

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 22, 2007/Agrahayana 1,
1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that ...(*Interruption*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: After Question Hour, please. I know what you are going to raise.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, it is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is important, except proper running of the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Just find out whether I give opportunities or not.

Q. 101—Shri Rampal Singh. As you are a new Member, I compliment you.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Addition/Exclusion of Medicines from the List of Controlled Medicines

+

*101. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has amended the list of controlled medicines and added or removed certain medicines from the said list to make medicines available at lower rates;

(b) if so, the details of the medicines added or removed from the said list in recent times alongwith their names; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the spiralling prices of medicines and to ensure the availability of medicines at reasonable rates to persons belonging to all sections of the society ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. Government has not made any amendment in the list of bulk drugs in the First Schedule of DPCO'95 in the recent past.

The Government is committed to ensure the availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices. For this purpose, the Department of Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority. NPPA is ensuring availability of medicines at reasonable rates through effective monitoring of prices in the case of Non-Scheduled drugs. Some of the steps taken by the Government and the NPPA to check the price rise and high prices of medicines.

1. Better market surveillance, detection and *suo-moto* scrutiny by NPPA has resulted in much better and effective enforcement of provisions of DPCO, 95. Because of better surveillance, the number of all first time price approvals in the last two and a half years has been much higher as compared to previous years. About 65% of the total prices fixed by NPPA for the first time are during this period.
2. As a result of better market surveillance, the NPPA has undertaken frequent price fixations in the cases of Scheduled formulations. About 80% of such price fixation were price reduction.

3. The price rise in the case of Non-Scheduled formulations is kept under check through effective monitoring on the basis of data from ORG-IMS. Government has delegated powers to the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) for fixation of prices of Non-Scheduled formulations in "Public Interest" under Para 10(b) of Drugs (Prices Control) Orders, 1995 (DPCO, 95). Subsequent to delegation of powers, NPPA have fixed prices in respect of 22 Non-Scheduled formulations under Para 10(b) of DPCO, 95 between June, 07 to October, 07 (List enclosed at Annexure). The delegation has facilitated in expeditious action by the NPPA to monitor and control the prices in case of price increases beyond the prescribed limit with respect in the cases of Non-Scheduled formulations.
4. As a result of Government's efforts the Pharmaceutical Industry has voluntarily agreed

to reduce prices of 886 generic formulation packs.

To make available life saving and essential drugs at reasonable prices, this Department has prepared draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006. The proposed policy contains various measures to ensure better availability of drugs at reasonable prices and better access to medicines for the people belonging to BPL families. The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM).

The Government has recently approved a health insurance scheme namely "The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana", which is expected to cover all the BPL families in unorganized sector in the next five years. The total sum insured would be Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum and would cover the hospitalization expenses. The Government of India would contribute 75% of the annual premium and the State Governments would contribute the remaining 25%.

Annexure

Details of 22 cases—Price recently fixed under 10(b) of DPCO, 1995

S.No.	Name of the company	Name of the product	Price fixed under para 10(b) incl. ED & L.T.	Percentage reduction
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Nicholas Piramal India Ltd.	Phenargan Elixir 5mg 60ml	22.96	4.32
2.	Lupin Ltd/Lyka Ltd.	Tablet Vial Dry+Sol 20mg 10ml	57.40	9.02
3.	Novartis India Ltd/Ind Swift Ltd.	Urclar Film C 250 mgx4	99.84	4.16
4.	Greesha Labs	Ulickit tabs	43.34	5.68
5.	Systopic Lab	Normaxcin tabs	18.68	20.53
6.	Meyer Organics/Mayer Healthcare	Jointace	84.84	2.87
7.	Ranbaxy	Roscilin 500mg	66.77	5.68
8.	USV	Pioz-G	61.92	0.76
9.	Ranbaxy	Roscilin Cap 250	30.00 39.20	36.23
10.	Ranbaxy Labs Ltd.	Cilanem 500mg	1113.00	5.68
11.	Dr. Reddy's Lab	Relent 10's	35.78	7.90

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Ranbaxy Labs Ltd.	Caverta Tab 50mg	34.73	17.57
13.	Glaxo Smithkline Pvt. Ltd./ M/s UCB India Pvt. Ltd.	Vozet 5mg 10's	49.00	8.71
14.	Cadila Pharma Ltd.	Envas 2.5mg	26.35	7.02
15.	Cadila Pharma Ltd.	Envas 5mg	42.98	6.71
16.	Wallace Pharma/Wallace Labs.	Walamycin Suspension 30ml	25.46	19.17
17.	Glaxo Smith Kline Pharma Ltd.	Tenovate-GN Cream 10mg	20.98	21.60
18.	Deep Cast Health Pvt. Ltd./ M/s Sunways (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Lacrigel 5gm	53.66	13.45
19.	Lupin Labs Ltd.	Remistar-A	47.61	27.43
20.	Yash Pharma	PNV Tabs 25mg	19.97	3.62
21.	Maneesh Pharma / Pfizer	Benadryl Cough Formula 100ml	38.61	22.78
22.	Maneesh Pharma / Pfizer	Caladryl 100ml	55.91	3.73

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have been stating for the last three years that names would be added to the list of controlled drugs but drugs have not been added to the list. In the reply, the Minister has given a list of 886 drugs stating that those would be added to the list of controlled drugs. I would like to know from the Minister the time by which these drugs would be added to the list of controlled drugs and the reasons for not adding those drugs in the said list so far?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices of the prices of the 886 drugs about which the hon'ble member is talking, were to be reduced by the company voluntarily. As per the list of the year 1995, there are only 74 bulk drugs in the controlled list. The new pharmaceutical policy is now under Government consideration. In the common minimum programme of the UPA Government we had talked about two-three things. One point was that the Government would provide medicines to the common man at lower rates and the second was that health insurance cover would be extended to the poor. The Government have taken a decision to provide health insurance to all the people living below the poverty line in next five years. There is a provision for providing health insurance to 1 crore 20 lakh people during this year. Out of the said amount,

each family can avail health benefits upto a sum of Rs. thirty thousand out of which 75 percent is to be borne by the Government of India and the remaining 25 percent by the State Governments.

As regards these 886 medicines, we had told the company that prices of their medicines have gone up a lot and if they wish they can reduce the prices on their own. Subsequently, companies responded that they would reduce the price of 886 medicines out of which only the prices of 487 medicines have been curtailed till date, they have not reduced the prices of the remaining medicines. However, this involved voluntary action on the part of the company.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices of the items meant for daily consumption are on the rise in the country, but despite the repeated statements, of the Government, the prices of life saving drugs are constantly increasing. As of now, our currency has appreciated against the major foreign currencies. In such a scenario, the prices were bound to go down. I would like to know from the Minister as to when the controlled medicines policy, 2006, formulated by him will be implemented, he may please give a time-schedule about which he had already made a mention. He has expressed his displeasure on many occasions. In the press meeting

also he had stated that the rates would be reduced. But till date rates have not been curtailed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please put your question.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: I would like to know the time by which the new policy is likely to be implemented and the steps being taken to ensure that the common man of the country gets life saving drugs at lower costs ?

MR. SPEAKER: You have put a good question. There is no need to repeat it. I compliment you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had already stated that to draft for the new pharmaceutical policy had been prepared in the year 2002 against which an appeal was filed in the Karnataka High Court. The Karnataka High Court passed a stay order on the said draft. Against this stay, the department approached the hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The hon'ble Supreme Court gave an interim order and stated that they were examining the case. But, the court made a point that the Government should prepare a list of all the life saving drugs, essential drugs and bring them under control. On the basis of that we wrote to the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health prepared a list of 354 medicines stating that those were essential drugs which should be brought under control. We presented the said list before the Cabinet. It is included in the new pharmaceutical policy. These 354 medicines, *inter alia*, have to be brought under control. This matter is under Government's consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj G. Ahir—Not Present.

Shri Shailendra Kumar

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that the prices of about 400 medicines have not yet been reduced while during repeated discussions on this matter in the House, the hon'ble Minister kept on replying that the prices of the life saving drugs would be reduced. But during the last nine months the prices of these medicines have doubled. It included Amril, Losakar, Nice Selcal, Ibugesic, Semi dionil, Asthalin inhaler and Aerocourt inhaler manufacturing companies. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the action proposed to be taken against the companies which have doubled the prices of their medicines. Regularly, he has given

replies in the House that the prices of the life saving drugs would be brought down while instead of decreasing, the prices of medicines are rising. What is his action plan in this regard ?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, as regards the question of the prices of medicines, we do not monitor it. OR does the monitoring. Now I cannot say whether ORG is right or wrong. But the report of the ORG is treated as authentic. As per the report of the ORG published in the month of August, the rates of 99 percent drugs have remained stable. There has been a rise in the prices of only half percent say 0.13 percent drugs. He has also said that the prices of certain drugs have increased by more than 50 percent. As per our DPCO, companies were given relaxation upto 20 percent that they can increase the price of drugs upto 20 percent in a year. Under 10(b), order has been issued since 1st April, 2007 that the relaxation to increase prices upto 20 percent has been reduced to a maximum of 10 percent only. Action for overcharging is taken against those who increase the prices above the said ceiling. A fine of more than Rs. 1400 crore till date have been imposed on those companies and cases of overcharging are pending against them in the court.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this country not only the prices of life saving drugs but also the prices of every medicine has increased recently. The Minister has repeatedly said in the House that his objective is to reduce the prices of life saving drugs in the country. He had given a report about the prices of the said medicines which illustrated that there was huge difference between the manufacturing cost and the prices at which they were sold in the market.

There is a difference of 200 to 500 per cent in the prices of many drugs, but till date no concrete steps have been taken to reduce their prices. In this regard, Health Committee was constituted earlier. The Committee gave its recommendations.

[English]

Then the recommendations were diluted.

[Translation]

The number of drugs which the said Committee had included in the list of controlled drugs was curtailed. Of late, the prices of medicines have soared very high. The

recommendations of the Committee are also out and in the House also there had been talks about it. It is not necessary that the prices of medicines are to be reduced voluntarily by the manufacturer because they fail to cut down the prices of drugs on their own.

MR. SPEAKER: You please put your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the number of more days needed to cut down the prices of life saving drugs and whether he would bring down the prices of said drugs to such a level as even the people living below and above the poverty line who are not in a position to buy the medicines, can afford to buy them ?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the drugs are of two kinds. One is controlled drugs and other is decontrolled drugs. The Government decides prices of controlled drugs considering production, packing, transportation charges and 100 percent margin. 74 drugs are controlled and rest of drugs are decontrolled. We cannot do anything in that regard. The companies themselves fix their prices and just inform us. We just see whether the prices of those drugs have increased by 10 to 20 per cent. He is right and I agree that many drugs are being sold at prices fixed arbitrarily. For examples, Citrine tablet of Cipla company is given to wholesaler at the rate Rs. 1.20, but its MRP is Rs. 37, though its cost of production is hardly 20 paise. But we do not have any control over decontrolled medicines. Therefore, we want that life saving drugs should be brought under controlled category. Last time, 74 drugs were put in controlled category. Earlier, their market share was 50 per cent which has now been reduced to 20 per cent. It is not so that after bringing drugs under controlled category their market share has been reduced. This time we have proposed that instead of 100 per cent, we will give margin of 150 per cent. Besides that if a pharmaceutical company undertakes Research and Development also, it will be given additional 50%. Till our pharmaceutical policy is approved by Cabinet, we cannot control the prices of these drugs. The Government are making efforts and it has constituted three committees in this regard. Firstly, Sandhu Committee was constituted by the Department, the companies raised objection to it. After that, PMO constituted Prabhsen Committee. On the basis of reports of both the Committees we have formulated a policy, which is under consideration of Cabinet. The Cabinet has referred to it to Group of Ministers, headed by Sharad Pawar ji. I agree that there

has been delay in holding the meeting of Group of Ministers. But we want that they should immediately send it back to Cabinet and Cabinet approve it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Expedition is needed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: With whom the capitalists are lobbying ?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: These people often visit. MLAs and MPs.....*(Interruptions)* Ministers doors are closed for them.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, now do not speak much. Over exposure is not good.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the intentions of hon'ble Minister are good. He wants to provide relief to the poor. But he just delivers speech and does not implement the promises he makes.....*(Interruptions)* He just speaks. As he said that he would provide relief to the people under BPL list, by giving them insurance cover in the next five years. Till then, they should be given some concession to die.

