heritage Monuments List;

(b) if so, the number of monuments being maintained by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in and around Hampi;

(c) whether mining at Sandur and Hospet has adversely affected the monuments in Hampi;

(d) if so, whether the ASI has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to regulate mining in and around Hampi;

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

(f) whether the ASI has formulated any plan to conduct 'Risk Preparedness Impact Study' on Hampi monuments in Karnataka; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Group of Monuments at Hampi is enlisted as World Heritage Site (WHS) in danger by the UNESCO Authorities in the year 1999.

(b) 56 Monuments are declared as centrally protected monuments, which are being maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) No, Sir. The Monuments of Hampi are not affected. However, mining activities have led to severe dust pollution in the centrally protected Parvathi and Kartikeya temples and in the state protected Jambunatheswara temple, which is located beyond the core zone of the Hampi WHS.

(d) The matter has been take up the highest level in the Government of Karnataka and also in the Coordination Committee headed by the Principal Secretary to the Government of Karnataka—Kannada and Culture Department.

(e) Response of the Government of Karnataka is being awaited.

(f) and (g) The site management plan of Hampi WHS, which is being finalized, will take care of this aspect.

### Facilities/Amenities In Government Hospitals

2211. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients visiting Government Hospitals particularly Safdarjung Hospitals for treatment etc. on a day-to-day basis; and

(b) the details of facilities/amenities available to indoor/outdoor patients in these hospitals particularly in Safdarjung?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) On an average over 6000 O.P.D. patients, and 700 emergency patients are attended to in Safdarjung Hospital for treatment. Besides this over 300 new patients are admitted everyday in the hospital for indoor treatment.

Well equipped investigation facilities and supply of free essential drugs are provided to indoor patients in Central Government Hospitals including Safdarjung Hospital.

#### **Welfare of Overseas Indians**

2212. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of work undertaken in various countries for the welfare of the Overseas Indians during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Overseas Indians consist of persons of Indian origin who are citizens of other countries and Non-Resident Indians who are citizens of India working/living abroad. The welfare measures undertaken by Government for the former category include the facilities of PIO Card and Overseas Citizenship of India and incentives for investments in most sectors under the automatic route. Welfare measures for the latter category, particularly for the overseas Indian workers, include the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, assistance through the embassies in cases of death, repatriation etc. and legal advice.

#### **Tests for Registered Doctors**

2213. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government that all doctors who have cleared MBBS and registered themselves for life practice will have to sit for a test for every five years;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government has been considering re-registration of Medical practitioners after a certain numbers of years. Government is also considering linking renewal of registration of medical practitioners with Continuing Medical Education (CME). Recently national consultations were held with representatives of various professional bodies regarding continuing medical education. The proposal for registration *vis-a-vis* Continuing Medical Education is being fine tuned in the light of the deliberations of the meeting.

#### **Schemes for Development of Historical and Cultural Sites**

2214. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated schemes for the development of various sites of historical and cultural importance in the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government to the State Governments for implementation of such schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the funds allocated to the State Governments have been fully utilised; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) There are 3660 centrally protected monuments/archaeological sites maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India. Under the annual conservation programme, proposals are formulated for structural repairs, environment development and preservation of monuments and sites.

State-wise details of works taken up for 2005-06 is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) State-wise/Circle-wise allotment of funds for conservation/preservation and environment development of centrally protected monuments for the last three years is enclosed as statement-II.



No funds are allocated to the State Governments for the maintenance of the centrally protected monuments. The funds which were allocated to the Archaeological

Survey of India Circles in different States, for conservation and preservation, have been fully utilized.

(e) Does not arise.

***Statement I***

*State-wise and Circle-wise details of works taken up for structural repairs, environment development and preservation for the year 2005-06 under plan and non-plan*

Sl.No.	State	Circle/Branch	No. of works taken up for 2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra Circle	77
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow Circle	100
3.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad Circle	72
4.	Maharashtra	Mini Circle, Mumbai	25
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore Circle	208
6.	Karnataka	Dharwad Circle	72
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal Circle	59
8.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar Circle	48
9.	West Bengal, Sikkim	Kolkata Circle	36
10.	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	Chennai Circle	31
11.	Punjab, Haryana	Chandigarh Circle	40
12.	Himachal Pradesh	Mini Circle Shimla	36
13.	Delhi	Delhi Circle	54
14.	Goa	Mini Circle, Goa	25
15.	N.E. States, except Sikkim	Guwahati Circle	36
16.	Rajasthan	Jaipur Circle	37
17.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Circle	46
18.	Bihar & Uttar Pradesh (Part)	Patna Circle	65
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar Circle	45
20.	Kerala	Thrissur Circle	9
21.	Gujarat	Vadodara Circle	52
22.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun Circle	25

1	2	3	4
23.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur Circle	38
24.	Jharkhand	Ranchi Circle	11
25.	Chemical (All India)	Dir. (Science), Dehradun	203
26.	Horticulture Operation (All India)	C.H., Agra	242
Total			1692

**Statement II**

*State-wise and Circle-wise Allotment of Funds for conservation/preservation and environment development of centrally protected monuments for the last three years*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Circle/Branch	Allotment of funds 2002-03	Allotment 2003-04	Allotment 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra Circle	335.65	391.28	593.00
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow Circle	291.93	457.47	713.50
3.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad Circle	266.85	536.53	365.04
4.	Maharashtra	Mini Circle, Mumbai	—	—	83.00
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore Circle	667.14	452.33	411.78
6.	Karnataka	Dharwad Circle	218.77	314.84	495.63
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal Circle	344.72	445.44	378.44
8.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar Circle	101.99	190.04	388.08
9.	West Bengal, Sikkim	Kolkata Circle	204.22	323.83	557.37
10.	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	Chennai Circle	276.60	451.00	566.98
11.	Punjab, Haryana	Chandigarh Circle	448.28	367.58	232.70
12.	Himachal Pradesh	Mini Circle Shimla	—	—	65.59
13.	Delhi	Delhi Circle	889.48	1001.87	761.37
14.	Goa	Mini Circle, Goa	73.50	74.99	105.02
15.	N.E. States, except Sikkim	Guwahati Circle	120.47	135.96	115.47
16.	Rajasthan	Jaipur Circle	186.04	341.51	279.97
17.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Circle	396.30	269.84	341.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Bihar & Uttar Pradesh (Part)	Patna Circle	169.50	547.00	300.00
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar Circle	117.59	269.85	239.97
20.	Kerala	Thrissur Circle	20.00	121.36	110.66
21.	Gujarat	Vadodara Circle	296.25	169.96	173.21
22.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun Circle	—	132.40	157.00
23.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur Circle	—	171.00	278.00
24.	Jharkhand	Ranchi Circle	—	82.39	70.72
25.	DG (ASI) HQ (Deposit Works)		455.34	400.00	—
26.	Chemical Preservation (All India)	Dir. (Science), Dehradun	184.30	396.59	433.42
27.	Horticultural Activity (All India)	C.H., Agra	657.20	982.73	1070.98
Total			6650.12	90.279	92.879
			Say 67.00 Crore	Say 90.28 Crore	Say 92.88 Crore

#### Foreign Assistance for Monuments

2215. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is seeking any foreign assistance for the upkeep and restoration of protected monuments in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the monuments for which assistance has been sought?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Government of India and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has signed an agreement for the conservation and Tourism Development under Ajanta-Ellora phase-II project.

The project covers the following centrally protected monuments.

Sl.No.	Name of Monuments	District/Location
1	2	3
1.	Ajanta Caves	Ajanta
2.	Ellora Caves	Ellora
3.	Pithalkora Caves	Pithalkora
4.	Aurangabad Caves	Aurangabad
5.	Bibi-Ka-Maqbara	Aurangabad
6.	Daulatabad Fort	Daulatabad
7.	Patanadevi Temple	Chalisgaon
8.	Daitya Sudana Temple	Lonar
9.	Gaimukh Temple	Lonar
10.	Papaharshwara Temple	Lonar
11.	Kumareshwara Temple	Lonar

1	2	3
12.	Yangeshwara Temple	Lonar
13.	Ramgaya Temple	Lonar
14.	Bagh Temple	Lonar
15.	Mor Temple	Lonar
16.	Kamalaja Temple	Lonar

Further, an MoU has been signed between National Culture Fund, Archaeological Survey of Indian, Ministry of Culture and World Monument Fund to develop a Conservation Master Plan for the Centrally protected Jaisalmer fort in Rajasthan.

#### Corruption Perceptions Index 2005

2216. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2005 released by the Transparency International recently, India's score improved from 2.8 last year to 2.9 in 2004 as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated October, 19, 2005;

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

(c) whether the confidence range for the corporate world in India is less than that of many countries rated below India;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve confidence in the corporate sector?

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, as reported by The Hindustan Times dated 19th October, 2005 the Corruption Perception Index, 2005 released by Transparency International has shown that the position of India has improved as compared to the last year.

(c) and (d) A Private study by Transparency International has found that confidence level of corporate

world for India is less than many other countries due to perception of high level of corruption in some of the states.

(e) The Government is fully alive to the need for improving confidence in the corporate sector. For this various anti-corruption measures have been taken like formulating and implementing effective anti-corruption policies and practices; constituting preventive anti-corruption bodies (CVC/CBI); establishing systems based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in public procurement and management of public finances; and enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005 enhancing public access to information.

#### Introduction of Blood Component Therapy

2217. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether blood component therapy has replaced the whole blood transfusion in most developed countries, and the practice is yet to take off in India, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the only plasma fraction facility available in the KEM hospital at Mumbai has not been operational for the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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) and (b) In the developed nations, the blood transfusion therapy has switched over to blood component therapy.

In India, the National Blood Policy 2002, and the Action Plan on Blood Safety 2003 lay stress on blood component therapy and rational use of blood. The clinicians (Principal users of blood component) are being sensitised to use blood components rather than whole blood. So far, about 12% of the total 2117 licensed Blood Banks in the country have the facility to preparation of Blood Components.

(c) and (d) The plasma fractionation facility located in the KEM Hospital, Mumbai, is not operational since

May 2003. The National Plasma Fractionation Center is an autonomous body under Municipal Corporation of Mumbai.

They have decided to start the production facilities of this plant once again. The Government of India has provided financial assistance of Rs. 4.58 crores during the current financial year for the refurbishment and restarting the plant. The process of making it operational has started and the plant is expected to start production by May 2006.

*[Translation]*

### MPLADS

2218. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the year of inception of the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme;

(b) the main objectives of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the success of this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the total number of complaints received by the Government from Members of Parliament regarding the scheme during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched in December, 1993.

(b) The objective of the scheme is to enable Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to be implemented in their constituencies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An evaluation study of MPLAD Scheme was done by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission and the report was received in November, 2001. The Evaluation Report contains observations and recommendations relating to various stages of the Scheme implementation ranging from recommendations for works by MPs, execution, monitoring to the maintenance of assets created under MPLAD Scheme. The Evaluation Report has made specific suggestions for effective implementation of the MPLAD Scheme to achieve better results.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) 15-number of complaints have been received by the Government from Members of Parliament regarding the scheme during the last two years.

*[English]*

### Digital Maps of Cities

2219. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to prepare digital maps of cities in the country;

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

(c) the cities identified and the funds sanctioned for the said purpose; and

(d) the extent to which the digital maps will be helpful for proper development of various cities?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved a new Scheme viz. National Urban Information System (NUIS). NUIS Scheme shall cover 137 towns for digital mapping through satellite (1:10,000 scale) and aerial photography (1:2000 scale) in the first phase. List of towns to be covered in the first phase of the Scheme is given in the statement. Estimated cost of first phase of Scheme is Rs. 66.28 crore.

(d) Under the NUIS Scheme, digital maps and Geographic Information System (GIS) database in the scale of 1:10,000 and 1:2000 are to be prepared. These

digital maps and GIS database will be used for planning and implementation of developmental activities; infrastructure development; disaster management;

environmental monitoring; natural resources management; land use; telecommunication planning and many other activities.

**Statement**

*List of NUIS Scheme Phase-I Towns with tentative area for mapping*

Sl.No.	Town	State	Population 2001	Status	Class
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Port Blair	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	99984	Town	II
2.	Adilabad	Andhra Pradesh	129403	Town	I
3.	Dharmavaram	Andhra Pradesh	103357	Town	I
4.	Madanapalle	Andhra Pradesh	107449	Town	I
5.	Nalgonda	Andhra Pradesh	111380	Town	I
6.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	117320	Town	I
7.	Tadepaligudem	Andhra Pradesh	102622	Town	I
8.	Along	Arunachal Pradesh	17033	Town	IV
9.	Daporijo	Arunachal Pradesh	15756	Town	IV
10.	Dibrugarh	Assam	137661	UA	I
11.	Nagaon	Assam	123265	UA	I
12.	Silchar	Assam	184105	UA	I
13.	Tezpur	Assam	105377	Town	I
14.	Tinsukia	Assam	108123	UA	I
15.	Arrah	Bihar	203380	Town	I
16.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	350133	UA	I
17.	Darbhanga	Bihar	267348	Town	I
18.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	305525	Town	I
19.	Patna	Bihar	1697976	UA	Metro
20.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	808515	UA	I
21.	Bhilai Nagar	Chhattisgarh	927864	Town	I
22.	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	335293	Town	I
23.	Durg	Chhattisgarh	232517	Town	I

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Korba	Chhattisgarh	315690	Town	I
25.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	700113	UA	I
26.	Silvassa	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21893	Town	III
27.	Daman	Daman and Diu	35770	Town	III
28.	Delhi U.A.	Delhi	12877470	UA	Metro
29.	Cuncolim	Goa	15860	Town	IV
30.	Curchorem Cacora	Goa	21407	Town	III
31.	Mapusa	Goa	40487	Town	III
32.	Margao	Goa	94383	UA	II
33.	Mormugao	Goa	104758	UA	I
34.	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	517708	UA	I
35.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	556956	UA	I
36.	Nadiad	Gujarat	196793	UA	I
37.	Rajkot	Gujarat	1003015	UA	Metro
38.	Surat	Gujarat	2811614	UA	Metro
39.	Vadodara	Gujarat	1491045	UA	Metro
40.	Faridabad	Haryana	1055938	Town	Metro
41.	Hisar	Haryana	263186	UA	I
42.	Karnal	Haryana	221236	UA	I
43.	Panipat	Haryana	354148	UA	I
44.	Rohtak	Haryana	294577	UA	I
45.	Dharamsala	Himachal Pradesh	19124	Town	IV
46.	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	26873	Town	III
47.	Nahan	Himachal Pradesh	26053	Town	III
48.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	144975	UA	I
49.	Solan	Himachal Pradesh	34206	Town	III
50.	Anantnag	Jammu and Kashmir	97896	Town	III
51.	Baramula	Jammu and Kashmir	71896	Town	II
52.	Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	612163	UA	I

1	2	3	4	5	6
53.	Sopore	Jammu and Kashmir	59624	Town	II
54.	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	988210	Town	I
55.	Bokaro Steel City	Jharkhand	497780	UA	I
56.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	1065327	UA	Metro
57.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	1104713	UA	Metro
58.	Mango	Jharkhand	166125	Town	I
59.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	863495	UA	I
60.	Bellary	Karnataka	316766	Town	I
61.	Bidar	Karnataka	174257	Town	I
62.	Bijapur	Karnataka	253891	Town	I
63.	Davanagere-Harihara	Karnataka	364523	UA	I
64.	Kolar	Karnataka	113907	M	I
65.	Raichur	Karnataka	207421	Town	I
66.	Alappuzha	Kerala	282675	UA	I
67.	Kollam	Kerala	380091	UA	I
68.	Kozhikode	Kerala	880247	UA	I
69.	Palakkad	Kerala	197369	UA	I
70.	Thrissur	Kerala	330122	UA	I
71.	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	10119	Town	IV
72.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	231672	Town	I
73.	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	865548	UA	I
74.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	1098000	UA	Metro
75.	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	308922	UA	I
76.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	229307	UA	I
77.	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	431162	UA	I
78.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	892483	UA	I
79.	Bhiwandi	Maharashtra	621427	UA	I
80.	Nashik	Maharashtra	1152326	UA	Metro
81.	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	1012472	Town	Metro



1	2	3	4	5	6
82.	Pune	Maharashtra	3760636	UA	Metro
83.	Thane	Maharashtra	1262551	Town	Metro
84.	Imphal	Manipur	250234	UA	I
85.	Kakching	Manipur	28724	Town	III
86.	Jowai	Meghalaya	25057	MB	III
87.	Tura	Meghalaya	58978	M	II
88.	Champhai	Mizoram	26465	Town	III
89.	Lunglei	Mizoram	47137	Town	III
90.	Dimapur	Nagaland	98096	Town	II
91.	Mokokchung	Nagaland	31214	Town	III
92.	Baleshwar	Orissa	156430	UA	I
93.	Baripada	Orissa	100651	UA	I
94.	Brahmapur	Orissa	307792	Town	I
95.	Cuttack	Orissa	587182	UA	I
96.	Raurkela	Orissa	484874	UA	I
97.	Sambalpur	Orissa	226469	UA	I
98.	Kraikal	Pondicherry	74438	M	II
99.	Amritsar	Punjab	1003917	Town	Metro
100.	Bhatinda	Punjab	217256	Town	I
101.	Jalandhar	Punjab	714077	Town	I
102.	Ludhiana	Punjab	1398467	Town	Metro
103.	Pathankot	Punjab	168485	UA	I
104.	Patiala	Punjab	323884	UA	I
105.	Bandikui	Rajasthan	16295	M	IV
106.	Bijainagar-Gulabpura	Rajasthan	24362	M	III
107.	Dungarpur	Rajasthan	43108	M	III
108.	Karauli	Rajasthan	66239	M	II
109.	Makrana	Rajasthan	91853	UA	II

1	2	3	4	5	6
110.	Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan	101997	UA	I
111.	Rangpo	Sikkim	3709	Town	VI
112.	Singtam	Sikkim	5432	Town	V
113.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	1461139	UA	Metro
114.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	1203095	UA	Metro
115.	Salem	Tamil Nadu	751438	UA	I
116.	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	866354	UA	I
117.	Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	433352	UA	I
118.	Tiruppur	Tamil Nadu	550826	UA	I
119.	Dharmanagar	Tripura	30790	Town	III
120.	Radhakishorepur (Udaipur)	Tripura	21758	NP	III
121.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	1042229	UA	Metro
122.	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	968256	UA	I
123.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	2715555	UA	Metro
124.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	2245509	UA	Metro
125.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	1161716	UA	Metro
126.	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	1203961	UA	Metro
127.	Bageshwar	Uttaranchal	7803	Town	V
128.	Kotdwar	Uttaranchal	24947	Town	III
129.	Mussorie	Uttaranchal	29329	UA	III
130.	Pithoragarh	Uttaranchal	44964	Town	III
131.	Roorkee	Uttaranchal	115278	UA	I
132.	Bhatpara	West Bengal	442385	UA	I
133.	Durgapur	West Bengal	493405	Town	I
134.	Kamarhati	West Bengal	314507	Town	I
135.	Kulti	West Bengal	289903	Town	I
136.	Panihati	West Bengal	348439	Town	I
137.	Rajpur Sonarpur	West Bengal	336707	Town	I

**Pension Regulatory Bill**

2220. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Pension Regulatory Bill in the winter session of Parliament;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Trade Unions are not supporting this Bill;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill, 2005 was introduced in Parliament on March 21, 2005.

(c) and (d) Certain suggestions in respect to the Bill have been made by Trade Unions.

(e) The New Pension System (NPS) is designed to be subscriber-friendly, efficient and in the interest of workers as there is an upfront explicit budgeting by the Government towards their pension.

Further, the mandatory programmes under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and other special provident funds, would continue to operate as per the existing system under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 and other special Acts governing these funds.

**Quality of Food Items for Patients**

2221. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU  
YADAV:

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

(a) whether the food items provided to the patients in Safdarjung Hospital are not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken to check the preparation and distribution of food items to the patients;

(d) whether some employees of Safdarjung Hospital are allegedly involved in irregularities relating to distribution of food items;

(e) if so, the number of such employees caught during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The raw food material/ food items provided to the patients are procured from certified government suppliers *viz.* Kendriya Bhandar, NAFED, Delhi Milk Scheme, Modern Bakeries, and Mother Dairy, etc. The food is prepared and distributed to the patients under the supervision of Head Cook, Steward and Dietitian. The food is tasted and checked before distribution by the dietitian in-charge.

Five defaulters employees were issued warning/ memorandum by the unit/administration.

**Merger of Koratty Press**

2222. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to merge the Koratty Press, Kerala with the Coimbatore Press; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the present staff strength of Coimbatore Press?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Accidental/Unauthorised use of Nuclear Weapons**

2223. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreements signed between India and Pakistan during October 2005;

(b) whether the Union Government has proposed signing of MoU on measures to reduce the risks of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons under the control of both countries;

(c) if so, whether Pakistan has accepted the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) During former EAM's visit to Pakistan from 2-5 October 2005, India and Pakistan signed the Agreement on Pre-Notification of Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Establishment of a Communication Link between the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and the Indian Coast Guards. The Agreement on Pre-Notification of Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles commits both sides to pre-notify in a structured format flight-testing of ballistic missiles, with the objective of enhancing mutual confidence and engendering predictability and transparency of intent.

(b) to (d) In pursuance of the MoU of 21 February 1999 regarding measures for promoting peace and security between India and Pakistan, which *inter alia* provided for undertaking national measures to reduce the risks of accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons under their respective control, India has handed over a draft of a proposed agreement to Pakistan at the third round of India-Pakistan Expert Level Dialogue on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures held in New Delhi on 5-6 August 2005 under the framework of the Composite

Dialogue. India and Pakistan have agreed to have the third round of the Composite Dialogue from January to July 2006.

*[Translation]*

#### Production of Coal

2224. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal produced in Gebash and Deepika mines of the South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) during the period from 1995 till March, 2005;

(b) the quantity of stock available in the above two mines during the said period;

(c) the quantity of coal from the above stock ferried by the railway route and road routes during the said period; and

(d) the quantity of coal from the above stock lost on account of fire and other natural calamities during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) The quantity of coal produced in Gevra and Dipika mines of South Eastern Coalfields Limited during the period from 1995 till March, 2005, quantity of stock available and quantity of coal supplied by rail route and by road route from these mines during the said period is given at the table below:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Production		Opening Audited Stock + Production		Coal supplied by Gevra and Dipika Mines	
	Gevra Mines	Dipika Mines	Gevra Mines	Dipika Mines	By Rail	By Road
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1994-95	146.29	41.78	159.54	54.95	57.31	6.55
1995-96	154.45	46.30	178.52	58.02	65.49	9.09
1996-97	168.33	50.25	193.08	65.81	81.38	13.38
1997-98	178.81	54.44	204.21	65.72	99.74	10.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1998-99	172.89	69.90	195.48	75.74	100.10	7.28
1999-00	180.18	28.21	207.34	86.80	106.32	19.58
2000-01	188.87	91.15	218.75	102.10	123.66	40.56
2001-02	189.68	119.51	212.21	131.01	130.72	60.64
2002-03	195.41	126.77	207.26	141.61	115.94	86.87
2003-04	218.86	136.64	225.19	143.52	120.74	97.56
2004-05	261.57	153.94	267.84	161.34	135.19	139.31

(d) According to Coal India Limited (CIL) there is no report of loss of coal from the above stock from fire and other natural calamities during the above period.

#### **Assistance for Medical Treatment**

2225. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to poor people for their surgical and other medical treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications from Bihar accorded sanction for such assistance and the amount released during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the amount sanctioned/released has been reduced; and

(e) if so, the reasons for reducing the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (previous known as National Illness Assistance Fund), financial assistance is provided to patients falling in the Below Poverty Line category who are suffering from major life threatening diseases for getting medical/surgical treatment from any of the Super-speciality Hospital/Institution/other Government Hospital.

Under another scheme namely Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG), partial financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 20,000 is provided to the poor & needy patients to defray part of expenditure on hospitalization for undergoing major surgical interventions and treatment of major diseases.

(c) Maximum of applicants who have been sanctioned financial assistance by the Central Committee of the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi and from the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant as indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, financial assistance is provided to the extent of funds required for their treatment (after deducting the amount of any assistance received by the patients from some others sources like Prime Minister's relief fund, Chief Minister's relief fund, etc.

#### **Statement**

##### *Health Minister's Discretionary Grant*

Year	Number of Applications Sanctioned	Amount Released (Rupees in lakhs)
2002-03	86	13.74
2003-04	63	12.00
2004-05	48	8.70

*Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi*

Year	Number of Applications Sanctioned	Amount Released (Rupees in lakhs)
2002-03	11	12.40
2003-04	16	16.33
2004-05	39	45.20

Above figure do not include applicants who may have been sanctioned financial grant by Medical Superintendent of Various Central Government Hospitals who are authorised to sanction the financial assistance upto Rs. 50,000.

[English]

**Community Mining of Coal**

2226. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes community mining of coal to check pilferage/illegal mining and enhance its production;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to commence;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries especially the South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) are following the policy of outsourcing to earn profit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make CIL and its subsidiaries profit making units;

(f) the number of workers engaged in outsourcing, company-wise;

(g) the emoluments of permanent workers and workers employed for outsourcing work;

(h) whether the major area of the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) specially in Barjora P.S. in the district of Bankura, West Bengal is reserved for coking coal; and

(i) if so, the time by which the production will commence in that area?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer given in part (a) above.

(c) and (d) In view of increasing demand of coal and in order to achieve better economics of operations, CIL and its subsidiaries have outsourced some of the activities such as mechanized extraction of coal, removal of over burden, transport of coal and sand etc. in some of the mines.

(e) Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries are taking following measures to increase profitability:-

(i) Phasing out of manual loading by introduction of mechanized loading in underground mines.

(ii) Introduction of Mass Production technology with continuous miner.

(iii) Rationalisation of manpower.

(iv) Opening more greenfield projects of high capacity.

(v) Increasing availability and utilization of heavy earth moving machinery to improve the productivity of opencast mines.

(f) and (g) Outsourcing in CIL, wherever resorted to, is done mainly by hiring equipment from outside agencies for mechanized extraction of coal, over burden removal and transportation of coal and sand. The agencies deploy their own workforce for operation of these hired equipments for a specified job. The permanent workers of CIL are paid wages as per the agreement between the management and the recognized trade unions. The information regarding numbers of workers engaged in outsourcing and emoluments drawn by them is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) CMPDI is carrying out detailed exploration in the ECL blocks. A programme of detailed exploration has also been envisaged to take up drilling in Barjora South block in the XI plan period.

[*Translation*]

### Recovery of Outstanding Amount

2227. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether recovery of Rs. 700 crore of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is outstanding against consumers as reported in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated September 22, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL has taken any steps to recover the said due amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Rs. 706.78 crore is outstanding against the consumers as on 31.10.2005 in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Delhi in respect of landline & WLL (fixed).

(b) Detail is as under:

(Rs. in crore)				
State Government	Central Government	Defence	Private	MPs
0.87	10.30	3.17	683.35	9.09

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The following measures are taken to recover the outstanding dues by MTNL.

1. Defaulting subscribers are reminded over telephone to pay the dues.
2. Outstanding Pursuit Module is also functional whereby the system generated notices are sent to the customers.
3. Staff is deputed to contact the defaulters to clear their dues.
4. Action to disconnect if any other telephone is working for the defaulter is also taken to press for the recovery of the dues.
5. Notices are being issued to the subscribers where the outstanding dues are more than three months old and less than six months.

6. In case above efforts fail to yield any fruitful results, recovery suits are filed in the court of law wherever possible.

7. Private Recovery Agencies have also been engaged for recovery of dues.

### Issuance of Passport to Alleged Terrorist

2228. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a passport had been issued to Mohd. Ameen Baba, the alleged top commander of the Hizbul Mujahiddin Terrorist Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also aware that the above alleged terrorist chief has reached Pakistan on Indian Passport;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to investigate this case; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken to plug the loopholes in the passport issuance procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) As per information available with the Government, one Mohd. Amin Baba, son of Mr. Mohd. Safdar Baba, date of birth 8.8.1955, place of birth, Badgam, resident of 123, Baba Pora, Magom, Badgam, was issued passport No. P-539166 on 15.12.93 by Regional Passport Office, New Delhi. Another person named Mohd. Amin Baba, son of Ghulam Modi-ud-din Baba, date of birth 10.4.71, place of birth Hoom Tanmarg, Baramulla, r/o Hoom Tanmarg, Hardu Ichloo, Baramulla was also issued passport No. R-477682 on 13.10.94 by Passport Office, Jammu.

(b) Mohd. Amin Baba also known as Abid (ex-Divisional Commander, Hizbul Mujahiddin) escaped through Attari to Pakistan on 2nd May, 2005 with the help of his colleagues by using a false identity.

(c) The investigation has already been carried out and those persons who helped him to flee the country have been arrested.

(d) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to issue passports after usual checks including proper police verification. Wherever any irregularity in issuance of passports is brought to the

attention of the Government, a thorough investigation is conducted and corrective steps are immediately taken to avoid such recurrence in the future.

#### **Deregulation of Coal Sector**

2229. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to de-regulate the coal sector as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated October 20, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the potential of investment by the private sector in the coal sector; and

(c) if so, the percentage and quantity of coal production likely to increase by encouraging private participation in the coal sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in April, 2000 which seeks to permit private participation in coal mining, without the present restriction of captive use, in order to augment coal production in the country. Within the present statutory framework, private investment in coal mining would be limited to captive mining of coal for production of iron and steel, power and cement only. No detailed assessment of the potential of investment by the private sector in the coal sector and consequent increase in coal production has been made.

[English]

#### **Profit of CIL**

2230. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of turnover and net profit earned by the Coal India Limited (CIL) during 2004-2005; and

(b) the details of targets fixed for 2005-06 by the CIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The Coal India Limited (CIL) earned a total profit (before tax) of Rs. 4,801.52 crore during the year 2004-05. The total turnover (net of levies) of CIL during the year 2004-05 was Rs. 25,802.89 crore.

(b) The targeted profit (before tax) and turnover (net of levies) of CIL fixed for 2005-06 (Revised Estimates) is as under:—

	(Rupees in crore)
Profit	6,314.12
Turnover (net of levies)	28,512.21

#### **Implementation of NRHM**

2231. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to make the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) more flexible to meet State specific requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various State Governments have sought financial help to develop necessary infrastructure for implementation of the NRHM;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(e) the names of States which have shown inability to implant the NRHM due to lack of infrastructure; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The NRHM is an overarching umbrella which aims to provide comprehensive, quality health care services with convergence across the various determinants of health. Guidelines for the various initiatives under the Mission have been widely disseminated and the states have the flexibility to finalise the state specific models as per their



ground realities and needs. The Generic Guidelines on various topics seek to ensure the overall adherence to the Mission objectives while allowing operational freedom to the states to devise the models.

(c) and (d) The NRHM is subsuming the existing programmes and allocations for the various programmes are being released under the Mission. Funds have already been allocated on basis of the State PIPs under RCH-II. The funds for immunization and for the other vertical programmes of the Ministry have also been allocated as per the appraisal of the proposals submitted by the states. Funds have also been released for strengthening of the primary health care infrastructure and upgrading the available infrastructure to the standards of Indian Public Health Standards. The funds for selection and training of ASHA, united funds @ Rs. 10,000 per subcentre and Rs. 20 lakh per CHC @ two CHCs per district have been released as additionalities under NRHM.

(e) No state has expressed inability for implementation of NRHM.

(f) Not applicable.

#### **Goal of Universal Healthcare**

2232. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to bring about some changes in the Indian health care industry and set up an accreditation system;

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

(c) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Indian Healthcare Foundation had organized summit recently in Delhi on Universal Health care titled Indian challenges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the measures suggested by the CII and the Indian Healthcare Foundation to improve and achieve the goal of universal healthcare in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Central Government is in the process of drafting a legislation for formulating standards and specifications for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments to ensure quality health care services including norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation of such clinical establishment as well as maintenance of records.

For this purpose, a draft Clinical Establishment (Regulation & Accreditation) Bill 2005 has been prepared. The bill *inter-alia* provide for setting up of a National Accreditation Council for Clinical Establishment and also seeks to make enabling provision for laying down norms for accreditation.

(c) to (e) As per information received from CII, 3rd Indian Health Summit was organized on 21-22 November, 2005 at New Delhi. The theme of the Summit was 'Universal Health Care. India's challenge'. The summit discussed the issues on best practices being adopted across the world, Universal Health Care, Urban and Rural Health Care besides health insurance, Medical Tourism, and Accreditation, etc.

No such recommendation/proceedings of the Summit have been received so far from CII.

#### **Setting up of Power Plant**

2233. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) is setting up a power plant in joint venture with Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal by Coal India Limited with Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) at present.

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

**Special Package for Uttar Pradesh**

2234. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Uttar Pradesh has sought special package for the economic development of the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the Union Government is likely to provide the said package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, in a letter dated 12.6.2004 addressed to the Prime Minister, has requested for one time Special Economic Package of Rs. 18,230 crores assistance for economic development of the State.

The issue was examined and a reply was sent to the Chief Minister on 30th September, 2004.

Allocations to States are made through the Annual Plans. The size of the Annual Plan 2005-06 of Uttar Pradesh was approved at Rs. 13,500.00 crores, keeping in view the estimated State's own resources and Central assistance, as compared to the approved Annual Plan 2004-05 of Rs. 9,661.51 crores.

**DMRC Phase-II**

2235. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Phase-II will cost much more than declared earlier in terms of environmental and social damage as compared to Phase-I project;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has made any assessment in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the DMRC will compensate the environmental and social loss to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Like any large project, the Delhi MRTS Project Phase-II will also require some uprooting of trees and relocation of commercial/residential buildings. The number of trees likely to be affected is assessed to be 3157. Besides, 658 commercial/residential buildings and hutments are also likely to be affected. However, these figures are not higher than in, the Delhi MRTS Project Phase-I. For each tree to be cut for the project, a provision for planting 10 trees is envisaged. Rehabilitation of affected structures (residential/commercial) is done by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi as per their extant policy.

*[Translation]*

**Extradition of Fugitives from Pakistan**

2236. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan was provided with details of fugitives who have taken shelter there and need to be handed over to India;
- (b) if so, the details of talks held on the subject between the two countries till date;
- (c) the specific steps taken, if any, by the two Governments towards extradition of these fugitives; and
- (d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) On 31 December 2001, Government handed over to Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from Indian law, known to be residing in Pakistan with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. It was pointed out to Pakistan that 15 of the criminals in the list already had Interpol Red Corner notices issued against them which also provided Pakistan sufficient basis to take action against them. The list included individuals responsible for heinous crimes such as the Mumbai bomb blast in 1993, the hijacking of IC 814 to Kandahar and the attack on India's Parliament on December 13, 2001.

Pakistan did not respond positively to this request. The President of Pakistan, in his January 12, 2002 address to the Nation, stated that there was no question

of the Pakistani authorities handing over any Pakistani national to India. As regards the presence of non-Pakistani nationals, the President stated that Pakistan had not given asylum to any such person.

A consolidated list, along with a similar request, was handed over to Pakistan during the Home Secretary level talks on the subject of "Terrorism and Drug Trafficking" held in Islamabad on August 10-11, 2004, as part of the Composite Dialogue. Besides, India's proposal for an extradition treaty was reiterated in both rounds of Home Secretary level talks in August 2004 and September 2005. Pakistan has, so far, not responded positively to these requests or to the proposal for an extradition treaty.

*[English]*

#### **Imported Food Items**

2237. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80 percent of imported food items violates Indian laws as reported in the Asian Age dated October 13, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the genetically modified foods, which are banned in the country, are being dumped here by the developed countries damaging the health of our people;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir, Government have taken necessary steps to ensure that food products imported into the country meets all the requirements prescribed under PFA Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder.

All food products manufactured in India or imported in India are required to meet the standards and rules including labeling provisions prescribed under PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955. This includes the information relating to use of flavours, date of manufacture, best before date, etc. Violation of any provisions attracts legal action under the PFA Act, 1954.

(c) to (e) The food products which are genetically modified whether manufactured in India or imported in India can only be marketed for human consumption in India after obtaining the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) constituted under Environmental Protection Act, 1986 which is administered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Necessary provisions are being made under PFA Rules, 1955 to label compulsorily all the food products which contains genetically modified ingredients or material.

#### **MPCB Notice to Tarapur Atomic Power Station**

2238. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) has been served with a show cause notice by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Tarapur Atomic Power Station has submitted its reply to the said notice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) has four units. Units 1&2 are in operation since the year 1969. Unit-4 has commenced operation in September 2005 and unit-3 is presently under construction and is expected to be completed in the year 2006-07. The Central Government Water Cess Act 1977 provides for payment of cess to the State Pollution Control Boards on behalf of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) for the water used by the industries in the respective States. Nuclear Power Stations were, however, exempted from the payment of the cess. This Act was amended and exemption provided to nuclear power stations in the original Act was withdrawn from May 2003. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), while processing TAPP-4 application for "Consent to Operate", issued a notice for non-payment of water cess from April 1983 to July 2004 in respect of TAPS-units 1 & 2.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Tarapur Atomic Power Station 1 & 2 had sent a reply to MPCB *vide* their letter dated 26.9.2005 clarifying the position. Further, TAPS-1&2 have paid the dues on account of water cess to MPCB for the period from May 2003 (date of applicability of the amended Act) to July 2005. MPCB have also issued "Consent to Operate" in respect of TAPS-unit-4.

(e) A proposal has been sent by the Department of Atomic Energy to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for grant of exemption from the levy of water cess. An appeal has also been filed with the Appellate Committee of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board against the decision of the MPCB to levy water cess from April 1983 to April 2003.

