

- (c) the names of companies and the details of action taken against them;
- (d) whether the accounting irregularities by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC), earlier in Satyam and now in Nokia, has alerted Government for strict action against them;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expenditure on social welfare by corporates

1445. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the corporate sector has a responsibility to promote social welfare;
- (b) whether promotion of healthcare and spreading and improving quality of education in the country is also its responsibility; and
- (c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above is in the affirmative, the details of the contribution of top 20 business houses of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) At present there is no legal requirement for companies to undertake activities in pursuance of their corporate social responsibility (CSR). However, the Companies Bill, 2012, passed by the Lok Sabha, casts a responsibility on certain classes of companies to formulate a policy on CSR and to spend two per cent of their average net profit of the last three years on such activities. At present no data of such expenditure voluntarily undertaken by the companies is maintained. The National Foundation of Corporate Governance has, however, undertaken a study to assess CSR activities undertaken by ten companies selected from different regions and sector.

Payments for lobbying by Indian companies

1446. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian companies are allowed to pay in foreign exchange for lobbying in foreign countries;
- (b) whether there is any limit for such payments;
- (c) the total amount of foreign exchange used by Indian companies for lobbying; and
- (d) the names of Indian companies that have used foreign exchange for lobbying in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (d) Lobbying in foreign countries is regulated by the laws of the country concerned. In the Companies Act, 1956 there is no provision relating to lobbying and Indian companies are not required under the Companies Act to make disclosures concerning this subject.

Safe drinking water

1447. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages and hamlets in Assam which are not covered under the safe drinking water supply;
- (b) whether Government has received any detailed estimate from Assam Government regarding the total amount required by the State to supply safe drinking water for villages and hamlets; and
- (c) if so, the details of funds sanctioned and utilised during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation maintains data regarding coverage of drinking water supply, habitation wise. As reported by Assam on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 5.3.2013, out of the total 86,976 rural habitations in the State, 51131 habitations are fully covered, 21,635 are partially covered and 14,210 are water quality affected habitations.

(b) and (c) Funds are allocated to States under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) as per approved criteria. The State Governments, in