MR. SPEAKER: Ask question on the subject.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Member has a right to ask supplementary on the reply the hon'ble Minister has given in the House. Therefore, on the basis of the statement made by him. We find that he has given relaxation to BPL people to die after the five years as he has said that Government would implement it in five years. When an MP recommends the case of a person other than those in BPL list, maximum 20 to 30 thousand rupees are given from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The Minister says that the insured person will get Rs. 30 thousand and for this purpose 75 cent would be contributed by the Union Government and 25 per cent by the State Government. The State Government also has funds for this purpose and as we find that the Bihar Government has given upto Rs. 1 lakh to poor people under BPL list.....*(Interruptions)* I want to know as to how relief would be provided to the people ? He should clearly state whether the Government will provide free treatment for incurable ailments of insured persons. I would like this. Stop talking about giving thirty thousand twenty thousand rupees.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir sixty years have elapsed since Independence and I do not agree that all the people who have been living till now will die in next five years. He has got full right to criticise the Government, if it is not performing well, but when the Government performs well, then he should at least appreciate it for the good work. After 60 years of Independence, for the first time the Government is taking an initiative to provide free medicines to all BPL people in the country, the Government is making arrangement for free medicines through Health insurance. It is happening for the first time in the country. Rs. 30 thousand's cover has been given to 30001 families and in total Rs. 35000 crore will be released from Government's exchequer. We do not have magic wand to solve the problems instantly by pushing a button. Therefore, I say that it is not simply a speech, one crore twenty lakh persons' families will be insured this year i.e. in the year 2007-2008. All people of BPL families irrespective of their caste or religion, would be covered in next five years in a phased manner. It includes treatment given by doctor. Their Health card, Smart card would be prepared and such person would be able to claim consultation to doctor and medicines costing upto Rs. 30,000. As he said, the State Government has separate schemes, the discretionary power of Union Government or hon'ble Prime Minister is different from discretionary power of Health Minister. Once, I had made a suggestion also that 10 per cent or 20 per cent out of Rs. 2 crore provided under MPLAD funds should be kept for assisting patients. As you are aware that we hail from Bihar and patients from there often come to us. We must consider this fact that even today poor man in villages is not able to get treated as he does not possess even small amount of rupees 10-20 and he dies. If the Government has decided to give them relief of Rs. 30 thousand annually, it is a welcome step and he should welcome it.

[English]

Greenfield Airports Policy

+
*102. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had drafted the Greenfield Airports Policy to improve connectivity in the country.

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

(c) whether the Government has fixed the financial responsibility for development of these airports.

(d) if so, the number of airports identified by the Government for redevelopment in each State/Union Territory.

(e) whether there is any proposal to develop airports in small town also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) A new Greenfield policy for the development of Greenfield Airports is under formulation.

(e) and (f) Proposals received for Greenfield Airports from State Government are at Hassan, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Shimoga (Karnataka), Jewar-Greater NOIDA (UP), Chakkan near Pune (Maharashtra), Pakyong near Gangtok (Sikkim), Chietlu near Kohima (Nagaland), Itanagar, Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Kokrajhar (Assam) and Durgapur-Assansol (West Bengal).

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, the proposed policy initiated for setting up of Greenfield Airports with a view to strengthen regional connectivity is quite commendable. But, the success of this ambitious policy will depend on the availability of land for constructing such Greenfield Airports.

As you are aware, in the current scenario, land has become a very sensitive and volatile issue. The recent events in West Bengal are a case in point. As such the State Government do not have enough land for any kind of expansion or development projects. Hence, the State Government are required to acquire land either from farmers or private land owners. This leads to widespread resentment and agitation from local farmers due to which the State Government delays the project or shelves it altogether.

In such cases, the Central Government passes the buck to the respective State Government stating that land acquisition is a State subject. ... *(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Due to lack of ownership and accountability, many important projects are kept in abeyance or shelved off completely.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government can consider coming out with a clear cut policy for acquiring land for projects of national importance, which will provide farmers adequate compensation for their land relative to the market value of their land and, at the same time, offer attractive rehabilitation package to the displaced farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: You have gone far away from the question.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I think, hon. Member has raised a much larger issue which is beyond the scope of this question because land acquisition and other issues I cannot dwell on while replying to this question. ... *(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: You restrict your reply to the airports.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: However, I can state only that, yes, there is a lot of growth in this sector and as a result of that one of the key constraints which we face today is the shortage of infrastructure both in the existing airports and also the creation of new airports in many a places including, I am sure, the hon. Member is keen to know about his own area and constituency because Pune is lacking in civilian airport at the moment.

A far as Government is concerned, yes, there is a new Greenfield Policy which is under formulation. However, under the existing policy, there is no restriction on setting up of new airports. Of course, it would be subject to the approval of the Union Government and the Cabinet. That is being followed and by virtue of that Greenfield Airports which had been sanctioned earlier in the case of Hyderabad and in Bangalore is nearing completion and will be commissioned definitely in the year 2008. New Greenfield Airports have been proposed in Navi Mumbai even in Raj Guru Nagar near the Pune and many other airports have been proposed. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have already given the list.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir the point here is that in view of the Airport Authority's role as a sole provider of

airports in the past, that definition is now changing. Every role of creation of infrastructure cannot only be taken up by the Government alone. As a result, while on the one hand, we would like to strengthen the Airports Authority and, on the other hand, we will enhance the capability of their existing airports. New airport creations should be done in the joint ventures or the private sector participation also.

MR. SPEAKER: But whatever is done, the land is the problem.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Finally, I would just like to recap, land even for the upgradation of existing airports in any city, all airports need upgradation, longer runways, more terminal capacity or cargo or whatever. For that reason, we need more land. Unfortunately, the experience of the Government at the Centre is that the availability of land is not being made satisfactorily by the Government. As a result, the existing airports are not being able to be upgraded or developed to the capacity or what is required today. So, I would urge all the hon. Members to extend their support because ultimately States have to support. It is not only the initiative of the Central Government, but also it is equally a responsibility and a need of the State to promote aviation and to give better connectivity. So, I had urged all the hon. Members also to use their good offices and support us in trying to get more land easily from the State Governments. Even newer airports will ultimately have to be driven with some kind of support. As you rightly said, land required for airports runs into thousands of acres. So, there will have to be some kind of a meaningful interaction and support by the States.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has given a very exhaustive answer. I do not think you need to ask the second supplementary.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, as correctly stated by the hon. Minister, the land is a very important issue for constructing any new airports or the important projects.

My second supplementary is related to the new Airport coming up in my constituency as stated in the hon. Minister's reply. He has mentioned the new Airport coming up in Chakkan near Pune. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Airport is coming up in Chakkan or Raj Guru Nagar; how much land is going to be acquired for this proposed new Airport and under whose ownership that Airport will be.

MR. SPEAKER: As to the question whose ownership, such details cannot be given.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I can only state, yes, the hon. Member is right in saying that there is a proposal to make an Airport. I think the site is called Raj Guru Nagar. I cannot give the exact name. But earlier it was Chakkan. A slight alignment has been shifted to Raj Guru Nagar which is nearby Chakkan.

Regarding the exact details of how much land is to be acquired and other details, I would say that ultimately the land had to be acquired by the State Government. The MIDC, which is the Industrial Development Corporation of the State, is in the process. Once they acquire, then, there will be a global bid and competitive bid on the basis of which this Airport development will take place.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. As stated by the hon'ble Minister, the Greenfield Airports are being developed jointly by public-private participation. It has also come to our notice that some foreign companies are interested in this project. Would it not result in compromising the navigation safety norms since private airports prefer to follow business ethics for promoting their business. We have experienced it in the past that private sector companies have always compromised with the security and safety norms. What steps are being taken by the Government to ensure it ?

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Let me assure the hon. Member that while the Government not only runs Airport itself through the AAI but also, as you have rightly said, Airports are run by the private sector or joint venture. New Airports will come up in the future. But one thing has been very clearly spelt out that is a part of the policy that all Air Traffic Management of every Airport in the country will be managed by the Government through the AAI and the ATC Wing of the Airports Authority. Security at every Airport again is a responsibility of either the State Government or the Central Government. So, there is no question of allowing security or safety to be compromised both in the air and on the ground. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, I am keeping another question to be put to the hon. Minister. It is related to my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, you should have framed it properly.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving this opportunity. This policy is an improvement of the air connectivity in the country. Salem is the headquarters of my parliamentary constituency. Salem Airport has a very good airfield, very good runway and above all, it has a very good sophisticated infrastructure also to ensure smooth take-off and landing. It has got all the necessary clearance also. The working staff is also present there. But so far no aircraft is allowed to land and take off from there. I would request the hon. Minister to clear the hitch that may be there so that at least the domestic flights, small aircraft of Indian or private airlines can land take off from there. May I know from the hon. Minister when he will approve this and allow the aircraft to take off and land at the Salem Airport ?

MR. SPEAKER: Any question on Civil Aviation means that every hon. Member will ask about his or her constituency. This is not the purpose of a question here. But since she has already put it, it can be replied. I allowed a discussion. I am sure, the hon. Minister is very happy to have another discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: We have already had two major discussions.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Because you are so popular a Minister, everybody wants you!

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I thank you for the compliments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are popular in the sense that everybody wants you.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Planes usually get late which causes difficulty to everybody. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is not yet so popular as Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain is!

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: You pay the compliment on the other side also for his past deeds.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope they are not misdeeds.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Always be diplomatic!

MR. SPEAKER: Please answer this question and then we go to the next Question.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I think, as you have rightly pointed out, every hon. Member would like to see connectivity being increased in his or her own area. And that is rightly so because that is the need of the day. Civil Aviation has now acquired a much wider role than what it had in the past.

Salem is an Airports Authority's Airport. We will make sure to try to satisfy the needs of the hon. Member *vis-à-vis* Salem Airport. I shall also invite her for a discussion and understand what all are the issues, since I cannot give every specific detail about what she has raised. We have about 127 and odd airports across the country. Eighty one are operational airfields, and we would like to see that the ones which are closed or which are not yet brought to proper use, those should also be revived, of course subject to some conditions and restrictions because again some areas are encroached. Land is not available there. Whether it is possible or not, but we are in an endeavour to make those airports operational.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Part (b) of the question relates to setting up of new airports in small towns. Sir, I would like to request, through you, to the Minister that along with small towns, airports need to be clubbed with tourism centres also. Air connectivity to tourist centres will go a long way in promoting tourism in the country. Many of the tourist centres in the country are not connected with the air services.

MR. SPEAKER: He knows that.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: So far as Kerala is concerned, it is one of the prime tourist States in the country. Idukki is main tourist destination in Kerala. It takes around five hours to reach Idukki from the nearest airport to row.