[*Translation*]

#### **Treatment of Blast Victims**

2239. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the complaints of the relatives/attendants of blast victims getting treatment in Safdarjung Hospital, condition of cleanliness of patients' ward and the foreign visits of one of the Head of Department of the Hospital as reported in the Hindi daily the *Navbharat Times* dated November 6, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) All victims/sufferers of bomb blast incidents of 29.10.05 who were brought to the Central Government Hospitals were immediately attended/admitted and provided treatment as needed. In case of Safdarjung Hospital most of the patients brought there had suffered severe burn injuries and were treated in the Burns Ward of the Hospital under the supervision of Burns injuries specialists and were provided best possible treatment.

The doctor reported to have taken voluntary retirement, was in fact, a Maxillofacial Surgeon, not directly involved in burn care. Head of the Department (Burns and Plastic) was on Earned Leave, sanctioned in advance due to illness of his father. There was however, no shortage of senior doctors in the Burns Ward of the Hospital.

The cleanliness/sanitation in wards is maintained at the optimum level and closely monitored by an Assistant Nursing Superintendent and Sanitary Supervisor. No incidence of any misbehaviour was reported against any doctor/staff.

#### **Free Telephone Service to Earthquake Victims**

2240. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided free telephone service to the earthquake victims in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries and the period for which this free service has been offered?

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

(b) (i) 4 free telephones one each at Uri, Tangdhar, Srinagar and Jammu were provided for 15 days for talking to Muzaffarabad (POK). These services were closed on 02.11.2005.

(ii) 6 free local telephones on '95' dialing, 3 each at Uri and Tangdhar have been provided.

(iii) In addition to above, 105 INMARSAT based telephones have also been provided as per the following details:

(1) Army-65

(2) State Administration-37

(3) NGO Radha Swamy Satsang Beas-2

(4) Air Force-1.

(c) Approximately 10,000 people of Earthquake affected areas have taken the benefit from BSNL counters. More people have taken benefit of free satellite telephones covered under Para (b) (iii) above, for which data is not maintained by BSNL. 105 INMARSATs and 6 free local phones as mentioned above are still continuing in the affected areas till 30th December, 2005.

*[English]*

#### **Illegal Structures in and around Lutyens' Zone**

2241. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the illegal structures in and around Lutyen's Zone;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove the illegal structures; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) As and when unauthorized constructions are noticed in various parts of Delhi, including in areas in and around Lutyen's Zone, action is taken against such illegal structures by the concerned local body in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Acts and Rules, after following the prescribed procedures.

#### **STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Rajasthan**

2242. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths running in various districts of Rajasthan at present, location-wise;

(b) the number of such booths proposed to be set up in the State during the current year, location-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of amount spent so far on the installation of booths in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, a total number of 59986 STD/ISD Public Call Offices (PCOs) and 7795 Local PCOs provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are running in various districts of Rajasthan as on 31.01.2005. The district-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) According to the present policy of BSNL, PCOs are provided to all the eligible applicants on first come first served basis subject to technical feasibility. The number of booths to be installed in the current year depends on the availability of applicants.

(d) No separate amount is earmarked for this purpose. The expenditure on PCO lines forms part of the project for direct exchange lines.

#### **Statement**

##### *Number of PCOs working in Rajasthan as on 31.10.2005*

Sl.No.	Name of District	Local PCOs	STD/ISD PCOs	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajmer	237	3026	3263
2.	Alwar	381	3413	3794
3.	Banswara + Dungarpur	58	1702	1760
4.	Barmer	121	1365	1486
5.	Bharatpur + Dholpur	208	1763	1971

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Bhilwara	430	1695	2125
7.	Bikaner	509	1714	2223
8.	Bundi	87	445	532
9.	Chittorgarh	161	1541	1702
10.	Churu	142	2373	2515
11.	Jaisalmer	80	748	826
12.	Jaipur + Dausa	2515	9604	12119
13.	Jhalawar	91	584	675
14.	Jhunjhunu	198	1838	2036
15.	Jodhpur	524	3149	3673
16.	Kota + Baran	493	2748	3241
17.	Nagaur	165	2636	2801
18.	Pali	330	2404	2734
19.	Sawai Madhopur + Karauli	253	1503	1756
20.	Sikar	167	3166	3333
21.	Sirohi + Jalor	104	3241	3345
22.	Sriganganagar + Hanumangarh	172	4451	4623
23.	Tonk	45	1130	1175
24.	Udaipur + Rajsamand	324	3749	4073
Total		7795	59986	67781

[*Translation*]

**Plots to Political Parties**

2243. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:  
SHRI SUDAM MARNDI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1835 dated March 15, 2005 and to state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in collecting information; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) to (d) The complete information is awaited from concerned agencies and the matter is being pursued with them.

**Public Call Office Booths in Gujarat**

2244. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Call Office booths running in Gujarat at present, location-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending for the approval of P.C.O. booths in the said areas;

(c) the main reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of Public Call Office booths provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Gujarat as on 31.10.2005 is 1,46,561. District-wise detail is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) The District-wise details of pending applications with BSNL in Gujarat State are given in Annexure.

(c) The reasons for pendency are as under:

(i) Non-completion of formalities by the applicants.

(ii) Area being technically non-feasible.

(d) The pending applications for PCOs in BSNL are likely to be approved by 31.01.2006, subject to completion of formalities by applicants, and PCOs are likely to be provided by December, 2006.

**Statement*****District-wise number of PCOs provided and pending applications with BSNL for PCOs in Gujarat***

Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of PCOs working as on 31.10.2005	Number of pending applications as on 31.10.2005							
			Yet to be approved		Approved but yet to be provided		Total Applications pending		Grand Total	
			Local	STD/ISD	Local	STD/ISD	Local	STD/ISD		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	Ahmedabad	19986	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Gandhinagar	1679	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Amreli	3552	0	0	33	4	33	4	37	
4.	Bharuch	4381	30	8	20	6	50	14	64	
5.	Narmada	611	41	12	18	10	59	22	81	
6.	Bhavnagar	5309	0	0	4	3	4	3	7	
7.	Kutch	4112	0	0	8	17	8	17	25	
8.	Godhra	2105	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9.	Dahod	1129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10.	Sabarkantha	1677	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11.	Jamnagar	4514	0	0	17	8	17	8	25	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Junagadh	4533	8	4	7	1	15	5	20
13.	Porbandar	747	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
14.	Mehsana	3432	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Patan	2128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Nadiad	2418	0	0	12	2	12	2	14
17.	Anand	4470	0	0	45	11	45	11	56
18.	Banaskantha	3776	98	0	0	2	98	2	100
19.	Rajkot	13223	0	0	35	4	35	4	39
20.	Surat	33995	12	1	30	8	42	9	51
21.	Surendranagar	1909	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Vadodara	16642	0	0	41	5	41	5	46
23.	Valsad	6405	0	0	6	1	6	1	7
24.	Navsari	3773	0	0	7	2	7	2	9
25.	Dang	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		146561	192	27	283	85	475	112	587

*[English]***Completion of Enquiry**

2245. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6578 on May 10, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into alleged change of hands of the society to which the land in question was allotted has been completed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Delhi Development Authority has sought report from the Registrar of Societies, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) on the allegation of sale/

purchase or change in members of the Society, as Societies registered under Societies Registration Act are administered by Government of NCT of Delhi.

*[Translation]***Import of Coal from Indonesia**

2246. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is importing or proposes to import coal from Indonesia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases of ill-effects on health of public from coal imported from Indonesia due to its high ash content and inflammability have come to the notice of the Government;



(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the States to whom this coal has been supplied so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Government do not import coal directly. Since coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), consumers are free to import coal based on their requirement.

(c) Ministry of Coal has not yet received any such complaint of ill-effects on health of public from coal imported from Indonesia due to its high ash content and inflammability.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply given at (c) above.

(f) As stated above, Government do not import coal. Therefore, question of supply of imported coal by Central Government to various States does not arise.

#### **Nutrient Contents of Packaged Food-Items**

2247. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ever checked packaged food-items to verify the nutrient present in them;

(b) if so, the details of finding thereof;

(c) the details of the manufactures found violating the stipulated norms and the action taken against them;

(d) whether the Government is considering to prepare a policy in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Declaring nutrient content in any food is not mandatory as per the provisions contained in the PFA Rules, 1955. However, the rules require that the food claimed to be enriched with nutrients

such as minerals, proteins or vitamins shall give quantities of such added nutrients on the label.

All the food products manufactured in India or imported in India are required to meet the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder including these pertaining to the nutrients claims. Violation of any provisions attracts legal action under the PFA Act, 1954.

The Central Committee for Food Standards, a statutory committee under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954, recommended the amendment of PFA Rules, 1955 to declare the complete nutritional information of the food product on its label. The information as recommended to be given on the label shall be in the following format:—

"The complete nutritional information per 100 gm of the product shall be given on the label containing the following:—

- (i) Information on energy value should be expressed in kJ and Kcal per 100 gm or per 100 ml alongwith percentage of nutrient of RDA of ICMR.
- (ii) Information on the amounts of protein, carbohydrate and fat in the food should be expressed in gm per 100 gm or per 100 ml alongwith percentage of nutrient of RDA of ICMR.
- (iii) The amount and/or type of fatty acids (including amount of saturated fatty acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids).
- (iv) Numerical information on vitamins and minerals should be expressed in metric units and/or as a percentage of the Nutrient Reference Value of ICMR per 100 gm or per 100 ml alongwith percentage of nutrient of RDA of ICMR."

The above proposal has been published in the official Gazette on 28.11.2005 for inviting objections and suggestions.

#### **Waiting List in DDA**

2248. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has not allotted flats to persons registered with them till date;

(b) if so, the details of persons in waiting list whom flats have not been allotted till date alongwith the year of registration, Scheme-wise; and

(c) the timeframe fixed by the DDA to provide flats to these persons?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that it has been allotting flats to the registrants under the various housing schemes. However, as on 30.11.2005, 13,586 registrants have not been allotted flats in the following three schemes:

Scheme	Year of registration	Backlog
New Pattern Registration Scheme	1979	8327
Ambedkar Awas Yojna	1989	2771
Janta Housing Registration Scheme	1996	2488

(c) The DDA has informed that it has scheduled the liquidation of the backlog by the end of 2006 subject to completion of flats.

#### Setting up of Ayurvedic Laboratories

2249. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:  
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up laboratories for improving quality of ayurvedic medicines in the country;

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

(c) the funds likely to be spent by the Government on setting up these laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government has set up two laboratories *i.e.* pharmacopoeial laboratory of

Indian medicine and homoeopathic pharmacopoeial laboratory at Ghaziabad for testing of Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic medicines. In addition Government have implemented Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Quality Control ASU&H drugs under this scheme Government have strengthened 25 State Drug Testing Laboratories in the country to improve their infrastructure and latest equipments to improve their quality standards for proper testing of ASU&H drugs. So far Government have given financial assistance to the State Governments to the tune of Rs. 23.87 crore to these laboratories.

Government have also recognised 16 private drug testing laboratories for testing of ASU medicines.

*[English]*

#### Mobile Service in Andhra Pradesh

2250. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile phone service has been provided in all the districts upto Tehsil level in Andhra Pradesh including Naxalite affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) 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) Mobile phone service has been provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in all the District Headquarters (DHQs) covering 210 Tehsil Headquarters out of 243 Tehsil Headquarters in the State of Andhra Pradesh including naxalite affected areas.

(c) and (d) BSNL is augmenting its cellular mobile network and all the remaining Tehsil Headquarters including naxalite affected areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh are expected to be covered during next year.

#### Incidence of HIV/AIDS

2251. DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total incidence reported for HIV and AIDS, each separately, throughout the country during the last three years till date; and

(b) the number of deaths reported for HIV and AIDS during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A statement indicating year-wise estimated HIV infection, reported number of AIDS cases and deaths due to AIDS during the last three years and up to 31st October 2005 is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Estimated HIV Infections, reported number of AIDS cases and deaths due to AIDS during the year 2002-2004 and upto October, 2005*

Sl.No.	Year	Estimated HIV infections	No. of AIDS Cases	No. of Death Cases
1.	2002	45.8 Lakh	19062	1247
2.	2003	51.06 Lakh	21994	1541
3.	2004	51.34 Lakh	27582	1324
4.	2005 (October)	N.A.	12626	810

**Setting up of Master Control Facility**

2252. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan has become overburdened in keeping track of satellites;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up a Master Control Facility at Bhopal;

(c) if so, the details including the cost thereof;

(d) whether the MCF at Bhopal has become fully functional;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

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

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Government has set up a Master Control Facility at Bhopal for augmenting the on-orbit maintenance and operational support for geosynchronous satellites at a cost of Rs. 40 crores.

(d) and (e) The Master Control Facility at Bhopal was inaugurated on 11.04.2005 and it is fully operational.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**SAI Coaches**

2253. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of coaches under the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of coaches transferred during the last one year till date, State-wise and Sports-wise; and

(c) the total budget of the Government for sports during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The total number of coaches posted all over India is 1442. State-wise list is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The total number of coaches transferred during the year 2004-05 was 173 and this year (2005-06) till date is 755. State-wise and discipline-wise details are enclosed as Statement-II and III.

(c) Total budget estimate of the Ministry for Sports and Physical Education for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 279.71 crores under Plan and Rs. 33.08 crores under Non-Plan.

*Statement I*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of Coaches before transfer	Number of coaches posted as on date i.e. 15.11.2005
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	73	75
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	04	07
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	02	02
4.	Assam	24	25
5.	SAI Sub Centre Guwahati	00	01
6.	Bihar	26	32
7.	Chandigarh	42	25
8.	Chhattisgarh	10	15
9.	Daman and Diu	02	01
10.	Delhi	118	36
11.	SAI Stadia Delhi	—	88
12.	Goa	12	17
13.	Gujarat	38	28
14.	NSWC, Gandhinagar	—	08
15.	Haryana	69	81
16.	CDL NC, Sonapat	—	31
17.	Himachal Pradesh	69	52
18.	Jammu and Kashmir	23	30
19.	Jharkhand	10	29
20.	Karnataka	101	61
21.	NSSC, Bangalore	—	31
22.	Kerala	61	72
23.	Madhya Pradesh	49	56
24.	NSSC, Bhopal	—	21
25.	Maharashtra	53	54
26.	Manipur	39	35

1	2	3	4
27.	NSNEC, Imphal	—	08
28.	Meghalaya	05	06
29.	Mizoram	04	05
30.	Nagaland	04	04
31.	Orissa	38	34
32.	Pondicherry	06	10
33.	Punjab	190	78
34.	NSNIS, Patiala	—	62
35.	Rajasthan	84	62
36.	Sikkim	07	04
37.	Tamil Nadu	62	41
38.	Tripura	21	20
39.	Uttar Pradesh	82	59
40.	SAI Sub Centre, Lucknow	—	13
41.	Uttaranchal	36	32
42.	West Bengal	101	53
43.	NSEC, Kolkata	—	38
Total		1465	1442

The total number in comparative position differs due to retirement, VRS or sudden demise of coaches.

*Statement II*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of coaches transferred to the State during	
		2004-2005	2005 (till date)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	47
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	01	03
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	02	01
4.	Assam	05	19
5.	Bihar	13	15

1	2	3	4
6.	Chandigarh	07	16
7.	Chhattisgarh	04	09
8.	Daman and Diu	00	01
9.	Delhi	10	44
10.	Goa	05	10
11.	Gujarat	03	22
12.	Haryana	14	86
13.	Himachal Pradesh	04	33
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	03	23
15.	Jharkhand	04	21
16.	Karnataka	05	51
17.	Kerala	04	34
18.	Madhya Pradesh	08	39
19.	Maharashtra	09	29
20.	Manipur	05	10
21.	Meghalaya	02	00
22.	Mizoram	04	01
23.	Nagaland	02	01
24.	Orissa	03	19
25.	Pondicherry	00	06
26.	Punjab	06	68
27.	Rajasthan	06	39
28.	Sikkim	02	01
29.	Tamil Nadu	02	25
30.	Tripura	03	15
31.	Uttar Pradesh	10	24
32.	Uttaranchal	01	18
33.	West Bengal	15	25
<b>Total</b>		<b>173</b>	<b>755</b>

**Statement III**

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of coaches transferred to the States during	
		2004-2005	2005 (till date)
1.	Archery	01	00
2.	Athletics	23	71
3.	Badminton	04	42
4.	Basketball	05	62
5.	Boxing	16	12
6.	Cricket	04	32
7.	Cycling	01	03
8.	Football	22	82
9.	Gymnastic	07	51
10.	Handball	07	55
11.	Hockey	18	60
12.	Judo	08	24
13.	Kho-Kho Kabaddi	18	48
14.	Lawn Tennis	01	07
15.	Swimming	10	25
16.	Table Tennis	06	32
17.	Volleyball	03	90
18.	Wrestling	18	29
19.	Weightlifting	01	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>173</b>	<b>755</b>

*[English]***Disinvestment of BSNL**

2254. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for the disinvestment of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, no decision has been taken with respect to disinvestment in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

*[Translation]*

#### **Development of Air Operations System**

2255. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISRO with the collaboration of AAI proposes to develop an Air Operation System over the Indian air space;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time limit has been set for the technical display of the above mentioned system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) ISRO and Airport Authority of India (AAI) are implementing a space based augmentation system called Global Positioning System and Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) over the Indian air space.

(c) and (d) The technology demonstration phase of GAGAN system is scheduled for completion in 2007.

#### **Regional Natural Science Museum**

2256. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a Regional Natural Science Museum within the vicinity of the Ranthambore National Park located in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the amount estimated to be spent thereon; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken for the acquisition of land for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) A proposal to set up a Regional Museum of Natural History in village Ramsinghpura of Sawai Madhopur District in Rajasthan is under active consideration of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The site for the proposed Museum is located close to Ranthambore Tiger Reserve route and is 2 km. off the road, to the Tiger Reserve, from the city of Sawai Madhopur.

(b) The amount to be spent in this regard has not been estimated.

(c) A suitable piece of land has been identified for this purpose.

#### **Rehabilitation of Evacuees**

2257. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated population residing in the unauthorized colonies in Delhi as on date, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government has launched any drive to evacuate the unauthorized colonies in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has made or proposes to make any alternative arrangements to rehabilitate these people;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of number of rehabilitated persons, location-wise; and

(g) the year-wise expenditure incurred by the Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that no survey of population in unauthorized colonies has been conducted. However, in pursuance directions of Delhi High Court dated 29.9.2004 in CWP No. 8487/2003; GNCTD had invited applications from the Resident Welfare Associations/Societies of unauthorized colonies existing as on 31.3.2002 and received 1432 applications.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Privatisation of Security in Coal Mines

2258. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposals to hand over the security and supervision in coal mines to Private agencies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. However, for managing the security of coal mines of CIL companies, besides the deployment of departmental employees, deployment of Central Industrial Security Force personnel and agencies sponsored by Director-General of Rehabilitation is in vogue.

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

#### Monitoring of Central Assistance

2259. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grant/assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Governments for any particular project is monitored/supervised by the Union Government;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the grant/assistance provided for specific projects could be utilized by State Government for some other projects and works;

(d) if so, the guidelines thereon; and

(e) if not, the action taken against the State diverting the grant/assistance received from the Union Government?

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

Yes Sir. The performance of the States in comparison with the Annual Plan is reviewed by the Members of the Planning Commission/Principal Advisers/Advisers concerned on annual and half-yearly basis.

(c) and (d) The State Governments do not have the freedom to adjust the outlays *inter-se* among the individual schemes or projects without prior approval of the Planning Commission through adjustment proposal or otherwise in case of grant/assistance earmarked for specific schemes/projects.

(e) Based on the Guidelines circulated by the Planning Commission, a proportionate cut in Central Assistance is imposed by the Ministry of Finance for States which record lower expenditure than the Revised Approved Plan outlay and also on account of shortfalls in the earmarked outlays, with a view to ensure that the Plan projects are implemented as per the time schedule envisaged.

#### Launching of New Scheme by MTNL

2260. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has launched any new Scheme for its existing subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of new connections issued since inception of new Scheme till date;

(d) whether the Government proposes to launch similar Scheme for BSNL subscribers also;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has introduced following schemes during November 2005 for its existing customers:

(i) A new promotional plan for land line service (One+One) has been launched with effect from 01.11.2005 under which one free additional land line connection will be provided at the same address and in the same name of the customer without any registration charge, security deposit and monthly rental for a period of one year to the customer of all plans.

(ii) A new plan of Broad Band Services under the brand name "Tri-B 200P" of Rs. 199/- monthly charges with free download of 400 Mega Bytes.

(c) 9810 new land line connections have been provided since inception of the scheme. Further, MTNL has provided 13539 Broad Band connections from 01.11.2005 till 30.11.2005.

(d) and (e) Sir, following new schemes of similar nature are available to the existing customers of BSNL.

(i) Unlimited free download between 02.00 hrs. to 08.00 hrs. is given to existing broad band customers of BSNL on Home 500 and above plans.

(ii) A promotional scheme has been launched by BSNL for all its existing land line (bfone) customers of Calling Line Identification (CLI) based Internet service with free Internet access for 15 hours from 01.11.2005 to 31.01.2006.

(iii) Broad Band monthly rental charges of Rs. 250 are waived off for first two months for existing Dialup Internet subscribers who migrate to Broadband Dataone service during the period 01.11.2005 to 31.12.2005.

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

#### **Corrupt Practices in Admission Test for BHMS Course**

2261. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of several corrupt practices in the admission test for Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) course of the National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH) in 2003-2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government has received complaints alleging irregularities like allowing impersonators in the admission test for Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) course of the National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH) in 2003-2005. National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata clarified that during the admission tests for the Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery Course for the sessions 2003-2005, eight candidates were found to be impersonators and so their eligibility for admission was cancelled by the Institute. Other allegations are being enquired into.

*[Translation]*

#### **Supply of Sub-standard Machines to Hospitals**

2262. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the irregularities in supply of machines, equipment and stationery items used for the treatment and operations in the Government hospitals are reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated November 22, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount spent on the purchase of these sub-standard machines including stationery items and the companies from which these machines have been purchased;

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

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The procurement of Laparoscopes was done by National Procurement Support



Agency (NPAS) M/s Hindustan Latex Limited (HLL) On behalf of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Total 350 nos laparoscopes (250 nos. of Single Puncture @ Rs. 1,98,000 and 100 nos. of Double Puncture @ Rs. 2,68,000) valuing Rs. 76.63 crores were purchased from M/s Nester Pharmaceutical Ltd. New Delhi during 2000-01.

(d) and (e) The case is under investigation by CBI. All the records pertaining to the above procurement is with CBI. The action against the guilty can be taken after receipt of the outcome of the investigation by the CBI.

(f) The procurement process has been made more transparent. Capacity building exercise has also been taken up.

*[English]*

#### Legal Possession of Flats

2263. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take any action against those housing societies which have not given the legal possession of the flats to the members inspite of getting full payment from them;

(b) if so, the factual position of such flats in the National Capital Territory of Delhi particularly in Dwarka; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against such societies to ensure timely possession of these flats by their owners?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has

informed that after completion of 90% of the construction by the Society, the draw is held for allotment of specific flats to the members of the society, whose names are cleared by the Registrar Cooperative Societies (RCS), in the presence of the representatives of the Society, DDA and RCS. The possession of the flats to the members of the group housing societies is to be handed over by the management of such societies after obtaining provisional occupancy certificate from DDA. Further, the cooperative group housing societies are governed by the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 2003, which is administered by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of NCT of Delhi.

*[Translation]*

#### Telecom Service in Chhattisgarh

2264. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding poor condition of communication network in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during the last three years till date, location-wise, and the number of complaints disposed of so far; 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) No specific complaint regarding poor condition of communication network in Chhattisgarh has been received. However, individual complaints are received which are attended promptly. Details of such complaints received and disposed off during last three years are given below:-

Year	Name of SSA	Complaint received	Disposed	Carried over and included in next cycle
1	2	3	4	5
2003-04	Bilaspur	220	210	10
	Durg	145	140	5
	Raipur	349	335	14

1	2	3	4	5
	Bastar	45	41	4
	Raigarh	90	76	14
	Sarguja	229	215	14
2004-05	Bilaspur	223	221	2
	Durg	143	127	16
	Raipur	348	308	40
	Bastar	48	45	3
	Raigarh	110	91	19
	Sarguja	284	225	9
April 2005	Bilaspur	82	72	10
till to	Durg	51	51	0
November	Raipur	167	140	27
end	Bastar	23	23	0
	Raigarh	51	48	3
	Sarguja	101	89	12

(c) Following steps are taken to further improve the services and thereby reducing the number of complaints:

1. Connecting all exchanges on reliable digital media.
2. Replacement of underground paper core cables by other systems in phased manner.
3. Creation of poleless network.
4. Opening of more telephone exchanges in multi-exchange network thereby reducing exchange area size.
5. Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system, Digital Line concentrators.
6. Conversion of C. DOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges).
7. Centralized fault booking at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Centre)/LDCC (Long Distance Charging Centre).

8. Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.

9. Provision of extended maintenance free battery with WLL-FWT (Wireless in Local Loop-Fixed Wireless Terminal) for providing longer talk time and standby time, in future supplies.

10. Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural area including FWTs and provision of AMC in new supplies.

11. Battery charger of WLL-FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90-300 V in future supplies.

*[English]*

#### **Fax/STD/MSD Facilities in Rural Areas of Karnataka**

2285. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide public telephone facilities with Fax/STD/ISD in the rural areas of Karnataka;

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

(c) the quantum of funds proposed to be allocated for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Secondary Switching Area (SSA) wise details of STD/ISD PCOs provided in Karnataka is as under:

Sl.No.	Secondary Switching Area	Total no. of VPTs working	VPTs with STD/ISD facility
1	2	3	4
1.	Bangalore	2,394	145
2.	Bidar	587	04
3.	Bijapur	1,247	68
4.	Bellary	593	09
5.	Belgaum	1,138	29
6.	Chikmagalur	1,021	186
7.	Dakshina Kannada	615	44
8.	Devangere	1,287	0
9.	Gulbarga	1,295	179
10.	Hubli	1,344	474
11.	Hassan	2,369	33
12.	Kolar	2,889	27
13.	Karwar	1,264	30
14.	Mercara	291	13
15.	Mandya	1,365	0
16.	Mysore	1,649	0

1	2	3	4
17.	Raichur	1,396	548
18.	Shimoga	1,785	383
19.	Tumkur	2,537	424
Total		27,066	2,596

(c) 27,066 VPTs have been provided in Karnataka Service Area till September 2005. Any Village Public Telephone (VPT) can be converted to STD/ISD PCO on demand.

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

#### Projects Handled by CPWD

2266. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects being handled by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for various Ministries particularly Ministries of Tourism and Culture in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) the names of such projects and the locations thereof; and

(c) the details of status of each project undertaken by the CPWD in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### ADB Aid Package

2267. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank is ready to double its aid package to more than \$2.5 billion annually to India within the next three years to support the "Bharat Nirman Programme" and other infrastructure projects in various key sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India and Asian Development

Bank (ADB) have tentatively finalized the ADB's Country Strategy Programme for 2006-08. The ADB will make efforts to increase its lending to India from US\$2.25 billion in 2006 to US\$ 2.45 billion in 2007 to US\$ 2.65 billion in 2008 should there be demand for it from the States and other Executing Agencies. The loans are in sectors identified by the Government of India to combat poverty through infrastructure-led growth. Nearly 77% of the three-year programme focuses on core infrastructure projects including Transport (National Highways, State Roads, Rural Roads, Railways and Urban Transport); Urban (Water and Sanitation, City Development, Municipal Reform); and Energy (Power Sector Reforms, Transmission and Distribution, Hydropower). The Rural Roads component is a part of the Government's Bharat Nirman.

#### Revival of ITIs

2268. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special package for the revival of Indian Telephone Industries (ITIs) is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the said package is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A revival package including a grant of Rs. 1024.77 crore was sanctioned to M/s ITI Limited during 2004-2005. Presently, there is no special package under consideration of the Government for the revival of ITI.

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

#### Spectrum Allocation

2269. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of the Government favours Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) operators and puts Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) operators at a disadvantage in spectrum allocation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of spectrum allocation of GSM and CDMA operators;

(d) whether both GSM and CDMA operators pay the same fee for spectrum; and

(e) if so, the reasons for discrimination in allocation of spectrum to GSM and CDMA operators?

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) The initial spectrum is being allotted to GSM and CDMA operators in accordance with the relevant provisions of their respective Service License Agreements. With growth of service and increased subscriber base, allotment of additional spectrum is considered taking into account the relevant subscriber based eligibility criteria and subject to availability of spectrum in the concerned telecom service area.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of above.

#### STD/ISD/Internet Facilities to Village Panchayats

2270. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide more telecom facilities to Panchayats in the country;

(b) if so, the details of gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu, location-wise, where STD/ISD/Internet and Fax facilities have been provided during the year 2004-05 and likely to be provided during 2005-06; and

(c) the steps being taken or likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. STD/ISD facilities are provided on request from custodians of Village Public Telephones (VPTs). For Internet, the custodian has to put his own equipment and can obtain Internet connection from Internet Service Provider. Similarly for Fax also, the custodian has to provide his own personal computer/Fax equipment as the case may be.

(b) and (c) District-wise details of STD facilities on VPTs for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the statement enclosed. The steps being taken for provision of new services in rural areas are as follows:

(i) Replacement of MARR VPTs with the technologies enabling the provision of STD/ISD/Internet facility.

(ii) Conversion of all small and medium exchanges into Remote Switching Units (RSUs)/Access Network Rural Automatic Exchanges (AN RAXs) to enable provisioning of modern urban facilities in rural areas.

(iii) Large-scale deployment of state-of-the-art wireless technologies for rural areas.

**Statement**

*District-wise details of on VPTs availing STD facilities during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06*

Sl.No.	District	SSA	STD VPTs during 2004-05	STD VPTs during 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ariyalur	Trichy	0	0
2.	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	0	0
3.	Cuddalore	Cuddalore	0	281
4.	Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri	5	6
5.	Dindigul	Madurai	7	3
6.	Erode	Erode	4	0
7.	Kancheepuram	Chengalpattu	0	0
8.	Kanyakumari	Nagarcoil	0	0
9.	Karur	Trichy	0	0
10.	Madurai	Madurai	37	24
11.	Nagapattinam	Kumbakonam	2	0
12.	Namakkal	Salem	0	0
13.	Perambalur	Trichy	0	0
14.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	0	0
15.	Pudukottai	Trichy	0	0
16.	Ramanathapuram	Karaikudi	0	101
17.	Salem	Salem	0	0
18.	Sivaganga	Karaikudi	1	65
19.	Thanjavur	Thanjavur	8	0
20.	The Nilgiris	Coonoor	1	0
21.	Theni	Madurai	5	19

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	4	0
23.	Tiruvannamalai	Vellore	28	0
24.	Tiruvarur	Thanjavur	1	0
25.	Tiruvellore	Chengalpattu	0	0
26.	Trichy	Trichy	2	0
27.	Tuticorin	Tuticorin	0	0
28.	Vellore	Vellore	10	0
29.	Villupuram	Cuddalore	0	272
30.	Virudhunagar	Virudhunagar	11	0
Total			126	771

#### State of Affairs in Safdarjung Hospital

2271. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the all round deterioration of the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi as reported in the 'Times of India' dated September 19, 2005;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The news report appeared in the Times of India dated September 19, 2005 captioned "Safdarjung suffering, and there's no cure in sight" is devoid of facts. The Safdarjung Hospital continues to provide appropriate treatment facilities to the patients within the available resources and infrastructure. However, strengthening and modernization is a continuous process and the same is undertaken as per the need.

#### Direct Recruitment of Stenographers Grade 'C'

2272. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has stopped the Direct Recruitment of the post of Grade 'C' Stenographers in all the Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has increased the minimum educational qualification for the post of Grade 'D' Stenographers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the fresh applications for the post of Grade 'D' Stenographers are likely to be invited; and

(e) the details of the total number of Grade 'D' Stenographers inducted into certain Ministries/Departments during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) The Government had constituted a Group of Officers on Cadre Structure of the Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (CSSS), which submitted its Report in February 2004. After considering the recommendations of the Group of Officers, the Government has taken several decisions on Cadre Structure of CSSS, which, *inter-alia*, include the following decisions:

- (i) Stoppage of Direct Recruitment in Stenographer Grade 'C' (Personal Assistant) of CSSS.
- (ii) To change the mode of recruitment to the Stenographer Grade 'C' (PA) by way of 50% through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination for Stenographer Grade 'D' of CSSS and 50% by promotion through seniority.

- (iii) Raising the educational qualification for Direct Recruitment to the Stenographer Grade 'D' to CSSS to 12th Standard and introducing element of computer literacy.

Necessary executive orders, to operationalise the above decisions have been issued. Pending amendment to the Statutory CSSS Rules to provide for the computer literacy as also the revised educational qualification, recruitment to the Stenographer Grade 'D' of CSSS continues to be made in accordance with the extant provisions of the CSSS Rules. Applications for recruitment to the post of stenographer Grade 'D' are invited by the Staff Selection Commission in accordance with their Examination Programme.

(e) During the last 3 years, 139 qualified candidates were allocated to various Ministries/Departments participating in the CSSS for appointment as Stenographer Grade 'D' of CSSS.

#### **Public Call Office Booths to Unemployed Youth**

2273. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed youth who has applied for Gramin Public Call Office (PCO) booths in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted by the Union Government for allotment of PCO booths among these persons; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, there is no separate category for educated unemployed youth for allotment of Public Call Offices (PCOs) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). These persons are treated at par with other applicants. As such, no separate information under this category is maintained.

(b) and (c) PCOs are liberally allotted by BSNL to all the applicants of 18 years of age or above including educated unemployed. The connections are provided as per the registration subject to technical feasibility.

#### **Wonder Cures for Chronic Ailments**

2274. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the frequent advertisements in the media claiming "wonder cures" for chronic ailments;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made to check the authenticity of such advertisements;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Control over the advertisements of drugs in certain cases and to prohibit advertisements of magic remedies is exercised by the State Governments under the Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. The Act at present does not include "treatment" under its purview. The said Act is proposed to be amended to include treatment also under its ambit for exercising control over such advertisements.

#### **Agreement of Galileo Satellite Navigation Project**

2275. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union and India have entered into any agreement on the Galileo Satellite Navigation Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Galileo System is real alternative to American Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A framework Agreement between India and the European Union on participation in Galileo programme was initialled at New Delhi on September 7, 2005 during the India-EU summit.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Galileo will be Europe's own global navigation satellite system, providing a highly accurate, guaranteed global positioning service under civilian control. The fully deployed Galileo System consists of 30 satellites (27 operational+3 active spares), positioned in three circular Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) planes in 23616 km altitude above the earth and at an inclination of the orbital planes of 56 degrees with reference to the equatorial plane.

**Foreign Investment in Nuclear Power Sector**

2276. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on a proposal to allow foreign investment in the nuclear power sector;

(b) whether this is related to the recent nuclear energy deal with the US which would enable transfer of technology and fuel;

(c) whether foreign investment has been mooted in a recommendation made by the Planning Commission at the PMO's infrastructure committee meeting;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made at the said meeting;

(e) whether these recommendations are likely to be helpful to Indian nuclear power companies;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the said recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The recent Indo-US Joint Statement envisages opening up of international civil nuclear cooperation following some reciprocal steps to be taken on both sides. At present there is no specific proposal for foreign investment in nuclear power sector.

(c) to (g) Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of Tenth Plan recognizes nuclear energy as an important tool for de-carbonizing the Indian energy sector. Given Limited indigenous uranium resources, the MTA recommends that India should seek at least 20,000 MWe of additional nuclear power capacity on turn-key basis, based on a competitive tariff, to be built over the next 10-12 years. Alternatively, India must seek nuclear fuel on competitive terms for a similar level of capacity to be built by NPCIL in the next 12-15 years.

**Pending Cases**

2277. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3398 dated August

14, 2001 regarding cases pending under Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954 and state:

(a) whether out of 62 cases pending under section 74(4) of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954 in the court of Collector (South) as on August 14, 2001 not a single case has been decided;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transfer these cases to the court of another Collector;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time limit fixed for disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that 20 cases have since been decided.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) GNCTD has reported that these are quasi judicial cases and are to be decided as per provisions contained in Civil Procedure Code. Therefore, no time limit can be fixed.

**Facelift to Government Quarters**

2278. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to redevelop the dilapidated Government quarters and their exteriors to give them a face-lift;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be earmarked for the same;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to construct more quarters for Government employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these quarters are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.



### Water Management System

2279. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give top priority to the improvement of water management system in urban areas besides sanitation and development of slums;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the programme of water management system in urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. This Ministry gives top priority for improvement of water management system in urban areas to ensure an efficient and sustained water supply system and services. Top priority is also attached to sector reforms, namely, institutional and financial reforms including capacity building to ensure efficient management of water supply system in urban areas. Model building bye-laws have been prepared and circulated to State Governments by the Town & Country Planning Organization to include water conservation measures such as rain water harvesting, reuse and recycle of waste water in urban areas. A manual on Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply Systems has been published by Ministry of Urban Development for planning and designing various components of water supply systems to help personnel involved in execution and maintenance of water supply projects. The Manual also deals with qualitative aspects of treated water for drinking purpose.

Ministry of Urban Development has already launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns for providing reform-linked central

assistance to cities & towns. The main objective is to secure effective linkages between asset creation and asset management so that the water supply services created in the cities are not only maintained efficiently but also become self-sustaining over a period of time. Some of the mandatory reforms to be undertaken at ULB and/or state level are adoption of modern, accrual-based double entry system of accounting, levy of reasonable user charges with the objective that full cost of operation and maintenance or recurring cost is collected, etc. Some of the optional reforms to be implemented at the state and/or ULB level are revision of bye-laws to make rain water harvesting mandatory in all buildings, adoption of water conservation measures, structural reforms, public private partnership etc. These reforms are expected to improve water management system in urban areas.

### Reserves of Atomic Minerals

2280. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the last study conducted on the potential of Atomic Minerals in the country;

(b) the approximate reserves of Atomic Minerals in the country according to last assessment made in this regard; and

(c) the details of the plan formulated by the Government for their exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Survey and Exploration for Atomic Minerals in the country is being carried out continuously by this Department since 1949. Various reserves of Atomic Minerals have been identified in the states of Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Total estimated uranium resource is 99,880 tonnes of U3O8. The details of other minerals identified in various regions of the country are as follows:

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

State	Ilmenite	Rutile	Zircon	Monazite	Garnet	Sillimanite
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kerala*	95.51	6.61	6.45	1.35	1.19	39.07
Tamil Nadu	97.91	4.82	8.35	1.73	24.38	21.09
Andhra Pradesh	100.10	4.42	4.43	2.29	48.99	47.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orissa	45.05	1.88	1.44	1.18	32.61	21.23
Others	9.85	0.20	0.47	1.44	0.08	1.75
Total	348.42	17.93	21.14	7.99	107.25	130.16

\*Including Resources of Lake and Sea Bed

(c) Department of Atomic Energy has formulated 7 projects with an outlay of Rs. 107 Crore to augment the resources of Atomic Minerals during the X Plan period.

#### **Approach Paper of Eleventh Plan**

2281. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to include the inputs of Non-Governmental Organisations and Civic bodies in the approach paper of the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Planning Commission while preparing the Approach Paper of a Plan consults a number of individuals, experts, organisations, including NGOs and Civic Bodies. Similar consultations are being carried out for preparing the Approach Paper of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

#### **Futuristic Atomic Energy Programmes**

2282. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposes to participate in multinational futuristic atomic energy programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the International Thermonuclear Energy Reactor (ITER) has accepted the capabilities and achievements of India in the field of atomic energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Letters expressing our interest in participation in the ITER Project have been sent recently to the six ITER parties viz., European Union, USA, Japan, Russia, South Korea and China.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Based on the capabilities and achievements of India in the field of Fusion Technology, India has been invited for further discussions.

#### **DDA Housing Plans**

2283. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Committee on Urban Development has expressed its unhappiness over DDA housing plans;

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

(c) whether the Ministry has sought a detailed report from DDA regarding the allotment of lands to the group housing societies and the procedure followed in the process;

(d) if so, the current status of the report; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the process?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) While making recommendations regarding various aspects of housing policy of Delhi Development Authority, the Parliamentary Committee on Urban Development has expressed concern about the backlog of applicants under the New Pattern Registration Scheme.

(b) The backlog is mainly due to the fact that the said housing scheme was open ended and there was heavy registration of 1,71,272.

(c) and (d) As a sequel to the directions of High Court in CWP No. 10066/2004, the Ministry had requested DDA to formulate a comprehensive policy for allotment of land to Cooperative Group Housing Societies (CGHS). Based on consultations with DDA and the Registrar Cooperative Societies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and inputs received, various policy and procedural options were examined by the Ministry and placed before the Delhi High Court. The matter is subjudice.

(e) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has informed that they have taken the following steps to streamline the working of CGHSs:

- (i) Declaration of vacancies in the societies through advertisement in leading newspapers and inviting objections for proposals regarding clearance of membership has been made compulsory.
- (ii) The process of transfer of membership and issuance of no objection certificates by societies has been rationalised.
- (iii) Indicating the details of Permanent Account Number, Bank Account, attestation of the Photograph and signature of the member by gazetted officer has been made mandatory for all the members of the group housing societies to ensure genuineness of membership.
- (iv) Rule 24(2) of Delhi Cooperative Society Rules 1973 has been amended to ensure enrolment of new members in a transparent and fair manner.
- (v) Revival of defunct Cooperative Group Housing Societies has been banned.

12.01 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ): Sir, with your permission, on behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2950/05]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the action taken report on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juices and other beverages (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2951/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2952/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:

(i) The All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 617 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2005.

(ii) The Indian Administrative Service (Regulation of Seniority) Amendment Rules, 2005, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 549 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2953/05]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2954/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Wardha, 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 Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Wardha, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2955/05]

(2) A copy of the Annual Reports for the year 2004-2005 (Hindi and English versions) alongwith Audited Accounts in respect of the following Centres:

(i) Population Research Centre, Bangalore.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2956/05]

(ii) Population Research Centre, Baroda  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2957/05]

(iii) Population Research Centre, Bhubaneswar.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2958/05]

(iv) Population Research Centre, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2959/05]

(v) Population Research Centre, Punjab University, Chandigarh.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2960/05]

(vi) Population Research Centre, Delhi.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2961/05]

(vii) Population Research Centre, Dharwad.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2962/05]

(viii) Population Research Centre, Gandhigram.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2963/05]

(ix) Population Research Centre, Guwahati.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2964/05]

(x) Population Research Centre, Lucknow.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2965/05]

(xi) Population Research Centre, Patna.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2966/05]

(xii) Population Research Centre, Pune.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2967/05]

(xiii) Population Research Centre, Sagar.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2968/05]

(xiv) Population Research Centre, Shimla.  
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2969/05]

- (xv) Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2970/05]

- (xvi) Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2971/05]

- (xvii) Population Research Centre, Udaipur.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2972/05]

- (xviii) Population Research Centre, Srinagar.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2973/05]

- (3) A copy each of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the above Centre for the year 2004-2005.

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1468 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 6th October, 2005 specifying the sterile devices mentioned therein intended for external or internal use in human beings as drugs issued under section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2974/05]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 627(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 7th October, 2005 specifying the drugs mentioned therein to be licensed for manufacture, for sale or distribution by the Central Licence Approving Authority appointed by the Central Government issued under rule 68A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R.664(E) dated the 16th November, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2975/05]

- (6) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (5th Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 646 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 2005 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2976/05]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, 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 Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2977/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2978/05]

12.02 hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

#### Fifteenth Report

[*English*]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

#### Fourth Report

[*English*]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): I beg to present a copy of the Fourth Report (Hindi and English

Versions) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

12.03 hrs.

## SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (I) **Re: The circumstances leading to the resignation of Shri K. Natwar Singh, Union Minister (without portfolio) from the Council of Ministers following the Volcker Committee Report and subsequent revelations**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Leader of the Opposition will speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us please have a quite. We are here and I will give chance to everybody; I mean all the leaders. Please cooperate.

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the former Minister of External Affairs of India. ...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not respond to every matter.

*[Translation]*

What is this? Take your seat please. Leave that to me.

*[English]*

You are not to regulate the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): He has already resigned. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I do not need your advice.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the hon. Member whom I call upon to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The former Minister for External Affairs and a Minister without portfolio till the last day, Shri Natwar Singh made a statement last night, which has appeared in all the newspapers today, that he had resigned from the Cabinet. I was surprised to the reason he stated for this. because ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: He has resigned. Now, the matter ends. ...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I find that you are deliberately disturbing this House, Mr. Singh, Give me, I will get rid of you.

...(*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: But he could tell that. ...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, what is happening to the Calling Attention? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you sit down? I will come to the Calling Attention. Please take your seat. I think we are wasting our time. Let this be over. I have requested and all the hon. Leaders have agreed. Let us have a business like Session.

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I think he has taken a right decision albeit with delay. Many people in the country would heave a sigh of relief at this decision of him, so would we in the opposition and many in the treasury benches too. ...(*Interruptions*)

\*Not recorded.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier that had he said he resigned at the call of his conscience. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have requested all of you not to interrupt. Whatever may be the reason, we had no sitting for almost two days. Today, it has been arranged that the hon. leaders would have their say. When I call upon an hon. Member to speak, at least some courtesy should be shown to him. I am appealing to all sections of the House. Let us have a business-like debate. Every party has its view to express. Nobody is bound by every other hon. Member's views. Whatever the hon. Leader of the Opposition is laying is not binding on everybody. Therefore, you would have your say. I would give an opportunity to the Government also to respond to this matter. I earnestly appeal to all of you to please listen to each other and give your responses in a proper manner.

Shri L.K. Advani, please continue.

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have always allowed me as Leader of the Opposition. I would like to tell the treasury benches here that I don't recall any other instance of resignation of the MEA Minister in the past history. This is a first instance of resignation of the MEA Minister in the past history. This is a first instance of its sort and demands a discussion, if anyone of us likes to speak on this. Mr. Speaker told that he would allow those who liked to speak on this and so he has allowed me. Had the Minister said that he was resigning at the call of his conscience it would be his graciousness. But he did not do that. He could owe it to his Party president that she did advise him to resign, especially when she removed him from the steering committee of his party, many colleagues of him in the Cabinet said that he had received the message to resign now and he should resign. Even if he had said that the Prime Minister advised him to resign when he met him, it would be better. The PM said while going to Moscow that he would consider the offer of resignation from him, he could say all these things and attribute it to the call of his conscience. But he has taken a right decision albeit in 40 days. Had he taken this move the same day when his name was flashed in the report of Volcker Committee, it would have been honorific for him. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not mincing a single word. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

I have always been economical in my use of words.

MR. SPEAKER: I have accommodated you every time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Therefore, he gives credit to me. This is remarkable. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

I said it in a meeting of a Parliamentary Committee this very morning that he has given its credit to NDA saying that since the NDA interrupts the proceedings of the House so I am taking such step. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything other than the speech of Shri Advani.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Now one can understand what a big mistake he has committed at his behest.

MR. SPEAKER: A little interruption is fine but not always.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a little interruption because had it been so, nobody would have wrongly advised him that he should make such statement because the opposition was stalling the proceedings of the House. If he has resigned for the reasons as stated, why his party President removed him from the steering committee of his party? Actually, the PM and the Congress President lost their confidence in him to be a member of the steering committee of his party. The Prime Minister did not find him deserving any more to continue as External Affairs Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is over. Your matter has gone in the record.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your statement has been recorded. What are you doing? Your statement is fully recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I have not completed.  
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not possible to run the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will request the hon. Leader of the Opposition to please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The flashing of name of Ministry of External Affairs in the UN report in the history of India is ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Advaniji, you have made your point very well.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: No, Sir. I have still an operative part. ...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I cannot hear anything. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to behave in the House. This applies to all sides. Do not take holier-than-thou attitude. I am telling everybody. I am telling you also. You also please sit down. You should behave properly in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not say it; I am doing it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, you please control the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? It is very well. Then, I stop this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri L.K. Advani has said that he wants to speak for two minutes. I have also given him full opportunity.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am controlling them.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): He is going on speaking, what to do. ...(*Interruptions*)

MOHD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they go out having spoken out themselves and not listen to others ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): No, no, we would listen to you, but let our Leader complete first. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

We will listen to you...(*Interruptions*) We will not go outside the House. We will listen to you properly. ...(*Interruptions*) We will not go outside the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except what Shri L.K. Advani says. I am also requesting him to please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Since the Volcker Committee Report is out. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting?

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri L.K. Advani, please be brief. I am requesting you to be brief.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, you are here for a very long time. It is very easy to advise the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded.



PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am not advising you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are advising me to control them. Every side is advising the Chair. Without cooperating with the Chair, you are advising the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These two Members will have to go. I will name you just now. You are the person who is really troubling me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is his name? Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal, if you get up once, I will do it. You should be ashamed of yourself.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, we are controlling him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not think that it is an empty threat. I will get you out of the House. If he gets up once more without my permission, he will have to go out of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Here also some Members are doing the same thing. So, something has to be done.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Something has to be done. I cannot preside over the disintegration like this. I will not allow this to continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not like me, get rid of me. But this type of fun will not go on. You cannot trust anyone.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot trust anybody on any side. You make a promise inside and do exactly the opposite outside.

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Volcker Report was published on 29 October just before forty days from today, the entire country expressed concern over the inclusion of the names of External Affairs Minister of India and the biggest political party of the country—Congress—in that. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ignore that. Your matter is being recorded.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: How can I ignore? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You know it. You have been here for a longer time.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have know it. They have also known me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly conclude as soon as possible.

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Everybody had a concern that name of an individual and an entity, which were there in the report, should be made open. Even the Prime Minister and other luminaries publically made statements to know the truth, they said: We shall go to the bottom of it. This matter was raised here too during the discussion and I told you even then that the Enforcement Directorate seized many relevant papers on this. I demanded through you that it would be better to provide the same papers alongwith the Volcker Committee report as they were bringing out many serious impositions. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: That chapter is over. I have given my decision. It cannot be raised again.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not raising it. But I am merely saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Already inquiry is being held about that. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot question my decision.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not. What I am merely saying is, if Natwar Singhji says that 'I am not guilty' then why has he been removed from the Steering Committee? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is no use raising it. Who can answer that?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Why should you have two standards? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your comments.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Why should you have double standards—one for Natwar Singhji and one for Shrimati Sonia Gandhi? You cannot have two standards. So long as the inquiry is not completed—the Enforcement Directorate inquiry and the Pathak Committee inquiry—until these are completed, just as you have made Natwar Singhji resign from the Cabinet, because he himself says 'I am innocent' and even then he is made to resign. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: If he has to resign, similarly Shrimati Sonia Gandhi must resign. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: On what grounds? Sir, I want to know it. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is uncalled for. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down. What are you doing?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is the most irresponsible statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. I have promised and I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you have to expunge it. This should be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)* This irresponsible statement must be expunged. It is a most irresponsible statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has got his full say. What is this going on?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You forget about him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why should he say it?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall try to control them. But this is not the point. This is not the end of the matter. Why are you doing it?

Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very shameful conduct of yours.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you go through the proceedings. Some objectionable part must be deleted.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is objectionable? He is asking for the resignation of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. What is objectionable in it? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. If you do not think that I am capable of sitting here, please let me know and I will go away in half-a-second. But do not do this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you tell me so, I will go away.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down. Ask your Member to sit down, Shri Acharia.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): They have been raising the same issue for four days. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please be brief. Please be to the point. I am allowing you. I am keeping my side of the bargain. I request you to please keep your side of the bargain. What can I do? I am feeling and as Shri Sangma once said sitting here, I am also saying 'I am ashamed to be the Speaker of this House'.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): This is not so, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards two-four points. While associating myself with the matters raised by the leader of the Opposition Shri Advaniji I would like to draw your attention towards two-three points only. From the reports published today in the newspapers about the Volcker report, it appears that the matter is related with a scam of Rs. 528 crore. This matter has been discussed in the House and in the newspapers for the last forty days. From today's statement of Natwar Singh ji, It appears that he has resigned because the proceedings of the House were disrupted. If this is correct, I would like to contend that the Government have commenced a wrong convention. The reason is that it

would appear to the opposition that for getting the Government to do something, stalling the Parliament is the best way out. I would like to say, as Advaniji pointed out and it has been a common knowledge that the name of the Congress Party has figured in the report and not the name of any individual. ...*(Interruptions)* I would say that the ethos of India is imbued with morality and those who accept it are urged upon to. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Bring it to me. I will see it.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, you continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No name is to be taken. Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete.

*[Translation]*

Your speech is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: These people are not allowing me to speak. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to submit this much to you that if Natwar Singhji has resigned on moral grounds. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to reiterate one thing.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as on date Congress Party means Sonia Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi means Congress Party.

In such a situation the matter has become crystal clear. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: "...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Bring it to me.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether only the NDA members will be called? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether you will call only the members of the opposition? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All will be called.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): May I suggest one from this side and one from that side? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): I have got a different topic. I have been called. ...(*Interruptions*) My topic is not related with Volcker. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You carry on. I have called you.

[*English*]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, he wants to raise a different issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down. I do not want your suggestion. I do not want your help, Shri Yerrannaaidu. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, he wants to raise a different issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that. I have called him. You do not lecture to me.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to a different topic and, through you, I am seeking justice. The Rajdanda-Dharmadanda of Shri Narendra Swamiji—the revered saint of the Hindu religion was screened by the security personnel while traveling from Lucknow to Mumbai by the flight No. IC-602. There, while proceeding towards the aeroplane...\* an inspector snatched his Rajnanda and insulted him.

Sir, they have insulted a religious leader. This is an insult to the sensibilities of all the followers of the Hindu religion. While boarding the plane, he was told that his Rajdanda would be kept near the pilot, but nothing of that sort was done. At the time of deboarding at Mumbai, the disciples gathered to receive him and proclaiming 'Jai Siyaram' were not aware of this incident. But when the Swamiji did not come out and they came to know that an inspector of the CISF has snatched the Rajdanda of the revered Parampujaya Swamiji and has insulted him, they started slogan shouting. At that time, lathi charge was resorted to against the devotees and women which was nothing but playing with the sensibilities of Hindus. This has been done by the personnel of the CISF. As such, through you, I demand the hon'ble Home Minister that Lucknow Airport\* ... Inspector and his colleagues along with the guilty personnel of the CISF of the Mumbai airport be suspended. Action be taken against those guilty people.

\*Not recorded.

\*\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do bring all the proceedings related to this issue to me, and names should not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khaire, I have allowed you to raise this issue here because it is an important one.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANĀDRĀKANT KHAIRE: Sir, live telecast on the TV channels is being done since yesterday itself. I informed the DG of CISF on telephone that live telecast of this event is being done on the 'Aaj Tak' channel. I myself saw the telecast until 12.30 at night. This event has hurt the sensibilities of all the Hindus. That is why, through you, I demand for justice.

12.28 hrs.

**RE: Volcker Committee Report on Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khaire, I have allowed you to raise it, and you have also raised it in the House. Now, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are pleased that after the last several days of interruption. Question hour is being held today and the proceedings of the House is going on.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you think that the House is running?

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I hope that the proceedings of the House will continue.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: What was happened to all of you? All of you are elected representatives of the people. Did you tell the people—while filing your nomination papers—that I shall go to the House and create disturbance there? Is this the undertaking given by you all to the people?

*[Translation]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I respect what you say. Sir, when an adjournment motion was moved here some days back about the Volcker Committee report then whatever hon. Advani ji had said in the concluding part of that debate raised some hope among us that whatever is there or not in that report he has seen and accepted that and now when a commission has been constituted under hon'ble justice Shri R.S. Pathak, then everything shall be left up to that commission.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Shri Bansal's statement.

...(Interruptions)\*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: But, I am sorry to say that today, we are in no mood to accept the judicial system, the Parliament or any other system over any issue. I don't want to form such an opinion. We had faith that the Government has made impromptu announcement, perhaps this was an unprecedented move and the documents had reached within 10 days. The resentment created by whatever Shri Mathrani has told could well be understood. But how far we can stretch that thing. Can we claim that verification has been done, these are the facts and evidence which have surfaced. I want to remind one thing, I am repeating myself that I have great respect for Mr. Advani. If something is shown on the television camera then it does not become a fact, it is called a sting operation and this way a justification is given. The whole episode is termed wrong. If a Minister resigns and again joins the cabinet with the support of his Prime Minister then it is said that there was nothing against him. But here on the basis of a report which had some names some years ago, it is being said that name of the present Minister of External Affairs in the Government has figured there. He is being presented as a Minister of External Affairs. I regret that when we have seen

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\*Not recorded.

everything. We have seen how the Governments of other countries have treated that report with contempt. Minister of other countries, Members of Parliament have treated it with contempt and now it is being read here with all humility and respect I want to say that I had never expected this, it is alright that Advani Saheb is a politician, I also know that there are compulsions but I won't ask him that why he removed\* ...(*Interruptions*) I am saying that I won't ask that what were the charges against\* ...(*Interruptions*) that he was removed, it is an internal party matter. ...(*Interruptions*) But they are asking from Congress Party that how congress has done this or that work and the names of Members of steering committee in Congress and how members are elected. I had never expected from them that they will take the name of Congress President just to cover up those things and to divert attention. Nothing more heinous...\*\* degrading thing could happen that the name of Sonia Gandhi ji is mentioned in this regard. Where has her name figured therein, have you read that report? ...(*Interruptions*) You are believing whatever has been published somewhere. They are preaching us and want to change the jurisprudence and our legal system through their words. They don't want to wait for the commission's report. If you have some facts then you should furnish them to the commission. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be recorded. It is very shameful that you should behave in such a manner.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You were also levelling charges now they are doing the same. Please, sit down.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I want to submit in this regard that they form their opinion on the basis of newspaper reports and they have a right to do so. I am not saying that they should apply their own mind or use discretion or borrow from newspapers. But something has appeared in a reputed magazine about the then Government also.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not show any magazines.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: At the point of time, it was not UPA but the NDA Government. It is there in this magazine that the then Minister of Petroleum in the NDA Government had visited there with a large delegation. He had said that we wish to support Iraq for its decision and valour and we want oil from Iraq. It has also been published that an agent was there at that time who had facilitated a deal with ONGC and even today that agent has been in India. Whether Mr. Advani will reply to it? ...(*Interruptions*) It is all there in the media, I am not saying that it has been proved. ...(*Interruptions*) I will conclude in a minute. But I am not claiming like him that it has been proved. It is also an important and prestigious magazine. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You had been stopping us, but not doing the same with them.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

[*English*]

Do not say that. What you are saying is very unfair Prabhunathji. This type of allegations does not behove you. I have respect for you. You have to show a little respect to me. I respect every hon. Member, and you can make any comments against the Chair!

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: But nothing has been said against you.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said just now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It has happened in a prestigious magazine about the then Minister of Petroleum. Whether Mr. Advani will respond to it? Therefore, I want to tell him that the people of this country have not given any right to them to say such things.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a wrong precedent is being set in the house. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Your leader is speaking Shri Acharia, I request you to be brief.

\*Not recorded.

\*\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The report was submitted on 30th. Therefore, when the Parliament session started, then a discussion took place through an Adjournment Motion. The Government while intervening gave a reply and the leader of opposition also gave his reply.

Despite that the House was not allowed to carry on its business. A wrong precedent is being set that Minister is being forced to resign in the House. We want to ask a question to the BJP, which is such a large party that now many agitations, processions, they have led outside the House or staged struggle or made any demand after the 30th. They have done nothing but stopped the proceedings of the House. Mr. Paul Volcker himself has said that this report is not verified.

*[English]*

My Party first demanded—they have not demanded—that an Inquiry Commission should be appointed. We demanded first and immediately the Government responded to our demand and appointed the Inquiry Commission. What happened to them when there was Tehelka revelation?

*[Translation]*

What happened to revelation about oil. The then Defence Minister had resigned. But after two months, when the Commission was still conducting the inquiry, inquiry was yet to be completed, it had not given its report, he was not given clean chit, but he became Defence Minister after two months. I want to know why this double standard is being adopted.

*[English]*

Why is this double standard?

*[Translation]*

Why one set of standard is followed in your case and another for others, why this is being done? We could not discuss the flood situation in Tamilnadu. Farmers are committing suicide, we wanted a discussion on it, but we would not discuss it. Therefore, we condemn this practice of interrupting the proceedings of the House.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I would give another 10 minutes. Then, I would go to the Calling Attention.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, you are given a maximum of two minutes. I will not allow you more than that.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singh, I will call you.

Please cooperate. I will call everybody.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We demand that when the report is presented, it has to be seen as to who is responsible for this. The person, who is the biggest beneficiary, who accompanied Mr. Ram Naik, whose name is not being mentioned by these people, should also be examined. We demand that when the report is presented appropriate action must be taken against the person responsible for this.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, please be brief. If you want to say the same thing, you can only associate. You need not repeat the same thing.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They are also saying the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER: We have allowed them to speak.

*[English]*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is listed in the Volcker Report that both Shri Natwar Singh and the Congress Party are the beneficiaries. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These things have been said. Why are you saying it again?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Good sense has prevailed on the Congress party and Shri Natwar Singh has resigned. What has happened to the Congress Party? On that day also, I have ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, you have allowed me to speak for two minutes. Even before that time limit, you are asking me to conclude. ...(Interruptions) While participating in the debate on that day, I had raised the point that seven more persons from the Congress Party were also involved. ...(Interruptions) These names should be disclosed by the Congress. ...(Interruptions) What has happened to them? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

Shri Tripathy, nothing new is being said. you are saying the same thing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, please be very brief.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded except the speech of Shri D.P. Yadav.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Only the speech of Shri Yadav will be recorded, nobody else's. Nothing more will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathi, you have said more than enough. You are only repeating the same thing. You are repeating here from your earlier speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak with your permission. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate, Shri Tripathi. Nobody seems to follow discipline. You do not follow discipline and you are talking about others.

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri D.P. Yadav's speech only will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything more. Shri D.P. Yadav to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the leader of the Opposition was speaking, I was surprised. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If there is something new, you speak, otherwise, you associate with this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The same thing need not be repeated.

...(Interruptions)



[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please also listen to us. you do not listen to us. I want to humbly submit one thing that when the leader of the opposition brought Adjournment Motion, at that time he said that there were only who entities in the Volcker Committee Report, he said nothing about the third one. What is the reason for that? Whether the reason was that. ... (Interruptions) who was the party President at the time. The whole country had seen him taking bribe on visual media. You have not registered any FIR, have not constituted any enquiry Commission about that. Is it not dual character, dual face and dual policy? Deliberately, the name of the Congress and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is being dragged into all this. That is why, I want to tell the truth. The tradition of stalling the proceedings of the House being applied by the leader of Opposition in the Parliamentary Democracy, parliamentary system, is not only strange but also unprecedented and you are starting a new practice. Therefore, you are not conducting any Swadeshi Jagran now a days. When the report of a foreign Volcker Committee appears, their mind awakens. Now-a-days, their mind awakens through Videshi Jagran. These people are awakened by the foreigners, you do not have any faith in the judicial probe of the country. You do not have any faith in the announcement made about the judicial problem headed by Shri R.S. Pathak in the country. Therefore, I want to say that as the polarization of the Super Powers is taking place in the world it becomes clear that whether there is a developing country or any other country of the third world or a country like India, only the foreigners are behind the conspiracy to put such countries into trouble. We have Independent Foreign Policy. I want to say that you are paving the way of Blackmail of your own country or Third World Country at the instance of America. India is being blackmailed by the USA. You people are trying to influence the independent foreign policy of India, the facts related to comprehensive interest of the country through the constitution of probe Committee by an other country.

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed your point. Now, take your seat.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, I want to know that when Tehelka episode had occurred, where was the morality of these people? Besides, the then Defence Minister, several other persons were involved in it, I do not want to take their names. They are not Members of this House, where was the morality of these people. ... (Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Mohan Singh to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is their dual character. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: keep your own dignity. You are all very respected leaders of this country. Please behave properly.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, .....

MR. SPEAKER: You people are not going to mend your ways.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEKAER: Is my Hindi correct?

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Sir, you should always speak in Hindi.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that you have said from the Chair that you are feeling ashamed by sitting there. I want to say that we are proud to have a seasoned and great person of your stature sitting there and, therefore, we have regards for your.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): I associate myself with it.

[English]

We are very proud of you, Sir.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, it would be appropriate, if you expunge this observation, from the record.

*[English]*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, we are proud of you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Besides this, we have demanded the resignation of Shri Natwar Singh. Today, he has resigned. I welcome this and request the Government to table the report of Justice Pathak Commission in the House before the commencement of the next Budget Session so that everything becomes crystal clear. There is a report appearing in the newspapers regarding Shri Natwar Singh that the Hon'ble Prime Minister requested him to resign the very first day. He had agreed to that but when he met his family members, they advised him not to tender resignation. I am happy that Chairperson of UPA convinced him to resign. It would be better if the Chairperson of the UPA, beside convincing him, also present the report of the Commission in the House as early as possible, so that the whole country may know the truth and the persons involved in it? Shri Natwar Singh has said outside the house that he is being made a scapegoat and he will disclose the names of the persons behind it in the House. I regret that there were discussions on the report of Volcker Committee whole day, but Shri Natwar Singh did not turn up. There is a provision, in the rules of procedure for conduct of business in the House that when any Minister resigns, he gives a statement regarding the reasons for resignation and related subjects. His statement outside the House was that he will reveal the truth and disclose the conspiracy behind it.

My submission is that the time has come when he should be called in the House to unravel the conspiracy. With this I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He is a member of Rajya Sabha; he cannot come here now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have great admiration for Mr. Advani. I was with him in the Rajya Sabha for a long period. But I am outrageously shocked. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is as usual. ...*(Interruptions)*

MOHD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Now, he is hijacked. Earlier, he was not hijacked. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am outrageously shocked at the statement he has made. Why ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We remains shocked round the clock. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, it is very normal for the impatient friends to become impatient of the remarks. ...*(Interruptions)* I admire your impatience, but please admire our patience. We are admiring your impatience! ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the position is like this. Why I am outrageously shocked.

MR. SPEAKER: Please inject some humour.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Yes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Advani takes credit in the resignation of Mr. Natwar Singh as Minister. He takes credit. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the point is this. I know what he has said. He has said, 'because the Parliament is being stalled, therefore, he has resigned.' I admire him. Why? It is not because he has given credit to the stalling of the Parliament. He has resigned to allow the Parliament to function. It is a commitment for the system. And Mr. Advani takes credit in stalling the House! That is the difference ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Advani takes credit in stalling the system. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are here as parliamentarians in our own right. Mr. Advani is there in his own right, and I am here in my own right. I am outrageously shocked because Mr. Advani defends paralysing the Parliament for 72 hours in the current session. For 72 hours, Parliament had been paralysed. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is because of Mr. Natwar Singh ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Yes.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You ask about his resignation.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am asking. I am coming to that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta, you please address the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, if they believe that Madam Sonia Gandhi is involved, let them demand her resignation and bring a No-Confidence Motion. ...*(Interruptions)* Without stalling the House, you could have brought in a No-Confidence Motion. You could have brought that because there was no remedy; that is because otherwise you will have to wait for five years and you cannot remove them from power. You cannot remove the parliamentary system also. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, the point is that Shri Advani, being a senior-most Parliamentarian, is defending the stalling of Parliament and takes credit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: My point is that there was recourse and they could have brought in a No-Confidence Motion.

On the issue of 'kidnapping' of the diplomat, they could have gone to the Supreme court and filed a Habeas-Corpus petition. They did not take to the Constitutional remedy. Without that, they are taking to the path of extra-Constitutional remedy of stalling the Parliament, ever since this Government came to power. ...*(Interruptions)* They cannot believe that they had been defeated and they also cannot believe that there is a Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is enough; conclude now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am concluding. ...*(Interruptions)* We have demanded that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on here?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You may please go and join it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. Shri Pathak, this is very unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: This is the standard of culture. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may conclude now. Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we suggested—Shri Natwar Singh should have resigned earlier, to take the wind out of the sails of the BJP. We have said that.

Lastly, I say that even devil finds justification in its words. The way the Babri Masjid was demolished, there was a justification! Similarly, today there is a justification for holding of Parliament! Sir, they are out to destroy the Indian Parliamentary democracy.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, I cannot allow any more. Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, that is the reason why I was outrageously shocked at the statement of Shri Advani.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Now, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. You may allow him to speak now; you have spoken already.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): We have heard the distinguished Leader of the Opposition, Shri Advaniji, all other hon. Members of the Opposition, the UPA friends and other leaders.

From day one, we made it abundantly clear—before the Session began—that we should go to the bottom of the truth. That has been—not once, but on many occasions—reiterated by no less than the Prime Minister of this country, in this House and also in the other House.

True it is, Shri Natwar Singh, yesterday night, publicly explained his viewpoints, the cause of his resignation. If that amounts to satisfaction and credit to Advaniji and the Opposition, I wish them good health and let them be happy with it! The question today is—it is very important—the allegation against the Government; it is—most unfortunate—unfounded. I plead before you, Sir, you are the living evidence of this House, and our distinguished Leader of the Opposition Advaniji too. The UPA perspective is very clear and when we made our journey, on the very first day, we made it abundantly clear. If there is any doubt, any controversy or if there is any issue that will arise under the sky, involving any agency within or outside, our Government shall deal with it firmly.

I will not refer to the Volcker Committee Report any more we had debated it; we had replied to that also and it is enough. In spite of that, if they go on harping on these two entities, let me say that let the inquiry be over. Here, I thank Shri Mohan Singh for his observation; it will be the task of this Government to see that inquiry is conducted and the outcome is known expeditiously.

There are two perspectives; Volcker Committee Report, observation from abroad by the UN Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not go into that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to mention it since Advani ji raised an issue about our political morality and honour to the Parliament. Is it not a fact Advani ji, when we sat in the Opposition, we limited our protest confining to a particular question of *Raksha Mantri*. We limited our protest to only that question. We did not disrupt the House rather we used to go out. In contrast you have adopted a policy. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is a wrong statement. You stalled the House for 21 days. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you counting the days? Please do not count the days. We have become very impatient to hear each other.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We were demanding a discussion. Even after 21 days, the then Prime Minister did not come to the House—either in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha—for once. Yet, our Prime Minister on the very first day came to the House. This is the difference. We show accountability and respect towards the House. I do not want to debate it now. It has been amply demonstrated by Dr. Manmohan Singh.

I never expected Advani ji, the Leader of the Opposition, an eminent leader of the country, to have dragged the name of our Leader of Party to score political advantage. You should know Advani ji that we have no outside orbit of Congress from where dictation comes whether somebody has to vacate the Office or continue in the Office. You may be a victim of outside dictate; we are not. This is the difference. Our leader is not on a transfer order from outside. You are on a transfer order from outside. Therefore, please do not advise us about political morality. The day our Leader assumed the Presidentship of Congress, you were frustrated. You have at least given one credit to us. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Pathak, when you resigned, I protected you. Please do not forget that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing except what Shri Dasmunsi says will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to conclude by saying, we know the day our Leader took office of the president of Congress Party, how much problem did she cause to your mind and philosophy. The more you criticise our Leader the more it will be proved that we are ideologically right. I may tell you that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is not only our Leader, she is also leading the progressive political movement of the country to demolish all the communal onslaughts and designs by others.

Advani ji is very happy today. He gave credit to Shri Natwar Singh. I know, after being served a lot of discredits from his visit to Pakistan, to Sudarshan Camp and lastly due to Uma, he has got one credit. He gave credit to Sonia ji. By not becoming the Prime Minister of the country, she at least protected a lady from shaving her head.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am not satisfied with his reply. Why is there a double standard—one for Natwarji and the other for Smt. Sonia Gandhi. This double standard is not welcome. Therefore, I walk out in protest.

12.59 hrs.

*(Shri L.K. Advani and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House)*

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\*Not recorded.

12.59<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

**(II) Re: Reported suicide by the farmers in Maharashtra and other parts of the country**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Geete wants to raise a very important matter concerning the farmers. I have allowed him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker Sir, during last one year. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, you promised that you will allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have order in the House. I know, and I am thankful that Shri Geete is raising an important issue concerning the common people. I have allowed him to raise it. Please allow him to speak. I am sure the Government will listen to it. Please cooperate.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I wanted to speak for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Volcker debate is over. No more please.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please allow me for a minute. I neither belong to UPA nor NDA. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow you to speak. I have called Shri Geete. These are the issues which should be raised and I will allow hon. Members to raise such issues. Shri Geete, please raise the issue.

13.00 hrs.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than 1200 farmers committed suicide in Maharashtra during the last one year. Unfortunately, I am compelled to say in this House that the State Government has totally failed on the issue of suicide being committed by the farmers.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not refer to Rajya Sarkar.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am not speaking on their functioning. Due to this, yesterday, a Member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly tried to commit suicide in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Auditorium on the issue of Government's failure to prevent suicides committed by these 1200 farmers.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious issue. It may be related to State but when a large number of farmers are committing suicide and more than 1200 farmers have committed suicide & during the last one year, then there are so many reasons behind it. Today, entire Maharashtra is experiencing loadshedding for more than eight hours daily. Sometimes there is more than twelve hours' power cut. There is acute shortage of power. Due to this, those farmers who have taken loan from banks sowed their seeds, cultivated their crops are unable to water their fields in the morning because, there is no power supply. Water is there, pump are there but owing to lack of power supply the fields do not get water and the entire crops are destroyed. Banks and financial institutions are taking action against the farmers for the recovery of money taken as loan by them. Their properties are being attached and their house and agricultural tools are being taken away. The local Land Development Bank which was wound up by the Government of Maharashtra is now taking action against the farmers. The farmers are being harassed. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra gave a statement two days ago that the farmers of Maharashtra who had taken loan from money lenders and are trapped in the loan-net, are committing suicide. No action is being taken by the Government except expressing sympathy. The farmers are committing suicide daily.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India and particularly the honourable Minister of Agriculture to the fact that it is not a matter of a particular State. When a large number of farmers of

Andhra Pradesh committed suicide, the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, immediately rushed there, met the farmers and announced a package separately for them. But, it is deplorable to say that more than 1200 farmers have committed suicide in Maharashtra during the last one year but the hon. Prime Minister has not taken it seriously. The Government of India is also not taking it seriously. Therefore, I demand that a special financial package may be provided to the Government of Maharashtra to prevent suicides committed by the farmers, particularly cotton and sugarcane farmers so as to help them out of this morass. A financial package should be given to the Maharashtra Government on the lines of Andhra Pradesh. A member of the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra tried to commit suicide in order to draw attention to this serious issue in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and he was ready to sacrifice his life for this cause.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I hope he is not injured, I hope he is safe.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Through you I demand from the Government that a special financial package may be provided to the Government of Maharashtra by the Government of India so that our farmers do not commit suicide in future. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I hope the matter will be properly looked into.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will take everybody's name.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you so impatient. Why do you not allow the House to function? It is your House.

*[Translation]*.

What will you gain by resorting to such practice?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete:

Shri Hansraj G. Ahir

Shrimati Bhavana P. Gawali

Shrimati Kalpna Ramesh Narhire

Shri Anant Gudhe

Shri Chandrakant Khaire

Shri Prakash Paranjpe

Shri Basu Deb Acharia

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I also associate myself with Geeteji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has spoken well, do not dilute his speech.