MR. SPEAKER: Go and meet him and try to find out about it.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I do not see the name of any of the places in Kerala where the new Greenfield Airports are proposed. There is only a proposal from Pathanamthitta district to set up an airport there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether tourist destinations will be given priority while setting up airports in the future.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Of course, there has to be priority for areas which require air connectivity, whether it is for purposes of tourism, commercial importance or otherwise. The fact is that this Greenfield Airport policy that we are proposing is to see that there is a wider or much larger creation of airports across the country. Every airport need not be a very large airport like Indira Gandhi Airport in Delhi. Some airports can be small or medium also. Tier-II and Tier-III towns and cities also need to be connected. As you rightly said, some areas of tourist importance should also be connected. So, there is a genuine need and that is why, we feel that the old policy where we do not allow new airport to be set up within 150 kilometres of the existing airports—that condition is waived, at times, by the approval of the Union Cabinet, of course – but, at the same time, we visualize a wider, more transparent and easier policy where the private sector can also come up and set up airports, independent of the Government. It also addresses the issue of land acquisition and otherwise which come in the way at times. So, a broad policy framework is proposed to be set up and, that is why, inter-Ministerial and Government discussions are on. I cannot give you any definite answer or timeframe right now. However, as you know, Kerala, there is a proposal for Kannur which has been moved by the State Government and the Centre has also responded equally positively. We hope that when some necessary formalities are over, we will move that proposal for the final approval of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 103. Brevity is always a virtue.

Oil Security

*103. DR. R. SENTHIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to address the issues of oil security in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Various measures are being taken on a continuous basis to strengthen oil security in the country, which are as follow :

- (i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

- (ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.
- (iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- (iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) / Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- (v) Arresting decline from aging fields.
- (vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- (vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.
- (viii) Diversification of the sources for procurement of crude. The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are now importing crude oil from about 25 countries either on term contract or through spot purchase.
- (ix) Government has taken a decision to construct a Strategic Storage of crude oil of 5 MMT capacity at three locations viz. Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur for meeting unforeseen situations arising out of short term supply disruptions, natural calamities, etc.

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL: Thank you, Sir. The nation is on the move. India is growing fast and transforming fast. This has caused immense stress on the energy and oil needs. In response to the question, the answer given by the Minister is more than satisfying. But, there are two things that I would like to know. Seventy-five per cent of our oil needs are totally dependent on imports. The newspapers report today that the oil price is 99 dollars. It is more than two-fold increase in the past two years. I commend the hon. Minister for his exemplary work in keeping it on the shoulder of the Government. But, obviously it cannot continue. So, what exactly does the hon. Minister propose to do save these losses and what exactly is the financial loss to the oil companies due to the increase of international oil price ?

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, it does not arise out of this question. Please put your second supplementary.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Sir, as I mentioned, 75 per cent of our oil needs depend on imports. So, what exactly does the Government propose to do to decrease the import dependence and what are the steps taken by the Government to acquire overseas oil fields ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member rightly said that there is a marked increase in the price of oil in the international market. Last year, it was around \$40 to \$45 and today it is \$99 now. In spite of this massive increase, the Government has not increased even one rupee in the prices of petroleum products which are used by the common people like petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene. They are all kept at the same prices as they were earlier.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, of course, the answer to the question is not very big, but the intention has still been shown. Looking at the international crude oil price scenario the performance of the hon. Minister is very good and so he is a very popular Minister.

Sir, there are two ways of containing the oil price. One is acquire overseas oil blocks and the other is to increase the domestic production. I am coming to the domestic production. The public sector units have acquired a large number of oil blocks under the New Exploration Licensing Policy-VI. What are the steps that the Government is taking against those companies which have acquired a number of oil blocks but have not yet started the exploration process causing a threat to our oil security ?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: At the time of NELP, time was given to those companies who had won the oil blocks in the international competitive bidding. When the time is over they have to pay the penalty and the allotment of blocks can be cancelled. But we are trying to see that they must complete their work or start their work in time.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I wish to submit to the hon'ble Minister that we have to import seventy per cent petroleum products to meet our demand because our domestic production does not exceed 25 to 30 percent. We are holding talks

with Iran in regard to the gas pipe line for the last two years. Both Pakistan and Iran have agreed to it. Would the hon'ble Minister state when India would given clearance to Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline and when work on this project is likely to begin ?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, our Cabinet had cleared this issue.

[English]

We are also fully committed to be a partner in the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline. There are some small issues which are yet to be settled like the transport tax which we have to pay to the Government of Pakistan as the pipeline would be passing through Pakistan. But I can assure you that we are doing our best that this pipeline work starts soon.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for not increasing the prices of petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene and I hope the Minister would be able to resist any pressure to increase the prices from any quarters.

MR. SPEAKER: If you are made the Finance Minister you will realize the problem.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, we all know the price of crude oil has gone up considerably at the international level, but still the Minister has been very careful not to increase the prices of petroleum products in our country. We all would like to see that he should withstand whatever pressure comes and he should continue to function the same way in which he is functioning now.

MR. SPEAKER: He is a very popular Minister.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I am not asking this question not just to get a good answer.

Sir, points No. 1 & 2 of his answer says, 'carving out more and areas for exploration and quicker development of discovered reserves'. I would like to bring to your notice that Cochin High which has been found to have oil reserves in a great extent and for which excavation and exploration have been going on for quite a long time and for which it has been declared in Parliament that the first well for really taking out the oil will be in the early stages of 2008, I find it is going on at a very slow pace and no real attention is being given to Cochin High.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether steps will be taken to keep to the word and to see that real excavation and real oil comes out of Cochin high immediately in 2008 itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Too long supplementaries I will not allow in future. Supplementary does not mean a debate.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: The hon. Member has mentioned about not increasing the price. I would like to assure the House that we are trying to do that. But the real direction had come from the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi – there is no secret on this – for not allowing to increase the price and we hope to maintain that.

As far as the suggestion of Cochin is concerned, we will consider this when this is done.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the Government takes credit for not increasing the price of petrol and diesel. I shall like to ask the hon. Minister that in order not to increase the price of petrol and diesel, to what extent they have issued the oil bonds? Is it not going to put a burden on the Government Exchequer in future and is it not going to increase the fiscal deficit of the country in future?

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, it does not arise.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 104.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It is very surprising... *(Interruptions)* I have put a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you to put your question. I have given you an opportunity to put your question.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I have put the question.

MR. SPEAKER: But it does not arise. It is my decision.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, when it is inconvenient to the hon. Minister, ... *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is a deliberate affront to the Chair and you have to face the consequences one day.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it. Mr. Swain, if it is recorded, you will be in trouble.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the way?

*(Interruptions)...**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, he should not address the Chair this way...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell me, who will decide this. It is for me. I have disallowed Dr. Senthil's question.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: I say this because I decide.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If this is happening then I will have to take action. I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I gave you an opportunity. You put a question, which according to me does not arise. End of the matter.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Questioning the Speaker's ruling is something not permissible.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This has become a habit of some hon. Members.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I know that.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I leave it to the hon. Members. If you want, I will go away immediately.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I will appeal to the hon. Member that this is not the way he should address the Chair... *(Interruptions)* This is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER: If all the Leaders agree, I will not be here. But I will not allow anybody challenging my decision.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed it because it does not arise out of this question. Your supplementary is irrelevant.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. I want to know what your decision is.

*(Interruptions)...**

Research Institute for Bio-gas and Bio-diesel Energy

*104. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any plan to set up a research institute for Bio-gas and Bio-diesel energy:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Research, design, development and other related activities in the area of bio-diesel and biogas technology

are being undertaken by the concerned Ministries of the Government through various institutions and universities in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have laid the answer to Question no. 104 on the Table of the House. I would like to state that the question is related to sharing be put that the question is related to the Ministry of Rural Development. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, put your Supplementary. Sorry, I could not listen to you due to interruption.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister said that this Question is not related to Ministry ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly repeat your question that you have put.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have all felt it that the drastic increase in the prices of petroleum products is putting an adverse impact on the entire country's economy and common man is facing a lot of problems on account of this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He says, research matters are related to other Ministries.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr Speaker, Sir, please listen to me ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, please.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are misusing your opportunity.

Kindly speak; let me see. Anything can be said in this House. Nobody comes here fully prepared. Long questions, irrelevant questions are put in the name of Supplementary and if the Speaker there points it out, all sorts of insinuations and allegations are made. It has become the culture of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, why you are taking it out on me? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is because you also are not listening to me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have always been listening to you ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, please proceed.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please do not get annoyed with me. I was submitting that unless we make any alternative arrangement for the petroleum products, the country's economy will continue to be in deep waters. Moreover, we have not been able to become self sufficient. However, I can see a thin ray of hope in achieving self sufficiency. It is true that some hope has been generated for the production of bio-diesel through a plant say Jatropha. Although it is not absolutely related with the petroleum product, but it is related to some Ministry at least and they are its end users. Since the heavy investment involved in it cannot be borne by the farmer, through you, I would request the hon'ble Minister if he could increase the support price of this crop further to encourage the farmers and whether any infrastructure could be developed whereby the farmers could provide support by producing these crops and could play the role of a supporter so as to meet the shortage of petroleum products?

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is referring to Jatropha plant which is grown in wasteland. This problem is related to the Ministry of Agriculture. Jatropha plant produces 500 grams of seeds during

1 to 3 years and 3 to 4 kg of seeds from 3 to 10 years, when it becomes 10 years old. The life of a Jatropha plant is 40 years, however, it can be grown in wasteland only and not in agricultural land. If the Ministry of Agriculture could Plant Jatropha and the other two Departments support it, something could be achieved. Centres have been set up for it at several places but nothing substantial has been obtained. So, I aver that if this Jatropha plant could be a success but this question is not related to my Ministry.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any second Supplementary?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, my question was in regard to encouraging the farmers by increasing the support price, that is, if the Ministry of Petroleum and the Ministry of Agriculture propose to formulate any scheme to encourage the farmers?

MR. SPEAKER: Is your question over.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is an irrelevant question. It does not arise.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot repeat your question.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, be it bio-gas or bio-diesel, neither of the two could meet the demand of energy in the country like an institutionalized resource of energy and the work of research and development thereon has been going on in a slow pace.

The Government pay attention towards the research being carried out in respect of conventional energy. That's why it readies to the implementation stage early. I think, the progress in respect of bio-gas is going on at a very slow pace over a long period of time and even one per cent of the available sources could not be exploited so far, I would like to know from the Government whether

they are contemplating to set up National Mission of Bio-gas on the lines of the National Mission of Bio-diesel and whether they have any plans to expedite the work of Research and Development thereon?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister says that it has nothing to do with his Ministry. The same question is being repeated.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by mistake my question has gone to the wrong Ministry. It should have been put up before the concerned Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, that is a good suggestion.

[English]

Next time you put another Question. I will see that it goes the proper Ministry.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: But, this is quite a ordinary question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you kindly repeat your answer. "It is nothing to do with my Ministry".

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to this question should be given.

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked the Minister to reply to the question, you listen to it.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: My question is about the National Mission on Bio-gas.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Ministry of Rural Development does something in this regard, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will support it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the trouble. Everybody makes comments.

Now, we go to the next Question—Q.No. 105. Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

Shortage of LPG

*105. ⁺ SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the acute shortage of cooking gas in certain parts of the country including the State of Kerala;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware that certain cooking gas agencies are not registering new applications for gas connections; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Government to resolve this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) There is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including in the State of Kerala, and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the requirement of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs had reported occasional backlog in certain States / Union Territories including the State of Kerala due to natural calamities like floods, road breaches, collapse of bridge and stoppage of work by various sections of the employees, strike by transports and contract labourers, hartals, etc. The Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States / UTs by operating the bottling plants on holidays, extended hours of working and also by ensuring adequate supply of cylinders.

(c) and (d) The enrollment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. As on 1.11.2007 there were 9.77 crore domestic LPG customers in the country while the waiting list was only 68813 in the country, including 10861 in the State of Kerala for release of new domestic LPG connections. This waiting list is expected to be liquidated by 15th December 2007.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, the customers of Kerala are facing a serious problem due to the acute shortage of cooking gas and cylinders. Yesterday, all the Members from Kerala had a discussion with the hon. Minister and he assured us that it would be sorted out very soon. While we compliment and congratulate him for showing a deep concern to the problem of the customers of Kerala, we would like to know from him whether there is any plan being prepared by the Ministry to distribute cooking gas at least in the metro cities, in Kerala, in order to sort out the problem of the shortage of cooking gas in Kerala.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): Sir, there is a marked improvement in the availability and supply. I can assure the hon. Member, through you, Sir, very soon the problems of the Kerala people will be sorted out. Yesterday, they had a meeting with me, and the other people are working on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, It is every where, this shortage is throughout the country....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singh, you know very well that if you want a discussion, how it is to be done.