*[English]*

Would anybody else like to associate with this issue?

*[Translation]*

I would like you to raise this issue.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you may kindly allow a discussion on this issue.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice to this effect and if will be discussed.

*[English]*

Shri Geete, I thank you for raising this issue.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, we associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by Shri Geete.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, while associating with this issue, I would like to submit that in the Wayanad district in Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRADIP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Sir, my name also be associated with the issue of farmers suicide.

MR. SPEAKER: I have associated everybody name with this issue. I have also asked the Government to pay special attention to this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Your names have been recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.06 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of damage caused by floods due to heavy rains in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we would take up the Calling Attention.

I may announce here and now that today there will be no luncheon recess and at 2 PM, the discussion under Rule 193 on WTO will start. I would like to request the hon. Members to participate in this discussion. I would also request them to be brief and to the point without repeating the points so that we can conclude this very important discussion in a proper manner.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, I call the Attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of damage caused by floods due to heavy rains in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

MR. SPEAKER: I think, all the hon. Members have got the statement with them and, therefore, the statement can be laid on the Table of the House.

\*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, during the current year, the State of Tamil Nadu has experienced heavy rains and floods in three spells in quick succession. The first spell of heavy rains and floods occurred in the second fortnight of October, the second spell in the first week of November and the third spell in the last week of November, 2005.

The state had received 291.66 mm rainfall in the month of October, 2005 itself against the normal rainfall of 187.1 mm during this month. In the first two spells, districts of Chennai received 172% of the normal rainfall, Kancheepuram 88%, Tiruvallur 111%, Cuddalore 58% and Nagapattinam 52%. Due to excess rainfall and releases from Mettur Dam, 18 districts were affected by floods.

In the first two spell of rains and floods, 3.90 lakh houses, 89,653 ha. of agriculture crops, 15,627 Km. of roads are reported to have been affected, besides loss of 137 human lives. About 3.28 lakh families were evacuated and accommodated in relief camps.

In the third spell, between 21.11.2005 to 24.11.2005, 262.68 mm rainfall was recorded which resulted in floods in 15 districts of the State. The Cauvery delta districts namely Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Trichy were the worst affected. In the 15 districts, 3,738 villages, with a population of 34.14 lakh were affected. 179 persons lost their lives and 3.82 lakh houses (huts) were either fully or partially damaged.

The railway tracks in many sections in Tamil Nadu are reported to have been inundated and at several places washed away. The infrastructure damaged includes 29,000 kms of roads, approximately 6441 irrigation tanks and 3459 River banks and channels. There was also damage to bridges and culverts which has disrupted normal traffic in the affected districts. 3.5 lakh Ha of agricultural land in the State have been either fully or partially damaged.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu undertook rescue and relief operations. About 11.51 lakh people were evacuated and accommodated in 1,349 relief camps.

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\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 2979/2005.

The State Government is reported to have distributed 46.52 lakh food packets, Rs. 325.60 lakh as cash dole and 3.31 lakh Kgs. of rice to the affected families.

The Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guards assisted the State Administration in rescue and relief operations. Five helicopters (Air Force-03, Coast Guards-02) were deployed for dropping food packets to marooned population. Two ships of the Coast Guards were stationed near Cuddalore for relief operations. Four Columns of Indian Army were requisitioned.

I alongwith the Hon'ble Finance Minister, my colleague Shri Reghupathy and senior officers of the Government of India flew over 9 out of 15 affected districts of the State on 26th and 27th November, 2005. The members of Tamil Nadu Government also visited the affected areas.

In the memoranda submitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the State Government has sought financial assistance of Rs. 13,685.00 crore, 2.58 lakh MT of rice and an additional allocation of 43,200 Kilo-litres of kerosene for relief operations in the affected areas for all the three spells of floods. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 17-20 November, 2005 and again from 28-30th November 2005 to assess the damage.

Keeping in view the magnitude of the situation, for relief mainly the Government of India immediately released an ad-hoc grant of Rs. 500.00 crore on 29.11.2005 to the State of Tamil Nadu. The first installment of Central share of CRF of Rs. 78.40 crore for the current year has also been released to the State Government on 14.11.2005.

As regards the State of Karnataka, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that the State has also experienced three spells of heavy rains and floods during the year 2005. In the first spell in the months of July and August, 2005, heavy rainfall and release of excess water from the reservoirs caused flood situation, mainly in five districts namely Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkote, Gulbarga and Raichur. The Coastal, Malnad districts and some interior districts were also affected. A total population of 29.05 lakh was affected and 130 persons lost their lives. The number of houses damages 88,548 and cropped area affected is 1.96 lakh ha.

The State Government had submitted two Memoranda to the Government of India indicating therein the damage

due to heavy rains and floods in first spell in July and August 2005 at Rs. 3640.07 crore.

Both the instalments of Central share of CRF of Rs. 86.00 crore has been released to the State. Keeping in view the magnitude of the situation caused by heavy rains and floods, an additional ad hoc assistance of Rs. 357.00 crore was released from NCCF. These funds are expected to be used for relief mainly.

The Central Team had visited the State w.e.f. 17th to 20th August, 2005 for assessment of damage. The High Level Committee has approved financial assistance of Rs. 255.05 crore to the State subject to the adjustment of balances in CRF account and a release of 0.72 lakh MT foodgrains under special component of SGRY for relief employment.

In the second spell of floods on 20th and 21st September 2005, all the major rivers were in spate and caused flash floods in three districts viz. Belgaum, Bidar and Gadag. In this spell, 13,067 persons were affected in 134 villages. While 950 houses were damaged, the cropped area affected is 56,584 acre.

The third spell was in the last week of October, 2005 on account of depression in the Bay of Bengal and a local vortex. Bangalore city, Bangalore rural, Mysore, Mandia, Chamrajnagar, Davangere, Hassan, Kolar and Raichur Districts of Karnataka received heavy rains. Bangalore city suffered extensive inundation, flooding of roads, disruption of road communication, collapse of houses and railway bridges, resulting in a large number of trains being cancelled. Nearly 21,000 houses are reported to have been badly damaged. 2,130 cattle and 30 persons died due to heavy rains and floods. More than 500 tanks breached causing enormous damage to nearly 60,000 acres of standing crops. More than 500 bridges and culverts were washed away.

The Central Government deployed Air Force helicopters, Army Boats, Army Columns and Central Para Military Forces to assist the State Governments in rescue and relief operations.

The State Government has sought financial assistance of Rs. 1256.90 crore for relief operations in the areas affected in second and third spell of floods. Another Central Team was deputed for assessment of damage during the 2nd week of November, 2005. The report of the Central Team, has now been received, and is being processed.



[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that the assistance being provided to the affected areas in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as well as in other flood affected States is only for immediate rescue and relief operations. As regards the request of the State Governments for long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction, the Government of India expects to receive the plans made by the State Governments, which would be examined by the Planning Commission and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), for appropriate and favourable action.

I would like to assure the House that the Government of India will provide all necessary required assistance to the State Governments to meet the situation caused by heavy rains and floods during current year.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: This year has become a year of disasters. On the one side we already have had Tsunami and on the other side there have been floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us all utilise this very important time of the House.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, first time in my life I have seen floods in Chennai where people had to travel from street to street on boats. The huts of poor people have been completely immersed. They have lost their livelihood; they have lost their utensils and they are suffering without anything to fall back on. On the other hand, the farmers have lost their crops. There has been a total damage to their crops. In a matter of just 100 days, the State has been ravaged by floods four times. Now we are given to understand that there may be a severe cyclone in the Bay of Bengal which may cause another round of floods. That would mean that in a matter of just 100 days we would have floods for the fifth time. The life of the poor people, the farmers, the handloom weavers, the fishermen and that of the agricultural labourers have got completely shattered.

Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his statement that the Government has given a relief package worth Rs. 500 crore to the State of Tamil Nadu and also same amount of relief has also been given to States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Here I would like to ask a simple question. How is the Government going to assess the damage scientifically? The people are asking for relief worth thousands of crores but how is the Government going to assess the damage? How is the Government proposing to find a temporary as well as permanent solution to this problem? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No whispering and cross talking please. People of this country are suffering and we are having a very important discussion which has already been delayed by three days. Let there be a proper discussion. Let us pay proper respect to this issue.

13.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, this country is faced with this menace of flood every year and so now the time has come for the Government to think of a permanent solution for this and not just think of giving temporal relief in the form of Rs. 500 crore or Rs. 200 crore. This piecemeal effort is not going to help anyone. Today the farmers are expecting crop insurance. Farmers are expecting compensation for their crops. The agricultural labourers, who are entirely dependent on farming activity, are demanding immediate cash compensation for the losses suffered by them. They wanted 100 kilograms of rice as relief. But the State Government is giving only 10 kilograms or 20 kilograms of rice. This is not going to help them. Only five litres of kerosene has been allocated. How will this five litres of kerosene help their cause?

They need more kerosene. Sir, in his statement, he has not said as to how many cattle they have lost and how many houses they have lost. He has only said that he has given some relief and that this is at the request of the Chief Minister which he is trying to do. This is not the way the Government should react. Our Government is a progressive Government. They should come forward with more efforts and see that they should help the people. When Katrina occurred in USA recently, the entire US Administration got shattered. When compared to other Governments, our Government is doing a good job. When we faced Tsunami, earthquake and floods, the entire State Administration and the Central Government had come forward to help people. They have done excellent work. I congratulate the Government of India. I congratulate hon. Prime Minister that he came forward to give a ring to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and told them that he is sending his team and taking up relief measures. This is the way the Government should work.

Here, particularly the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is asking for relief worth thousands of crores of rupees for relief measures. The State of Andhra Pradesh for the district of Chittoor which is adjoining Tamil Nadu and the district of Nellore which is near Karnataka.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I would request him to yield for a minute. I am also supporting whatever he is saying. There is no doubt that we are discussing an important matter. But the Home Minister is not present here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): I am sitting here.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: But Shri Shivraj Patil, the Cabinet Minister, should be present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jaiswal is here. He is a capable person and he is authorised to reply to the debate.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, we have nothing to say against Shri Jaiswal.

*[Translation]*

I would not like to say anything against Shri Prakash Jaiswal.

*[English]*

We do respect him. But, as this is an important matter, we request that Shri Shivraj Patil should be present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the area is flooded. The people have suffered. The Cabinet Minister Shri Shivraj V. Patil should be present here.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, the Cabinet Minister is in the Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At this time the Cabinet Minister is there in the Rajya Sabha. Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is present in the House. He is capable. He were reply you. Your demand can be met if you are not satisfied with this reply.

*[English]*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, poor people have lost their houses. Lakhs of houses have been lost. What

permanent measures has the Government taken to help these poor people? Fishermen in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have lost their boats, nets and houses. The handloom weavers have lost their looms, fabrics and fibres. They are repeating some immediate help from the Government. What is the Government planning to do to help the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu? I would like to know what you are going to do for them; and how you are going to assess the damage scientifically and give them immediate relief. If so, when are you going to do it; and what permanent measures are being taken in this regard? You said that if we send a proposal, the Planning Commission will examine it and do the needful. You should come forward, take a positive stand and see that immediate relief is given to the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The State of Andhra Pradesh is asking at least Rs. 3000 crore and the Government of Tamil Nadu is also asking Rs. 3000 crore to give immediate relief to the flood affected victims.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I more or less, agree with the statement given by the Home Minister about the situation in Tamil Nadu.

The statement which was given was with regard to the third spell of rainfall. But, four days back, there was the fourth spell of rainfall in Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts. There was heavy damage in Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram and Chennai. The Pichatur Dam of Andhra Pradesh got breached and the water washed away the entire adjoining districts of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Statement regarding that should also be laid by the Home Minister.

There was heavy rainfall for the past 100 days. Due to heavy rainfall, many lakes got breached and roads got damaged. There is water logging in most of the districts and more than 22 districts have been destroyed by unprecedented rainfall.

Hon. Home Minister, hon. Finance Minister, hon. Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and other Central Ministers visited our State and made some relief measures available. I thank them for that. We had an all-party meeting of UPA in Chennai, headed by our leader, Dr. Kalaignar. We passed a Resolution "to seek more funds to the State of Tamil Nadu". That Resolution had been submitted to the hon. Prime Minister by all the UPA MPs and Ministers of the state. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 500 crore to the State

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

of Tamil Nadu. But it is not sufficient to the State. In a statement made yesterday, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has said that the Central Government has not given any funds to the State of Tamil Nadu till today. I would request the hon. Minister of State for Home to enlighten the House as to how far this statement of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is true. The first person to give a statement demanding more allocation of funds to the State of Tamil Nadu was Dr. Kalaignar.

Sir, a monitoring committee should be set up. Now, the State Government has constituted a Committee to monitor the relief works, with MPs, MLAs and some NGOs as members. But we have a bad experience with regard to this in the tsunami attack last year. They constituted some committees. But we were not being given any importance in those committees. We are unable to monitor those relief works. They have not convened any meeting.

The State Government has denied receiving any money from the Central Government and does not acknowledge the steps taken by the Central Government through the defence personnel. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has said that no money has been sanctioned by the Central Government and no defence personnel came to its help.

Therefore, I would request the Minister of State for Home to constitute a Committee headed by the MP concerned in all the districts to monitor the relief works.

In the Statement laid by the hon. Minister, it is said that 1349 relief camps have been set up. It is also stated: "The State Government is reported to have distributed 46.52 lakh food packets; Rs. 325.60 lakh as cash dole and 3.31 lakh kgs. of rice to the affected families". As an MP, I can say that many areas in my constituency are badly affected. I do not know where they have distributed this cash and rice. As people's representative, I can say that the steps taken by the State Government is very poor. The statement that came from the State Government is a false one.

At some places in Chennai, they distributed cash to the extent of Rs. 2,000 per head. At that time because of the failure of the Government, because of the failure of the *Tahsildar*, nine persons—six women and three men—had died in the stampede. They said that they were giving Rs. 2,000 to each person. Let me tell you what is our experience regarding that. It was also reported in all the newspapers. One of the Ministers of the State was distributing covers to the affected families, saying

that each cover contained Rs. 2,000. But on opening the cover, it was found that it contained only Rs. 1,000. This was the complaint of the people.

We allege that the people in the State Government are misusing the entire official Government machinery. Tahsildars, Revenue Officers and Village Administrative Officers are misusing their positions. So, I urge upon the Central Government to monitor the utilisation of funds that it provides. I urge upon the Central Government to sanction more funds to the State Government. I would request the Central Government to constitute an all-party committee in flood-affected districts which will help the State.

I would once again reiterate the statement made by my leader, Dr. Kalaignar, to sanction more funds to the State of Tamil Nadu.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir with a heavy heart I participate in this business to draw the attention of this House and through this august house the attention of the Government about the way in which our attempts to raise the unprecedented rain floods problem in Tamil Nadu were thwarted by the political moves of the main opposition party in the house. I am the very first person to give notice as early as on 28th of November to speak on torrential rains and rain floods that has caused great havoc in Tamil Nadu. For more than ten days we were prevented by the BJP and its allies from raising the problems of the people due to the natural calamity. Out of 30 districts more than 22 districts have been hit hard by four successive spells of incessant rains that caused great devastation. More than 1 crore people have been affected in so many ways. About 20 lakh acres of cultivable land including Cauvery Delta Region has been inundated. Several residential Colonies have been marooned. In such areas both college and school students have lost their text books and reading materials. Poor people have lost their ration cards that helped them to buy essential commodities. Many have lost almost all their belongings and rendered helpless. Huge loss of lives and to property has been reported widely. When the people of Tamil Nadu have been greatly affected and are worried with these sufferings, denigrating the need to raise the matter about the vexing problems of the people of Tamil Nadu, there were hurdles to take up the matter included in the list of business for about ten days now. Even today the BJP raised some other issue.

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\*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

I would like to point out that we did not come in the way of anyone when Gujarat Earthquake disaster was raised in this House. I do not want to hurt the sentiments of anyone. But I must point out that problems faced by the people especially the poor must be taken up in a proper manner in this house of the people. Had we interrupted with the raising of the matter pertaining to Gujarat at that point of time, could you have tolerate it. Of course. We did not do it then. And we were unanimous. So I urge upon the BJP and its allies to give priority to burning issues of the people at least from now on. Having said this, I would like to seek certain clarification from the hon. home Minister. I would like to know whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has given a detailed report about the calamity there and an estimate with the proposal for relief and rehabilitation. Have they furnished detailed information about the losses it suffered in various ways after evaluating and assessing them and whether Tamil Nadu Government has submitted any reconstruction plan. If such a detailed report has been submitted by Tamil Nadu when the Centre would be extending the financial assistance sought by it? What are the long term and immediate measures of the Centre? Though it is not sufficient, Centre has rushed in Rs. 500 crore of rupees to Tamil Nadu as interim relief whereas the Government of Tamil Nadu has demanded more. I understand that they have demanded more to the tune of about Rs. 13,685 crores. I want the Hon. Minister to spell out the norms and guidelines with regard to the Central assistance ensuring the victims and the affects their due shares. I also urge upon the government to ensure that pucca houses as group housing complexes are built and provided to the poor who have lost their dwelling units. Such houses should not be constructed using mud and clay. The marginal farmers and small farmers must get compensation and insurance coverage for the huge loss to their standing crops. I urge upon the Union Government to evolve a comprehensive relief package to help the suffering people of Tamil Nadu within a specified time frame. I would like to impress upon the Centre to extend all possible assistance to mitigate the sufferings of the flood hit people providing the relief sought by Government of Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri L. Ganesan—Not present.

Shri K. Subbarayan.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (Coimbatore): Sir, Tamil Nadu has been affected by four spells of heavy rains and floods resulting in loss of life and extensive damage to property and infrastructure. Normal life in 22 affected districts has been completely disrupted with the people losing their livelihood. Thousands of habitations have been marooned and lakhs rendered homeless.

The National Highways and railway links from Chennai to the South remained snapped for a long period. Roads and railway tracks breached at several points. Towns and villages, and paddy fields were submerged under water. Tamil Nadu has also demanded a total assistance of Rs. 13,685 crore from the Centre for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures. The scale of assistance adopted by the Government of India should be comprehensive, modified to provide adequate support to the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

So, I urge upon the Government of India to release the full package, at the earliest possible time, taking into consideration the magnitude of loss.

I also insist on the formation of a Monitoring Committee comprising representatives, not only the elected ones but also representatives from all the regional and national political parties that will oversee the relief work.

As per the meteorological report, there is a threat of one more storm by the end of this week. That will, no doubt, make the devastation worse. It could be of a very high magnitude in Tamil Nadu. Considering it also, I once again reiterate the Government of India should release the Relief Fund without any further delay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Generally, the practice is that only five Members can speak on the Calling Attention. But the matter is very serious and very important. Therefore, I would like to allow only a few Members belonging to that State. They have to seek only clarifications.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow some more Members to speak. They have to seek only clarifications or put questions but they should not make lengthy speeches. First of all, I would call Shri E. Ponnuswamy. Please put the question only.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Thank you, Sir. First of all, I would like to say that of the 22 districts affected by the recent floods in Tamil Nadu, Cuddalore district is the most-affected one, especially my Constituency, Chidambaram. From 23rd of November before coming here—today I am in the Lok Sabha—I had been in my constituency for well over 12 days. I did not even attend Parliament Session because I wanted to be with my people there.

All said and done, so far the people, who have lost all the things they had with them, are still on the streets. Most of the people are poor and downtrodden. Lakhs of huts have been completely wiped out. Most of the villages have been completely damaged. Lakhs of people marooned. People have to be ferried by boats even from street to street in Chidambaram constituency.

Two Committees have visited so far. I was with them. I have submitted two memoranda to the Committees also. I had been visiting all the places in Cuddalore district, more particularly in my constituency. Out of the 1300 villages, more than 1000 villages in my constituency have been completely damaged or wiped out. People are not able to even sleep, not able to have even one time meal a day ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please seek the clarifications now.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Please allow me to complete it in two or three minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* I understand the paucity of time. But still I would request you to allow me two or three minutes more because it is particularly my constituency which was the one affected most in the whole of Tamil Nadu.

Coming to the point, I have interacted with the Collector. I have been contacting him constantly all through the days to extend succour to the affected people. So far, the Government of Tamil Nadu has asked for Rs. 13,565 crore which they have estimated. Of course, we stand by the Government of Tamil Nadu even though we are in opposition in Tamil Nadu. We really fully support the demand in the interest of the people.

So, I urge upon the Government of India to fully assist the Tamil Nadu Government financially without any further delay.

I would also request the Government that it is not only necessary to go to the rescue of the State of Tamil Nadu with financial assistance but also to employ a monitoring agency involving local bodies and other NGO agencies and the elected representatives to monitor the distribution of relief funds as the Government of Tamil Nadu has already proved during the calamity of Tsunami that they were mostly partial. They have not reached out to the people with impartial motive and they have gone only on a political motive.

Sir, I also urge upon the Government of India not only to give this assistance but also to take preventive measures. It has been one year from December, 2004 to December, 2005. Tamil Nadu was the most affected State in whole of India with natural calamities like droughts, floods and rains. Some steps should be taken by the Government of India to formulate certain system so that the preventive steps be taken to safeguard the interest of the people of not only Tamil Nadu but all over the nation.

Sir, I would request again specifically that out of the funds that may be allotted to the Government of Tamil Nadu, my district Cuddalore and my constituency Chidambaram should be given a special fund of at least Rs. 1000 crore. It is only because of not deepening the rivers, the channels, *vaikkals* and not raising bunds all this calamity has happened. I thank both Defence and Shipping Road Transport and Highways Ministers for their timely help.

Finally, Sir, I would make only one point. We had requested the Government of Karnataka to release the water when we needed. They have not done so. Now, from Mettur dam, four lakh cusecs of water have been released without being asked for. It is because of the overflowing flood from Mettur dam down up to delta area in my district, this has happened quite unprecedentedly. So, I would request the Government of India to urge upon the Government of Karnataka to pay compensation to the State of Tamil Nadu so that they must learn a lesson.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have one more Calling Attention Notice after this. So, I want that all the hon'ble Members should not take more than one minute time each.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Thank you, Sir. I had given a separate Calling Attention notice on the flood situation in Karnataka and the inadequate support given by the Central Government urging more assistance from the Union Government. Thank you very much for allowing me, Sir. At the outset, I also felt that the hon. Union Home Minister would himself be present in this House because of the importance and seriousness of the matter but you said that the hon. Minister of State is there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of State is very competent, very intelligent and is capable to reply your queries.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: There is no question about his competence, Sir, but despite that we thought that the hon. Union Home Minister himself would have been present here.

I will be raising only specific clarifications. The Government of Karnataka has submitted three memoranda for an assistance of Rs. 4,897 crore. It is because from 23rd July to the last month, that is up to the end of October, the State of Karnataka has been ravaged by floods incessantly. Sir, 18 districts and 104 tehsils have been affected and more than 169 people have lost their lives. More than 5,60,000 acres of crop have been lost. Nearly 1,30,000 houses have been damaged. More than this, the hi-tech city of Bangalore witnessed the highest amount of rainfall in the last 104 years. Usually, in the month of October we used to have rains to the extent of 152 millimetres but this time we had 595 millimetres of rain. Sir, 10 lakh people became homeless, 12 people died and 60 per cent of the residential areas were flooded and 139 tanks were breached.

For Bangalore City and Vambay houses, we demanded only Rs. 700 crore and Rs. 10,000 crore respectively. My first question, Sir, relates to reply of hon. Home Minister in relation to Calling Attention Notice on Point No. 18. He said that for the three memorandums that have been submitted, another Central team was deputed for the assessment in the second week of November. Now, the Report of the Central team has been received and it is being processed. My only submission through you, Sir, is that I want to call upon the attention of the Union Government regarding the three memorandums that have already been given. That is number one point. The total loss has been of the order

of Rs. 4,897 crore while the Government of India has given only Rs. 375 crore only. Sir, other than Rs. 375 crore, the *ad hoc* release which is due to Government of Karnataka through the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the NCCF. Therefore, Sir, we urge upon the Union Government that there should be a time-frame to give the *ad hoc* assistance for the Bangalore City and other remaining parts of Northern Karnataka.

Secondly, Sir, we also have demanded that the CRF Guidelines have to be revised. The hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister that the CRF Guidelines should be revised. During last Calling Attention Notice in the month of August—when I raised it here—the hon. Agriculture Minister said that the CRF Guidelines should be revised. The hon. Prime Minister—when we met him in different delegations—also appreciated that the CRF Guidelines have to be revised. It is because the present guidelines, Sir, is for the drought conditions and not for the flood conditions. According to CRF Guidelines, the fund for dry land is Rs. 400, Rs. 800 for wet land and Rs. 1,200 for horticulture land per acre for the crop loss. Sir, it is not at all sufficient to give Rs. 6,000 for construction of one house. I think there is some confusion in the Union Government about revising of the CRF Guidelines. In August itself, the hon. Prime Minister has formed a Group of Ministers (GoM) with the Union Home Minister, Union Finance Minister and Union Agriculture Minister to look into this matter of revision of the CRF Guidelines. Last time when we met the hon. Prime Minister, we came to know that there has not been a single sitting of this Group of Ministers (GoM). The entire country, particularly Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and various other States have been hit hard by severe floods, cyclones and tsunami. There is a consistent demand from all sections of this House to the hon. Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Agriculture Minister for revision of the CRF Guidelines. This Group of Ministers (GoM) has been formed in August only. I am astonished, Sir, that till today there has been no meeting of this Group of Ministers (GoM). They have not come out with any revision of the CRF Guidelines. We have already demanded, Sir, from the Government of Karnataka Rs. 15,000 per acre for the loss of sugarcane crops, Rs. 10,000 per acre for irrigated lands and Rs. 5,000 per acre for dryland crops. As regards compensation for housing, the CRF Guidelines should be revised and will start from Rs. 40,000 upwards for every collapsed house and Rs. 25,000 for largely damaged house. The irrigation pump-sets have been washed away. I would like to say that Rs. 18,000 should be given for

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

4-hp pump-sets, Rs. 22,000 for 5-hp pump-sets and Rs. 24,000 for 7-hp pumpsets. Through you, Sir, I want to ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All other States, including Punjab, should be covered.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is for every State. I entirely agree with you that it is for the entire country. When are they going to revise the CRF Guidelines? It is because that is the basic solution for the flood-affected farmers across the country. The particular Group of Ministers (GoM) has been formed especially for Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, but no sitting has been held so far.

In the last Calling Attention Notice, I also raised the issue that the floods in Karnataka were because of the release of water from the Koyna Dam. Our Hon. Chief Minister has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on 8th August, 2005. He said:

"I would like to appraise you about some important facts relating to the cause of floods and how these issues have been distorted by the Government of Maharashtra. The heavy discharge of water from the reservoirs in Maharashtra has resulted in unprecedented floods in five Northern Districts of Karnataka, namely, Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gulbarga and Raichur. More than five lakh people in 265 villages in Northern Karnataka have been rendered homeless."

He further said:

"Koyna Dam, for the last two decades, has been experiencing recurring earthquakes whose epicentres are either under the dam or very close to it. Two such earthquakes occurred on 1st and 3rd August, 2005."

On these dates, Koyna Dam was completely full and had 97 TMC water in store. Due to these earthquakes, the Dam was reported to have developed some cracks. Around the same period, Maharashtra received copious rains. Further threatened by earthquakes and cracks in the Dam, Maharashtra resorted to heavy discharges from Koyna Dam resulting in unprecedented floods and inundated Sangli and Kolhapur towns, apart from a good number of villages in downstream of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Sir, our Chief Minister of Karnataka has also urged—I want to conclude—it is a very serious matter—that we are in an unfortunate situation suffering from unprecedented floods in Karnataka on account of the failure of Government of Maharashtra to regulate the discharge of water from the reservoirs. When I raised this issue last time, the hon. Union Home Minister, in his reply to the Calling Attention Notice, said:

"As far as earthquake in Koyna Dam is concerned, Shri Sharad Pawar told me—he was the person who was responsible for managing the calamity which had occurred in Latur as the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra. I was also told that the area suffers from tremors of around 2 to 3 or some time even less than 2 to 3 on the Richter Scale."

However, the hon. Minister, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is also here. I want to draw his attention. Sir, I want to put it before this august house:

"That the entire Earth of ours is all the time trembling. There is not a moment when the Earth is not trembling, whether it is trembling at 2 or 3 on the Richter Scale or less than that is the question. We do not have to bother about these things. Moreover, the Government of Karnataka is taking care of it and the hon. Members could go back to their respective States and constituencies and assure the people that necessary steps have been taken."

After this reply of him, the Chief Minister of Karnataka has written a letter that there have been earthquakes in and around Koyna. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, in its Report, said that there have been three earthquakes in Koyna. Therefore, the Government of Maharashtra, without bothering to the consequences of floods in the downstream Districts of Karnataka, has let the waters irresponsibly. We want to urge upon the Government of India to intervene to the safety of the Koyna Dam, which is a dangling sword on the head of the safety of Karnataka. The Koyna Dam has developed some cracks. We are told that there is a huge plan that more than Rs. 100 crore are again going to be spent to strengthen the walls and other things. They have to do something about the safety and security of the Koyna Dam. There has to be some coordination between both the Governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka regarding the reservoirs' management that how much water should be left and when it should be left. I would like to know whether the Government of Maharashtra does not look into these

important things because downstream Karnataka will be affected. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Tamil Nadu should be included. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anant Kumariji, please conclude.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, Bangalore City is a hi-tech city like Mumbai City. Therefore, a package of Rs. 700 crore should be given to Bangalore city for the flood relief. The Koyna Dam should be repaired. Already, three memoranda have been given for the time-bound allocating of money to Karnataka, and the CRF guidelines should be revised.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for permitting me to speak on this Calling Attention. In Karnataka ten districts are severely affected by this incessant heavy rain. Chamarajanagara is the worst affected district in Karnataka.

Some relief work is going on. Ganji Kendras have been set up. Five litres of kerosene and 10 kg rice is being given to each family. I do not know for how many days this kind of temporary assistance would continue. The Centre has to come out with concrete measures for the permanent relief of the affected people. The affected people are the residents of *jhuggi jhonpdi* areas and most of them belong to SC/STs and other downtrodden communities and hence Centre has to take up the relief work with all seriousness.

The money that is being given for partial house collapse is Rs. 500 to 1000. People whose houses are collapsed to the extent of 50% will get Rs. 3000 and for the complete collapsed house Rs. 6000 is granted. This amount is insufficient and therefore I urge upon the Centre to revise Central Relief Fund (CRF) which is outdated and does not serve the purpose. A new and scientific CRF has to be evolved immediately. At least Rs. 1,00,000 should be provided if the house is completely destroyed. Under Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana for each house construction Rs. 40,000 is given. But for the rain affected people one lakh rupees must be provided because their living condition is severely affected in the recent heavy rain. More than 500 houses have collapsed in Chamaraja

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

district alone. The total number of people who lost their lives in Karnataka is more than 150. Several hundred cattle and other animals have died. Hence the Centre should come forward with immediate relief measures.

The Central teams have already visited Chamarajanagar, Mysore, Bangalore, Hassan, Gulbarga, Bidar and other districts. Strangely, only a paltry amount of Rs. 360 crore has been given to the State. The State's estimation of the total loss of property in Karnataka is Rs. 4865 crores. There is urgency to provide the whole amount to Karnataka to rescue the people who are affected. There is no difference between the tsunami affected people and the people affected in the recent torrential rain in Karnataka.

National highways, State highways are submerged in the water. Transportation in many of these roads has come to a standstill. People do not have food, clothing and they are on the roads. They have lost their houses. So, the Centre while providing relief measures should also keep in mind the rehabilitation and reconstruction.

That is why our party leader and former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda had urged the Centre and Shri Sharad Pawar the hon. Minister of Agriculture to provide sufficient funds for protecting the lives of these hapless poor people who are affected by this calamity.

My colleague and friend Shri Ananth Kumar have already explained the miserable conditions of the roads in Bangalore city. The recent calamity has damaged the roads further. Road accidents are taking place every day. There is congestion and the traffic jam is for hours every day. In fact Sir, I am sure that you are aware that the software companies have threatened to run away from the Silicon city (Bangalore) as there is gradual deterioration of infrastructural facilities. Under these disturbing circumstances my humble request to the hon. Prime Minister is to provide at least one thousand crore rupees for Bangalore city development and 5000 crore rupees for the protection of recent calamity affected people in Karnataka.

Sir, once again I thank you and conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As you know that generally not more than five Members speak on Calling Attention Motion but in view of gravity of the matter, I have allowed some more Members to speak. So, they are requested to express their views in one minute each.



*[English]*

I would now request Dr. C. Krishnan to speak very briefly for one minute only and he is the last speaker.

*...(Interruptions)*

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in one minute nothing can be spoken. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice five days ago. I should be given a chance to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Sir, I have also given notice. Please allow me to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Sir, I have also given notice. I may be allowed to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give opportunity to you all. Please take your seats.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the heavy rain havoc that has occurred in Tamil Nadu a few days ago. Before the people of Tamil Nadu could recover from drought conditions and also from Tsunami, they are very much worried now about the flood situation that is caused due to torrential rains. About 22 districts have been affected, many rivers are in spate, many tanks are breached, hundreds of people, rather countless have died, thousands of cattle have been washed away and many village are made islands in the State due to rain water that is surrounding the villages.

Roads, Railway lines, bridges are washed away. Lakhs and lakh of people are wandering without any shelter, food and water. Water, water everywhere but no water to drink. Many of the villages are surrounded by water. Many huts and houses have been washed away. Lakhs and lakhs of acres of valuable crops are washed away. People are on the streets without any food. The State Government has to take all the responsibility for giving shelter, food and water. But the care taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu is not at all sufficient. The restoration and rehabilitation work should be done on a war-footing manner. A monitoring committee of all parties should be formed and it should monitor the funding that is being allotted by the State Government for this purpose.

I am speaking here on behalf of my hon. leader Shri Vaiko, who is the leader of MDMK Party of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Thank you. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I associate and share the concern expressed by other hon. Members of Tamil Nadu.

I would like to urge upon the Government of India to come out with a comprehensive plan, either through World Bank, for storing and utilising the excess flood water in future. Not a single drop of unused rain water should reach ocean in future.

The recent intermittent rains and floods have become a national calamity and national tragedy. At the same time, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister, who spoke to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu over phone and immediately sanctioned a sum of Rs. 500 crore towards first instalment for relief operations. We do hope that the Government will also be giving more funds liberally.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please take your seat now.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: I have not yet started Sir. My constituency has been washed away completely. You are so liberal and magnanimous, please allow me to speak. It is a people's issue.

Sir, I would like to thank our hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Home Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and our Leader Shri G.K. Vasan, who made an aerial survey as soon as they heard about the havoc. Shri T.R. Baalu, on our request, also visited the flood affected areas.

In my Dindigul constituency, Veda sandur, Sholavandan Assembly segments are badly affected. Most of the areas in Madurai District were badly affected. Most of the districts in Tamil Nadu were affected by droughts during the past four years and to add to their misery, they are now affected by unprecedented rains and floods. Agriculturists who have raised their crops with little money borrowed have lost all their crops. Even now Tamil Nadu is under the grip of floods. Lakhs and lakhs of people are affected very badly. In some parts of Tamil Nadu, there are villages which do not get electricity or drinking water or any kind of transportation for the past so many days.

While the relief operations are undertaken, the Members of Parliament, especially the Lok Sabha Members, and all Leaders of all Parties should be taken into confidence and should be associated with the relief work. They are not at all consulted or invited by the present AIADMK Government. Whenever the District Administration carries out any relief operation, it should be transparent and the injustice done to the affected people during tsunami should not be repeated.

In my Dindigul District, money allotted for the affected people has not reached the needy poor and the District Administration with the blessings of the District Collector is misusing the funds. There is no announcement or information available to the Members of Parliament regarding distribution of money and other things. In each district, a committee consisting of all political parties should supervise the relief operations and only through them the relief operations should be conducted.

Lastly, I urge upon the Government of India that liberal credit facilities should be extended to the farmers to raise their crops again.

The encroachments in all the water bodies and supply channels should be cleared immediately for the benefit of the future generations. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri K.V. Thangkabal. You have got only one minute to speak, please. I have to take up WTO at 2 o'clock.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, you have give more time to the other hon. Members. I should not be deprived of it; I should be given more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. For the past one week I was waiting for an opportunity to speak about the problem being faced by Tamil Nadu. Due to the Opposition members, this serious issue could not be discussed in this august House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Yes Sir. Tamil Nadu has seen the worst position after three continuous rains and floods which we have never seen in the past 45 years. This is the first time that the State has got affected so much. Almost all the districts of the State have suffered.

As my learned friend said, there was continuous drought for the past four years and after the drought, for the last two or three months, we are facing the flood and the havoc of rain and its aftermath. The whole of the agrarian system has been damaged and all the crops are completely washed away. The majority of the houses in the villages are washed away and there is no help from any side. Even today, after ten days of last spell of rain and havoc, most of the districts and most of the villages, as my hon. friend said, are still under water and people are not able to come out for the last five to eight days. There is no food, no water, no light and no electricity. This is the fate of Tamil Nadu today.

Immediately after hearing the problem—the Government of India—the Hon'ble Prime Minister spoke to the Chief Minister and released Rs. 500 crore to the State of Tamil Nadu for the relief work. We are thankful to him. But, our Home Minister immediately rushed to the State and the Finance Minister and the hon. Ministers from our State rushed to the places and visited them. Now, a Central Team has visited the State three days ago but they have not yet submitted the Report to the Government. I am sorry to say this. I urge upon the Government to get the Report from the Central Team. I would also like to request the hon. Home Minister to convene all the State MPs, our UPA and Lok Sabha MPs of the respective constituencies for a discussion. Almost all the MPs should be called immediately for a discussion, and we want a time frame to be fixed while giving the funds to the State because we have a bad experience in the past. After Rs. 5,00 crore have been given to the State but we do not know; there is no account. The Chief Minister is telling that the Central Government has not given any money. This is the state of affairs today. We urge upon the Central Government to come out with a new programme. The hon. Members requested for CRS Guidelines. The present CRS guidelines are not going to help the affected States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka or any other State. We want revised Guidelines to be framed immediately so that any State which is going to be affected will have a protection from the Government of India.

Secondly, the farmers, the poor peasants, the workers, the people affected in the agricultural sector should be fully compensated and all the loans given to the farmers should be waived off immediately without any loss of time. We also want crop loans to be given immediately by the nationalised banks. I want that the

[Shri K.V. Thangkabalai]

Home Minister should have a discussion with the Finance Minister, and the Prime Minister should immediately intervene to see that all the facilities which are required by the State should be given. Our Chief Minister, our leaders of the UPA have demanded that the requested money be given to the State immediately without any loss of time. Sir, Rs. 5,000 crore should be sent immediately to the State as the first instalment, and then after an assessment, after talking to the MPs, more funds should be allocated to the State for rebuilding the State.

People are not able to undertake any business and agriculture. Everybody is starving. The Central Government should immediately come out with a package to help the people of Tamil Nadu. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to convene a meeting of the Members of Parliament belonging to Tamil Nadu. I also request the hon. Prime Minister to announce a package without any loss of time.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to unprecedented rains, nearly 21 districts in Tamil Nadu including my Dindigul District were badly affected. Water tanks, check dams, minor bridges, dwelling houses, crops, cattle and agricultural lands were totally washed away. In my District, Dindigul town, Natham, Ottachatram, Palani and Vedanchatram Talukas were very badly affected. Thousands of people had lost their houses. Erode district was also badly affected.

The Tamil Nadu Government has demanded a first instalment of Rs. 1,800 crore. After the visit of a team of the hon. Ministers, a sum of Rs. 500 crore was allocated. This is not sufficient. More funds have to be allocated for solving the problems of the people of Tamil Nadu.

Secondly, for the past three years the farmers in Tamil Nadu had struggled for water and without water they were not able to irrigate anything. Now, they were totally affected due to water. Agricultural loans, co-operative bank loans and other loans have to be totally waived off. Now loans have to be given to the farmers.

In my district Dindigul, the Public Works Department and all other Departments in collusion with the District Administration are misusing the funds which they are getting from the Government for the flood relief work. They are not giving money to the affected people but they are giving money to the unaffected people based on the political vendetta. So, a monitoring Committee comprising all the Members of Tamil Nadu has to be

constituted. I also urge the Government of India immediately to allocate Rs. 5,000 crore to save the affected people of Tamil Nadu.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you that you refrained from tradition of Calling Attention and gave an opportunity to a number of hon'ble Members to express their views on the drastic situation arising out of the severe flood in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. I assure you that the Government of India will take all the necessary steps to solve this problem with the same gravity with which you have held the discussion on this subject. I have made it clear in my statement and again I would like to state that the floods struck the states in four spells and not in three spells. The duration of floods in first spell was from 23.10.2005 to 3.11.2005, in second spell from 4.11.2005 to 13.11.2005, in third spell from 22.11.2005 to 25.11.2005 and in latest spell from 2.12.2005 to 4.12.2005. There is no doubt about it. I would not like to mention the names of all the hon'ble Members here. He has stated about the large destruction of crops, deaths of people and animals, damage of infrastructure, railway lines, roads, highways, and small and big houses. This description is heart rending. The first team which visited the affected areas included the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Finance and our colleague Shri Regupathi. They noticed the extent of destruction. I need not say that in this hour of disaster, the Government of India stands by the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Members have raised such three-four questions which are to be replied by me. I have mentioned all other things in my statement with regard to the remaining questions. A number of hon'ble Members have raised the matter that a Committee consisting of hon'ble members and M.L.A.s should be set up which should do the monitoring work in this regard. The hon'ble Members allege that the Governments have not been utilizing those funds which they should have done. I would like to tell the hon'ble Members that all these works i.e. utilization of money, monitoring of the work done etc. are the responsibility of the State Governments. I do not have any doubt that the State Governments must have been doing this work. If the hon'ble Members want to set up a Monitoring Committee in this regard, they should request the hon'ble Chief

Minister of the state that the Chairperson of the local bodies. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: I am sorry to interrupt the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) The Minister should not ask the MPs to go and meet the Chief Minister since the Chief Minister has not bothered to convene a meeting of the Tamil Nadu MPs for the last four years to discuss any issue of Tamil Nadu. ...(*Interruptions*) So, we have no commitment to meet the Chief Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Why should we go and meet the Chief Minister? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: A direction must go from here. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: She has not replied even to the letter ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request you to please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Why should we meet the Chief Minister? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: The Chief Minister has not bothered to meet us for the last four years. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Reply is not satisfactory. Why should we meet the Chief Minister? Is this the way the Minister should respond? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: The guideline must go from here. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members to please sit down. First, let him complete his

speech. Then if you have any doubt and if you want to seek any clarification, I will allow you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Members have raised issues and expressed concern in this regard. I do not want to make any remarks in regard to the hon'ble Members particularly from Tamil Nadu but I would like to assure them that I will apprise the hon'ble Chief Minister of the concern expressed by them and of a proposal to set up a Monitoring Committee consisting of hon'ble Members of Parliament and hon'ble Members of Legislative Assemblies. This Committee should include the Chairpersons of local bodies. If a Monitoring Committee is set up in this regard, its monitoring can be done properly. Besides, the feelings of the hon'ble Members can be respected. The Government of India will do whatever is possible in this connection. However, this is the responsibility of the State Governments to set up such types of Committees and to look into the concerns of the hon'ble Members of Parliament and hon'ble Members of Legislative Assemblies with a view to solve that problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the hon'ble Members have said that very little amount of relief has been sent. I would like to inform the hon'ble Members that the amount which has been sent from here, is meant for the quick relief work. When the disaster strikes, the Government of India provide money from the N.N.C.F. while the State Government releases money from the C.M.R.F. A Central team has been sent there to take stock of the situation arising out of disaster. This team has submitted its report which is being studied. On completion of the study of the report, the Government of India is committed to provide more money if any such requirement is felt.

As far as the issue regarding the infrastructure is concerned, the hon'ble Members, especially, Shri Ananth Kumar has stated that there has been a massive destruction in Bangalore resulting in damage of roads there. In Tamil Nadu also, the roads got damaged. Unless the State Government sends any plan to the Government of India with regard to infrastructure, this amount of money is not likely to be released. If the State Government makes an assessment and seeks funds from the Centre in the name of infrastructure without formulating a proper plan then in such case it is not possible for us to allocate

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

funds. We have asked the state Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to send us the estimates and they have assured us that they would submit the whole plan to the Government of India very soon. First this would go to Planning Commission, then we have set up an authority in our Ministry where the entire issue will be closely looked into and we are ready to extend the maximum help through the Government of India. We fully assure the hon'ble Members for this.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): What is the definition of maximum?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: More and more.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: This is the literal translation of the term. Please tell us about some estimate of the amount.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: He and I belong to the Hindi-speaking states. That is why he is asking me about such type of definition. More and more. At most I can say this.

Shri Anant Kumarji has stated about the water to be released from the dam. The geographical structure of our country is such that some States have to face the disaster of flood whereas others face drought. In case the situation poses danger to the dam, the concerned state is compelled to release water from the dam otherwise that dam would collapse. So, havoc will be there through water and you will have no dam either. So, it's not proper to say that the havoc takes place due to the release of water from the dam.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: But the water was released without any pre-information. The CM of Karnataka, who belongs to the Congress Party, has written a letter to the Union Home Minister that the havoc takes place due to such a heavy water release without any prior information. That is why we are asking for some coordinating system, an integrated monitoring system for dams. That is why we have sought for the Centre's intervention through the Central Water Commission.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I would ask to the State Government to give a pre-intimation with regard to the release of water from the dams. There should also be a committee in this connection, which may fix time frame for prior intimation to the concerned State for the proposed release of water. That will enable the State

Government to make their preparation before hand and exercise the possible options to escape the damage likely to be incurred. I agree with you on this point.

I think the reply is now complete. I have done it already by way of the statement I have given.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have said about the guidelines of the Central Calamity Relief Fund.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon. Members have also suggested to revise the parameters of CRF and NCCF. I would convey your thoughts to the Hon. Home Minister and would also request the hon. Prime Minister.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ananth Kumar now be seated please.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: In August only, a Group of Ministers was constituted by the Government of India to revise the CRF guidelines. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, I have got one clarification. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It has not been revised.  
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You four decide among yourselves who has to speak. I would allow just one of you to ask question.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, there have been queries from hon. members from Tamil Nadu regarding the monitoring committee. There has been misuse of funds out of the aid given by the Central Government for Tsunami relief. So, on the basis of the Right to Information Act, our hon. Members of Parliament want the list of beneficiaries and statement of expenditure incurred by the State Government to be displayed in all the flood affected areas. I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister on this point. ... (Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has already given it.

...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, we have waited for ten days for this Calling Attention. We are very much dissatisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Why could the Cabinet Minister not reply to the issues raised? Why could we not have a reply from the other hon. Minister of State, Shri Reghupathy? We are very much dissatisfied with the reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister wants to say something.

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a time constraint. We have to start the discussion on the WTO Ministerial Conference and conclude it by four o'clock. After that, that discussion would be taken up in the Rajya Sabha. So, if hon. Members from Tamil Nadu want to continue discussion on this subject, we can take it up after four o'clock. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: On the issue of the Volcker Committee Report, they have wasted five days. In the case of Tamil Nadu, we are 40 Members and we take the least amount of time. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: We can take it up after four o'clock. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Krishnaswamy, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: We want more time to be given for discussion on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, this is a very important issue. We have waited all these days to raise it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Our State MPs consume the least time of the House but we are not given proper reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Sir, as I said, there is a time constraint. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Let the Cabinet Minister give the reply. We are not satisfied with the reply given by the Minister of State. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: We can continue this at four o'clock.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Why should we wait till four o'clock? Why are you giving more time to other issues? This is also a very important issue. We want this issue to be given its proper importance. With due respect to you, we want the hon. Minister to come and reply now. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: We have already waited for ten days while all these days were wasted on the Volcker Committee Report. Who is responsible for that? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Sir, the discussion on WTO would be there only up to four o'clock. After that, it would be taken up in Rajya Sabha. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Why not now? We have waited for four days. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: On other issues hon. Members from every State have been given opportunity but has our State been given a chance? ...(*Interruptions*) We have 40 MPs from Tamil Nadu but we have not consumed much of the time of Parliament. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Sir, if we have to wait up to four o'clock, everyone of us should be given a chance. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: We are the Members who consume the least amount of time. You can check every record to find that out. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: After four o'clock, everybody from our State should be given a chance. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After four o'clock, we would give you time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Thank you, Sir.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Let the Cabinet Minister come. We want the Cabinet Minister to come. Let the Cabinet Minister come and respond. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We have raised a very important issue under Calling Attention. He should give the reply. He should complete the reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have very little time. So, we cannot take up item No. 12 today. That would be taken up tomorrow or another day.

...(Interruptions)

14.18 hrs.

### WAREHOUSING (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) BILL\*, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House would take up item No. 13—Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh to move for introduction of Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make provisions for the development and regulation of warehouses, negotiability of warehouse receipts, establishment of a warehousing development and regulatory authority and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make provisions for the development and regulation of

warehouses, negotiability of warehouse receipts, establishment of a warehousing development and regulatory authority and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.19 hrs.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Due to shortage of time, item No. 14, Matters under Rule 377 would be treated as laid on the Table of the House and they would form part of the proceedings.

(1) **Need for gauge conversion on Dindigul, Coimbatore section and upgradation of amenities at the Madurai, Tirunelveli and Dindigul Railway Stations in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): I wish to convey my appreciation to the Railway Authorities for introducing a special train between Chennai and Madurai with a number of second class bogies to facilitate the travelling of poor and middle class passengers. This should be converted on a regular basis for daily use upto Nagercoil.

The Madurai Division of Southern Railway has recorded a 14.2% growth in passenger traffic i.e. 127.48 lakhs last year to 145.64 lakhs passengers this year. This is the highest compared to other divisions including Chennai. The number of passengers in this division covers 13 districts including two in Kerala.

There is a shift of passengers from road to rail since it is a cheaper mode of transport. The electrification of railway track from Villupuram to Madurai covering a distance of 349 kms. should be taken up on priority basis. Further, it should be extended upto Nagercoil in a phased manner.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 7.12.2005.

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

The long felt need for gauge conversion between Dindigul and Coimbatore should also be taken up for early implementation. The Madurai Division has sent a proposal to upgrade the amenities at the Madurai, Tirunelveli and Dindigul Railway Stations at a cost of Rs. 3 crores and this should be cleared immediately.

**(ii) Need to extend Rajkot and Porbandar bound trains up to Veraval for promoting tourism in Junagarh district, Gujarat**

*[Translation]*

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Sir, Junagarh district in Gujarat is an important tourist place. The famous and ancient Somnath temple is situated here, which is one of the four famous pilgrimage spots (Dhams) for the Hindus. The Girnath Mountain is also situated here, where the religious shrines of both Hindus and Jains are located. In this very district is located the 'Sasan Gir Extension', a natural habitation of Asian Lion and a large part of this district is along the sea side. In the coastal region is situated a place called 'Diu'. Diu has an old fort of British period and it attracts a large number of domestic and international tourists. Since there is no proper arrangement of rail transport the pilgrims and tourists visiting this region face a tough time.

I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister for Railways to extend the route of the trains reaching Rajkot and Porbandar from other States to Veraval in district Junagarh. A rail facility linking all the famous four pilgrim-places of Hindus should also be provided from Somnath, i.e. Veraval. Somnath (Veraval), district Junagarh to Mumbai district train may also be initiated to make the visit of the pilgrims easier and the increase in the number of tourist will also enhance the tourist sector in this region.

**(iii) Need to accord group 'C' Government Servant status to Anganwadi workers in the country**

SMT. KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Sir, the Anganwadi workers should be deemed holding a government-employment. They should be accorded group 'C' Government Servant status, as their work is very important. Help of the Anganwadi workers is sought at virtually every tough time. Such as at the time of the break out of epidemic, to carry out vaccination for Polio eradication campaign or AIDS awareness campaigns these workers are always on their toes to work.

All these workers are women in lakhs of number all over the country. If they are helped, lakhs of families are helped and this will prove the slogan of rights and employment to woman really coming true. Without their empowerment the country is not empowered. It is therefore, the women should provided with all the necessary facilities and right wherever needed so that the coming generations could come forward in fine physical and mental health to the service of the nation and take it to the top of world.

**(iv) Need to introduce a direct train connecting Mahua, Dhola and Ahmedabad in Gujarat**

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, although recently a broad-gauge railway line between Mahua-Dhola of my constituency has been started but actually a train service is needed to be commenced from Mahua and Dhola to Ahmedabad as there is no direct railway link to Ahmedabad from this area. Besides, the platforms at the railway stations between Mahua and Dhola, namely, Sabarkula, Rajula, Damnagar and Lilia are meant for metergauge, which need to be upgraded as broad-gauge. The railway service from Bhavnagar to Bandra and Mumbai should include an addition of one AC coach, one sleeper coach and one General Coach from Mahua or Dhola. Jaitalsar and Dhasa are two very important stations in Saurashtra region, which have a meter-gauge line even after 58 years of Independence; gauge-conversion should be done here also. Besides, the stations on this route should also be upgraded as they are in a pathetic condition.

Therefore, through this House, this is my request to the Central Government that Mahua-Dhola-Ahmedabad direct train service may be introduced to fully use the Mahua-Dhola converted broad gauge railway line. Further, one A.C., one General and one sleeper coach should be added to the Bhavnagar-Bandra or Bhavnagar-Mumbai train service from Mahua or Dhola and the Jaitalsar-Dhasa meter-gauge railway line should be converted into broad gauge railway line.

**(v) Need to ensure that the royalty on mineral resources is spent for the welfare and developmental activities in the exploration zone in Gujarat and other parts of the country**

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, there are many natural resources of oil, gas, coal and minerals in the country. These commodities are source of a huge



[Shri Jivabhai A. Patel]

income to the Government but the local people of these places from where these commodities are explored; do not get any benefit whatsoever. These people do not get any basic facilities and are deprived of their economic and social development as a result thereof. The undertakings and enterprises receiving the minerals and oil, etc. from a State, pay huge sum of royalty for them to the Government of that State but the State Government concerned does not use that sum for developmental works in those resource-areas. As Government forbids if there is some natural calamity in those areas resourcing the valuable commodities the situation turns to be catastrophic. For example, calamities like earthquake, cyclone, drought and floods struck such places in Gujarat but the people of these areas were not given any help from the royalty received by the State Government.

I would like to request the Union Government to issue directions to this effect that the royalty for mineral resources be spent for the welfare and developmental activities of the exploration areas and a certain percentage of it should be fixed for providing to the concerned areas of exploration for its development and for relief and assistance during any natural calamity there.

- (vi) Need to withdraw the move to shift Dabolim International Airport from Dabolim to Mopa In Goa with a view to safeguard the interest of people engaged in tourism sector**

[English]

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL (Marmugao): Goa is synonymous with Tourism in India much before, other destinations followed. Tourism remains the critical employer and in a demographic analysis of the State 65% of the population remains directly or indirectly dependent on tourism.

Dabolim airport is the familiar gateway into Goa and known the world over. The entire Goa is the developed tourism belt comprising of all the hotels of any category, lodges and cheaper private accommodation. Goa's livelihood is in tourism and Dabolim airport is actually at the centre of State, equidistant to north and south.

The move to shift the location of the international airport from Dabolim to Mopa will spell disaster for Goa Tourism, Indian Tourism and Tourism for the Peninsula of India. The Airport at Dabolim is the lifeline of all tourism oriented activity and cannot be shifted to Mopa-Goa will become a desert for actions related to tourism. People

will actually starve and be ruined, and, tourism will be forsaken in Goa forever. A geographical study will clearly indicate this crucial and critical criteria.

Historically Goa was supposed to be aligned with Maharashtra, but, the opinion poll decided to keep Goa as an independent State. This will be totally negated if Mopa becomes the International Airport. People of Goa will feel let down and demoralized if their sentiments are not respected.

I request the Central Government that Dabolim should continue to be the International Airport for Goa with upgradation and renovations. The Naval Base can move to Sea Bird, Karwar, if considered appropriate.

- (vii) Need for construction of a road under bridge at railway crossing near Kanavi Veerabhadra temple at 298 km. on Sholapur-Mangalore section in Karnataka**

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): I would like to mention that National Highway No. 13 of Sholapur-Mangalore Section in Karnataka crosses one railway line LC : 13 (13-14) near the Kanavi Veerabhadra Temple at Km. 298. Due to heavy mining activities a number of goods trains carry iron ore causing closure of railway gate very frequently. Because of frequent closure, thousands of vehicles are getting struck and hours together the traffic is jammed which is causing trouble to the people. Road on the either side of the gate is very steep with a number of bend curves. There is an urgent need to construct a road under bridge at this place for the free and smooth flow of vehicular traffic.

I urge upon the Union Government that the work on this project should be taken up immediately.

- (viii) Need to allocate adequate funds for early completion of Kanpur Multi-purpose project In Orissa**

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): The inordinate delay in the construction of Kanpur Multipurpose Project in Orissa has caused a great discontentment in the minds of the people of my Parliamentary Constituency, Keonjhar. When the project was sanctioned years ago, it was stated that it would be completed within a period of 7 years. But the project has not taken off so far.

The reasons are not far to seek. Besides showing indifferent attitude by the authority, allocation of fund made to this project has been very meagre. Whatever little

amount is available for this project, has also been either diverted towards the construction staff quarters or misutilised.

The project is located in a traditionally drought prone area where majority of the farmers are small and marginal. The area is predominantly inhabited by tribal people. Once the project is completed it will change the whole scenario of the area. Besides providing irrigation facility it will generate electricity also.

A such, I request the Central Government to allocate funds as per revised estimate and complete the project expeditiously so that the poor farmers of my parliamentary constituency are benefited.

- (ix) Need to take suitable measures for reconstruction of dilapidated building of Main Post office at Konch Nagar in Jalaun Parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, the condition of main post office building situated at Konch Nagar in my constituency Jalaun-Garoutha, Uttar Pradesh, is so dilapidated that any kind of mishap can take place any day. If this building is brought down and some new shops are constructed at the front and the post office at the back alongwith a post-office residential complex on the first floor, then sufficient amount of money can be earned as premium to fund the construction of the entire building complex. Besides this, the department will start earning an income of thousands of rupees every month.

I would like to urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to build a new post office keeping in view of the possibility of an accident.

- (x) Need to provide office accommodation and travel facilities to office bearers of Panchayats and Nagar Palikas in the country**

SHRI RAM SWAROOP KOLI (Bayana): Sir, under the Panchayati Raj System, elections for the office of Sarpanch and Up-Sarpanch take place. Similarly, elections are also hold in Panchayat Samiti for members, Pradhan and Up-Pradhan as well as for members, district councillors and deputy district Councillors in district councils.

Sarpanchs, Pradhans and District Councillors are provided all kinds of facilities for disposal of their work but the Up-Sarpanch Up-Pradhan and Deputy District councillors are not given any kind of facilities for smooth disposal of their work. The fate of Deputy Chairman in municipal corporations is also similar. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to provide them office assistance alongwith travel facilities or office maintenance allowance and travelling allowance so as to implement the Panchayati Raj System in letter and spirit.

- (xi) Need to expedite completion of on-going Hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (Arunachal West): Arunachal Pradesh has the largest Hydro-Power potential in the country with the estimated 60000 MW, which is unparalleled in the world. The Govt. of India from time to time has been promising to tap the potential with huge investment. But it is very unfortunate that the hydro power potential still remains untapped causing huge power deficit in our country.

The power vision issued by the Ministry of Power and released by Hon'ble Prime Minister includes the proposed hydel projects of Arunachal Pradesh. But I wonder how the vision will be realized without the execution of Hydel Projects successfully in projects which have got the clearance from various mandatory authorities and which are to be executed by public companies like NHPC and NEEPCO. The Projects are pending due to lack of political will and much needed support from the Government.

I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Power to take the matter very seriously and push hard for the early execution of all the mega hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh. At the same time adequate fund should be placed for the relief and rehabilitation for the affected people and conservation of the environment in the affected area so that there is sustainable development.

- (xii) Need to sanction setting up of Handloom Production-cum-Design Development Centre and an export mart in Fulla, West Bengal**

SHRI ALAKESH DAS (Nabadwip): My Parliamentary Constituency i.e. Nabadwip is known for textile goods. The weavers of Santipur, Fulla, Nabadwip are internationally reputed for their handloom sarees. Tamgail

[Shri Alakesh Das]

saree of Fulia, Jamdani saree of Navbdwip and traditional Sanlipuri sarees are very popular in country and abroad. The weavers of these three places export saree amounting to Rs. 9 crore out of 14 crore of export of the State. But these weavers should get Government aid for their survival. Government should aid them as they are benefitting the Government. Recently, by the initiation of the Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of West Bengal, a Committee namely—'handlooms Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited have been formed. They want to establish a Handloom production-cum-designs development centre and export mart in Fulia. For this a land of 1.10 acres have been arranged. Nadia Zilla Parishad is fully supporting this project. I request the Government to sanction this 2.52 crore project with which nearly 2 lakh weaver families are related. They will be beneficiary with the implementation of this project.

**(xiii) Need to allocate funds for development of tourism in Howrah district, West Bengal**

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): My district Howrah is one of the important districts with two international tourism centres, viz., Belur Math and Indian Botanical Garden. Besides two unique bridges over the Ganges, Rabindra Setu and Vidyasagar Setu, are engineering master pieces and attract tourists. Besides, we intend to develop the residence of great literary legend Sarat Chandra in my constituency, into a major tourist attraction by developing a theme park based on the stories of the Great Novelist. The most beautiful tourist spots at Gadiara, on the site of confluence of the rivers Hooghly and Damodar and Deer Park at Garchumuk may be improved further. A tourist circuit may be formed connecting all those spots and can be developed as tourist destination of national and international importance.

But to complete the project call "joy at your doorstep" the Howrah Zilla Parishad had submitted through West Bengal Government proposal to the Government of India to make survey and help to prepare a modern project for implementation by the Central Government as their own meagre fund cannot implement it.

I would urge upon the Government and specially, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, to help us to complete the project.

**(xiv) Need to introduce a super fast train between Moradabad and Mumbai**

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Muradabad): Sir, Muradabad city in my parliamentary constituency is a developed business and industrial township and is a large centre of export for brass industry. Export worth crores of rupees takes place through Mumbai. Besides being a big railway junction in Uttar Pradesh, the office of zonal Manager, Railways, is also situated there.

There has been a long pending demand of thousands of exporters and common people of this township for running a super fast train from Muradabad to Mumbai but so far the Ministry has not given any serious thought to this demand, whereas in view of the above facts, it is extremely important to introduce such a train on this section.

Therefore, I would request the Government to pay attention towards this important demand of my parliamentary constituency and immediately introduce a super fast train between Muradabad to Mumbai in order to promote Brass industrial export and public welfare.

**(xv) Need to provide special economic package for revival of sugar industry in Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Sir, the sugar industry of the largest sugarcane and sugar producing state, Uttar Pradesh in the country is in shambles. The Sugar Mills operating under the Textile Ministry's undertaking BIC are lying closed since several years and no efforts are being made to revive these mills. Thousands of workers working in these mills are on the verge of starvation. Maximum number of sugar mills operating under Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corporation are sick, which are in urgent need of unconditional aid from the Union Government for their modernization. The Union Government adopts different standards for fixing sugarcane prices in different states instead of fixing same price of sugarcane throughout the country, which leads to demoralization of farmers, be they from Uttar Pradesh or any other state. The Government of Uttar Pradesh made timely payments by increasing sugarcane prices during the last year as a result of which an increase of more than 20 percent is expected in sugarcane production in the current year. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to provide a special economic package to save the sugar industry of Uttar Pradesh.

**(xvi) Need to expedite completion of pending irrigation projects in Palamu region, Jharkhand**

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR (Palamu): Sir, after the reorganization of Bihar, a number of under construction irrigation projects that were situated in Jharkhand are lying pending due to the dispute regarding division of state's property. It includes the North Coal Project of Palamu region, Mohammedganj Varaj Project and Batane irrigation project etc. Everybody is aware that Palamu region has been reeling under drought for the last 5 years. Under such circumstances, the farmers of Palamu region are facing huge loss owing to the pendency of these projects.

Therefore, I would urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Water Resources that an early decision should be made regarding the pending projects in the State at the time of partition so that the under construction irrigation projects are completed soon and irrigation facilities can be provided to the farmers.

**(xvii) Need to streamline rehabilitation measures being extended to Tsunami victims in Tamil Nadu**

*[English]*

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): Excessive rains in Tamil Nadu this year have caused great havoc. Till last year there used to be disastrous drought conditions. Tsunami devastation and natural disasters that followed one another have caused great loss. The worst Tsunami that hit the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu caused great damage even to cultivable land. Successive monsoons this year have also let loose disastrous consequences. Huge property loss, crop loss, fertile land being left barren to cry for justifiable compensation. It is natural that rehabilitation measures are taken at right earnest after every natural disaster but in Tamil Nadu relief work carried out very slow.

I request the Government that every victim should be given a minimum of Rs. 2000 and every farmer with a minimum of Rs. 5,000 immediately to begin afresh their livelihood. Those who have lost their houses in Tsunami are yet to get proper shelter. Centre's duty does not end with extending a compensation package but also in diligently monitoring the relief work ensuring that needy get the needed help. Centre must also ensure that rehabilitation measures are extended in a streamlined

fashion. Immediately, after Tsunami disaster, funds have poured from across the globe. Apart from the relief fund extended by the Centre, several NGOs and even the World Bank contributed funds. At this point, I would like to impress upon the Union Government to ensure that all these funds are properly utilized to mitigate the sufferings of the people affected by the natural disasters.

**(xviii) Need to develop Lonar Crater in Buldhana Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra as a tourist resort**

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): A large section of population living in Buldana constituency hails from the Backward, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities. There is no industry in my constituency. Sir, due to lack of industries, the economic conditions of the people in my constituency is very poor. People are being compelled to live in miserable conditions.

The unique crater at Lonar in Central Maharashtra is a spectacular spot and is one of the five largest such craters in the world. The Lonar crater is the only natural impact crater in basalt rock in the world. At the bottom of the crater a lake has formed around which small settlements have been established. This unique geological site is home to an impressive list of migrant and resident birds including kingfishers, orioles and minivets. Though this is one of the hottest parts of India, cool forests of tall trees and fruit orchards rim the area. It is also home to a unique peacock sanctuary. The temple built in the Hemadpanti style are situated inside the crater. The structures are in a dilapidated condition.

Lonar Crater, which is situated in my constituency, could not get worldwide publicity due to lack of proper infrastructure. Sir, there is an urgent need to develop Lonar Crater as an international tourist place to attract foreign as well as national tourists.

I would request the Central Government, through you sir, to kindly develop Lonar Crater as an Internal Tourist centre so that the Local people will get job opportunities and the backwardness of this area can be removed.

**(xix) Need to release additional stock of fertilizer to the State of Andhra Pradesh to meet its shortage in the State**

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): For the first time in many years there was copious rainfall in almost all the districts of the State. Even those in rain-shadow

[Dr. M. Jagannath]

zones like Anantapur received excess rainfall. But the joy of farmers over good monsoons has been cut short by the severe shortage of fertilizer, particularly urea. The prospects of farmers getting bumper yield this year appears bleak with the farming community falling short of five lakh tonnes of fertilizers for the Khariff season.

The State requires about 16 lakh tonnes of urea while only 11 lakh tonnes is available in the market. Urea is used mainly for crops like paddy, sugarcane, cotton and maize. There is also a shortage of single super phosphate fertilizer. However, complex fertilizers are available in sufficient quantity. The prospects of a good crop are quite high this time thanks to the monsoon which has been generous so far. This Khariff the total sown area has also gone up increasing the demand for fertilizers. If the farmers do not get sufficient stocks at this state, their crop will be in real trouble.

Through you, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers to release more stocks to the State to overcome the acute shortage and protect the standing crops from withering away.

**(xx) Need to confer Indian Citizenship on nearly 500 Malayalee Muslims in Kerala facing threat of deportation to Pakistan**

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Nearly 500 Malayalee Muslims in Kerala are under threat of deportation to Pakistan. They live in perpetual fear of law, having to present themselves before the police periodically, and subjected to summons at any time, even though they were born in Kerala.

They are treated as Pakistani nationals because they were making a living in Pakistan during partition. Family ties made them return to Kerala, after partition for which they were issued Pakistani passports. Since they are holding Pakistani passports India is not ready to recognise them as Indian nationals and they have been treated as Pakistanis staying over on visa facility.

As long as they are considered Pakistani nationals, they can be deported at any time. On several occasions, many of them were summoned and deported to Pakistan, causing humiliation and immense sorrow to them and their families. Pathetic aspect of the whole issue is that

all of them are aged and some of them are ailing. Since their entire family ties are in Kerala nobody is there in Pakistan to take care of them.

The UPA Government has embarked on reapproachment with Pakistan and at the same time, our own countrymen are facing deportation. I urge the government to show similar magnanimity to our own people and take urgent step to recognise them as Indian nationals.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, may I make a small submission. I sincerely appreciate the feelings of hon. Members from Tamil Nadu and the entire South and their desire for a detailed reply from the Government of India in this matter. As I already submitted, our distinguished Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Kamal Nath, would have to go to Hong Kong tomorrow for an important meeting and all hon. leaders in both House have agreed, before the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, that this matter should be listed today and disposed of in both Houses. Therefore, my appeal is that let the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry first hear the views of hon. Members and give his reply.

After his reply, he will go to the Rajya Sabha. Then, the hon. Minister, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal can give the detailed reply on the issue of floods. ...*(Interruptions)* Please hear me first. Why I am telling this to you is because there is going to be a full-fledged discussion on the Disaster Management Bill soon in this House. ...*(Interruptions)* You are welcome to do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, it has already been decided.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If there are any clarifications to be sought from the Minister on that issue, you are welcome to do that ...*(Interruptions)* I support that ...*(Interruptions)*

14.21 hrs.

### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

#### Role of India in WTO with particular reference to the forthcoming Sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO in Hong Kong

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item number 17—Discussion under Rule 193 regarding role of India in WTO with particular reference to the forthcoming 7th Ministerial Conference of WTO in Hong Kong.

Shri Prabodh Panda to speak.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, at the very outset, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity for discussing on the role of India in WTO with particular reference to the forthcoming Sixth Ministerial conference of WTO in Hong Kong. ...(*Interruptions*) Our distinguished hon. Minister is very much busy in talking with other Ministers. So, how can I draw his attention to this subject? ...(*Interruptions*) It is very regrettable. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister through you.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): I am listening.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: It was expected that the distinguished hon. Minister, Shri Kamal Nath, would issue a White Paper on this matter earlier. I found in several newspapers that hon. Minister has said that he is going to play an important role in respect of our country in the forthcoming Summit based on the consensus. Yes, I do admit that there is a consensus. But the consensus was there that before going to Hong Kong, the concerned Ministry should bring out a White Paper or a draft paper so that the consensus could be achieved based on that. I think he did not take it into cognisance, rather it was ignored. So, I must tell you that this is a very sorry state of affairs.

14.23 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

The matter is taken up for discussion today while not even a week is remaining for the commencement of

the Sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO in Hongkong. We have just heard from the hon. Minister, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that the hon. Minister is going tomorrow itself to Hong Kong for attending the business of this Summit. ...(*Interruptions*)

Since it was revealed that WTO is an instrument to maintain the corporate hegemony of the global North over the global South, the world-wide protests were there against the WTO negotiations by the global civil societies and the world witnessed side-by-side that negotiations failed in Seattle, Doha and even in Cancun.

What is expected from our country? India's long-term interests are best served by making the common cause with the developing countries. The formation of G-20 and G-33 at the time of Ministerial Conference in Cancun in 2003 was a positive step. Our country is a founder of the G-20 countries. I must appreciate it. It is expected that our country will lead not only G-20 countries but also lead the developing countries and stand on the occasion to face the monopolistic design of the developed countries.

But, Sir, the subsequent events, specially, India becoming a part of the five interested parties are to be seen here. It is clear that there are two sides in the WTO. One is the developed countries and the other is the developing countries. One is North and the other is South. Our country has become a part of the five interested parties—that is USA, European Union, Australia, Brazil and our own country. This is not understood. Its role in bringing about the July framework agreement is to be seen. India is co-chairing the Service Group with the USA and maintaining silence in regard to the attempts made by the developed countries; but nothing has been raised regarding the commitments to the unity of the developing countries.

That is why, my submission is that our country should play a proactive role in the WTO Ministerial. What we have noticed earlier should not be repeated. Our country should be bold enough in this and should stand on the occasion on the point. Due to paucity of time I do not want to elaborate all my points covering all the aspects in this regard. I am particularly confining myself to the Agreement on Agriculture. I think, this is the core of the negotiations in the WTO Meet. This is the opportunity. This opportunity should be utilised properly by our country and enough pressure should be mounted against the monopoly of the capitalist forces for their commitment for

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

the developing countries in regard to the three pillars—market access, export subsidies and domestic support. These are the three pillars. On these three pillars the commitment for the developing countries by the developed countries should be made and enough pressure should be mounted on this point.

It is in the interest of our citizens that our Government should pullout agriculture from WTO negotiations. When it was included in the WTO, at that time it was told that agriculture was drafted in the WTO for the interest of our country, for the interest of our peasant community. But what is the result? What is happening is just contrary to that. There is a need to examine the outcome of that Agreement on Agriculture, AOA as compared with the promise that was given in terms of benefits of the developing countries.

The basic principles were enunciated in the Preamble. I am quoting:

“The parties to this Agreement, recognising that their relations in the field of and economic endeavour should be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand, and expanding the production of and trade in goods, and services, while allowing for the optimal use of the world’s resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development, seeking both to protect and preserve the environment and to enhance the means of doing so in a manner consistent with their respective needs and concerns at different levels of development.”

Sir, in the 2001 Doha Declaration it is already mentioned that:

“We reaffirm that the provision of SDT is an integral part of the WTO agreement. We, therefore, agree that all SDT provisions shall be reviewed with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational.”

This should be reviewed, and there is also a need to examine the outcome of AOA in relation to the promise that was given in terms of benefits for the developing countries. I am only mentioning some of the points, and giving some suggestions. I am not elaborating all the points here because of paucity of time.

All export subsidies including export credit guarantee and export insurance by the developed countries should be eliminated. We should also demand to drop the blue box from all the places where this magic box is being used. The developed countries are using these magic boxes, namely, the blue boxes and green boxes to provide enough subsidies in agriculture. So, the blue boxes, in any form, should be dropped. I am also saying this because most green box measures are indeed distorting. We should raise the demand for elimination of these magic boxes considering the vital role that agriculture is playing in providing livelihood to a large majority of the workforce in the developing countries.

The developed countries continue to give heavy subsidy in agriculture and trade. This fact is now revealed. What would be the role of our country? I do not know what all suggestions are being made in it. The hon. Minister is present here, and I would request him to kindly tell us on this issue also.

What are the subsidies that are being given? The United States expressed its willingness to reduce the trade distorting support by 60 percent provided three conditions were met. Firstly, the European Union would have to reduce its support by 75 per cent. Secondly, the spending on blue box support should be kept at 2.5 per cent of the value of agricultural production. Thirdly, there should not be any limit on the green box opening. The WTO Members are not required to limit their spending on subsidies, which can be included in either the blue box or the green box. This is their stand. The USA should, therefore, have ensured that it would not only be able to return 70 per cent of its domestic support first in the Green Box. It would also succeed in providing more than five billion dollars in the form of Blue Box support. How far are we going to put pressure on them so that this box system would be eliminated and they would be forced to decline their subsidies? This is a matter of great concern. I think the Minister will explain everything here.