Now, you put your second supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, yesterday, during our discussion the hon. Minister assured that it would be sorted out very soon. We would like to bring to his kind notice one important matter that even today some of the gas agencies are not even registering fresh applications for getting new gas connection in Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

What is their practical difficulty? When we discussed with the gas agencies, they explained that the Government companies, the Oil Marketing Companies, have advised them not to take fresh applications. We would like to know from the Minister whether it is true. If some of the gas agencies are not even ready to take fresh application for getting new connection, will the Ministry take action against such agencies? What are the steps taken by the Government to sort out this kind of issue? They are not even ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat. Why are you repeating the same thing? It has become a habit.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, if the hon. Members gives me the specific details of the complaint, I would take care of that. But I just want to inform specially my friends here that the number of LPG customers in India has increased from 842 lakh as on 1st April, 2005 to 886 lakh as on 1st April, 2007. It may further go to 977 lakh.

[Translation]

We are serving about 10 lakh people. What are saying, we received hardly any complaint from anywhere even at the time of Dipawali and Id...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There is shortage of LPG in the entire country

SHRI MURLI DEORA: You may file complaint...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

Now, Shri Ajaya Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. The question of Shri Ajaya Kumar only will go on record now.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Singh-ji, please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Malhotra ji, you know that;

[English]

you know very well that if a Minister does not give a satisfactory answer, you have methods to make him answer.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right! There are so many ways open to get the reply, but you do not want to follow them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do not answer anybody except the Supplementary of Shri Ajaya Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, I did not get the answer from the Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krishnadas, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krishnadas, for the last time I am telling you to take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Give me the book.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is intolerable for me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry; then, I will have to 'Thomas' you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The version of only Shri Ajaya Kumar will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Sir, it is urgently needed as a case for immediate action because thousands of consumers of Kudumbashree units have registered their names in the waiting list for the release of LPG connection

*Not recorded

for more than one year. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to take immediate action to solve the issue.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, this is a suggestion of the hon. Member, and we will consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot complete even five questions!

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that at the time of Ram Naik Ji, the entire waiting list for gas connection was cleared. The hon'ble Minister also belongs to Maharashtra. Maharashtra has an acute shortage of cooking gas. The whole country has its shortage, but I would like to ask particularly about Maharashtra. Out of 68, 813, how many are there in the waiting list of Maharashtra. Earlier, there was quota for MPs. When are they going to reintroduce such a quota? People come to us and say that the agency does not enrol them, it does not supply them gas. Earlier we would provide them connection through the MP quota, but now that is not possible. If you reintroduce the quota system, people could get more relief. Kindly tell me about the status of waiting list in Maharashtra.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: I have not got the figures of each State. I will send you in writing as to how much backlog is there in Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will he reintroduce the MP quota?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI DEORA: I will look into his suggestion in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr Minister, you need the Speaker's approval before you do it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Sir, though the hon. Minister has taken steps to ease the situation but still the problem is that there are case of deficiencies there. So, considering this and to find a solution, would the hon. Minister agree to visit Kerala and sit with the

concerned Government and all of us and sort out the problem after this Session?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: About visit to Kerala, you may remember I told you, we will come again and sort the issues out.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Speedy Clearance of Cargo Airports

*106. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the long delay in the movement of cargo at various airports in the country and the problems being faced by the importers and exporters as a result thereof;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for speedy clearance of cargo at the airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) An endeavour is made to move the cargo at the airport expeditiously. However, since there are a number of agencies involved, including the importer or his agent, some delays occasionally take place.

(c) with a view to reduce the dwell time both in export and import cargo at the airports, some of the important steps taken are: introduction of web-based clearance system (e-trade), bar coding of consignments, installation of ETVs (Elevated Transport Vehicles) and conveyor belt in export cargo, introduction of ASRS (Automatic Storage and Retrieval System) for import cargo, reduction of free period both for import and export cargo from 5 working days to 3 working days.

Bird Hit Incidents

*107. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of bird hits on the planes are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of incidents of bird hits on the planes reported during the last one year in the country;

(c) whether the factors responsible for increase in bird hits have been ascertained;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to face the challenges of such factors responsible for increase in the bird hits on the planes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Nor, Sir. As against 189 bird hit incidents reported in the year 2005, only 167 bird hit incidents were reported in the year 2006.

(c) to (e) While bird hits have not increased in number, measures have been taken to reduce / eradicate bird activity at the airports. Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage bins, establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring of birds, etc. have also been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.

[Translation]

Violations of Rail Tourist Agents Rules

*108. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Railway Travellers' Service Agents (RTSA) Rules, 1985 and the Rail Tourist Agents (RTA) Rules, 1980;

(b) the details of cases of violation of these rules during the last three years; and

(c) the number of people against whom the Government has taken action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) The salient features of Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules 1985 and Rail Tourist Agents (RTAs) Rules 1980 are as under:-

1. Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSA) Rules 1985

(i) RTSAs are appointed for the convenience of passengers for purchasing of reserved tickets. These agents are authorised to buy tickets by standing in queue at the reservation counter.

(ii) RTSAs provide this service at prescribed service charges, which at present, are as under:-

2nd Sitting & Sleeper Class	-	Rs. 15/- per passenger
Upper Classes	-	Rs. 25/- per passenger

(iii) RTSAs are appointed by the Zonal Railways through calling of applications.

(iv) The conditions for appointment of RTSAs are as under:-

(a) Applicant should be in possession of the latest Income Tax Clearance Certificate.

(b) Should have office and premises properly maintained with adequate conveniences and amenities in the city so as to accommodate the visit of sufficient number of customers.

(c) Not convicted in a criminal case involving moral turpitude.

(d) The fees on payment of which the licence is issued or renewed is Rs. 3000/- and Rs. 1500/- for any additional licence in the same station.

(e) The security deposit on furnishing of which the licence is issued or renewed is Rs. 15,000/- in cash and a Bank Guarantee for Rs. 40,000/- in addition.

(f) The number of agents for each station and Railway shall be such as may be determined by the competent authority.

- (g) The licence is issued for a period of . 3 years which can be renewed every three years on satisfactory performance.
- (h) The licence is not transferable except in case of death of licensee.
- (v) The competent authority has the right to suspend or cancel at any time the licence for violation of or for ceasing to fulfill any of the conditions under these rules after giving a show-cause notice.

2. Salient features of Rail Tourist Agents (RTA) Rules 1980

The first attempt to authorise certain persons/agencies to facilitate making reservations was made by appointing Rail Tourist Agents (RTAs) under RTA Rules, 1980. The RTAs so appointed mainly handled Foreign Tourists arriving in India. They issued Indrail passes. Special tickets etc. to the foreign tourists/non-resident Indians and residents of India. The conditions for appointment of RTAs are as under:-

- (i) should possess a trade licence from the competent authority to carry on the business of a tourist agent in India;
- (ii) must be financially sound and should possess the latest Income Tax Clearance Certificate (ITCC) from the Income Tax authority in India;
- (iii) should have obtained recognition to act as travel agent from the Government.
- (iv) should have been carrying out the business of a travel agent for a minimum period of one year;
- (v) should follow RBI guidelines to handle foreign exchange in India;
- (vi) must have an office and the premises properly maintained with adequate conveniences at the central place of the city so as to accommodate the visit of sufficient number of customers and to provide them with the reasonable conveniences.

(b) The details of number of authorised RTSAs and RTSAs found involved in irregularities during the last three years are as under:-

Type of Agent	No. of authorized agents found involved in irregularities in the wale of tickets		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto July'07)
RTSA	18	27	3
RTA	0	0	1

(c) Suitable action *viz.* imposition of fine/issuing of warning, cancellation/termination of licence/non-renewal of licence has been taken against 48 RTSAs/RTAs. One RTSA was exonerated on enquiry.

[English]

Luxury Tourist Trains by Private Companies

*109. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to permit private companies to run luxury tourist trains in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the sectors identified for running such trains is the country; and
- (d) the reasons for not running such luxury tourist trains by the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (d) No, Sir. At present Railway has the policy to run Luxury Tourist Trains in collaboration with State Tourism Development Corporations and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) only.

[Translation]

Exploration of Gas Reserves by ONGC

*110. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas reserves explored by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) during the last three years;

(b) the number of gas reserves explored by the private sector during the same period;

(c) whether biased approach is being adopted in finding gas reserves so as to benefit the private sector at the cost of the Government sector companies;

(d) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) In place hydrocarbon reserve accretion by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in last three years was about 443.88 million metric tone of oil equivalent (MMTOE), which is slightly higher than 438.66 MMTOE of the reserve accretions made by Private/JV companies. As on 1.4.2007, the balance recoverable gas reserves position of ONGC and Private/JV companies is 540.44 billion cubic metre (BCM) and 459.39 BCM respectively. The break-up of in-place oil & gas reserves accretion by ONGC and Private/JV companies is given below:

(Figures in MMTOE)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
ONGC	137.34	137.02	169.52	443.88
Pvt/JV	178.74	66.04	193.88	438.66

With the implementation of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), the award of exploration blocks is made on international competitive bidding process in a transparent manner to national oil companies and private and foreign companies without any bias towards any company. National Oil Companies (NOCs) and private sector indian and foreign companies compete on an equal footing to secure exploration acreages. The allotment of the blocks is broadly based on the work programme to be carried out in the exploration blocks as well as fiscal package offered by the bidders to the Government. In view of transparent award system, based on international competitive bidding for exploration blocks, the question of conducting an inquiry in this regard does not arise.

[English]

Food Processing Units

*111. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement of food processing facilities and the availability of such facilities in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) the food processing units sanctioned during the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of the funds/grants allocated for setting up of food processing units during the last three years and during this years, State/UT-wise;

(d) the details of such schemes pending or under implementation in each State/Union Territory;

(e) the details of the units closed down during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken to revive them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As per Vision-2015 Document, the estimated market size for processed foods for the country as a whole will increase from Rs. 4,60,000 crores in 2003-04 to Rs. 13,50,000 crores by 2015 thereby registering a growth rate of 10%. The production of horticulture products have shown a growth of 9% during 2004-05. The requirement of food processing facilities will therefore have to meet the above growth in production/market size. No State/UT-wise estimate of such requirement have been made.

(b) Statement-showing details of State/UT-wise number of food processing units for which grant has been approved during the last three years i.e. 2004-05 to 2006-07 is enclosed.

(c) The details of grants released under the Scheme for Setting Up/Technology Upgradation/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries in the country during the period 2004-05 to 2007-08 upto 16.11.2007 are given below:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
2004-05	51.14
2005-06	69.81
2006-07	82.19
2007-08 (Upto 16.11.2007)	58.88

State/UT-wise release of grants under the above Scheme is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) Statement-III showing details of applications of various States/Union Territories pending at various stages of consideration under the above Scheme in the Ministry is enclosed.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has no information on units that have been closed down. For promotion and development of food processing industries and for enhancing their financial viability, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing a Plan Scheme for Technology upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units. Under the above scheme, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Skkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Laskshadweep and ITDP Areas.