If developed countries have a right to provide huge subsidies for their domestic production in agriculture, the developing countries also have their rights. It is the right of the developing countries to impose quantitative restrictions on imports to safeguard the livelihood of three billion peasants. This should be enshrined as an integral part of the Agreement on Agriculture. The quantitative restrictions system is withdrawn. That should be reinstated. If developed countries have the right to provide huge subsidies, developing countries also have their own right

to impose quantitative restrictions. This point should be taken note of. Our hon. Minister should press on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Panda, how long will you take?

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I will take 20 minutes more, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You do not have that much of time. There are many speakers and they may not get time to speak. Please conclude in five minutes. Otherwise, there will not be much participation.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: All right, Sir.

Developing countries should be enlisted to provide subsidies for domestic products for domestic consumption in order to ensure food security. Developing countries should be allowed to use the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) in agricultural commodities. This is very important. This time I think our Minister is also interested in putting all these items here.

There should be expansion of TRQ maintained by developing countries beyond the levels earmarked for specific countries and should be available to all countries without discrimination. There are many devices and many avenues being resorted to by the developed countries. Various non-tariff barriers imposed by developed countries also need to be eliminated.

Under S&D provisions, developing countries may provide export subsidies especially for adoption of higher technology, adoption of product and process standards as well as to compensate for various handicaps, for financing, guarantees and insurance in respect of product exports.

I am coming to another point. Today, I have noticed in the national newspapers the statement by the hon. Minister that our country will not be allowed to be the dumping ground of other countries. But what is happening? See the impact of the WTO on India's agriculture in the earlier days. It has not only been studied by us but also by many experts and intellectuals. The acting Director of the Delhi-based National Centre for Agriculture, Economic and Policy Research has found that the first three years after the implementation of the WTO agreement, we witnessed a major spurt in the agricultural exports. The study estimates that the annual import of agricultural goods rose from \$1.190 million in the three

years proceeding the WTO to \$1.996 million in the first triennium after the WTO. In the same period, export increased from \$3.725 million to \$6.530 million. But the favourable trend in the initial years of the WTO did not last long. This is what I want to underline.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have covered all the important points.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: In the next three years, we have witnessed a hoping rise in imports and slight decline in exports. What does this fact reveal? This reveals that imports is improving and the export is declining. Whether we like it or not, whether our country wants it or not, the policy pursued so far has made our country the dumping ground of the developed country. So, India should say in concrete terms that as to whether it is in Group-5 interest parties or it will lead the G-20 developed countries. India should lead the G-20 countries. India should play a pro-active or lead role. It should play a leading stand so that developing countries can stand on the occasion against the hegemony and designs of the capitalist countries.

I would like to say that our country will not follow the footsteps of the earlier Government. Expectation from the UPA Government is much more. The UPA Government has given the commitments to the peasants of our country. The UPA Government has to play an active role. I think, it will not follow the footsteps of the earlier NDA Government, which have succumbed to the pressure of the US hegemony. So many points are there to be raised. A number of questions have been raised about the role of India in regard of the WTO Summit. I hope the Minister will clear it, and he would take the bold stand. The whole nation is watching. I think, he would not do injustice to the nation. He would not do injustice to the billions of peasants of our country, and fight boldly and stand correctly against the hegemonic designs of the capitalist countries. With these words, I conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister who is going to represent India in the WTO Conference tomorrow. Since the discussion is on WTO, I would restrict myself to agriculture only. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to the fact that ours is an agrarian country and more than 70 percent



[Shri Ajit Kumar Singh]

Members in this House represent the farming community. Though technically discussions on WTO have been taking place in this country for the last five years but whenever there is a discussion, it remains confined to intellectuals and air-conditioned five star hotels. The farmers, today, have apprehensions in their minds that their fates have been locked in the blue box and the green box?

Through you, I would like to raise two-three points. If we see, there is a huge shortage of pulses and oilseeds in our country and our colleagues have not been able to hold detailed discussion thereon. Our country has set a target to increase production of pulses and oilseeds instead of wheat and rice. But after the formation of WTO, our country has imported pulses and oilseeds to the tune of nearly Rs. 4000 crore during the last three-four years. On the one hand there is a dearth of pulses and oilseeds in our country and on the other we have our godowns overflowing with coarse grains and we are still wasting our foreign exchange reserves in importing these items from outside whereas huge quantity of coarse grains stored are getting spoiled in Punjab and Haryana. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the tariff barrier which has been imposed by the Government. I am aware that the Government have levied 70 percent tax which can be increased upto 150 percent. I would like to know as to under whose pressure it is being imported from Kualalampur. Why is it that imports are being given so much importance whereas on the other hand grains are getting rotten? Therefore, without taking much time I would like to particularly draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the fact that on the one hand we are extensively importing pulses and oilseeds while on the other hand foodgrains are getting rotten in our own country. On the one hand we are losing precious foreign exchange and on the other we are making Government procurements. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Please conclude. You wanted to go at 2.45.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SINGH: On the one hand we are making Government procurements and on the other our own grains are getting rotten in godowns. We are not able to sell that on remunerative prices. Therefore, I would like to request him to pay special attention to this issue. With these words I conclude and hope that he will

take care of the interests of the farmers as well as of the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, can I speak from this seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please. Normally, you should speak from your seat. But I want to save the time of the House. You can continue from here.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not have much of an expectation from the forthcoming Sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO in Hongkong. It is because, since the days of Doha Conference, practically nothing has happened. Since the days of Doha Conference, practically the negotiations are running at a snail's pace. If this continues, this would lead to a lot of frustration among the developing countries and the least developed countries (LDCs).

A perception is gradually gaining ground that the WTO has become a mechanism of the developed countries and the countries of the West, to get market access, which has already saturated in their countries, to the developing countries and to the least developed countries. But we are all very strongly with the Government of India. There is no question of any party just opposing the activities of the Government. We are all with hon. Shri Kamal Nathji when he goes and fights for the cause of India. The Bhartiya Janata Party, the principal Opposition party is very strongly with him.

Sir, in my small speech, I would just like to seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister and I would make some suggestions. Every developed country in the world must understand that there should be a level playing field for everybody—for the developed countries, for the developing countries and for the least developed countries.

Sir, on this, I am not much worried. It is because the developed countries are in no way in a position to push their market access to our country. I do not think that this would be possible. As a Member of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Forum on WTO, I was also present in the Cancun. We know, most of the resistance came, not from the developing country led by India but from the least developed countries. The real

resistance came from the African countries, from the poorest of the poor countries, which never had any courage to fight against economic imperialism of America. They raised their voice. It was the African countries, the have-nots, fought it out. Although we had a group of 21—we led the G-21 nations—we were on the sidelines just watching the poor countries fighting the rich.

With regard to agriculture, the bound rates are high and the actual rates are low. So, we have a lot of cushion. The bound rates, what we have, is actually low. So, whenever they ask us to reduce it, we have a cushion, and we can just adjust it. So, from that point of view, I do not have much of a fear. The only point is how to remove the trade disparity regarding domestic support.

I fully agree with the hon. Minister that there must be reciprocity in market access. Now, the point is how to ensure parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies. I hope, the hon. Minister would just try to ascertain from the developed countries not only about the elimination of all forms of export subsidies but also with a credible end date. In the Doha Declaration, 31st December, 2001 was the end date. But where is that 31st December, 2001? Today, we are in December, 2005. Four years have already passed in the meantime.

So, hon. Minister must ensure that there is an end-date and there should be convergence of some elements of discipline with respect to export credits, export credit guarantees and insurance programmes.

My next point is with regard to the identification of special products. That is one of the major points of mine. It should have some special mechanism; we are having altogether about 695 agricultural products; it has to be identified by the Government that of these 695 agricultural products we have, which are those specific products which will be endangered, if we enter into agricultural negotiation with other countries. The Government must ensure that and they must find it out.

The next point is this. My suggestion to the hon. Minister is that in India, in order to compete globally in the agricultural field, we must modernise agriculture. The investment in agriculture must be substantial—both public and private investments. Fifty to sixty crops should be identified; they should be protected because they are related to the livelihood of the people of this country. So, there should be absolutely no compromise on those 50-60 crops.

The farmers of this country should be taken into confidence. The hon. Minister must negotiate; he must talk to the farmers in different parts of this country, to ascertain which are those agricultural products which should be protected at any cost.

Take the example of soya bean. Soya bean in Madhya Pradesh is one of the major crops. If there is any compromise on soya bean, naturally, the farmers will be affected. I am giving the example of soya bean, but the hon. Minister should find out which are the other crops which should be protected.

As the hon. Member Shri Panda said sometime back, let us not depend on the conflict between the European Union and the Americans in the WTO. Let us not hope that they are at cross-purposes and so, we will get some advantage. All of a sudden, some day, we will find that they have come to some compromise or understanding. Let us not go into that; and let us see to it that we have protected our products and we should find that out.

My next point is—it is very important—about special and differential treatment. That was the advantage that we wanted to have and Doha Declaration very specifically mentions about those special and differential treatments. In those special and differential treatments, we have three pillars—domestic support, export competition and market access. The hon. Minister must ensure that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. There are five speakers from the BJP and the time is 30 minutes put together.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The first speaker from the 10-Member Party took about 25 minutes and you are not giving time for the 145-Member Party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are five speakers from your party.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I do not think that they will get an opportunity, since you are saying that within two hours, it should be concluded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude because other hon. Members also may take time.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: With regard to cotton, I want to say something. In order to just protect only 25,000 cotton growers in the USA, four African countries will be ruined. So, there must be some domestic reforms.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

To enhance the productivity and efficiency, there must be domestic efforts to reform. These should be ensured.

With regard to the service negotiations, my request to the hon. Minister is that if the developed countries give ambitious offers on MOD-I, that is cross border supply of services such as outsourcing and MOD-IV, movement of the professionals, then only we could come to some sort of negotiations with others.

Environmental negotiation is another vital point. What is environment doing in the trade? Why should environment be brought into trade? Taking this example, all the Western countries have put all sorts of barriers against the products being sent from our country to them. Glaciers are melting, Arctic is melting. In such a devastating environmental situation, USA is not signing the Kyoto protocol. They still say that they will try to bring in environmental angle to these trade negotiations, which we very strongly object to.

What measures are being taken to integrate small and vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system without creating a sub category of WTO members? That is one of the questions I would put to the hon. Minister. He should try to ascertain it. How to ensure the increase of flow of technology to the developed countries? The flow of technology is one of the major points which was raised in the Doha Declaration. Has anybody ensured as to whether there has been any flow of technology or there has been any increase in trade-related technology assistance. That was also one of the areas which could have been dealt with. How to bring about meaningful integration of LDCs into multilateral trading system? How to ensure it? In order to integrate the least developed countries into the multilateral system, there must be skill development and capacity building among those countries and to secure adequate level of funding for trade related capacity building. The hon. Minister must ensure that there must be adequate funding source to the least developed countries. The Minister must ensure adequate funding source by the developed countries.

I must ask another specific question. In Cancun, Pakistanis were saying that theirs is not an LDC country. They were saying that they were somewhere between the developed and LDC countries. have they found any such sub category for them? They were demanding that they did not want to be categorised as LDCs with the poor African countries. What has happened to that? I would like the Minister to respond on this.

In Cancun, every day in our hotel where we stayed, I found that India took the lead. The representatives of other countries were coming to our hotel. Representatives from South Africa, Brazil, Argentina and even China used to come to our hotel and India took the lead of G-21 countries. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may leave some points for other speakers also.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am on my last point. I am also a Member of the BAC, which is scheduled at 1500 hours. So, I will have to go.

Late Murasoli Maran made a very valiant effort in Doha. He safeguarded the interest of India but at that time he was alone. In Cancun, India took the lead. I am not saying that you are not doing anything but I would like to know from the principal Party, what efforts has it taken in this regard because we will have to form a group with all these developing countries and even the least developed countries to fight it out because single-handedly it may not be possible on the part of India to fight for it. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I rise to speak on this motion regarding the forthcoming ministerial meeting in Hong Kong. At the outset, I must congratulate the Minister of Commerce who had safeguarded the interest of the millions of people and the farmers of this country in the last WTO meeting. Not only that, he has provided even the lead on a number of issues. He has protected our agriculture. He did not enter into any kind of agreement or negotiations which may harm the interest of agriculture, small industry, intellectual property rights. He even protected our traditional knowledge on which a number of countries are doing research and trying to show that there is an original invention. In fact, they are not declaring the name of the country from whom they acquired such a traditional knowledge. This is all for much of the apprehension of the people sitting on my right who have always raised some doubts. I am also very happy that the principal Opposition Party has done some constructive things today. They have not spent their time in disrupting the Parliament. So, I am really happy and hope that they would adopt this approach for the remaining days of the Session.

As you know, there are a number of issues which will be discussed in the forthcoming meeting in Hong

Kong. They include Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Market Access, the trade related intellectual property rights, the trade environment and the services sector. A number of points have been made so far but I do not agree with all of them. I think Mr. Prabodh Panda has made a statement that the Minister was to make a reference to a White Paper. But the papers that I have do not mention anywhere that the Minister or the Ministry agreed to come out with a White Paper. I also congratulate the Minister for having a very wide range of consultations with the experts, institutions which are interested in WTO, NGOs which also have a large concern, academic and research institutions, etc. If I am not wrong I think the Left Parties have also submitted some 14-page proposal containing their concerns to the Ministry. If I am not correct, you can correct me. This is what I gathered from the newspaper reports. I am not making much of the points in the sense that some of the points have already been made. In fact, we have been pressurising G-20 and other G-33 countries that the developed countries should reduce their subsidies which include all kinds of subsidies, namely, export, green box and blue box. One of the things which I would like to say to the Minister since they have already given a presentation in the WTO is that the developed countries must reduce this in a very specified time limit which should be five years. The EU countries want more than 10 years or so. I think the developing countries must stick to this time limit which will give them much more leverage for negotiations with the developed countries. I agree with my colleague from Opposition that there are special items which have to be protected as far as agriculture is concerned. You know very well that this country is highly dependent on agriculture. Our growth rate also depends on agriculture because with the good monsoon the purchasing capacity of the farmers increases and as a result the economy also gets a boost. Now any negotiations which may harm or may be detrimental to our agriculture and its progress in the country should be avoided. It is because agriculture labour and all other sectors are solidly dependent on agriculture alone. Take the example of myself.

I hail from a artisans' community that includes people involved in professions like carpentry, building houses and such other things. The success of these professions are largely inter-dependent. The profession of one class of people of artisans flourish if the other related artisan groups are flourishing. One group gets work from another group. Their whole livelihood depends on having a good

monsoon. A good monsoon brings good income to them in particular and to the rural economy in general. I am sure the future of these groups of people are safe in the hands of our very able Commerce Minister and he would negotiate in the best possible manner keeping their interest in view. I do not have much to say on the agriculture sector as such. All that I would like to submit is that we should stick to our position and stand that the Government has taken along with other developing countries of the world.

Sir, as far as accessing the non-agriculture market is concerned, it has rightly been said that it is not just one market as such, but the market of the entire developing countries of the world. It has been mentioned here as to whether we should think ten times before agreeing to lower our tariff on the bound items and as well as on bringing new items into the binding. I do not think we should be ashamed of saying, 'yes, we do have a high tariff'. It is because we want to push our domestic market and our domestic industries. But here a delicate balance has to be struck. On the one hand we would have to protect our agriculture and on the other hand we would have to see that our agricultural products get exported to other countries as well. A very delicate balance would have to be struck while negotiating or making a presentation on this issue. We have to see how best it can be done with the G-20 countries and other developing countries of the world. I think, such a decision should best be left to the Commerce Minister because it would certainly depend on what kind of a situation will arise there on account of presentations being made by Ministers of other countries.

Sir, in regard to the service sector it has been stated that we need free flow of professional and intellectuals and the countries should open their borders if they want to access this market. I feel there would be much more pressure on us because of this. It is because the developing countries see in our country a tremendous possibility and opportunity for them in this regard. That is why we are likely to face a lot of pressure from those countries for opening up our market and lowering our tariff on their goods in this country as well as agricultural produce. I just wonder if such a thing happens and if a dairy industry enters the State of Gujarat, then the entire milk-cooperative of the State would simply collapse. We should stick to our stated position. It is because the interest of the country as a whole is supreme. By remaining within the framework of WTO we have to find out ways as to how best we could serve the interest of

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

our farmers, intellectuals, small industries, artisans and so on. I think, that is what has to be negotiated. I am sure, the hon. Minister concerned is capable of doing that. I wish him success. He will bring good news when he came back from there and would certainly apprise us as to what had transpired in that conference in Hong Kong.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, this is a brief opportunity to express our views. Rather it is very brief. Even in a *pyjama* cricket, you have a certain number of overs by which you can plan your programme. But in this one and a half hours, I do not know how to start bowling and how to do the batting. Without wasting time, I shall directly come to the points.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): They are changing the rules of cricket now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Is it that new rules are being framed in this one and a half hours?

This opportunity has given me some scope to make some observations on the situation and also make some suggestions as briefly as possible.

The Sixth Ministerial Conference is offering opportunities and also challenges and we should see as to how best we can use the opportunities and meet the challenges. But, as known to all of us, in this unequal world, equitable, non-discriminatory, multilateral trading system is a distant goal. From Cancun to Doha, when it was salvaged from total disaster, hopes have been raised. Just like a millennium development round, it was hoped Doha will provide opportunities for the developing and under-developed countries to develop and come at par with others and trade will offer that opportunity to develop like in poverty alleviation and all such measures. But as is shown in all this period, in this inequitable discriminatory unilateral world, it is not to be like that. What is happening? Commitments are being interpreted; confusion is being created; developed countries are backing out systematically with a pattern and promises are not being kept. If I have to sum up as to what is going to happen in Hong Kong, on the final draft that has come out, our hon. Minister has rightly commented that it is disappointing. Even Pascal Lami has been working out the arithmetic as two-third or something like that. But it

all depends on how this World Trade Organisation itself and the deliberations particularly in Hong Kong are taken by the developing countries like the US and the EU. It is because the core is agriculture and at the central stage is the issue of farm subsidy, reduction of domestic support and export subsidy which the developed countries are evading in newer and newer dubious and innovative ways like from the Green Box to the Blue Box and from the Blue Box to somewhere else.

I suggest that some clarification should be sought on this concept of Green Box as to what do you mean by that. The original meaning is, when you are shifting from the Blue Box to the Green Box, you are availing the opportunity. On the one hand, they are reluctant to reduce the farm subsidy, domestic support and export subsidy which is huge as a result of which agriculture in different developing countries of the world are going to be ruined if the July package is to be taken into account. They are dragging their feet on the subsidy issue. On the other hand, they are very aggressive on the issue of industrial tariff and services. Now, we have got to be very cautious about agriculture and I have some suggestions to make.

Removal of Quantitative Restrictions was done and it may be said that, within the WTO framework, we cannot reintroduce Quantitative Restrictions. I will give you one example of textiles and clothing. The quota system is persisting and with certain sorts of newer explanations, this is being continued. Why can it not be done like this? You know that as far as India is concerned, agriculture is not commercial as such. It is our livelihood and it is sustenance agriculture. On special products in terms of food security and rural economy, we must have autonomous selection of such rights as has been demanded by G-33 and we are a party to it.

The inequities and the imbalances that are there in the July Package should be sought to be removed as best as possible. I believe that the instrument of quantitative restriction is one such and removal of that quantitative restriction should be there. One can say that it is not compatible with the WTO framework and all that. But this is, in practice, continuing.

With regard to the special safeguards issue, particularly the special products issue and with regard to the NAMA, our suggestions will be that instead of the line-by-line stipulation, the average should be taken as the yardstick. After all, any commitment made to the WTO is irreversible.

About the bound-rate, if we make such a commitment of line-by-line stipulation, at a point of time, we will lose the autonomous right to go beyond that stipulation. In such a situation, the average—earlier also that was there—should be taken as the yardstick. We should not succumb to the western pressure. There is the pressure of the developed countries which are always planning a game to spit on the developing nations. It has been rightly mentioned that the Least Developed Countries sometimes feel let out, they are being ignored. In such a situation, what is happening? In the name of giving certain concessions to the Least Developing Countries, the developed countries are playing a very dirty game to divide the developing countries among themselves also between the developing countries and the Least Developing Countries.

About the Services Sector, as is known, India is most interested in MODE-I, that is, cross border terrorism including the BPO and, also, of course, MODE-IV—Movement of the Natural Persons. We do find that several measures are standing in our way to take away the opportunities of the emerging economy, particularly the Free Movement of the natural Persons, in the form of visa regulation and so many other things. Had I the time, I would have elaborated on them. It is known to you all.

About the Offer List, we have already made a suggestion that water, health and education should never be allowed to be incorporated in the List.

About the Financial Services. Occasionally we find that the very important people, particularly the US and of course, the EU, are saying that India should open up its financial services sector. There is too much of pressure in the insurance and banking sectors. The previous Governments, in certain notifications, made certain things. For example, I can mention one or two things. In the name of sickness, the foreign banks can acquire 74 per cent of the equity in the private banks. It is a dangerous proposition. So also is the raising of the cap in respect of insurance.

There is privatisation of water. We do have our experience of Delhi and the surrounding places. We know how the foreign companies can play havoc with the life of the people in dealing with drinking water. So, it should never be allowed. There are certain other sensitive areas in the services sector like *quid pro quo*, trade-offs, etc.

Certainly, we have our demands in the areas of MODE-I and MODE-IV. But that does not mean that we shall compromise in such a manner that our other areas will suffer immensely and there will be damage to our basic culture, ethos and basic foundations of our economy and all these things.

I shall conclude with certain words of caution. What happens in the negotiations is the main thing. Sometimes, promises are made. I do not know whether he is in a mood to make any promise. But there are certain do's and don'ts. Certain 'don'ts' are even after the affirmations and the pressures. We should not surrender in terms of, say, for example, our basic needs about agriculture, our food security, our basic industrial needs. You open up and in the name of competition, as it is happening, after the removal of the quantitative restrictions our industries are suffering. The domestic industry is at the receiving end. So, our agriculture is totally different from the agriculture of the developed countries of the world which survive, patronise with huge quantum of subsidy which we cannot afford. Our agriculture is totally qualitatively different. So, taking into account, remembering our situation, our ethos, our condition, our stage of development, nothing should be done. We should learn from the past. There have been compromises; there have been surrenders to pressure. The Government of India, its representatives, had acted in a manner which is really questionable but this Government, this Minister, and this Ministry has taken, I hope, lessons from the past. With the sort of experience and lessons we have drawn from our past experience, we shall be very careful, very cautious not to compromise any of the basic needs of this nation.

With these words I wish him success at HongKong. The Minister is here only. I wish the Minister and his delegation a grand success.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a meeting of the Ministers of the developed countries is being held in Hongkong under the aegis of world Trade Organisation. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has to attend the Rajya Sabha also.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I am a man of few words as such. The Union Minister of Commerce had convened an all party meeting yesterday as well as a day before yesterday before he proceeded for the said meeting and all the parties had given their opinions. I am happy that the hon. Minister has tried to take in confidence the Parliament also. I know that no Union Minister of Commerce would go against the interests of the country in any of the World Trade Organisation meeting. It is my internal assumption and therefore it was only our party which had publicly admired Shri Kamal Nath ji's previous role in the WTO. Our party had done so with the belief that he would protect the interests of the country in the same way in future. From Cancun to Doha, it was been our experience that from the trade point of view, all the developed countries of the World want to make the smaller countries a part of their loot in the trade and market. That's why after the VAT negotiations, when proposals for making India a part of the WTO were introduced in the tenth Lok Sabha, at that time, we people expressed apprehensions that poverty would further enhance in the world and the poor countries will be made the victims of the loot. WTO is the new tool of capitalism. Capitalist countries of the world hold the opinion that it is not possible today to have a control over the world in the form of political colonialism and the same could be done in financial terms. And the world with the consent of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund accepted the WTO set up as per the structure thereof provided by them. We had suggested during the tenth Lok Sabha that two things could be endangered. Especially, the health and medicine sector and agriculture sector as well could be endangered. It would be in the interest of the country if these sectors are segregated from the world trade.

Sir, the warning given at that time is proving true at present. A discussion should be held in the Parliament to see as to how much the Indian economy has gained or lost since India became a party of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and an accounts, a balance sheet thereon in the form of a white paper should be presented to the House. The House should hold a discussion over it to ensure the areas which should not be allowed to be a part of the World Trade.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I mean to say that you could observe with your own experience that as per the assessment made by the World Bank on new economy,

two hundred billion population of the world out of a total of 6 hundred crore is in severe dearth and is leading a very miserable life and according to that, most of the above population, nearly 60 crore, dwells in China and India only.

Sir, our hon. Minister of Finance has been saying that our country is going rich and patting his back. We say on our own that if we grow our revenue by 8 or 10 percent, we would include ourselves after this much time in the group of the developed countries of the world. Our Minister of Finance says with immense pleasure that China and India are going to be recognized in the world in future instead of America, Japan and Germany since India is progressing. We can't object to this. But it is also a fact that our country is also progressing in respect of the rising poverty, diseases and the landless people. We should also think over it.

Sir, the agriculture in our country is continuously declining by one and a half percent to two percent. The share of agriculture in our country's economy is continuously declining. What are the reasons therefore? Weather is also favourable, farmer's per hectare investment is also growing, but per hectare produce is declining. One of the main reasons for that is the imported fertilizers, pesticides and seeds do not suit in our country's environment. These play a big role in the decline of the per hectare produce of our country. That's why the per hectare produce in our country is continuously declining. Sir, I had raised a query in this very House in Lok Sabha as to what is the justification behind importing fertilizers after closing down the country's own fertilizer units.

I was surprised at the reply given by the hon. Prime Minister from that side when he told that it costs more to produce urea in the country than to import it. So, for us, it is better to import urea instead of running our fertilizer units. This type of thinking is marring the country's agriculture.

Sir, various countries of the world are on the way to protect their interests by forming their own organizations. Some countries have formed their organization in the name of 'ASEAN' while others in the name of 'EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET' and they struggle collectively at the international forums. They are not at all to cut down in any way the rebate on agriculture and export subsidy being given in their countries. So, a tension on this issue prevails in those countries. In Britain, there is a turmoil as it is said that subsidy on agriculture in

their country is less as compared to that in Belgium and Germany. There is a struggle amongst the European Common Market countries arguing that if the subsidy being given in Poland, Belgium and Germany is not cut down, it would have an impact on Britain's agriculture, but when these countries appear on international forums, they give quite a different argument. They stress on cutting down subsidy in other countries while they oppose the same thing in their own countries. I am pleased to see that our country has not signed any agreement having adverse impact on country's interests despite pressure on it from all over the world and also despite the visit of the President of the USA to India.

Sir, I hope the hon. Minister would present and protect the country's interests, also during the meeting going to be held in Hong Kong, keeping in view the opinions already given by us and in tune with his previous efforts for protecting the country's interests in similar meetings held earlier. I hope he would protect our interests with the similar strength. My second suggestion is that there should be a discussion. After this meeting here in the House with regard to the action that might be taken by the Parliament and the Government of the country against the foreign aggression on our country's agriculture. The Government should express their opinion in the Parliament and seek the suggestions of the Members of Parliament thereon. With these few suggestions, I extend my thanks to you.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there is a request from the hon. Minister. He will reply after the speech of Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, because he is otherwise busy. So, if the House agrees, I have no objection.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have all given notices and are awaiting our turn to speak. How can he reply to the debate now? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the House so desires, what I could do is, I will go to Rajya Sabha, make my statement there, finish with clarifications and then come back to reply here.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Yes, that is the best thing.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the parties should participate in the debate and then only he can reply.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: That is exactly what I am saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, he can go to Rajya Sabha and return for giving reply here.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not good. Whenever the House has taken up a discussion on a subject, the Minister should not have a discussion on the same subject in the other House. That is not proper. He cannot be present in both the Houses at the same time.

Mr. Minister, you can entrust the responsibility of making notes of points made by Members to your Minister of State and go to Rajya Sabha, but the reply must be given by you. We have no objection to your going to Rajya Sabha now. The sentiments expressed in the House must be reflected in the Hong Kong Conference also.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How did it happen? When an important discussion is there in this House, if the concerned Minister is not present in the House, it is not a good thing.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, an assurance has been given in the House that the Tamil Nadu issue would be taken up at 4 o'clock. So, it should be taken up at 4 o'clock. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is agreed.

Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, you may speak now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion that is taking place about the WTO in this supreme House before taking part in the meeting, to be held at Hong-Kong, is not only a matter of national importance but is also regarding presenting overall interests as well as the interests of other developing nations at the international platform.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far whatever discussions have been held, be it at Doha or at Cancun, agriculture has been the main point of discussion. Agriculture has been a subject for discussion in most of the talks. I believe that it would be better that instead of this agreement no



[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

agreement should take place at all. I would like to suggest this because I do not want any compromise to be made with the interest of the country. The main issues of WTO, particularly with regard to the Agriculture related negotiation has three main issues—Domestic support, minimum support price, Market access and Export competition. Whatever may be the number of farmers in the whole world but the maximum number of farmers are from our India. There are more than 65 crore farmers in India who are poor people and their livelihood depends upon cultivation. The Indian Economy also depends upon these farmers. The Indian farmer barely gets a subsidy of Rs. 100-125 per family whereas the USA provides nearly Rs. 21 thousand subsidy in Indian currency per farmer's family. This kind of subsidy is given under the name of inputs, implements and food etc. but the US does not want to cut down its subsidy. In such a situation, developed nations like America want to create their market in developing nations, they want to make developing nations like India as international markets and this is the basis question. Therefore, I would like to emphasise on this issue that if foodgrains from the countries like America would be available in India, it would be at a lower rate. Compared to the prices of India it would be available at lower rate since there is a huge subsidy. If subsidized foodgrains from America and European Union keep coming to India, it would be cheaper in comparison to the Indian agricultural produce. No doubt this will cast a bad affect upon the livelihood of Indian farmers. Therefore, we should not open our doors to foreign agricultural products and food products. India should levy countervailing Duty upon important foodgrains. I would like to demand and stress upon this fact due to the declaration made in Doha last time after which at Cancun it was stated that:

[English]

"The key concern of India in agriculture has been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration."

[Translation]

I would like to mention, what was safeguarded and which is very interesting.

[English]

"We commit ourselves to comprehensive negotiations and add substantial improvements in market... reduction with a view to phase out all form of export subsidy and substantial reduction in trade distorting domestic support."

[Translation]

The minimum support price that India gives to its farmers has been called trade distorting domestic support. This kind of definition was given in Doha. A lot of pressure was put in Cancun but it all proved to be inconsequential. I would like to deeply thank Shri Morasoli Maran ji who presented Indian viewpoint very firmly at Cancun. But it did not bear any fruits. We are not getting any positive results. From 1991, this process got underway, and we are not able to come out of it unscathed.

It is a very difficult question as to how to safeguard and protect the comprehensive interests of our country in the WTO. I would like to submit that the entire country, the Parliament, crores of people and the developing nations will all have to stand for this. There is a need for all to come together at the International stage. Therefore, I would like to say that many new doors have been opened, like quantitative restrictions have been lifted and they have made all the arrangements for exploiting our nation. Therefore, I would like to submit that the use of the world Trade distorting. Domestic support would mean for the minimum support price. In India thousands of farmers commit suicide because they do not get the minimum support price. the Government is not able to give remunerative prices to the farmers who produce cash crops like cotton and sugarcane. The condition of the country is such that the farmers are forced to commit suicide. This is very shameful and even after 57 years of independence the Indian farmers are forced to commit suicide due to non availability of profitable prices for their agricultural produce. This is not hidden from anyone, be it any Government. It is a cause for concern that such incidents are taking place. As I have stated in the beginning of my speech that it would be better it no unworthy agreement is reached at. Instead of reaching at a wrong agreement, it is important to protect the comprehensive interests of the country. I would like to state that levying of counter veiling duty upon the foodgrains imported from outside should be strongly advocated at the world forum.

How we are going to enter into the competition. The subsidized grains produced by the foreign countries, by the USA will be imported in our country and reaching our market they would turn our country into a dumping ground for foreign foodgrains. This is a very important issue. We will not allow our country to become a dumping ground for foreign agricultural produce. Such a resolve needs to be taken. Because if this takes place then it

will create a threat for the livelihood of crores of farmers. I have mentioned this point because the India Economy depends upon the farmer and agriculture.

As far as the question of competition is concerned under which market access is involved. What is this market access? It means that free access to the market for foreign grains should be given. We can not give subsidy to our agricultural products more than a certain limit. The WTO has been saying that we should make our subsidy competitive. The developing nations should reduce their subsidy. We should bring down this subsidy in competition with the developed nations and give full freedom to them. would like to give a small example of what will be the result of this. At present, the support price of wheat in India is Rs. 620 per quintal. At present, the support price of wheat in India is Rs. 620 per quintal. WTO has been asking to reduce this upto 60 to 70 percent. If 60 percent is reduced from Rs. 620, how much will be left? The per quintal price of wheat will come to mere Rs. 250 to Rs. 275. The WTO has been saying that only Rs. 250 MSP should be given. This would mean that the farmers should be pushed further to commit suicide. Be it Andhra Pradesh or any other part of the country where cash crop is cultivated, farmers would be pushed further to commit suicide. This is a dangerous proposal. It was stated in the fifth Ministerial level meeting that this would be rectified in future. But now the sixth Conference is going to take place in Hong Kong. How is this going to be rectified because this suggestion is still there. There is a need to take a stand for protecting the overall interests of the country. It is requested to stand in favour of our country with a firm resolve.

In the trade agreement that took place in Singapore the issue of Government purchase under service trade agreement was vehemently opposed by India. It was due to this opposition that the above mentioned issue was removed from the Singapore Conference. But now, what is happening in the Hong Kong Conference. There is a need to keep a vigil on the draft of Hong Kong Conference, on which we have such long discussions and the house is not allowed to run for 3-4 days together. Efforts are being made to include the issue of Government purchase once again into the Hong Kong Conference draft. Therefore I would like to make the Government cautious in this regard also that efforts are being made to include the same into the draft of the agreement which had already been removed from the agenda in Singapore.

India should stand firm and wage a strong protest against those who want to implement the service sector trade agreement from backdoor.

Commerce Minister Shri Kamalnath ji is giving to Hong kong as Government's delegate in the meet to be held there. I want to emphasize that at no cost the food-security of the country should be compromised with or the basic interests of the farmers of India or question of reduction in MSP should be messed up with. The Government should give top priority to the food security of the nation.

I wish him all success for the conference.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri C. Kuppusami. You please take only two minutes.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, I rise to take part, on behalf of my Party, the DMK, in the Discuseion on the forthcoming 6th Ministerial Conference of WTO to be held at Hong Kong.

Sir, the House may recall the contributions made by our beloved leader, our former Commerce Minister, late Thiru Murasoli Maran for whom not only our State of Tamil Nadu but the entire country is proud of, in the WTO deliberations, at Doha Round, wherein he not only convinced the developing world for safeguarding the Agriculture interests and labour interests of the Third world countries but the developed countries also and turned around the WTO discussion in favour of countries like India and other developing ones. Our former Commerce and Industry Minister, Thiru Murasoli Maran who had represented India at the Doha round, despite his ill health, as he went to attend the Conference after his heart surgery, protected and safeguarded the agriculture interests and labour interests of our country.

I would urge upon the present hon. Minister, Thiru Kamal Nath also to leave no stone unturned to protect India's interests in the negotiations.

India is predominantly an agriculture country and our economy is based on agriculture. The interests of the agriculturists should be safeguarded. The public distribution system should be strengthened instead of dismantling it. Similarly, the policy of giving subsidy and providing minimum support price for most of the commodities should

[Shri C. Kuppusamy]

be continued. Land reforms and land for the tillers should be continued and should not be given a go by. On the labour front, the interests of labour should be protected as unemployment is increasing day-by-day. Collective bargaining power should be retained and minimum guarantee should be provided to labours who are in formal and informal sectors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, there is a request from the hon. Minister. He wants to reply to the Calling Attention moved by Dr. Chinta Mohan now. If the House agrees, then I will allow him to reply to the Calling Attention and then this Discussion under Rule 193 can continue. What is the sense of the House? If the House agrees, then I will allow the Minister to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): No, Sir.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, we have to participate in the Discussion under Rule 193 and to give our views. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a matter concerning the flood situation in Tamil Nadu.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, the entire Madras is marooned. People are going by boat from one street to another. It is a very serious situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody can speak now. The Minister will reply to the Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Speeches are over. If the House agrees, I will allow him to reply to the Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, the Cabinet Minister should respond to our Calling Attention. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you have spoken in the Calling Attention discussion. There should be no further discussion. He will give a reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: We want the Cabinet Minister to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Almost all the hon. Members from Tamil Nadu have taken part in the Calling Attention discussion. You have amply raised the situation that is prevailing in Tamil Nadu. If you agree, the hon. Minister will reply.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: He has already replied. We are not satisfied. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he has already replied, then what more do you want?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: A Cabinet Minister should respond to our Calling Attention.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: We want responsible answers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want a Cabinet Minister to reply?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. As I understand, this morning you wanted a reply from a Cabinet Minister. The Minister for State has already replied. I presume the Members are not satisfied with that reply. They want a reply from the Cabinet Minister. That is arranged. If you agree, you will have a further reply.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: All right.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: We also want to seek some clarifications.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not now.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): Sir, the 6th International Ministerial Meet of WTO at Hong Kong is going to be held from 13th to 20th of December. As you may be knowing, the 4th and 5th Meets of the WTO at that time were represented by Ministers like Mr. Maran about whom the DMK Party Member had already said what he had done for the country. Similarly in Cancun, Mr. Arun Jaitley was there.

Sir, WTO had failed to arrive at a consensus on certain diversification of issues which were talked earlier in the first three Meets. So, they had emphasised that our country should be saved from the invasion of the European Union as well as from the United States making India as a dumping ground. In fact, the G-20 countries had assembled and got together with the idea that the poor countries should be saved from the rich countries on account of WTO which is going to definitely invade the poor countries.

At present, there are issues on that ground, particularly in three sectors, namely agriculture, industrial goods and services. I am not afraid of the two sectors, particularly the service sector and trade. But agriculture is an important sector in this country. As you know, more than 70 per cent of our people in the country are from the farmers' community. This country's total economy is dependent upon the farmers' livelihood as well as their situation. Therefore, I feel that the representative who is going to represent in Hong Kong from our country should bear in mind that this country has 65 per cent of the farmers and the other countries, particularly the USA and EU, have only four or five per cent of the farmers.

Therefore, the whole issue lies around farmers. The main thing that he has to consider is as to what we have to export and as to what we have to import. As we know, we cannot import goods that are in ample number or are in plenty in our own country such as wheat, rice or food materials. But we have definitely to import to meet the necessity of the country, namely, oilseeds, oil and to some extent good quality of cotton and other things. We should not have to import things like dairy products and some other products. Therefore, we have to keep in mind that when we import indigenous products and produces from the farmers community are safeguarded and we have also to keep in mind as to what we have to export so to encourage the farmers of the country.

Sir, these are the three areas. Particularly farmers' interests have to be safeguarded. One is that

*[Translation]*

Safeguard measures for poor and developed countries, special and differential.

*[English]*

that is special and differential treatment, *vishesh utpad*, that is, special product, and *vishesh surakshatmak tantra*, that is, special safeguard mechanism.

*[Translation]*

Should be taken at priority, only then the decision taken in the last two meetings should be further discussed upon.

*[English]*

This is very important aspect. EU and USA always inter-mix the subsidy among three categories of areas, namely, Zones—Amber, Blue and Green. They should not be inter-mixing from one zone to another so that they can take the advantage of one zone and another zone because they can shift it to one-another region. Therefore, we should be particular and we should have a definite stand on that ground so that we are not going to lose our grounds of the agriculturists.

Sir, there are three types of main issues. Particularly India can push the EU and the USA for eliminating their domestic and export subsidies. Secondly, what we are going to negotiate is to protect the special products on which livelihood of millions of Indian farmers is depending upon. And the third one as I have already stated is to safeguard the existing special mechanism. These are the three things that I have to say.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, in the international agreements, national interest is supreme. No nation is interested to sacrifice its own national interest no matter what type of agreement it enters into with various nationals of the world. If USA and EU and most of the developed countries were to coin some clauses or some agreements, would they be interested in other countries? No. It is only to see that they find their own market. They want to find market for their products. They want to build up all these things.

When it comes to the question of industrial goods, all their love for India and China and the underdeveloped countries is only to find a market for their products. In America, it is said, only two per cent of the people are living on agriculture; while in India, not less than 60 per cent of the people have to survive on agriculture. It is a very serious matter for us. We cannot sacrifice the interests of the farmers in this country by entering into an agreement in a haphazard way or in a hasty manner getting lured by their concessions that they would give some advantage to us in services and industrial products.

16.06 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

It is said that in USA subsidy is being given to agriculturists in a big way. When they give subsidy to their own agriculturists, naturally they could export their commodities at prices lesser than the price at which we are producing them here. Already my predecessors have stated that since the Minimum Support Price was not remunerative to the Indian farmers we have been reading in the newspapers that they have been committing suicides. In addition to this, if we were to open up our economy to foreign farm products, the number would be enormous. It would run into thousands or even lakhs. So, we have to protect our farming community first and then think of any other thing.

Why do they restrict Indians from entering America? Today, America is putting a limit on the visas that they give to foreigners. They say, they would allow only 60,000, 70,000 or 100,000 people in a year. If they want free trade, let there be free movement of people also. Our country has got an enormous number of technical manpower. That is our asset. This is our resource. That is the source through which we could earn foreign exchange. That is the source through which our people could live comfortably. They are putting restrictions on a commodity which is available in plenty in our country but they want us to accept everything that comes from there.

We were exporting prawn from this country to America. When they found that it was not in their interests, they coined a new expression, 'anti-dumping duty', and suddenly levied it at 15 per cent on our prawns, which is against all international agreements. So, it became unremunerative for our farming community to raise prawn.

More recently, I read in a newspaper that one of our non-resident Indians, Ms. Neelima, working in a software company in America was being victimised regularly and harassed by her own white colleagues on the ground that they were jealous of outsourced jobs going to India in a big way and also Indians getting jobs in America while the locals were not getting jobs. They were harassing her regularly. While the management agreed that they were harassing her, it could not secure her interests. They have only secured the interests of the local citizens. So, it is common knowledge that national interest is supreme. In our country also, we should feel that the interests of our farming community is supreme.

Tomorrow, if we permit, by reducing tariffs and removing restrictions, free movement of foreign farm products into this country, our agricultural community would become unemployed. When they become unemployed, where would they find alternative employment? They are all trained for generations to raise farm crops. They cannot be taken to the industrial sector or the services sector overnight.

Then, imagine what will be the situation in this country. It is terrible. So, the hon. Minister must be extremely cautious when he deals with these negotiations, keeping the particular and specific thing available in this country.

Madam, it was said that a thousand years back India was doing one-third of the world trade. Today, it is reduced to about six per cent or even much less than that. It may be because other countries have become more materialistic and we are more spiritualistic and they have taken the advantage. It is not because we lack in intelligence or talent or ability.

Madam, in regard to the farm products, patenting is a surprise sometimes. When we go and read some of our mythology, *neem* tree has played a very vital role. It has become useful in medicines and so many things. Now, you will be shocked to hear that some of the western countries are trying to patent on *neem* which is actually our source of strength for thousands of years. So, likewise, when it comes to the question of farm products, we have to be extremely cautious, safeguarding and asking for special conditions favouring our country, particularly developing countries in regard to agriculture.

When we reach stage in our country, if people were to depend on agriculture only at two per cent or four per cent growth, then there will be a level playing field, there can be competition and there can be mutual agreement. But conditions are differing from country to country. We cannot accept this. So, I would request the hon. Minister to see this aspect. I am sure that he also made a statement that he would not sacrifice the interests of the farmers and make them unemployed. As has been mentioned by many of the hon. Members that they want to close the discussion early, I do not want to take long time. Once again, I would request the hon. Minister to be extremely cautious, more particularly about the import of farm products into this country, which will destroy the entire economy of this country because 600 million farmers are dependent on farm products.

16.12 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of damage caused by floods due to heavy rains in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto**

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, we can take up the reply of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. He will reply to the Call Attention raised by Dr. Chinta Mohan. Then again we can continue this discussion.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a reply covering almost all the points was furnished. There were a few points though on which hon. Member Shri Ananth Kumar wanted a clarification. He was demanding for revision of CRF and NCCR-aid. I want to inform the House through you that an expert group in the Ministry of Home Affairs has been constituted in this connection comprising the representatives from the State Governments and concerned central Ministries. We are considering to revise the rates as per their recommendations. The hon. Members from Tamil Nadu were demanding that some monitoring committee at the centre should be established to monitor the funds or relief. Through, there is no such provision yet we appreciate their thoughts and shall convey them to the concerned State Governments if they could constitute such monitoring Committee comprising MPs, MLAs and Chairpersons of local bodies in order to monitor the release and use of funds and relief-material. This will be in their own interest in fact. The State Governments usually get the monitoring work done through their officers or ministers. I think if they do it through an additional committee of MPs and MLAs it will be done more effectively. The recommendations in this regard will be duly sent to the concerned states. Now, I understand that all issues are cleared and all clarifications have been given.

*[English]*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Madam, in my Calling Attention I raised the point about the fourth spell of rain. It was not responded to by the hon. Minister.

Because of this fourth spell of rain, there were damages which spoiled the entire Kancipuram, Tiruvallur and Chennai districts and also other districts of Tamil Nadu. I want to know how much fund the Central Government has allocated and how much it is going to allocate to the State. This should be enlightened.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was saying day before yesterday in a Press statement that the Central Government have not pumped any funds from the Central Government. There is a misuse of funds in the State. We have a bad experience earlier in the case of tsunami. Already they constituted the Monitoring Committee including with MPs and MLAs. There was no effect through this Committee. Not even one meeting was convened. So, we asked the hon. Minister whether the Monitoring and Vigilance Committee which is already there under the Ministry of Rural Development will monitor the relief fund for the flood affected areas. I want to know this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Again, if everybody starts asking questions, it would be difficult.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Madam, just a minute please.

Madam Chairperson, we are happy that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is here and we are also thankful to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs for having undertaken a tour of the affected areas in Tamil Nadu. The moment the message came here, our hon. Prime Minister has sanctioned Rs. 500 crore immediately; rather he spoke to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on his own, and not on a request made by the Chief Minister. This Chief Minister used to rush to the hon. Prime Minister and the Central Government for seeking relief. But on the contrary, the hon. Prime Minister himself spoke to Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

As my hon. friend said, day before yesterday, the Chief Minister was accusing the Central Government of not helping the State.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If you want to ask anything, then please ask.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Madam, I am coming to that. We, the Members of Parliament from Tamil feel that the funds which are sent to the State should be monitored properly and spent properly and they should reach the

[Shri K.V. Thangkabalu]

needy people for which we demanded that Monitoring Committee is essential by the Members of Parliament and the elected people. There is a system that is already existing. Just now the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs informed the House that there is no system by which we can form a Committee. But, Madam, the Central Government has already formed a Monitoring Committee and all the centrally sponsored programmes are monitored by the MPs, MLAs and elected representatives of the districts. This Committee is already there. The MP is the Chairman.

The Central Government is going to send a huge amount of money for the development of Tamil Nadu and to meet the situation. Now, we request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to inform the State Government that this money is to be utilised through the Committee and the MPs and MLAs should be given the opportunity to oversee the implementation also.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. We are again discussing the same issue. All of you have already spoken on this. Please cooperate.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Madam, we need the help and patronage from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs because he has seen the tragic situation in Tamil Nadu. Another thing that we request is now the first instalment of Rs. 500 crore has been given. On the hon. Prime Minister's advice and the recommendation of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, a Central Team has toured, surveyed, and submitted a report. Now we are waiting for the Government to come forward to give the maximum relief.

The State Government has asked Rs. 13,000 crore. The hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs has said on the floor of the House that whatever funds are required and asked the State Government they will be given. I want to categorically know what is the total amount we are going to give to the State and we want our Central Government to give to Tamil Nadu liberally, a substantial amount so that we can rebuild the State. At least a minimum of Rs. 5,000 crore is to be given in the first instance and then after verifying the facts and seeing the reports, then they can give more funds. This is what our requirement is.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At the outset, I would like to thank, and convey my appreciation to our hon. Home Minister

who had made an aerial survey in Tamil Nadu as soon as he heard about the flood victims.

Madam, I want to mention only two points. Firstly, the beneficiary list of the flood victims should be displayed in every *Taluk* Office Headquarters as also in the concerned Village Administrative Offices.

Secondly, the Public Works Department should contain a display board showing the expenditure incurred, and mentioning about the relief work in vernacular language. These are the two points that I wish to make at this point. Thank you.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think that the hon. Minister has attempted to respond to my queries. Now, my only question is regarding the revision of guidelines for the release of CRF. I would like to mention that the CRF guidelines are there only for the drought conditions. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister had announced a Tsunami package and assurances were also given by the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister that they would look into the issue of revision of CRF guidelines.

A Group of Ministers (GoM) has also been constituted by the hon. Prime Minister on this issue in August, and three months' have since elapsed. I want to know this from the hon. Minister. How many of its meetings have been held? Was this matter deliberated upon or not? What revisions did the Union Government formulate on this issue—if the matter was deliberated—in order to give relief to the farmers?

Secondly, the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on 12.08.2005 regarding heavy discharge of water from the reservoirs in Maharashtra, especially, from the Koyna Dam. This had happened because there were earthquakes on August 1st and 3rd to the tune of 2 to 3 on the Richter Scale. This was according to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

The hon. Home Minister while replying to the previous Calling Attention moved by me had replied that: "Earth will always be trembling, and there should be no scare in the minds of the people about this issue." I entirely appreciate his point, but, at the same time, it is a dangling sword on the people of Karnataka, especially, the people living in the downstream five districts of Karnataka, namely, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Belgaum, Raichur and Gulbarga.

What are the measures being taken by the Union Government, through the Central Water Commission (CWC), so that it can intervene and give instructions to the Maharashtra Government to coordinate about the release of water from the dams, especially, from Koyna Dam and others. I am saying this because it has created an artificial flood like Tsunami in Karnataka.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Madam, my colleague has replied to many of the questions that were raised by the hon. Members. The Minister makes a statement at the time of moving a Calling Attention Motion. Thereafter, some clarificatory questions are asked, and the replies given. I am sure that he has been able to reply to most of the points, which have been raised here. I am asked, for the second time to reply, and I am trying to do my best.

In Tamil Nadu, heavy rains have caused a lot of damage. This is the fourth spell of rains, which has occurred there. We are very sorry that the people in Tamil Nadu are suffering because of these rains. We have given Rs. 500 crore as an *ad hoc* grant, and Rs. 86 crore from CRF. But one thing that has to be very clearly understood by the hon. Members is that this is not an amount of money given to the State Government for rehabilitation and reconstruction purposes. This is the amount of money given to the Government for providing relief. Relief means the first step. When it rains, some people suffer. They do not have food; they do not have clothes; they do not have utensils; they need immediate shelter. It is for this purpose that this amount of money has been given to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has asked for Rs. 13,000 crore. That is meant for reconstruction. Reconstruction has to be distinguished from relief. This amount of money is meant for relief. Let the hon. Members understand this. I repeat, this amount of money is meant for giving relief, not for reconstruction. If Rs. 13,000 crore are given by the Union Government, that work will continue for not one year but for two years or even three years. It will take a long time.

What we do from here is, when such calamities occur we give *ad hoc* grants. Rs. 500 crore were given to Gujarat; Rs. 500 crore have been given to Tamil Nadu; Rs. 500 crore have been given to Jammu and Kashmir. These are meant for relief. Let us understand this. These are not meant for rehabilitation. These are meant for relief. Unless we understand the distinction between relief and rehabilitation, we are likely to commit a mistake.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: We understood that. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether that Rs. 500 crore reached the State Government or not. ...(*Interruptions*) Day before yesterday, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu told a reporter that this Rs. 500 crore have not reached Tamil Nadu.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. This is not the way to interrupt.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I do not know where are they getting this information from. The Finance Minister comes from Tamil Nadu. On the very next day, I was told, the money was released. I will find out from the Finance Minister. This kind of discussion does not help us.

What we are saying is, Rs. 13,000 crore is a very big amount of money. If it has to be given, it will be given. But it cannot be given on the basis of a letter or on the basis of a memorandum. There has to be a plan prepared for that. If roads are damaged, if dams are damaged, if a number of houses have to be constructed, if agricultural land has to be brought back to a condition in which it becomes fertile, plans have to be made. We have asked the State Government, "Please do not worry. Prepare plans and send those plans. We will examine them and we will give you the money which can be given and which is needed".

Let us understand this. Let us not confuse relief with rehabilitation. Once you confuse relief with rehabilitation, then your heart is filled with fear as to how you would manage this crisis with Rs. 500 crore. We are not asking the State Government to manage this kind of a calamity with Rs. 500 crore. If you need more money, you should come with a regular plan which will be examined and we would like to see.

Only today, myself, the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister were sitting together. We have decided to write to the State Government to get the plans without any delay, examine them, and without any delay give them more money. Let us understand this thing. This is the position.

On Karnataka, the Chief Minister of the State, Shri Ananth Kumarji and others met me. They explained to me the difficulties faced by the people. We realise it. Without waiting for any demand coming from there, the Prime Minister went there. The Agriculture Minister also went there. They released nearly Rs. 350 crore. Some more money—Rs. 80 crore or Rs. 90 crore—is also given. That is also for relief and not for rehabilitation. That day in a long discussion we had with hon. Ananth Kumarji



[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

and the Chief Minister of the State, I have explained to them that the Government of India is going to be quite sympathetic.

But you do not expect Rs. 3,000 crores or Rs. 4,000 crores to be given to the States on the basis of a memorandum. It has to come in the shape of a plan or demand. We would examine it and we would give it. This applies to Karnataka also.

Thirdly, a lot of States have suffered. Karnataka has suffered. Tamil Nadu has suffered. To some extent, Kerala has suffered. There was flood in Gujarat. There was flood in Maharashtra. There was flood in Andhra Pradesh. There was flood in other parts also. The total amount of demand is Rs. 35,000 crores. Now, if Rs. 35,000 crores has to be made available to the State Governments, it should be done on a regular and planned manner. We are asking them to do it.

Fourthly, I come to the CRF. The difficulty with the hon. Members and in my Ministry also is that they think that every assistance which has to be given to the State Government has to come through CRF. It cannot come from CRF because the amount of money which is made available to give to the State Government through this scheme is very limited. Please see as to what kind of money was given in the past. Only Rs. 10 crores, or Rs. 15 crores or Rs. 20 crores or Rs. 30 crores were given through CRF, not more than that. But here, this year, we have given Rs. 500 crores to each of these States. This money is not coming from CRF. We could not have given this money through CRF. This is an *ad-hoc* grant made by the Government, and for this, we have to go to the Cabinet, and the Cabinet clears it and then the money is given. We have not even waited for the Cabinet clearance also. If the Prime Minister says or if the Finance Minister says, or if others say, *ex-post-facto* sanction has to be given and we have released this money. So, please do not be under the impression that CRF is helpful in matters like this. The money which can be given under CRF is very limited. It will not help you even to cover one district also. So, this kind of money cannot cover. If you want to change the norms of this also—we have changed the norms of CRF and other schemes also—again, we have asked a group of officers to look into it as to how it can be changed. But even with the changes in the norms under these schemes, the funds which will be given will not satisfy the demands of the State Governments. They would say as to how can

they manage with this. That is why, we have to make extra amount available to them by taking it to the Cabinet. We have looked into the norms which are followed, which are very stringent norms, very small norms, which can help you for a week or a month, and such other things. It cannot help you to reconstruct the houses, to reconstruct the bridges, and to reconstruct the installations which have been broken down. So, money is not going to come from CRF. Money has to be given to the State Government by passing a resolution in the Cabinet and that amount of money is going to be a big money and that is not bound or restricted by the norms of CRF. We have different criteria applied for this. But if the Members want that it should be looked into, we would look into it. We have once looked into it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Especially for the crop loans in the dry land and wet land areas in Karnataka.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If we give money out of CRF, you will not be able to satisfy the farmers at all. Whatever norms we change, it will not satisfy. That is why, we are looking towards this problem—this is a big calamity—from a different angle. We are saying that we are not bound by the norms of CRF. We are adopting different criteria to help and those different criteria are quite liberal and that has to be examined by the Planning Ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Agriculture Ministry and the Finance Ministry and then we are going to do it. We will not be giving much more than what can be given under the norms.

As far as the meeting of the MPs, etc. are concerned, the hon. MPs have been very careful in raising this issue. They have personally talked to me. They have raised this issue in this House. They have raised the issue in the other House also. Because of the persuasion of the hon. Members, the Government of India is also very liberally helping the State Governments. In the first instance, at no time, Rs. 500 crore were given in the past as an *ad hoc* grant. That is why, we would like to request the State Governments, the Chief Ministers that they should take the hon. MPs and hon. MLAs from those districts which are affected, into confidence. It would be better for them to have a meeting organised and consult the MPs and MLAs as to how the assistance can be given to the people. I have said it on the floor of the House that if it is necessary we will convey this message to the Chief Ministers also. But ultimately, it is for the Chief Ministers to take action. In the federal structure, it would not be very proper for me to issue directives to the Chief Ministers that they should do this thing and that thing. I am sure that having heard what we are

saying on the floor of the House, they will take into consideration the views of the elected representatives of the Legislatures as well as the Parliament. Let us see what happens. If it is necessary, I shall write to the Chief Minister saying that this is what has been said. Please consult them and please take them into confidence so that they can give some ideas as well as monitor the scheme. This can be properly done because they live in the area, MLAs live in the districts. MPs live in the constituencies. More than anyone else, if it is necessary they would be in a position to supervise what is being done.

As for Tsunami, we have given a lot of money. The Prime Minister has directed as to how the funds would be spent. It should be looked into by the Planning Minister, the Finance Minister and the Home Minister. We would also be keeping a watch on what is being done for that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: No work has been done in Tamil Nadu. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You should not interrupt like that. That is not the way.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Nothing has been done under the Rural Development. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not the way. It will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This hon. Member is mixing up the two issues. Rural development is different from this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can complete your answer.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. This is not the way.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The hon. Member has not understood the issue properly. He is confusing the thing. I will explain to him outside the House.

As far as Koyna matter is concerned, please do not spread the scare. Last time also the hon. Member had raised this issue. As far as my information goes, Koyna Dam was built and strengthened and it is in good condition. If you want, I will ask the Chief Minister or you can talk to the Chief Minister and I will ask him to give you the information about this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Noddy is spreading the scare. He is a very senior leader and the hon. Minister. Actually, when Shri Jaiswal was speaking, I read out the letter of the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka written to the hon. Prime Minister regarding Koyna matter. He has very clearly written:

"The heavy discharge of water from the reservoirs in Maharashtra has resulted in unprecedented floods in five northern districts of Karnataka viz. Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gulbarga and Raichur."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am talking about the earthquake. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is further written:

"Koyna Dam for the last two decades has been experiencing recurring earthquakes whose epicentres are either under the dam or very close to it. Two such earthquakes occurred on 1st and 3rd August, 2005."

This is the letter of the Chief Minister written to the Prime Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He must have talked to him over phone. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is mentioned:

"On these dates, Koyna dam was completely full and had 97 tmc of water in store. Due to these earthquakes, the dam was reported to have developed some cracks. Further, threatened by the earthquakes and cracks in the dam, Maharashtra resorted to heavy discharges from Koyna Dam resulting in unprecedented floods which inundated Sangali and Kolhapur town, apart from a good number of villages of downstream of Maharashtra and Karnataka."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not the way.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): You should permit all Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You give him the letter afterwards.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He has said:

"We are in an unfortunate situation of suffering unprecedented floods in Karnataka on account of the failure of Government of Maharashtra to regulate the discharge of water from their reservoirs."

This is what the Chief Minister has written. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not going to reply to all the questions which are not pertinent. I would like to say that people are scared. He has said that the Koyna dam is likely to burst because of the earthquake.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is not saying so.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He did say last time, Madam. I had a tiff with him.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I never said that it is going to burst. I am only saying, whether the Central Government would intervene and direct the Maharashtra Government through Central Water Commission to protect the Koyna dam.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Just now, this is not the concerned issue.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: This is the direct cause of the floods in the northern parts of Karnataka.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Moreover, I would like to say that the country of ours is a very big country. Let us not conduct ourselves in such a manner that there would be divisions. I get the letter saying that the Karnataka should not release water, it will flood Tamil Nadu. And now, somebody says that Maharashtra should not release water, it will flood Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Now, without checking the facts, if he makes a statement like this, it creates dissension. It should be better avoided.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You are right. Thank you very much.

16.41 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### **Role of India in WTO with particular reference to the forthcoming Sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO in Hong Kong—*contd.***

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, we would continue with the Discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam Chairperson, we are discussing on the role of India in the WTO with particular reference to the forthcoming Sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO in Hong Kong. Very often, we hear statements, like, 'WTO is a necessary evil. India should remain at the WTO'. These types of statements are very uncalled for. If India is not a part of this rules-based system, the country would have to deal with issues unilaterally and in situation which can best be described as 'survival of the fittest'.

Indeed, with one per cent share in the global trade, India can challenge today the mightiest at the WTO if its interests are violated. This has happened as India won several disputes at the WTO rich nations like the European Union and the United States. For that matter, this can happen with any WTO Member. This explains why China was desperate in joining this body, and big countries like Russia are expected to join soon.

We have travelled a long way from the Dunkel Agreement and Uruguay Round. Now, the Minister of Commerce is more geared up to face the international players single-handedly. We can go in for the service sector but we have to open up.

At the same time, I would also like to mention here that there are no permanent friends and foes in politics, it has been often said. Politics have strange bedfellows. This should be the case when India takes its position at the WTO. The world has changed since the old-fashioned third worldism of 1950s to 1980s. India has learnt this lesson at the WTO forum. We have built up coalitions.

But such coalitions have to be issue-specific, as we have today G-20 coalition on agriculture. We should enter into such coalitions after a thorough analysis of India's offensive as well as defensive positions on specific issues. The bottom line is to take position in a manner so that the Doha Round of WTO negotiations is a development round, not just a market access round.

Since the early Nineties, as I have said earlier, there has been a paradigm shift in the approach to economic management in India. There is now a greater recognition of the significance of market-friendly processes in the economy. However, this does not mean that the Government ceases to be responsible. In the forthcoming World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference at Hong Kong, China is expected to provide an important space in bringing the comprehensive Doha Round of Negotiations, commonly known as Doha Development Agenda (DDA) to successful completion.

The DDA was launched in 2001 at the Doha Ministerial Conference of the WTO. The Doha Round, with the stated goals of improving the livelihood—this is more specific—of billions of people living in the developing world, is at a critical point and that is why, it is of immense importance for both the rich and the poor countries.

In 2003, the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the WTO ended abruptly due to the conflicting interests of the poor and the rich. While the developing countries wanted to finish pending issues mostly on agriculture that affect them the most, the rich wanted to talk of new issues that would benefit them the most.

After Cancun, initiatives were taken by the WTO members to re-start the talk in Geneva. Finally an agreement was reached to have a 'Packaged Framework' called 'July Package' by the end of July 2004. It provides broad guidelines to move forward on key negotiating areas. India played a major role in arriving at this Framework. The Framework of modalities decided by the WTO members in July 2004 is guiding the current negotiations.

It is expected that negotiations before, during and after the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference are going to determine the future of global trading system under the WTO and more significantly, will have a serious implication on the long-term development agenda, particularly that of the poor countries.

Now, I come to the present scenario.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now you have to conclude. Only five minutes can be given to each hon. Member because there are more than ten hon. Members who want to speak on this. So, please be brief.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: But those ten hon. Members are not from my Party!

MADAM CHAIRMAN: But we have to take care of all the hon. Members, and not merely those belonging to your Party. Please conclude now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I will try to concise my speech.

There are three aspects which need deliberation. The first which is discussed was agriculture. I will come to the other two aspects later. The first aspect here is increased trade. Firstly, I want to make it very clear that Indian farmers do not indulge in commercial activity. Trade is something different; farming is something different. But the general perception throughout the rich world is—because of the Western perception—agriculture is trade. That is the basic difficulty which at one point of time we face.

Increased trade, that is, more market access through tariff reductions, reduction of domestic and export subsidies are the three pillars of agricultural negotiations. The Doha agenda calls for three things: one is reduction with a view to phasing out all types of export subsidies; the second is, substantial reduction of trade-distorting domestic subsidies; and the third is, substantial improvement in market access.

While the first two are not applicable to India, the third one is and here lies the importance of 'special products'. We should continue to insist on maintaining substantial tariffs on those products, which the concerned with the livelihood of millions of farmers, thus, 'special'.

One of the earlier speakers mentioned about soya bean. I will mention about oil seeds; so also apples of Himachal Pradesh, and cardamom of Kerala. State specific products are there. Oil seeds could be a product on which India could ask for special status. The rich countries are still providing huge subsidies and high protective measures to their corporate agriculture. No concrete agreement has been reached on any of these issues.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

There is a deadlock in agricultural negotiations. We have very rightly taken a stance that we will not accept any formula for tariff cut unless the European Union and the United States reduce domestic and export subsidy and also provide concession to the Indian exporters. We should continue to insist on no tariff reduction or minimum tariff reduction. Special safeguard mechanism for special products identified on the basis of land holding pattern to ensure food security and rural development should also be looked into.

I come to the second aspect, which is production of industrial goods. The WTO's language, negotiations on industrial goods are known as Non-Agricultural Market Access or NAMA. The Doha Agenda aims to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers. At present, negotiations are progressing slowly as no substantial progress has been made on the issue of the formula for tariff reduction. Along with Argentina and Brazil, India has proposed for a tariff reduction formula which will help developing countries' industries to compete globally. We can only look at it after the formula for tariff reduction is agreed and that too on voluntary basis. We cannot accept zero for zero tariff cut proposal. To explain it, if the European Union cuts tariff to zero for a particular product, India may not reduce its tariff to zero for that product. We cannot accept the ideas of rich countries.

I come to the last aspect, that is services. As we all are aware, service negotiations are based on bilateral "request and offer". However, as of date, this approach has not yielded a balanced and substantive output. Rich countries like the European Union and the United States have not offered much in terms of providing greater access to other WTO Members, particularly the developing countries. We are in an advantageous position no doubt but our services are not being taken care of by the rich countries. More importantly, their offers are much less on sectors which are of importance to India. Rich countries want the developing countries to open more sectors such as telecommunication, retail, etc. for Foreign Direct Investment and here comes the problem. More access through FDI route would reduce policy making space of poor countries.

Service negotiation has become more complex as it has reached a stage where countries are preparing for inter-sectoral bargaining. We can play a very greater role, a proactive role, in the service talks. Our major interest lies in cross border trade, that means business, knowledge process outsourcing and temporary movement of professionals, both skilled and unskilled.

With these words I conclude by saying that India should liberalise sectors to get more services in other developing countries. We can have friends in that level which the Government is driving at but in the other two sectors we have to be very cautious. Especially, in the agricultural sector we have to be more cautious because more than 70 per cent of our farmers depend on agriculture.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I request all the Members to be brief.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Madam, how much time is available to me?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have got five minutes only.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the motion presented by Shri Panda is a very important one. The Inter-Ministerial WTO Conference to be held at Hong Kong will be deciding the fate of our farmers too. Today, I have heard hon. Members of all parties emphasizing the need to protect our agricultural sector. I feel this is a question for our nation on the whole, not for any political party in particular. Former Minister Shri Maran went to Doha and presented India's case efficiently but no agreement was possible at that time. Then Shri Arun Jaitley went to Cancun and let the G-20 countries yet there was no acceptable agreement once again. Now the conference is going to be held at Singapore how it would decide? However, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister for his assuring statement that he will not let any harm done to our farmers.

I am from Punjab where agriculture is the Prime stake of economy, better to say that our entire country depends on agriculture for its economy as a matter of fact. Our party Shiromani Akali Dal and myself have been opposing the 'GATT' agreement since its inception. We are opposing it for the cause of our farmers. Such an agreement would wipe out the farmers of India. Our state Punjab has set numerous records in the field of agriculture, for example Ludhaina has secured first position worldwide in per hectare yield. Although Punjab has only 1.5% land under its command and almost the same percentage of population yet it contributes 60-70% foodgrain in the Central Pool of the country. We are proud of this.

European countries, and other developed nations like USA and Australia are very liberal at providing huge subsidies to their farmers where the developing nations can't afford to give that much subsidy. A delegation of MPs of India went to the European Parliament under the leadership of the hon. Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. When we raised the matter of subsidy with them and asked to nationalize their quantum of subsidy—which was upto 80% to their farmers and create a level playing field, they ducked the question and said it would be taken in the next meeting as the Chairman of their Committee on Agriculture was from France and he was not available. Again, when in the next meeting, we asked the same question, they plainly refused to do so. They said they were not going to reduce the quantum of subsidy to the farmers of their countries. In this condition I am unable to guess if anything fruitful can come out of this agreement. What benefits of it will be there for our own farmers? We want a level playing field for all. As the Minister of our country has said such an agreement would only lead the country to a path of no return from such crisis.

I want to request the Minister to stand firm on his point. He must see that any such agreement is not concluded that affects the interests of our farmers. I don't want to repeat other things, I want to concentrate only on agriculture for the moment, as many other hon. Members have done here. 70% population of our country depends on agriculture.

17.00 hrs.

As a large part of our population depends on agriculture for livelihood, all hon. Members have concentrated on it.

I want to strongly recommend that there should not be any such agreement which ruins our country, our agriculture or adversely affects our economy.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for limiting yourself to the allotted time.

*[English]*

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected Chairperson, the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference to be held at Hong Kong is critical for the growth of the developing countries, including India. We are happy that an able and skilful Minister is attending this Conference

to negotiate on various issues of great concern for India, as well as the developing countries. He has already proved his mettle in some of the country conferences and attained certain advantages for India. But at the same time while he goes to Hong Kong I would only like to impress upon him the feeling that is gathering round not only in this august House but also in different parts of the country.

There is an inescapable feeling that the GATT agreement and the WTO agreement have always gone against the interest of the developing countries including India. There are empirical evidences from the Indian economy, whether it is agriculture, or industry of the services that we are not able to get as much advantage as we are giving out to other countries. Especially in agriculture we have seen that there has been a complete marginalisation of agriculture where the small and the landless farmers have come to grief. I cannot say that is only because of the WTO agreement that we have entered into, but I would only say that it has only added to the woes of the Indian agriculturists. It is because the nature of the agreement that we have entered into is an unequal agreement. It is an agreement between unequals. It is an agreement between India and America. It is an agreement between the developed countries and the developing countries. What is the state of development between these two categories of countries and what can be the negotiating arguments and areas and whether we can derive more advantages? Therefore, there should have been a built-in mechanism within the agreement itself whether you are able to follow the principle of unequal treatment for unequals or not. Unfortunately, we have followed the principle of equal treatment to unequals and that is why countries like India are suffering in the event of a WTO agreement. So, this national interest must guide our Minister in the WTO conference.

We wish that he succeeds. His negotiating skills should help India to get lot of advantages. While wishing the Minister God speed and success, at the same time I would like to draw his attention to the fact that the road to Hong Kong is a bumpy road and not a smooth one. The developed countries are already becoming more aggressive than they were hitherto. They are trying to break the unity that has been established amongst the developing countries. We have to strive hard to bring a kind of a consensus amongst the developing countries. But unfortunately the developed countries today are resorting to the tactics of divide and rule and therefore, the developing countries are not in a position to do that.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

So, the question is whether the developing countries would be able to resist the pressure of the developed countries and succeed in their objective, or whether they would crumble under the pressure and become a victim of the negotiations.

Now, we have been told by the Press that the Government is going to enter into negotiations in the areas of agriculture, services, industrial goods, TRIPS as well as trade facilitation.

Madam, now, as far as agriculture is concerned, there are three areas where negotiations would centre around. One is domestic support in the form of Green Box subsidies and Blue Box subsidies, tariff and export subsidies. As far as tariff is concerned, India has lost its advantage to the WTO because the moment it was decided in the first meeting that there should be a tariff reduction, India rushed into reducing tariff from the peak rate of 300 to even zero in some products. But some developed countries have not reciprocated that even today to that level. I do not know how the previous Government rushed into such a kind of reduction in tariff which has created an unequal situation between developed countries and developing countries. But there is no point in lamenting on what has happened. Therefore, we should now be able to target on tariffs, domestic support and export subsidies. The Hon. Minister must see that, in all these three areas, we are able to protect the interests of India by reducing what is called the dumping process. The import of commodities from foreign countries will come if we are not going to succeed. At the same time, we should be able to improve our exports so that, at the end of the negotiations, we are able to bring a balance in trade where there is excess of exports over imports in the country. Now, for both these objectives, it is in India's interest for elimination or substantial reduction in subsidies and we should be able to motivate the G-20 partners in concentrating more on subsidy reduction rather than focussing our attention on all other aspects of tariff reduction. We may not be able to succeed in reducing tariffs but we would be able to succeed in reducing the subsidies which would give a better advantage to India than harping on tariff reduction. If both come, it is all right. But in a negotiating table, it would not be possible for us to get both. Therefore, if there is a matter of preference, all the G-20 countries as well as G-33 countries must join together and ask for substantial reduction or elimination of subsidies that are practised by foreign countries rather than harping or concentrating on tariffs.

17.06 hrs.

[SHRI AJAY MAKEN *in the Chair*]

It is also important to work closely with G-33 countries to have usable and effective provisions for special products and seek exemptions from the deductions on *de-minimis* support provided by developing countries.

In industrial tariffs, though India has moved into line-by-line tariff reduction and full bounding coverage, there can still be scope for specifically targeting tariff peak and high tariffs of the developed countries. For example, it can revive its earlier proposal of a ceiling three times of the current average tariff. It can also explore the possibility of targeted cuts in the high tariffs and the peaks in specific developed countries by offering reduction in its own tariffs in products of their own interest. Now, in services, the current system of request over negotiations is suitable in India. In such a format of negotiations, it can press for useful liberalization in the developed countries in return for its own commitment. Across the board minimum commitment which has been proposed by the developed countries may not be in India's interest.

Another area of importance is in respect of rules. India should aim and work for improving the objectivity and in taking action under agreements. We also have to understand that this is a bargain. We have to give something and we have to take something. Now, where should we give? In the case of industrial tariffs, we can give. But in the case of agriculture, we have to take. This overall balance of what we give and what we take should be positive and that positive quantity should help India's development, India's agriculture and our objective of achieving 8 per cent growth rate, and the world countries should help in this goal. Our Minister must be able to negotiate in such a way that we are able to achieve this objective.