Statement I

State/UT-wise Statement showing details of number of Food Processing Units for which Grants has been Approved during the last three years

State/UT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	2	1	5
Himachal Pradesh	3	4	11
Punjab	21	14	21

	1	2	3	4
Uttarakhand		2	5	15
Haryana		7	3	16
Delhi		1	2	2
Rajasthan		3	10	26
Uttar Pradesh		23	21	36
Bihar		1	1	2
Mizoram		0	0	0
Nagaland		0	1	1
Tripura		0	0	1
Meghalaya		1	1	2
Assam		8	4	12
West Bengal		13	9	22
Jharkhand		2	3	1
Orissa		1	4	3
Chhattisgarh		1	3	6
Madhya Pradesh		4	10	8
Gujarat		7	10	15
Maharashtra		24	43	83
Andhra Pradesh		26	24	41
Karnataka		15	13	26
Goa		1	1	0
Tamil Nadu		11	23	35
Pondicherry		1	1	2
Kerala		10	11	30
Manipur		0	0	4
Total		188	222	426

Statement II***Financial Assistance Granted for setting up, Modernization and Technology Upgradation of Food Processing Industries in the Country***

(Rs. In Lacs)

State/UT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto 16.11.07)
1	2	3	4	5
Jammu and Kashmir	74.80	63.66	42.55	13.13
Himachal Pradesh	75.51	110.10	180.74	134.32
Punjab	488.38	476.62	512.89	253.40
Chandigarh	0	0	4.34	0.00
Uttarakhand	50.38	160.21	313.93	23.93
Haryana	216.89	88.80	282.45	132.47
Delhi	2.50	36.77	36.59	0.00
Rajasthan	10.83	106.80	471.06	313.33
Uttar Pradesh	476.95	649.59	561.86	332.02
Bihar	2.50	24.51	0	7.73
Nagaland	0	17.35	58.81	0
Manipur	0	11.77	68.51	0
Mizoram	0	10.15	0	0.00
Meghalaya	24.79	13.26	21.85	8.19
Assam	243.75	71.94	920.49	398.48
West Bengal	190.62	371.33	381.06	347.48
Jharkhand	22.82	48.28	25.00	4.34
Orissa	50.00	22.26	25.00	11.25
Chhattisgarh	32.61	91.76	91.64	84.31
Madhya Pradesh	68.30	208.81	149.24	40.17
Gujarat	217.40	282.25	422.63	125.31
Maharashtra	623.02	859.72	1399.64	947.11
Andhra Pradesh	734.40	725.22	936.36	503.28

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	358.77	295.58	439.53	143.28
Goa	25.00	47.58	22.58	0.00
Kerala	102.36	327.10	614.24	465.50
Tamil Nadu	318.87	337.24	493.62	560.65
Pondicherry	24.54	7.17	16.30	31.30
Total	4435.99	5465.83	8492.91	4880.98

Statement III

States/UT-wise Statement Showing Pending Proposals at various stages of consideration

State/UT	2006-07
1	2
Jammu and Kashmir	5
Himachal Pradesh	6
Punjab	8
Uttarakhand	10
Haryana	7
Delhi	1
Rajasthan	26
Uttar Pradesh	18
Bihar	3
Nagaland	17
Manipur	2
Mizoram	1
Meghalaya	0
Assam	5
West Bengal	9
Jharkhand	0
Orissa	2

1	2
Chhattisgarh	4
Madhya Pradesh	10
Gujarat	19
Maharashtra	35
Andhra Pradesh	21
Karnataka	4
Goa	0
Kerala	13
Tamil Nadu	13
Pondicherry	0
Arunchal Pradesh	4
Sikkim	1
Daman and Diu	1
Total	245

[Translation]

Production of Fertilizers

*112. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum production of fertilizers in each major unit of the country during the last six months, State-wise;

(b) the State-wise details of the distribution of the fertilizers from these units;

(c) whether the farmers have suffered any losses due to scarcity of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details of the assistance provided to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) statements-I, II and III indicating state-wise production of major fertilizers viz urea, Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and complexes during April-September 2007 are enclosed.

(b) Details regarding state-wise allocation of urea and DAP from these units during April-September 2007 are given in the enclosed statements-IV & V respectively. Government of India does not monitor the distribution of complexes.

(c) no report of any significant loss occurring on account of shortage of fertilizers during Kharif 2007 was reported.

(d) does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise & Unit-wise Actual Production of Urea during April-September, 2007

Name of States/Units	('000' MTs)	
	Production Total April-September 2007	
1	2	
ANDHRA PRADESH		
Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemical Ltd. (NFCL)-Kakinada-I	347.0	
Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemical Ltd. (NFCL)-Kakinada-I	292.5	
State Total:	639.5	

1	2
KARNATAKA	
Managalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (MCF)-Mangalore	175.1
State Total:	175.1
TAMIL NADU	
Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL)- Chennai	174.6
Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation. Ltd. (SPIC)-Tuticorin	0.0
State Total:	174.6
GOA	
Zuari Industries Ltd. (ZIL): Goa	208.5
State Total:	208.5
MADHYA PRADESH	
National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)-Vijaipur	448.9
National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)-Vijaipur Expn.	380.1
State Total:	829.0
MAHARASHTRA	
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF)-Trombay-V	0.0
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF)-Thal	865.4
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF)-Total	865.4
State Total:	865.4
GUJARAT	
Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)-Kalol	270.3
Krishak Bharti Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO)-Hazira	826.1
Gujarat State Fertilizers Co. Ltd. (GSFC)-Vadodara	97.0
Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd. (GNFC)-Bharuch	332.7
State Total:	1526.1

1	2
RAJASTHAN	
Shriram Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (SFC)-Kota	196.5
Chambal Fertilizer & Chemicals Ltd. (CFCL): Gadepan-I	509.1
Chambal Fertilizer & Chemicals Ltd. (CFCL): Gadepan-II	503.3
State Total:	1208.9
ASSAM	
Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Ltd. (BVFCL)-Namrup-II	33.0
Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Ltd. (BVFCL)-Namrup-III	124.3
State Total:	157.3
HARYANA	
National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)-Panipat	245.5
State Total:	245.5
PUNJAB	
National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)-Nangal-I	259.2
National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)-Bhatinda	275.0
State Total:	534.2
UTTAR PRADESH	
Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)-Phulpur	321.6
Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)-Phulpur Expn.	449.5
Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)-Aonla	425.5
Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)-Aonla Expn.	456.8
Indo Gulf Fertilizers Ltd. (IGFL)-Jagdishpur	335.7
Tata Chemicals Ltd. (TCL)-Babrara	500.4
Kribhco Shyam Ltd. (KSFL)-Shahjahnpur	451.7
State Total:	2941.2
GRAND TOTAL:	9505.3

Statement II

State-wise & Unit-wise Actual Production of DAP during April-September, 2007

Name of State/units	Production Total April-September
1	2
ANDHRA PRADESH	
Godavari Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (GFCL)-Kakinada	337.7
State Total	337.7
KARNATAKA	
Manglore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (MCF)-Mangalore	105.9
State Total	105.9
TAMIL NADU	
Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC)-Tuticorin	33.7
State Total	33.7
GOA	
Zuari Industries Ltd. (ZIL) Goa	119.6
State Total	119.6
GUJARAT	
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)-Kandla	222.8
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC)-Vadodara	0.0
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC)-Sikka-I	384.5
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC)-Sikka-II	0.0
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC)-Sikka-I & II	384.5

1	2
Hindalco Indsutures Ltd. (HIL) Dahej	52.1
State Total	659.4
ORISSA	
Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL)-Paradeep	456.3
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)-Paradeep	216.5
State Total	672.8
WEST BENGAL	
Tata Chemicals Ltd. (TCL)-Haldia	143.7
State Total	143.7
GRAND TOTAL	2072.8

Statement III*Unit-Wise, Product-wise Production of Complex Fertilizers during April-September, 2007*

Name of State/Units	Product Name	'000' MTs	
		April-September	
1	2	3	
ANDHRA PRADESH			
Coromandal Fertilizers Ltd. (CFL)-Vizag	28:28	210.2	
	14:35:14	0.0	
	20:20	175.7	
	16:20	0.0	
	10:26:26	17.1	
	Total	403.0	
Godavari Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (GFCL); Kakinda	20:20	0.0	
	14:35:14	25.4	
	17:17:17	0.0	
	12:32:16	50.6	
	10:26:26	173.8	
	Total	249.8	
State Total		652.8	

1	2	3
KERALA		
Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT)	20:20	73.0
Udyogamandal		
Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) Cohin	20:20	197.3
State Total		270.3
KARNATAKA		
Manglore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (MCF), Mangalore	20:20	20.7
	16:20	0.0
State Total		20.7
TAMIL NADU		
Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL)-Chennai	17:17:17	35.1
	14:28:14	0.0
	19:19:19	0.0
	20:20	0.0
Total		35.1
Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC)	20:20	1.0
Tuticorin	17:17:17	0.0
Total		1.0
Coromandal Fertilizers Ltd. (CFL)-Ennore	16:20	98.4
	20:20	33.3
	Total	131.7
State Total		167.8
GOA		
Zuari Industries Ltd. (ZIL): Goa	19:19:19	133.4
	28:28	0.0
	14:35:14	0.0
	10:26:26	59.3
	17:17:17	0.0
	20:20	0.0
12:32:16	48.4	
Total		241.1
State Total		241.1

1	2	3
MAHARASHTRA		
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF)-Trombay	15:15:15	228.2
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. RCF-Trombay-IV	20.8:20.8	0.0
Total		228.2
Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (DFPCL)	23:23	33.0
Taloja		
State Total		261.2
GUJARAT		
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)-Kandla	10:26:26 12:32:16	309.0 462.3
Total		771.3
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC)-Vadodara	20:20	111.9
Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd. (GNFC)-Bharuch	23:23 20:20	0.0 85.0
Total		85.0
Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd. (GSFC)-Sikka-I	12:32:16 10:26:26	28.3 16.4

1	2	3
Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd. (GSFC)-Sikka-II	12:32:16	0.0
Hindalco Industries Ltd. (HIL)-Dahej	10:26:26 12:32:16 20:20	10.1 8.1 0.0
Total		18.2
State Total		1031.1
ORISSA		
Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL)-Paradeep	20:20 28:28 14:35:14 12:32:16 16:20 10:26:26	126.3 0.0 0.0 27.2 1.8 64.4
Total		219.7
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)-Paradeep	20:20 12:32:16	219.6 0.0
Total		219.6
State Total		439.3
WEST BENGAL		
Tata Chemicals Ltd. (TCL)-Haldia	28:28 15:15:15 14:35:14 12:32:16 10:26:26	0.0 0.0 16.1 88.2 59.6
Total		163.9
State Total		163.9
GRAND TOTAL		3248.2

Statement IV

Distribution of Ind. UREA from 01st April 2007 to 30th September 2007 during Kharif 2007

Kharif:-2007

QTY IN ('000') MTs

States	IFFCO	KRIBHCO	CFCL	NFL	RCF	THAL	TCL	IGFL	NFCL	GNFC	GSFC	SFC	SPIC	MCF	MFL	ZIL	BVCL	Total Despatch 1st April 07 to 30th Sept. 07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	14.96	0.00	9.95	84.07	0.00	0.00	388.61	14.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.50	34.60	21.11	0.00	577.47	
Karnataka	0.00	17.34	0.00	0.00	61.73	0.00	0.00	44.92	3.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	128.27	31.00	91.89	0.00	378.77	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.63	18.00	0.00	0.00	42.57
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.73	76.60	0.00	0.00	149.24
Gujarat	114.92	184.32	27.62	0.00	24.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	138.04	66.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	555.78
Madhya Pradesh	30.81	93.31	64.71	140.83	15.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.89	0.00	25.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	397.23
Chhattisgarh	19.83	0.00	42.64	124.24	22.20	0.00	0.00	19.33	22.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.51
Maharashtra	34.85	177.81	0.00	44.18	492.33	0.00	0.00	9.96	33.56	11.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84.55	0.00	889.21
Rajasthan	58.27	43.64	169.64	64.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.50	9.99	81.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	447.48
Haryana	90.04	115.97	235.16	190.26	7.37	47.33	0.00	0.00	13.27	0.00	29.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	729.25
Punjab	177.88	64.63	283.52	470.82	49.28	82.50	0.00	0.00	22.48	5.31	34.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1191.22
Himachal Pradesh	15.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00
J&K	24.77	0.00	12.40	24.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.84
Uttar Pradesh	832.18	317.69	169.74	223.28	55.72	210.54	159.51	0.00	39.68	0.00	2094	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2029.29
Uttarakhand	72.67	16.22	7.46	9.03	0.82	13.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	121.60
Bihar	179.57	161.06	0.00	248.62	19.83	60.05	108.20	9.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.73	819.04
Jharkhand	22.33	16.27	0.00	20.00	9.86	30.08	9.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	106.87
Orissa	146.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	201.06
West Bengal	69.78	61.90	0.00	0.00	14.79	54.77	57.28	57.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.39	333.09
Assam	27.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	76.98	104.36
N.E. States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.74	22.74
Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	1.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.20	2.82	4.87	17.02
All India	1917.06	1285.11	1012.89	1590.85	863.14	499.20	334.70	639.55	333.96	94.91	194.01	0.00	175.14	167.40	200.37	154.33	9462.63

Statement V*Distribution of Ind. DAP from 1st April 2007 to 30th September 2007 during Kharif 2007*

Kharif:-2007

Qty. in ('000') MTs

States Manufacturers	GFCL- Kakina	GSFC Baroda	GSFC Sika	IFFCO Kandla	IFFCO P.Deep	PPL- Paradeep	MCF- Mangalore	SPIC- Tuticorin	HIL- Dahej	TCL- Haldia	ZIL-Goa	Total Despatch 1st. April 07 to 30th Sept. 07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	233.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.94	50.81	4.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.42	316.01
Karnataka	41.77	0.00	2.49	7.42	18.70	0.00	81.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.57	214.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.29
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.35	0.00	11.46	33.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.04
Gujarat	0.00	0.00	144.14	32.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	183.27
Madhya Pradesh	0.87	0.00	36.91	15.34	11.63	44.17	0.00	0.00	8.04	0.00	0.00	116.96
Chhattisgarh	16.61	0.00	5.17	0.00	7.16	34.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.26
Maharashtra	44.49	0.00	60.02	4.79	4.98	43.33	2.69	0.00	14.63	0.00	45.06	219.98
Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	40.22	28.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.51	0.00	0.00	75.87
Haryana	0.00	0.00	25.17	26.42	0.00	4.91	0.00	0.00	6.24	0.00	0.00	62.74
Punjab	0.00	0.00	36.61	47.13	0.00	2.40	0.00	0.00	6.26	0.00	0.00	92.40
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.43
Uttar Pradesh	1.12	0.00	20.04	54.06	82.56	92.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	249.80
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.57	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.93
Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.42	41.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.22	0.00	75.77
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.98	18.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.40	0.00	45.90
Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.86	68.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.45
West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.71	51.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.52	0.00	155.94
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.49
N.E. States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.49	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.30	3.89
All India	338.38	0.00	370.76	228.43	218.78	453.76	104.92	34.33	49.68	141.14	117.35	2057.54

Extension of Railway Lines

*113. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway line proposed to be extended in the country, zone-wise during 11th Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the areas in which the said extension would be carried out;

(c) the allocation of funds made for this project; and

(d) the source of financing the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) XI Five Year Plan is under finalization in consultation with the Planning Commission. Individual sections/projects are targeted for completion on year-to-year basis keeping in view the physical progress, throw forward and availability of resources. For 2007-08, target for completion of 500 Kms of new line has been fixed

and an outlay of Rs. 1657 crore has been provided from the Railways Gross Budgetary Support.

(d) The funds for the new line projects are allocated out of the budgetary support for Railways as per State-wise formula on year-to-year basis. Additional funds are also allocated for National Projects, cost sharing projects by State Government concerned and through Public Private Partnership.

[English]

Capacity Augmentation on Saturated Routes

*114. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are formulating any plan indicating a specific time frame for augmenting capacity in specific saturated routes to meet the growing requirements keeping in view the expected traffic growth; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways are planning to augment capacity on specific saturated routes. Railways have set themselves a target of 1100 mt of freight traffic and 8400 million originating passengers by the end of the terminal year of the XI Plan. Most of the passenger and freight traffic is carried on the Golden Quadrilateral and the Diagonals connecting Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. Approximately, 75% of the total freight traffic is carried on 25% of the route kilometers. These routes along with their feeder routes form the railways' High Density Network (HDN).

The HDN routes are saturated with line capacity utilization exceeding 100% on a number of routes. In order to augment capacity, Railways have already sanctioned 104 works at an approximate cost of Rs. 10000 Cr. on these High Density routes. In addition Railways have also made out a Blue Print for augmenting

capacity on the HDN routes in which 124 works costing more than Rs. 14,000 crores have been identified which shall enable railways to meet the XI plan targets. The works identified include doubling, new lines, bypasses, automatic signaling, crossing stations, intermediate blocks, yard remodeling, etc.

Further, Railways have already announced two Dedicated Freight Corridors between JNPT-Tughlakabad and Sonenagar-Ludhinana at a cost of more than Rs. 28,000 crores to give relief to two of the densely saturated HDN routes *viz.* Delhi-Kolkata HDN routes.

While infrastructure strengthening will take time, Railways have meanwhile increased the carrying capacity of the wagons to increase the overall throughput and have also taken steps to straighten specific routes for carrying the increased load. In addition, 28 heavy mineral routes with over 6900 route kilometers have been further identified for implementation of 25 Ton Axle load.

A summary of these identified works in the Blueprint as well as the ongoing works on the High Density Routes are given in the enclosed statement.

- Para 1 and Para 3 of Para (a) & (b) of the reply of Starred Question No. 114 in the debate dated 22.11.2007 was subsequently corrected through a Correcting Statement made in the House on 13.3.2008 and accordingly, these paragraphs have been revised as follows:

"Para 1 (last sentence): Approximately, 71% of the total traffic is carried on 28% of the route kilometers".

"Para 2: Further, Railways have already announced two Dedicated Freight Corridors between Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust-Tughlakabad and Ludhiana-Sonenagar (to be later extended to the deep sea port of Kolkata) at a cost of more than Rs. 28,000 crores to give relief to two of the densely saturated High Density Network routes *viz.* Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Kolkata High Density Network routes.

Statement

Ongoing works and Identified Works on HDN – A Summary

HDN Identity	HDN Name	Ongoing works		HDN Blue Print Works	
		No. of works	Cost (In Rs. Cr.)	No. of works	Cost (In Rs. Cr.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
HDN 1*	DELHI - HOWRAH MAIN ROUTE (<i>via</i> Allahabad - Mughalsarai - Gaya - Asansol Khana) along with the feeder routes	18	1267	37	1873

1	2	3	4	5	6
HDN 2*	MUMBAI - HOWRAH MAIN ROUTE and feeders	26	1076	31	5329
HDN 3*	DELHI - MUMBAI MAIN ROUTE Via Baroda, Kota and feeders	16	949	17	2443
HDN 4*	DELHI - GAUHATI via MB - Sitapur - Bhurwal - Gorakhpur - Chhapra - Barauni - Katihar and feeders	4	2783	5	455
HDN 5*	DELHI - CHENNAI via Jhansi - Bina - Itarsi - Nagpur - Balharshah - Kazipet - Vijaywada - Chennai and feeders	4	3	22	1950
HDN 6*	HOWRAH - CHENNAI MAIN ROUTE and feeders	15	2543	10	286
HDN 7*	MUMBAI - CHENNAI MAIN ROUTE and feeders	13	1357	2	1850
Total		104	10087	124	14185

Fire-Retardant Coaches

*115. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed with the French Railway for building fireretardant coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time frame within which these coaches are likely to be put on the tracks ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been signed between the Ministry of Railways and French National Railways (SNCF) for promotion of co-operation in the Rail sector. While the MOU does not specifically identify technical assistance for manufacture of fire retardant coaches, one of the areas identified for obtaining technical expertise from SNCF is for acquiring a computer software customized to Indian conditions for simulated fire related studies in passenger carrying vehicles. Sanction of the Ministry of Railways has been accorded for acquiring this software from SNCF.

Satellite Imagine for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN)

*116. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have sanctioned a pilot project namely Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN) to check minute details of train movements for the convenience of the passengers;

(b) if so, the outcome and the present status of the pilot project;

(c) the details of the trains selected for installation of the system; and

(d) the progress made in the installation of such system in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes. Sir. Railway has sanctioned a pilot project namely Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN) for Real Time Passenger Information System. This project is being developed by utilizing Global Positioning System (GPS). The project is being carried out jointly by Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur. The pilot project is sanctioned for development for hardware and software for providing Real Time Train Running Information to the passengers.

The objectives of SIMRAN project are:

To develop technology for continuously tracking of every train for its location, speed and direction of movement.

To develop techniques to disseminate information on Real Time basis about train running to the passengers and the general public through display boards of stations, Interactive Voice Resonse Systems (IVRS), Short Message Service (SMS) and Internet.

(b) The hardware and software technology under this project have been developed. Field trial for the project is being conducted since 25.5.2007. The objectives of this project have been achieved and verified through field trial.

(c) The following trains have been selected for field trial under this pilot project :

- All the rakes of Rajdhani Expresses.
- All the rakes of Shatabdi Express originating from New Delhi.
- Electric Multiple Units (EMUs) running between Lucknow and Kanpur.

(d) As on 16.11.2007, 26 rakes of Rajdhani Express, 6 rakes of Shatabdi Express and 7 rakes of EMUs have been equipped with SIMRAN Train Equipment. These trains are being monitored through Internet and SMS services.

Fruit Pulp Industries

*117. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to start or to facilitate private sector to start mango pulp or fruit pulp industries in the country, particularly in West Bengal and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has provided any subsidy or loans to various fruit pulp industries during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing various schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries including mango pulp or fruit pulp manufacturing industries in the country. The schemes are project oriented. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernisation/Establishment of food processing industries, MFPI extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance, the Ministry has decided to decentralize the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of setting up / modernization / expansion of food processing industries w.e.f. 01.04.07. Now the applicants will be able to avail of grant / assistance through the neighborhood banks which have already appraised the project and provided loans to them.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has provided financial assistance to various Fruits and Vegetables processing units including Mango / Fruit pulp units in the country, details of which, year-wise and state-wise, for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Financial Assistance Released to Fruit & Vegetable Processing Units Including Mango/Fruit Pulp Units for last 3 years (State-wise)

(Amount in lakh)

Sl.No.	States	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Pondicherry	24.54	0.00	0.00
2.	West Bengal	25.00	87.14	49.58

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Uttarakhand	50.38	41.02	182.74
4.	Uttar Pradesh	24.14	55.95	61.71
5.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Tamil Nadu	69.04	105.80	120.70
7.	Andhra Pradesh	36.27	102.17	153.93
8.	Punjab	55.05	100.90	67.70
9.	Nagaland	0.00	17.35	58.81
10.	Mizoram	0.00	10.15	0.00
11.	Meghalaya	24.79	0.00	0.00
12.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	53.74
13.	Bihar	2.50	24.51	0.00
14.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Assam	69.00	0.00	692.17
16.	Maharashtra	161.30	163.45	361.86
17.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Gujarat	61.71	130.22	84.79
19.	Haryana	25.00	9.65	29.12
20.	Jammu and Kashmir	15.16	22.07	5.49
21.	Jharkhand	0.00	25.00	25.00
22.	Karnataka	39.63	76.25	196.33
23.	Kerala	14.78	60.83	226.51
24.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	51.37	74.75
25.	Himachal Pradesh	29.24	63.28	112.52
26.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Orissa	0.00	3.96	0.00
28.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		727.49	1151.03	2557.42
Grand Total			4435.94	

Jobs for Physically Challenged Persons

*118. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create one lakh jobs for the physically challenged persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the physically challenged persons in the country with the break up of the number of such persons in the Government Sector and private or Organised Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Budget Speech for the year 2007-08, Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced a scheme for reimbursing Government Share of Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for a period of 3 years to employers in the organized sector for providing regular jobs to Physically Challenged Persons.