With these words, I wish the Minister all success and his negotiating skills should help India to get a better deal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has to reply at 5.30 p.m. We have got another six or seven Members to speak. Each Member will be given five minutes to speak. Then only will the hon. Minister be able to reply at 5.30 p.m.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Sir, I want to raise only a few points. The first point is regarding imports to our country. The increase in imports is quite high in the last so many years. They are below the cost of production. That is quite dangerous. In the case of cotton, sugar and oil the import was many times higher. I have figures with me, but I have no time. I do not want to quote them. Let me just quote one or two figures. In the case of spices, the import increased from 24.28 thousand tonnes in 1995-96 to 147.69 thousand tonnes in 2003-04; in the case of sugar, it increased from 29 thousand tonnes in 1996-97 to 932.3 thousand tonnes in 2004-05; in the case of edible oil, it increased from 1061.99 thousand tonnes in 1995-96 to 5290.2 thousand tonnes in 2003-04 and in the case of cotton, it increased from 2.92 thousand tonnes in 1996-97 to 387 thousand tonnes in 2001-02.

At the same time, the 2003 figures for the US show that the agriculture exports from the US by its agribusiness corporations were sold below the cost of production. Wheat was exported at an average price of 28 per cent below cost of production; soya beans were exported at an average price of 10 per cent below cost of production; corn was exported at an average price of 10 per cent below cost of production; cotton was exported at an average price of 47 per cent below cost of production; rice was exported at an average price of 26 per cent below cost of production. How will our agriculturists survive? I do not want to go into the details. We say that we cannot have Quantitative Restrictions any more. But developed countries have got a mechanism for that. The developed countries have evolved an alternative Quantitative Restrictions mechanisms in the form of TRQs where a fixed volume of imports is allowed at a lower tariff rate and beyond that level, imports are allowed only at prohibitive tariffs. They also have several NTBs and Sanitary and Phytosanitary from India in May 2005, 216 in June, 78 in July and 256 in August 2005 on SPS and other technical grounds, while the EU has rejected 16 Indian food consignments in May 2005, 12 in June, 6 in July 2005.

Trapped in the market access paradigm, the G-20 believes that lowering tariffs will provide them access to developed countries' market; a distant dream. So, the developed countries have several import restrictions and other mechanisms.

I would like to mention one more thing. The US has also disregarded the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body, the DSB, ruling in March, 2005 to withdraw subsidies given to its cotton growers by September 2005. The DSB also confirmed that subsidies of US \$12.5 billion were given to cotton growers between 1999 and 2002, which boosted US cotton exports but depressed prices at the expense of Brazilian and other producers. The WTO has also ruled against the European Union declaring their export subsidies for sugar as illegal and directed its withdrawal. Ironically, despite these distortions by developed nations, the WTO has failed to act effectively against such distortions.

I do not want to quote many figures. But what is happening is that the WTO has become a tool for developed countries in making the developing countries a dumping yard for them.

In the name of NAMA, that is Non Agricultural Market Access, they are talking of Swiss formula, the July Framework etc. There is more divergence and convergence. It is very dangerous to go on those lines because ultimately what will happen is that there will be two sets of standards for developed and developing countries. If you open up our service sector in the manner in which it has been suggested—I do not have much time to explain—ultimately the Minister will come to this House and say that this has become mandatory. In the last four rounds of negotiations, they talked of Swiss Model. Any negotiation becomes mandatory ultimately. Whatever suggestions that come from the European Union and America ultimately will be binding on us. The WTO and other organisations cannot be substitutes for Governments. We have our sovereignty. We have to protect our people. In the garb of globalisation, what is happening is corporatisation.

We want globalization where the resources will be equitably distributed, where everybody gets share. What is happening is that the developing countries are becoming poorer and poorer, the least developed countries are becoming more poor and poor whereas the developed countries are grabbing the entire resources. The money and everything is grabbed by them. Is it globalization? That cannot be.

Again, Sir, Parliament must be taken into confidence. I think the Minister should come before this Parliament before signing any agreement there. The bureaucrats go and sign the agreement. ...(*Interruptions*)



MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: I am coming to a close. For example, the bureaucrats go and sign the FTA agreement. What happens is that the entire States are gone. Take, for instance, pauper. They go inside SAARC and non-SAARC countries with whom we have agreements. What is happening is that the imports from SAARC countries have zero duty. So, it is destroying our market and our agriculture. Now, they are opening service on NAMA. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. We are running short of time.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Otherwise, it will jeopardize our own sovereignty. Globalization cannot be for transnational corporations; globalization cannot be corporatization. I urge the Minister and all those who are going for the WTO meeting in Hong Kong to see that our interests are protected. If America can protect its own interest, our interest must also be protected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Ministry has to reply.

Just a minute, Mr. Minister. There are five speakers. Only 2 minutes each will be allowed. Do not let me stop you after 2 minutes. You should prepare your speech so that you can conclude within 2 minutes.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member, through you, that there is also a debate going on Rajya Sabha. So I need to go back there and reply to Rajya Sabha also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, two minutes each will be allowed.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Sir, ten years have gone by since WTO was set up. It's next meeting is going to be quite significant. All of us are hopeful that hon. Minister would come well prepared to reply to the said discussion. Each sort of discussion comes to a halt over the outcome of the Uruguay round of talks of the WTO and the GATT. Our country is predominantly an agriculture base country. We have seen the results of policies framed by our Governments for the last 50 years. We find that there is always a talk of bread, clothing and housing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the point, as other Members also are to speak. Therefore, please finish it soon.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Chairman, I would conclude in two minutes. Two minutes have passed and you are talking of bread, clothing and housing.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: No doubt, these things are most important, but the Government have failed to arrange for them that's why our farmers are committing suicide. Our policy is such that on one hand we endeavour to provide food grains to the poor at low rates, whereas, on the other hand we want agro-products to be provided minimum support price. Thus, we have a dual policy. The Government should give a serious thought to it. Hon. Minister is scheduled to attend Hong Kong Talks, where he would put India's view point. Our Government may be asked to lower subsidy, but let us see, what our Government does with regard to our domestic trade?

*[English]*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, I have been given only two minutes. So, I will mention only two points. The hon. Minister is in a hurry to go to Hong Kong.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: No, I have to go to Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)* I already said that I would have to go to Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Before going to Hong Kong, he wanted to go to Rajya Sabha.

Coming to the point, I would like to say that he is going to meet the rich countries in Hong Kong. Before meeting the rich countries, I want that he should take an independent role in protecting the interests of the poor people and the farmers of this country. He should take a pro-active stand. That is one point that is very important. He should not forget it any time.

The second point is about subsidy and import duty. We should not taper the import duties. That is not going to help. When we go to the markets, we see apples from other countries; we see grapes from other countries and we see the maize from other countries. These are all produced in India. On the one side, the cotton farmers are dying in Andhra Pradesh. On the other side, we are trying to import it from outside. This is the thing where I want that he should take a very delicate stand, a very

sensitive stand to protect the interests of the farmers of this country.

Next, I would say that the subsidies are a must. When America and the rich countries are giving subsidies in the form of green box, blue box and amber box, why should he not give subsidy to our farmers? Our entire economy depends on agriculture. Without agriculture, you cannot survive. So, I would request the hon. Minister to keep these three points in mind and it in Hong Kong accordingly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chinta Mohan, thank you very much. Now, Shri Hiten Barman to speak.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that already the agriculture sector of our country is being ruined due to the liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, policies in the name of the new economic policy. We know that the new economic policy, which is being implemented under the World Bank, IMF directive, is having the sole aim of destroying the Indian agriculture.

In these circumstances, the forthcoming Hong Kong Conference is to be held from 13th December. The draft agenda will discuss the four aspects: one, Agreement on agriculture; two, Non-Agriculture Market Access; three, General Agreement on Trade and, four, Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights. All the agenda points are very important and serious for the agriculture sector of our country.

We know very well that the American Government has already declared that its subsidy would be retained up to the year 2012. The European Union countries already agreed and declare that their subsidy would be retained up to the year 2013. But the draft framework of Hong Kong Ministerial lacks any specificity in respect of agriculture and makes no commitment on agricultural subsidies. Only it retains the interests of the developed countries which have been trying to seek more market access but has been framed in such a way that it actually legitimizes illegal subsidies. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Barman, please conclude. If you have a written text, you can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: I will limit to my points only. I suggest that the hon. Minister should boldly raise the

points in the interest of the agriculture sector, of our farmers and peasants and to protect them and protect our country.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that the price of cardamom has come down from Rs. 800 per kilo to Rs. 150 per kilo. The price of Vanilla has come down from Rs. 3000 per kilo to Rs. 150 per kilo. The price of pepper has come down from Rs. 250 per kilo to Rs. 50 per kilo. The position is like this in respect of tea, coffee, apple and pine-apple as also in respect of many other produces of India.

India is a country where the number of people producing agricultural produces is so large compared to other countries. So, we should take a bold initiative and see that we formulate some of the arguments stated below.

First, I think we can say that if the developed countries are going to subsidise their farmers further, up to a stage where they are going to give subsidies to their farmers, we must argue that it should be stopped completely.

We must argue that Blue Boxes and other magic boxes should be abolished, should be eliminated. But, in spite of our arguments, all these things are going to take time. So, in the meanwhile, we want some interim relief. So, India should argue for an interim relief. We should take a lead of such similar-minded countries or similarly standing countries. We should argue for quantitative restrictions on imports, special product issue which we can argue for the producers of India, the agricultural producers as well as the others, and also that we should say specifically that there are countries—say India is one—where suicides are taking place from the part of the countrymen who are in the agricultural field. Therefore, there is absolutely no level playing field. So, there must be a complete revamp of AOA and the matters relating thereto.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thanking the hon. Minister, I would like to say that he should go and attend the conference. The people of India and the Government of India as well have all along moved ahead with a commitment to protect the interest of our country. My submission is that the hon. Minister

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

should fight for the rights of our farmers in the forthcoming Hong Kong summit, which he is slated to attend, exactly in accordance with the stand taken by the hon. Members of Parliament in the House today and in compliance with the UPA Governments commitment and should oppose any resolution relating to lowering subsidy of any kind which may be against the interest of developing countries.

Sir, our economy depends upon agriculture. Our 75 percent population comprises of farmers who are fully dependent upon agriculture. The proposal relating to 60 percent subsidy cut is totally unjust. The present level of subsidy in our country is inadequate and the farmers are losing interest in agriculture. Therefore, 60% cut in subsidy will damage our agricultural economy jeopardizing the overall economy of the country. Therefore, my submission is that it should not be allowed to happen at any cost. It is a sort of conspiracy. Developed countries like America want to create their market in the developing countries. Therefore, hon. Minister should fight against it. In previous two meetings in Doha and Cancun the Government protected the interests of our farmers and now also, I am sure the Government will not enter into any agreement which may be against our national interests.

Foodgrains and life saving drugs are two essential items for the survival of a human being. Earlier, under the provisions of the Indian patent Act, obtaining only patent process for drugs was required. But, now, after enforcement of product patent, only those companies, which have obtained product patent, shall be allowed to manufacture drugs. Most of the multinational companies have obtained product patent and they have unlimited financial resources. In view of it, MNC pharma companies will have monopoly in drug manufacturing resulting in a serious set back to the Indian pharma companies. It would lead to steep like in drug prices and these would go out of reach of the poor people. The cost of the AIDS drug is a living example of it.

I would urge the hon. Minister to strongly oppose proposal for patenting of drugs, if any, and not to bow to any pressure which may be against our poor people and farmers.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The last speaker is Mr. K. Yerrannaidu. Please conclude within two minutes.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, our hon. Minister is representing 103 crore

people of this country. Our country is depending upon agriculture. Even though the State Governments as well as the Government of India is making a lot of efforts for the farming community, yet the farmers are committing suicide. The farmers are not getting the remunerative prices—be they from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka or Maharashtra. During the last three years, the chilly farmers, tobacco farmers and other farmers have not been given the remunerative prices. We have discussed elaborately on this issue in the same House. We have to protect the interest of the farming community at any cost. There should be no compromise on this. For this, we have to take support from the G-20 or G-33 countries. If there is any problem, we have to protest or to take consensus—political consensus—of the parliamentary people. Further, we have to negotiate. You and me also were part of the delegation to Seattle. Mr. Maran led that delegation. You are aware that as to how we protected the interests of our country. That is why, we have a lot of confidence on you. We have to keep in mind that we have to protect the interests of the farming community particularly.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to thank the hon. Members for their suggestions and their inputs because almost everybody has spoken outside his political affiliations. Today, the highlight has been very naturally on the issue of agriculture. Not only India but also other developing countries are deeply concerned with the issue of agriculture. Almost 65 per cent of our population depends upon agriculture. The hon. Members have highlighted the concerns which India has in agriculture and they have given their ideas and suggestions.

Sir, undoubtedly, agriculture remains the most structurally flawed part of the global trade of the WTO. Agriculture is a matter which has been discussed in negotiations in the last several months mostly. As I have said separately in other forums that at Hong Kong we are expected to arrive at fully modalities after the July Framework with the kind of convergence there. Why is there convergence? Sir, convergence is there because India and other developing countries are not willing to accept the current agriculture trade regime in the world. The subsidies given by the developed countries to their farmers is one billion dollar a day and create artificiality of prices. It is not that the Indian farmer cannot compete with the American farmer. But the Indian farmer has to compete with the US Government. He is not competing with the US farmer. So, agriculture remains the most

structurally flawed part in the WTO. This has taken the maximum number of times in discussions.

I am happy to inform that India has stood its ground. It is not only providing market access but also artificial prices. The creation of these artificial prices is because of subsidy. It has to go. It is not only a question of free trade; it is a question of fair trade. That is the issue. 'Fair trade' means 'a level-playing field', and 'a level-playing field' means 'no subsidy'. One of the major issues is export subsidy which they have committed in the July Framework to phase out and until we are going to get commitments—very specific commitments—but the question is when these export subsidies are going to be phased out in its entirety? Of course, there can be no agreement. Similarly, in domestic support, the support given by the Government to its farmers has to be substantially reduced. It has to be substantially reduced.

Sir, many points have been made by Members. Some of them have said that WTO is loaded against us. We have to reckon with one fact that today India is a part of the WTO and that is our starting point. Now, within the negotiations we have to make an assessment. The first round of 10 years that we had was the Uruguay Round. Now we are negotiating for the next 10 years, that is the Doha Round. What had happened in the last 10 years? These are facts and figures that are available on the Internet. Were the WTO negotiations good or bad for India in terms of trade? I have the figures with me here.

Sir, what was our export in industrial goods in 1995? What was our export in services and what was our export in agriculture? Our export in merchandise in 1995 was to the tune of \$ 30 billion. In 2004 it was \$ 75 billion. This year we are trying to hit \$ 92 billion because of industrial boom.

In agriculture, our export in 1995 was to the tune of \$ 6.3 billion and in 2004 our export was \$ 7.3 billion. So, what we also need is greater market access for India. Our industry is growing. We find that our small-scale industry is also becoming export-oriented. Let us not forget this fact. Our small-scale market is growing.

Sir, my friend Mr. Thomas pointed about cardamom, vanilla and other species like pepper etc. He is right that the prices of these products have sunk, but those are commodities grown by developing countries. Spices are

not grown in the United States of America and European Union. Cardamom is not grown in the United States of America or the European Union, but it is grown in Guatemala and Vietnam.

So, the whole world's economic architecture is changing and we have to look at as to what will be the economic architecture that need for our agriculture and services sectors. In services, we have had a growth. We were at \$ 6.7 billion in 1995 and in 2004, we were almost at \$ 40 billion. So, what should we be looking for now? On the one hand, we have to protect our agriculture sector, undoubtedly and I want to assure our farmers through this House that the Government is going to protect their interests.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Kindly enlighten us about the increase in percentage of our exports in terms of world trade.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It is simple arithmetic.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: What is the percentage of increase that we got in all these sectors? That is more important.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: In services, our share in world exports was 0.6 per cent in 1995 and we are now having 1.9 per cent. In merchandise, we were having 0.62 per cent in 1995 and now we are having 0.92 per cent. So, our export has gone up even in terms of world trade.

The point that I am trying to make is this. On the one hand, we have to protect our agriculture against the subsidies. We have to protect our farmers against their subsidised products. Take the price of cotton. About 47 per cent of the US price of cotton is composed of subsidy. India buys cotton to the tune of \$ 300 billion. We are forced to buy from America because it is cheap. The farmers of Western Africa are unable to supply at this price. Of course, we do buy some quantity from them.

So, we have to guard. We have to oppose these subsidies, this support, which they give to their farmers. Every Government would like to do it. Any Government in India would like to do it. But we have our budgetary constraints. So, there is no question of us compromising and opening the doors for subsidised imports into our country, which is going to affect the farmers. I want to assure each and every farmer of our country, through this House, that our Government stands to protect the

[Shri Kamal Nath]

farmers against the subsidised imports, which will come in.

I want to assure you all that we are looking for market access. We are looking for market access for marine products. We are looking for market access for our basmati rice. We are looking for a surplus, which we are going to have in wheat. Where will we go? Where will the farmers go if the prices fall? We have to look at other markets. Today, we have huge exports. We have exports in the agricultural sector. So, we are also interested in market access. Let us not think that we do not want market access.

To maintain our prices in India, we need to export. That is what is happening. That is what the figures show over the last five years. So, we are fighting for this market access. But if the prices are artificial, we are competing with whom? We are competing with artificial prices. That is the problem. So, we will not compromise, whatever we may get, whatever concession we may get in goods or in services. There can be no compromise for 650 million farmers of this country because this is the largest sector and that is what we are going to stand by.

Issues have been raised about special and differential treatment. Of course, India is a developing country. Every game has been played by the developed countries. They are trying to segregate India and I want to inform you all that in the last one year, we have not, only mainly coordinated, but I have personally participated in the G-90 meetings of the poorest countries. India is not speaking for itself. India's voice speaks loudly for the least developed countries. We speak loudly for the African countries. We speak loudly for the vulnerable economies and that is India's strengths and that is what is the ethos of India that we never speak for ourselves, we speak for all, the weaker countries. That give us the loudest voice, that took India to the leadership position.

I have, in the last one year, participated in the G-90 meetings in the African Carrabeian Pacific countries, the ACP countries' meetings. We had a meeting of the G-20 countries here. I invited the LDC coordinator here. We held a G-20 meeting in Delhi. India hosted it a couple of months ago so that we continue with a coalition, a coalition, which cannot be overpowered by the developed countries and we have found our goods, we are coordinating with all. There is no question of us stumbling or crumbling. We are going to stand firm.

It is not the completion of this round which matters. It is the content of this around that matters. This is the development round. The name of the development round was not given by accident or because there was no better word, it is being given because the global economy cannot move forward, unless, the 120-125 countries also move forward in their path of development. So, this developmental round will be judged on its content.

We are bringing up the issues of non-tariff barriers. We are bringing up the issues of abuse of the anti-dumping laws because the fact is clear before the world. The bigger developing economies today are no more globally competitive. You are seeing that General Motors is laying off 30,000 people. You have read in the newspapers. The biggest companies, the biggest drivers of the US economy used to be the automobile industry.

Today, they are laying off workers and we are creating employment. That is the ground reality. Take the IT-enabled services. That is why we are fighting in the services sector. You said: "Are we too liberal?" I must say that when we are asking for so much, we have also to give. You cannot just say I want everything, I am going to give you nothing. But, I want to say I want everything, I am going to give you nothing. But, I want to give what suits to generate employment. We want to give what suits us to enhance our economic activity. We want to give what will enhance our economy. That is the whole strategy of our discussion. Today, if there is no agreement, I must tell you—it is India—why this convergence is there. We could not agree in the last couple of months because India stood firm, developing countries stood firm, L.D. countries stood firm, and the African countries stood firm. I am in continuous touch with them on the telephone and otherwise also through several meetings. As you have seen my absence from this House very often. It was only because I am going for a day here, or for two days there so that the countries can also feel that large country like India have a commonality that we have a stake. Our stake in the future is a common stake.

I want to just dwell on one or two points which have been raised by my friend here. Shri Kharabela Swain said that nothing has happened after Doha meeting. It is true that nothing has happened. Things have been slow after Doha, and they continue to be slow. What are they slow? It is only because we are not agreeing. If we agree to everything, things would have been very fast. So, we are standing firm. We are not letting it happen.

We will continue to stand firm because we cannot play with the livelihood security of the people of our country. You mentioned about special products. You are right. I must tell you that when we were negotiating the framework agreement, the special products was the concept which we brought in. We framed it in that manner and we laid down the criteria. Of course we are going to have adequate number of special products so that our farmers remain secured and have special safeguard mechanism against any surge in imports. These are the two safeguards.

**SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:** Have you identified those special products?

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** Yes, we have identified them. We are in the process of it. You said about 50 or 60 are there. I took note of that. Of course, we take note of it. Our dairy products are very vulnerable, our spices are very vulnerable, our rice, wheat and sugar are very vulnerable. These are vulnerable products. Of course we are going to use every mechanism. We are not going to give it away that the markets are going to be flooded with this. There is no question on this.

You raised the question of special and differential treatment. Special and differential treatment is again the basis of this Round. There has to be a special and differential treatment and that has a stand alone. The S&D permeates across every aspect of the negotiation. That is the stand we have taken, and there is less than full reciprocity. That permeates everywhere. You do this much and I will do less than that—we are doing that. We are not going to budge from that.

On environmental issues, I must say that there are no environmental issues as such which are coming. We are not going to see that any environmental conditions are put in as non-tariff barriers. We are living together in this. You mentioned about Pakistan. Pakistan today comes in the category of developing countries. We also coordinate with Pakistan. Pakistan is a member of G-20. When I had the G-20 meeting, their Minister was here. Again, I talked with the Minister on the telephone. We are coordinating with all the developing countries. Even if it is Pakistan, it does not matter because we have to see that developing countries together remain united.

There are other issues. You mentioned about bound rates. Yes, our bound rates are high so we have great flexibility. But, we must also understand that India is not

living in a vacuum. We are living in Asia. What are the tariff rates in Thailand, Malaysia and Philippines? We are a large country. People are looking at us.

So, we have great concerns because we are a country which is strong in industrial products. We hope to do exports of industrial goods this year to the tune of 92 billion dollars. We are hoping to have a huge surge in our agricultural exports. We are looking for the services. Our engagement with the global economy is 300 billion dollars. That is what we have got to keep in mind.

Then, how do we take our engagement with the global economy higher? How do we export more? What we export is incremental economic activity. It is that part which is not absorbed in the Indian economy. I did a study. I got a study done by RIS as to what does a 20 per cent growth every year means in terms of employment. That study said that 10 lakh jobs would be created. Between 2004 and 2005, we had a 22 per cent increase in exports. RIS study is a very detailed study. It said that this created extra jobs. So, this is incremental economic activity. The goods which are not absorbed in the Indian economy are going out. So, keeping all these things in mind, we have to ensure that whatever we are giving into is going to enhance our economic activity, and it is going to be incremental to us. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI B. MAHTAB:** Sir, please allow me to seek a clarification. ...(*Interruptions*)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Let him complete his reply.

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** We have these negotiations.

In conclusion, I assure you that India, in these situations, has not budged. We will do the least of all this time. We are going to see that it is not only in the interest of us as Indians but it is also in the interest of the global economy. Through this House, I want to send a message to the world that the global economy is also dependent today on the Indian economy. The global economy is dependent on the health of the Indian economy. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI B. MAHTAB:** It is dependent on the Indian market. ...(*Interruptions*)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Shri Mahtab, I will allow you to seek a clarification after he completes his reply.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Not market but on the Indian economy, on the purchasing power of the Indian people. It is not just the market because it is, at the end of the day, the health of the Indian economy. The Indian market is not driven by exports. Even our investment, for your information, FDI, unlike China, is domestic market-driven, and it is not merely export market-driven. As long as it is incremental economic activity and as long as it is employment generation, we will see. We have a young population. The biggest challenges for us are two—employment and agricultural sector. These are the India's two biggest challenges.

Whatever agreements we have, I do not believe—I must tell you very frankly—that we can make them agree. But if we cannot make them agree, be sure that we are also not going to agree. If Hong Kong has to end with no agreement, so be it. India is strong enough to carry on even after Hong Kong.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I would like to seek a clarification. Firstly, we wish you good luck, Mr. Minister. The query is that India insisted on no tariff reduction. It is relating to the agricultural sector and special safeguard mechanism for special products, which you have explained. I want to know whether you are going to identify it on the basis of land holding pattern to ensure food security and rural development.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I have no question but I will just make two points.

The hon. Minister has to insist on the point of flow of technology from the developed world to the developing countries and the least developed countries.

On the point of integrating the LDCs to the world economy, India must insist—since India is taking the lead—on skill development and capacity building in the LDC. These are my two suggestions.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I just want to know as to what was the compulsion, why India has become a part of the five interested parties.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It is a very good point.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, there is one more Member who wants to seek a clarification. Shri Vanlal Zawma.

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram): While discussing a very important topic for India, I would like to ask one question from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, about the trade relations of India with Myanmar and Bangladesh on the border of Mizoram.

What about the present position of the trade relations with Myanmar on the border of Mizoram and trade relations with Bangladesh on the border of Mizoram?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The first question is about the Fifths about which hon. Member, Mr. Panda has asked. We are in the Fifths representing the G-20. We are representing the G-20. It is not that we are a part of Fifths. We have represented the G-20 in the Fifths. It is important for us to represent G-20 in the Fifths. That is the reason. It think that adds strength to us. That does not send a wrong signal that we are aligned with these countries. There was a G-33 meeting. When Indonesia co-ordinated it, I myself had chaired the G-33 meeting. So, when I go to the Fifths' meeting I just do not talk of G-20 but I can talk of G-33; I talk of G-90 and I talk of all the LDCs.

Last week, there was a meeting in Geneva of the G-4.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Brazil is also a member of the G-20.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: But Brazil represents in the G-4 the South, the other part of the world. We represent the other part of the world. That is the reason. Australia is also there. So, we are not there as members. We are representing there. Whatever position is discussed there, I say we have got to go back to the G-20. I have got to go back to G-33 and discuss with these countries. I cannot decide. But this helps us to remain engaged with the process.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: You come back to Parliament also and let us know what you are signing.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Certainly, I am going to come back to Parliament after the framework agreement. Mr. Veerendra Kumar, I am very happy that no politics was brought in. This just shows that how we all are united in our perception of the progress of the country. But this is the first time that before a meeting, a discussion is being held. This was mentioned in Rajya Sabha that on the previous occasions at Doha and Cancun, the discussion

was held after the meeting. But this time we held it before. I think it is good. So, certainly, I will be at your disposal once the meeting is over.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Thank you.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I will come back and report to you all about the progress and the discussions that were held.

Mr. Rupchand Pal will be there in some other capacity. I am sure I will have the advantage of his inputs there also but not on his inputs which concern QRs because QRs are a subject which, I am afraid, as per the legal text of the WTO, we cannot oppose QRs. QRs are linked with the balance of payments. Today we do not have adverse balance of payments. How do I demand something? They ask this question. Can you not read English? But if Mr. Rupchand Pal still insists, for his sake, maybe, I will mention it somewhere.

17.57 hrs.

SERIAL BOMB BLASTS IN DELHI ON 29.10.2005  
TERRORIST VIOLENCE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
NAXALITE ATTACKS THAT TOOK PLACE IN  
JEHANABAD, BIHAR ON 13.11.2005  
AND  
NAXALITE ATTACK THAT TOOK PLACE ON HOME  
GUARD TRAINING CENTRE GIRIDIH, JHARKHAND  
ON 11.11.2005—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we are taking up Item No. 16.

Yogi Aditya Nath—Not present.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Thank you, Sir. It is just two minutes to six o'clock. Are we going to adjourn?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue tomorrow. You will be on your legs. You can continue tomorrow.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: All right.

We are discussing the four statements laid on the Table of the House by our hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs relating to the terrorist incident in Srinagar, the serial bomb blasts in Delhi and the Jehanabad and Giridih naxalite violence incidents.

To begin with, I must compliment the Delhi Police for solving the serial bomb blast cases speedily and efficiently. The Delhi Police have, in the past decade or so, had a very fine record of investigation of terrorist crimes. This instant case is yet another incident where it has done very well.

While we are on the subject of bomb blast and terrorism, I would like to refer to a point raised by our friends on the other side of the House that we should have had special laws. I think Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra had mentioned this. This point had come up earlier also when I had clarified that special laws are all very nice but when we are fighting terrorism the general law that we have at the moment is quite adequate. To support this, I cite only one incident.

The special law was brought about to provide—the police force and the police-investigating agency—the facility of greater police custody for interrogation. Another important facility given to the police was making confessions. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nikhil Kumarji, you can continue tomorrow.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Okay, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nikhil Kumar is on his feet. The House stands adjourned to meet on 8th December, 2005 at 11 am.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the  
Clock on Thursday, December 08, 2005/  
Agrahayana 17, 1927 (Saka)*



## ANNEXURE I

*Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions**Member-wise Index to Starred Questions*

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	216
2.	Shri Baitha, Kailash	217
3.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	206
4.	Shri Bose, Subrata	214
5.	Shri Chandel, Suresh	212
6.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	210
7.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	204
8.	Shrimati Gandhi, Maneka	203
9.	Shri Gohain, Rajen	218
10.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	217
11.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	202
12.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	220
13.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	218
14.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	210
15.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	219
16.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	209
17.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	215
18.	Shri Punnuswamy, E.	219
19.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	221
20.	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	208
21.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	216
22.	Shri Shivanna, M.	221
23.	Shri Singh, Kunwar Manvendra	207
24.	Shri Singh, Mohan	220
25.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	205
26.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	209
27.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	213
28.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	213
29.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	202
30.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	207
31.	Shri Verma Ravi Prakash	211
32.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	211

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Athithan, Dhanuskodi R.	2072
2.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	2122, 2186, 2207, 2269
3.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	2149
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	2186, 2262, 2160
5.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	2176, 2248
6.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	2097, 2199, 2220, 2228
7.	Shri Ananth Kumar	2153
8.	Shri Appadurai, M.	2259, 2126
9.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	2257, 2126, 2148
10.	Shri Bansal, Pawan Kumar	2113
11.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	2214, 2273, 2279, 2165
12.	Shri Barman, Hiten	2073, 2118, 2200
13.	Shri Bauri, Susmita	2095
14.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	2186, 2236, 2140
15.	Shri Bellarmin, A.V.	2162
16.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	2156
17.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	2242
18.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	2119
19.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	2087
20.	Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra	2075
21.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	2249
22.	Dr. Chakraborty, Sujan	2251
23.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	2187, 2125

1	2	3
24.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	2240, 2132
25.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	2244
26.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	2123, 2181
27.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	2179, 2220
28.	Shri Darbar Chhatar Singh	2114
29.	Shrimati Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	2071
30.	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	2196, 2270, 2136
31.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	2132
32.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	2186
33.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	2258, 2137
34.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	2100, 2104
35.	Shrimati Gandhi, Maneka	2172, 2215, 2234
36.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	2081
37.	Shri Hassan, Munawar	2128
38.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	2108, 2174, 2216, 2237, 2280
39.	Shri Jalappa, R.L.	2180
40.	Shrimati Jayaprada	2157
41.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	2115
42.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	2149
43.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	2171, 2224
44.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	2088
45.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	2091
46.	Shri Kaswan, Ram Singh	2096, 2146
47.	Dr. Kathiria, Vallabhbai	2129
48.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	2142, 2163
49.	Shri Khan, Sunil	2086, 2095, 2186, 2193, 2226

1	2	3
50.	Shri Khanduri, AVSM, Maj. Gen. (Retd.)	2092
51.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	2124, 2253
52.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	2077, 2222, 2241, 2278, 2164
53.	Shri Koshal, Raghuvveer Singh	2109
54.	Dr. Koya, P.P.	2154
55.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	2120, 2184, 2268
56.	Shri Kulaste, Faggan Singh	2134
57.	Shri Kumar, Virendra	2161
58.	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	2204, 2133, 2143, 2159, 2160
59.	Shri Lahiri, Samik	2084
60.	Shrimati Laxman, Susheela Bangaru	2116
61.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	2212, 2233, 2152
62.	Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	2183, 2249, 2146
63.	Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	2080
64.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	2173, 2176, 2218
65.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	2188
66.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	2070, 2085, 2186
67.	Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	2100, 2104
68.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	2099
69.	Shri Marandi, Sudam	2243
70.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	2198, 2138
71.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	2109, 2256
72.	Shri Mohale, Punnu Lal	2110, 2117, 2264

1	2	3
73.	Shri Mohd, Mukeem	2128
74.	Shri Mohd, Tahir	2204, 2262, 2159, 2160
75.	Shri Mohite, Subodh	2167
76.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	2098, 2261
77.	Shri Munshi Ram	2204, 2247, 2133, 2159, 2160
78.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	2190
79.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	2159, 2161
80.	Shri Oram, Jual	2090, 2254
81.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	2082, 2195
82.	Shri Palanisamy, K.C.	2074, 2177, 2266, 2170
83.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	2175, 2223
84.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	2166
85.	Shri Paswan, Virchandra	2118, 2211
86.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	2178, 2235, 2238, 2260
87.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	2093, 2197, 2227, 2239, 2243, 2281
88.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	2252
89.	Shrimati Patil, Rupatai Diliprao Patil	2139
90.	Shri Patle, Shishupal	2246, 2159, 2160
91.	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	2202, 2141
92.	Shri Prasad, Anirudh Alias Sadhu Yadav	2182, 2209, 2221, 2131
93.	Shrimati Purandeswari, D.	2103, 2201, 2271
94.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	2194, 2135

1	2	3
95.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	2079
96.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	2101, 2206, 2267, 2276, 2283
97.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	2096, 2183
98.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	2083
99.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	2204, 2229, 2246, 2133, 2143
100.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	2107, 2263
101.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	2186, 2191, 2265, 2130
102.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	2094, 2192
103.	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	2217, 2275, 2169
104.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	2187
105.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	2250
106.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	2111, 2196, 2210, 2144
107.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	2105
108.	Shri Sathyanarayana, Sarvey	2208, 2151
109.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	2076, 2180
110.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	2121, 2185
111.	Mohd. Shahid	2133, 2143, 2159, 2160
112.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	2245
113.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	2186, 2203, 2231, 2160
114.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	2204, 2229, 2246, 2133, 2143
115.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	2070
116.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	2282

1	2	3
117.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	2102
118.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	2089, 2255, 2272
119.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	2100, 2104
120.	Shri Singh, Kunwar Manvendra	2182, 2221
121.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	2106, 2189, 2225, 2277
122.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	2177
123.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	2128, 2127
124.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	2178, 2219, 2235, 2238
125.	Shri Singh, Chandra Pratap	2112
126.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	2181
127.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	2070, 2213, 2274, 2168
128.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	2123

1	2	3
129.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	2186
130.	Shrimati Thakkar, Jayaben B.	2078, 2166
131.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	2147
132.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	2079, 2218
133.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	2205, 2230, 2145
134.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	2177
135.	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	2150
136.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	2186, 2232, 2262, 2160
137.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	2173
138.	Shri Yadav, Sita Ram	2158
139.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	2155
140.	Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath	2096, 2192

## ANNEXURE II

*Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions*

<i>Prime Minister</i>	:	
<i>Atomic Energy</i>	:	214
<i>Coal</i>	:	
<i>Communications and Information Technology</i>	:	202, 205, 206, 209, 211, 213
<i>Culture</i>	:	
<i>External Affairs</i>	:	210, 219, 221
<i>Health and Family Welfare</i>	:	204, 207, 208, 215, 216, 218
<i>Overseas Indian Affairs</i>	:	
<i>Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</i>	:	
<i>Planning</i>	:	203, 220
<i>Space</i>	:	
<i>Statistics and Programme Implementation</i>	:	212
<i>Urban Development</i>	:	
<i>Youth Affairs and Sports</i>	:	217

*Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions*

<i>Prime Minister</i>	
<i>Atomic Energy</i>	2148, 2186, 2197, 2238, 2276, 2280, 2282
<i>Coal</i>	2085, 2110, 2115, 2149, 2164, 2176, 2178, 2193, 2199, 2224, 2226, 2229, 2230, 2233, 2246, 2258
<i>Communications and Information Technology</i>	2070, 2084, 2091, 2122, 2131, 2132, 2135, 2137, 2144, 2154, 2156, 2161, 2163, 2169, 2177, 2179, 2181, 2183, 2187, 2196, 2202, 2203, 2207, 2208, 2227, 2240, 2242, 2244, 2250, 2254, 2256, 2260, 2264, 2265, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2273
<i>Culture</i>	2071, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2109, 2142, 2152, 2155, 2170, 2172, 2210, 2214, 2215
<i>External Affairs</i>	: 2080, 2081, 2082, 2090, 2126, 2127, 2134, 2138, 2140, 2145, 2146, 2151, 2160, 2162, 2166, 2185, 2192, 2195, 2206, 2223, 2228, 2236
<i>Health and Family Welfare</i>	2074, 2076, 2077, 2083, 2088, 2089, 2098, 2120, 2124, 2125, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2143, 2150, 2153, 2158, 2159, 2165, 2167, 2168, 2174, 2175, 2180, 2190, 2191, 2194, 2198, 2200, 2201, 2204, 2205, 2211, 2213, 2217, 2221, 2225, 2231, 2232, 2237, 2239, 2247, 2249, 2251, 2261, 2262, 2271, 2274
<i>Overseas Indian Affairs</i>	: 2147, 2212
<i>Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</i>	: 2093, 2116, 2121, 2123, 2157, 2209, 2216, 2220, 2272
<i>Planning</i>	: 2072, 2108, 2112, 2173, 2234, 2259, 2281
<i>Space</i>	: 2252, 2255, 2267, 2275
<i>Statistics and Programme Implementation</i>	: 2114, 2117, 2118
<i>Urban Development</i>	: 2073, 2075, 2079, 2111, 2113, 2118, 2133, 2182, 2188, 2219, 2222, 2235, 2241, 2243, 2245, 2248, 2257, 2263, 2266, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2283
<i>Youth Affairs and Sports</i>	2078, 2086, 2087, 2092, 2097, 2099, 2119, 2136, 2139, 2141, 2171, 2184, 2189, 2253.

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