(c) According to the survey on disabled persons conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 2002, twenty six percent persons with disabilities were employed. The Survey however did not give the breakup of such persons in the Government Sector, Private Sector or Organised Sector.

Movement of Fertilizers

*119. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI N.S.V CHITTHAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether movement of fertilizers from district level godowns to dealers/customers gets delayed due to lack of required infrastructure;

(b) if, so the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to streamline the movement of fertilizers from godowns to dealers with a view to ensure smooth distribution and marketing of quality fertilizers in the country;

(d) whether under the new policy, movement of stock from factory and trains to godowns is restricted to only three primary buffers in a District; and

(e) is so, the steps taken to increase the buffers to enhance the scope of transportation of fertilizers ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir

(b) does not arise

(c) and (d) Following steps to further improve availability of fertilizers in all parts of the country have been taken:

- (i) each State is now required to prepare a monthly supply plan for ensuring availability of fertilizers on a month-wise, company-wise and district-wise format.
- (ii) since the district and not the State is the basis of planning for fertilizers availability, the subsidy is now being paid to fertilizer companies only on reaching fertilizers to each district in conformity with the agreed Supply Plan.
- (iii) to ensure that fertilizer companies supplying urea are able to reach it to each district, the urea manufacturers are compensated for freight based on actual rail and road leads.
- (iv) in respect of decontrolled 'P' & 'K' fertilizers, the freight has been revised to account for increase in rail/road transport cost through escalation linked to Wholesale Price Index (WPI).
- (v) the monthly supply plans are being drawn up with minimum pre-positioning of stock for the succeeding month.
- (vi) the supply of fertilizers by manufacturers/suppliers in accordance with the agreed Supply Plan is being monitored through a Web-based Fertilizer Monitoring System, which is able to track production, imports, dispatch, arrival and sales upto the district-level.
- (vii) the State Governments have been advised to (i) strengthen the State institutional agencies

which will coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies (ii) undertake assessment of demand at the block level and ensure availability upto the block level (iii) review the dealer network in their respective States to ensure sufficient availability of dealers upto the block level. They have also been requested to review the railway infrastructure in their States and suggest improvements required to ensure availability of fertilizers in all parts of their States.

(e) The efforts are being made to increase buffer stock of fertilizers. As on 1st October 2007, the States federations had kept a stock of 5.44 LMT of DAP. As on 31st October 2007, there was a buffer stock of 3.50 LMT of Urea and it will further increase to 4.00 LMT by 30th November, 2007.

Investment In Food Processing Sector

*120. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment in food processing industry in the country has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the impact of such investment on Food Processing Sector has been assessed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the proposals for investment in the food processing sector during 11th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The available data as per the Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEMs) filed and Letters of Intent (LOIs) / Direct Industrial Licenses (DILs) issued, with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises show that there has been increase in the domestic investment in the food processing industries during the last three years. The FDI inflow data also

indicate increasing foreign investments in the food processing industries during the last three years. The details of investments in the large, medium and small scale sector and the FDI investment flows are as follows:

Large and Medium Scale Industries

Year	Investment (Rs. Crores)*
2004	2047
2005	3072
2006	3355
Total:	8474

Source: Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion

*As per the Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEMs) filed and Letters of Intent (LOIs) / Direct Industrial Licenses (DILs) issued during the year.

Small Scale Sector

Year	Registered (Rs. crores)	Unregistered (Rs. crores)	Total (Rs. crores)
2003-04	16463	11513	27976
2004-05	17374	11990	29364
2005-06	18475	12423	30898

Source: Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

FDI Inflows

Year	FDI in Rs. Crore
2004-05	174.00
2005-06	183.00
2006-07	441.00

(c) and (d) There has been positive impact of the increasing investments in the food processing sector. The average rate of growth of food processing industries during the 10th Plan period has been @ 13.025% at current prices and @ 6.75% at 1999-2000 prices. There has also been perceptible increase in production, employment and exports in the food processing sector during the 10th Plan period as per figures given below:

Tenth Plan (2002-07) – Production, Employment, Exports in Food Processing Sector

Value: Rs. Crores

Item	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Production at current prices* MSME Sector	66472.05	76264.13	86128.19	94127.99	104758.54
CSO Data on GDP at current prices [⊙]	45146.00	51846.00	55772.00	5981.00 (Prov.)	N.A
Empolyment** (Persons)	3830283	3997481	4173668	4350941	4533940
Exports**	4727.57	5467.06	6154.77	8634.49	8493.40(Prov.)

*Data compiled on the basis of 3rd census results of MSME sector and Growth rate estimated using Index of Industrial Production (MSME Sector).

⊙ Provided by Central Statistical Organisation.

**Estimated on the basis of 3rd census results of MSME Sector.

***APEDA data.

(e) In the 11th Five Year Plan, the Government proposes to provide Plan scheme support of Rs. 4031 crores to food processing industries on the basis of tentative allocation by the Planning Commission for promotion of food processing sector. This includes an investment of about Rs. 2900 crores on strengthening of infrastructure and setting up, modernization of food processing industries.

In the 11th Plan, the Ministry proposes to implement a revamped Scheme for Infrastructure Development under which, it will give financial assistance for setting up of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure, value added centres and packaging centres. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. The Cluster based demand driven approach will provide linkages from farm to market with linkages from local to regional level through Primary Processing Centres, Collection Centres, Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain at critical location — having Controlled Atmosphere storage and distribution centres where large quantities can be stored and supplied to distribution centres for retail sale and to processing industries for processing. In the 11th Plan, it has also been proposed to continue assistance to schemes for setting up of Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as HACCP, ISO 9000, GHP and GMP Practices, Promotion of Research and Development, Capacity building and Human Resource

Development and other promotional activities with higher levels of assistance. In addition, a new scheme for Upgradation of Quality of street foods has also been proposed to be implemented. The emphasis will be on building strong linkages with agriculture and horticulture, enhancing project implementation capabilities, increased involvement of private sector investments and support for creation of rural infrastructure to ensure a steady supply of good quality agri-horticulture produce.

Allocation of Kerosene and LPG to States

764. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly requirement of Kerosene and LPG in each State;

(b) the quantity of Kerosene and LPG supplied to each State during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is acute shortage of Kerosene and LPG in many States;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has received requests from various States, particularly Kerala and Gujarat for increasing the quotas of kerosene and LPG in favour of their States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) PDS kerosene is an allocated and subsidized product. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes quarterly allocation of PDS kerosene to States / Union Territories for further distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The quantity of PDS SKO for distribution per card holder is decided by concerned State Govt. / UT and the same varies from State to State. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State / Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the year 2005-06, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year.

Allocations for first three quarters for 2007-08 have been maintained at the level of 2006-07. The quantity of PDS kerosene allocated to the States / UTs during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-I

There is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including, in the State of Kerala, and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the requirement of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs had reported occasional backlog in certain States / Union Territories due to floods, road breaches, collapse of bridge, agitational activities / strikes by the employees, strike by transporters and contract labourers, hartals etc. The Government has advised OMCs

to liquidate the backlog in the States / UTs by operating the bothing plants on holidays and by extending hours of working. State-wise consumption of Domestic LPG for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-II.

At present, India's domestic consumption of kerosene and LPG is more than the domestic production. The shortfall in domestic production of kerosene and LPG is met through imports by Oil Marketing Companies.

There is no State-wise quota fixed by the Government for the allocation of LPG.

In view of requests received from various State Governments including State Government of Gujarat and Kerala for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned a detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October 2005. NCAER has *inter alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. Also, Dr. Rangarajan Committee constituted by the Government to formulate a long-term pricing policy of petroleum products has also recommended to restrict PDS SKO subsidy to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided in principle that subsidy on PDS Kerosene may be restricted to BPL families only. The proposal to work out the modalities to implement this decision and for rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among State / UTs is under the consideration of the Government.

Various State Government / Union Territories (UTs) have requested additional allocation of PDS SKO to meet urgent and emergent situations arising out of natural calamities such as flood, drought, earthquake, etc. The Government has responded to these requests promptly and made additional allocations wherever necessary, to meet the special needs.

Statement I

Allocation of PDS Kerosene

Name of States/UTs	Quantity in MTs		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5725	5816	5816
Andhra Pradesh	505057	517158	517158

1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	9257	9257	9257
Assam	251714	258007	258007
Bihar	631639	647430	647430
Chandigarh	13067	13067	13067
Chhattisgarh	143354	146938	146938
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2782	2782	2782
Daman and Diu	2118	2118	2118
Delhi	168484	168484	168484
Goa	19212	19212	19212
Gujarat	743759	743759	743759
Haryana	142068	145619	145619
Himachal Pradesh	50537	50537	50537
Jammu and Kashmir	75487	76044	76044
Jharkhand	211175	211175	211175
Karnataka	461478	461478	461478
Kerala	211033	216308	216308
Lakshadweep	795	795	795
Madhya Pradesh	476691	488609	488609
Maharashtra	1253530	1276876	1276876
Manipur	19907	19907	19907
Meghalaya	20401	20401	20401
Mizoram	6217	6217	6217
Nagaland	12712	13312	13312
Orissa	307295	314977	314977
Puducherry	12058	12257	12257
Punjab	232813	237192	237192
Rajasthan	396500	398913	398913
Sikkim	5283	5582	5582
Tamil Nadu	545297	558929	558929

1	2	3	4
Tripura	30093	30832	30832
Uttar Pradesh	1211485	1241772	1241772
Uttarakhand	85959	89849	89849
West Bengal	748228	752103	752103
Total	9013210	9163712	9163712

Statement II*Consumption of Domestic LPG*

State	Quantity IN MTs		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	771646	774953	783852
Andaman and Nicobar	4492	4789	5107
Arunachal Pradesh	9704	9504	10094
Assam	154494	160856	165196
Bihar	243802	242918	250676
Chandigarh	30009	29298	30584
Chattishgarh	90711	96206	102950
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5121	4753	2947
Daman and Diu	3889	3970	4128
Delhi	568574	554485	564990
Goa	37080	39693	39365
Gujarat	554508	554605	560474
Haryana	364989	354393	369645
Himachal Pradesh	76317	76641	79260
Jammu and Kashmir	102955	104801	109313
Jharkhand	88685	89300	91414
Karnataka	591859	579984	587510

1	2	3	4
Kerala	442496	413624	417790
Lakshadweep	278	174	243
Madhya Pradesh	377220	384593	396853
Maharashtra	1352672	1356331	1373395
Manipur	17013	15929	15196
Meghalaya	11726	12104	12612
Mizoram	16081	17219	17790
Nagaland	12727	12911	13546
Orissa	130062	126730	130434
Puducherry	22843	21852	22794
Punjab	506718	489478	513311
Rajasthan	415370	409695	421716
Sikkim	7619	7741	5538
Tamil Nadu	891041	879836	891570
Tripura	18069	17821	18938
Uttar Pradesh	1052629	1040714	1093588
Uttarakhand	124335	124297	130335
West Bengal	478028	488778	518396
Total	9575762	9500976	9751530

Opening of Schools for Blind Persons

765. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 3% reservation for employment of disabled and opening of more schools for the blinds particularly in rural areas for making them self sufficient has been made effective by the Government as per provisions of persons with Disabilities (PDP) Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in vacancies in the identified posts to be filled by the Appropriate Governments. The Act also enjoins upon Appropriate Governments and local authorities to endeavour to promote the integration of students with disabilities in the normal schools and also to promote setting up of special schools in Government and private sector for those in need of special education.

According to Department of Personnel & Training, during 2005, in 47 Government Ministries/Departments

5600 direct recruitments were made out of which 389 persons with disabilities were appointed. This work out as 6.94% of the total recruitments (instead of 3% as provided in the Act) made during that year. Already more than 400 institutions in the Government and private sector are functioning in various States/UTs for the persons with visual disabilities.

Operation of AI Express to Gulf Countries

766. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:
DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India Express propose to expand its operation to Gulf Countries;

(b) if so, the details of the flights proposed to be introduced from different destination in India to Gulf countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air India Express currently operates 95 flights from India to Gulf Countries. They have recently commenced operation from Jaipur and Lucknow to Dubai. Air India Express plans to increase flights from Kerala to Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Sharjah, Dubai, Doha & Bahrain and also from Ahmedabad and Goa to Dubai with effect from February 2008, subject to availability of aircraft/crew.

[Translation]

Arrangement at Ajmer Sharif Dargah

767. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a comprehensive bill for improving internal and external arrangement at famous Ajmer Sharif Dargah for maintaining communal harmony;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a Board on the lines of Tirupati Shrine Board and Vaishno

Devi Shrine Board for checking misuse of offering at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah and spending the income from the offering on spreading education among minorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the Government is likely to improve the arrangements at the said Dargah?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) A review of the Durgah Khawaja Saheb, Act, 1955 has been undertaken recently.

(e) As per provisions of the Durgah Khawaja Saheb Act, 1955, the administrative control and management of the Durgah Endowment is vested in the Durgah Committee. Since the Committee had not been working satisfactorily, the same was superseded and reconstituted on 24.08.2007.

[English]

Encouragement of Railway Siding to Industrial Units

768. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to encourage industrial units to use railway siding for smooth movement of their products by containers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions for provision of railway sidings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Since setting up of container depot takes time and huge investment, it has been decided that when there is a demand, Zonal Railway will notify Rail Terminals as Container Rail Terminals (CRT) by ensuring that the contemplated container handling activity will not in any way hinder or restrict or hamper handling of inward or outward traffic in rail wagons. All container operators will have access to any such CRT on a non-exclusive basis on a first come first serve basis. CRT will provide facilities for handling container trains by all the container operators. However, the handling of railway rakes will get priority over container rakes. No permanent container or cargo storage facility will be provided at any CRT.

*[Translation]***Cost of Laying New Rail Line**

769. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of laying one kilometer rail line in India compared to the other countries;

(b) the length of the old rail line identified for immediate track renewal and the cost likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The cost of construction of new line depends on terrain, geological features, standard of formation and track, cost of labour and material etc. It varies from place to place. The cost of construction of new rail line in India is about Rs. 3 Crore/Km to Rs. 40 Crore/Km depending upon geography. The data for other countries is not maintained.

(b) to (d) The condition of rail lines is continuously monitored and replacements are planned well in advance. There is no length of rail length, which needs immediate (emergence) replacement, which is necessitated only in case of accidents or natural calamities.

[English]

**Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan
Gas Pipe Line Project**

770. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is planning to join Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Gas Pipe Line Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Asian Development has also agreed to India's joining the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome of the discussions held in this regard in Islamabad between 28th and 29th October, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan have proposed a transnational gas pipeline to exploit the available gas reserves in Turkmenistan. They designated ADB as the lead development partner. ADB had carried out a study and approached India for participating in the project. An Indian delegation led by Hon'ble Shri Dinsha Patel, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to participate in the 9th Steering Committee Meeting of the countries participating in Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) Gas Pipeline Project held on February 14-15, 2006 as an 'Observer'. The Steering Committee invited India to become an official member of the project. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas brought the matter before the Cabinet in May 2006 after inter-Ministerial discussions. The Cabinet in the meeting held on 18th May 2006, accorded an 'in principle' approval to the proposal for India joining the TAP project. The decision of the Government of India to join Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project as an official member was conveyed to ADB in June 2006. ADB circulated the revised draft Framework Agreement amongst the participating countries for their comments after the first meeting of Technical Working Group held in April 2007 for inclusion of Indian as an official member of the project.

(e) Government is not aware of the discussions relating to TAP project held in Islamabad on October 28-29, 2007. However, the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the participating countries is scheduled to be held on November 28 and 29, 2007 in Islamabad.

*[Translation]***Promotion of Culture in Bihar**

771. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to protect and promote culture in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent thereon during the last three years, till date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bridges on the Railway Crossing

772. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been drawn to construct bridge on all railway crossings situated on National Highway in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Scheme to construct Road over/under bridge (ROB/RUB) in lieu of existing busy level crossings irrespective of their situation either on District Road, Municipal Road, State Highway or National Highway already exist; level crossings with traffic density on one lakh or more Traffic Vehicle Units (TVUs) (TVU – A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) are replaced by ROB/RUBs on cost sharing basis, otherwise on deposit terms, proposals for which are sponsored by State Government/Local Authority or National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. At present there are 319 works (225 by NHAI, 64 on cost sharing basis, 8 on Build, Operate and Transfer Scheme and 22 on deposit terms) of ROB/RUBs sanctioned/in progress on the All Indian Railways out of which 49 are falling in the State of Uttar Pradesh 42 works are being executed by NHAI, 1 on Deposit terms, and 6 on cost sharing basis.

[English]

Exploration and Production of Hydro Carbon Resources in Assam

773. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Hydrocarbon and Energy Company Limited and the Oil India Limited have lately joined hand for exploration and production of the Hydrocarbon resources in the State;

(b) is so, the progress made so far in the joint explorations; and

(c) the potential of the oil bearing areas of the State; still lying unexplored/unexploited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil India Limited (OIL) have assigned 10% Participating Interest (PI) out of their share in 2 New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) blocks in Assam, namely AA-ONN-2004/1 and AA-ONN-2004/2, awarded to OIL in NELP-VI round of bidding, to M/s Assam Hydrocarbon & Energy Company Limited, a State Government of Assam undertaking, pending approval of Government of India. OIL, as operator, have commenced exploration activities as per committed work programme in both these NELP blocks in Assam.

(c) Assam state falls in both the basins of Upper Assam and Assam-Arakan Basin. The total prognosticated resources of Upper Assam and Assam-Arakan Basins, both for oil and gas, have been estimated at 5040MMt, out of which 1666MMt of inplace reserves have been established by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture companies. The remaining resources are yet to be explored/discovered.

[Translation]

Cancellation Charges on the Reserved Tickets

774. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cancellation charges on the reserved tickets have become more than double during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of income earned by the Railway from cancellation of the reserved tickets during the last three years and to be earned during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No separate data is maintained.

[English]

**Representation of Religious Minorities in Police
and Para-Military Forces**

775. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demands have been made by the National Commission for Minorities for fair representation of religious minorities in the police and paramilitary forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Minorities has, in some of its Annual Reports, made recommendations regarding the representation of the minority communities in police and para-military forces.

Annual Reports of the Commission, containing such recommendations, for the years 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 2002-2003 and 2003-04, alongwith the Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations contained therein, have been tabled in both Houses of Parliament.

Aviation Museums

776. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Aviation Museums in the country to familiarise people with various aspects of aviation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely locations;

(I) IRCON International Limited:

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	4.94	9.89	9.871
	(ii) Others	0.01	0.03	0.027

(c) whether private airlines will be involved in the venture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no proposal for setting up Aviation Museums in the country at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Public Sector Undertakings

777. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Undertakings are running under this Ministry;

(b) is so, the details about the performance of each of the PSUs during the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken by the Railways to improve this performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There are 10 (ten) Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways namely (i) IRCON International Limited, (ii) RITES Limited., (iii) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, (iv) Container Corporation Limited, (v) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, (vi) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (vii) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited (viii) Railtel Corporation of India Limited (ix) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and (x) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation Limited.

(b) The performance of these PSUs during the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given below:

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Net Worth	777.71	829.29	874.48
3.	Total Income	1014.39	1112.79	1543.21
4.	Profit Before Tax	107.75	110.88	110.99
5.	Dividend Payment – Government	20.23	25.73	25.73
6.	Income per employee	0.61	0.64	0.84
(ii)	rites Limited:			
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	4.00	4.00	4.00
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	310.91	387.26	460.00
3.	Total Income	240.30	426.42	566.00
4.	Profit Before Tax	67.60	132.97	171.00
5.	Dividend Payment – Government	12.00	20.00	40.00
6.	Income per employee	0.09	0.16	0.20
(iii)	Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited:			
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	232.00	232.00	500.00
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	2392.91	2095.76	2121.25
3.	Total Income	1958.97	2019.69	2284.03
4.	Profit Before Tax	503.36	503.98	611.74
5.	Dividend Payment – Government	115.00	150.00	160.00
6.	Income per employee	130.60	100.98	20.98
(iv)	Container Corporation of India Limited:			
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	41.00	41.00	41.00
	(ii) Others	23.99	23.99	23.99
2.	Net Worth	1698.76	2091.17	2629.83
3.	Total Income	2043.33	2489.16	3121.89

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Profit Before Tax	609.60	670.13	882.25
5.	Dividend Payment – Government	59.25	73.80	90.20
6.	Income per employee	2.01	2.34	2.89
(v) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited:				
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government (including State Govts.)	789.92	803.06	803.07
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	-1859.18	-2080.31	-2313.60
3.	Total Income	425.82	630.23	668.68
3.	Profit/(Loss) Before Tax	(305.47)	(241.85)	(232.29)
5.	Dividend Payment	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Income per employee	0.07	0.08	0.04
(vi) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited:				
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government (including State Govts.)	25.00	25.00	25.00
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	42.11	56.23	66.22
3.	Total Income	10.94	19.99	17.03
4.	Profit Before Tax	6.66	14.16	9.94
5.	Dividend Payment	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Income per employee	0.08	0.10	0.07
(vii) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited:				
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	20.00	20.00	20.00
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	31.78	47.22	62.96
3.	Total Income	127.09	267.98	433.54
4.	Profit Before Tax	7.94	31.63	30.00

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Dividend Payment – Government	1.00	4.00	4.00
6.	Income per employees	0.05	0.04	8.26
(viii)	Railtel Corporation of India Limited:			
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	234.40	234.40	320.94
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	270.12	234.00	314.91
3.	Total Income	32.86	60.44	116.59
4.	Profit/(Loss) Before Tax	(19.50)	(10.27)	41.08
5.	Dividend Payment	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Income per employee	0.22	0.23	0.096
(ix)	Rail Vikas Nagam Limited:			
1.	Paid up capital			
	(i) Government	977.35	1150.02	1665.02
	(ii) Others	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Net Worth	977.35	1194.24	1665.26
3.	Total Income (capital works in progress added during the year)	691.54	843.35	1236.24
4.	Profit/(Loss) Before Tax	(0.65)	1.89	3.59
5.	Dividend Payment	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Income per employee	0.09	0.08	7.72

(x) **Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited:**

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been incorporated recently on 30.10.2006.

It may be seen that the performance of Railway PSUs is showing improvement in terms of turn over and profits.

Konkan Railway Corporation Limited is having losses on account of debt servicing of the loans taken by the

Corporation during the construction phase. However, Corporation is able to generate resources to meet with the operating expenditure and depreciation. The Financial Restructuring proposal of the Corporation has been approved by Ministry of Railway and recommended by Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises for the approval of Cabinet.

Railtel Corporation of India Limited has been incorporated in September, 2000. The company has been showing losses till 2005-06 due to formative state of the

company. In the financial year (2006-07), due to improvement in operating results and the effects of modification in agreement in 'right of way' charges, the company has turned around and made profits.

(c) The performance of Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of Ministry of Railway (MOR) is being reviewed regularly at the highest level i.e. by the concerned Members of the Railway Board.

Ministry of Railways is providing necessary technical know how and manpower as and when required and possible to its PSUs.

[Translation]

Survey of Muslim Dominated Districts

778. SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entrusted Social Science Research Council of India with the work of conducting survey of 90 Muslim dominated districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the subjects assigned to the Council for surveying; and

(d) the time by which the survey report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.K. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has been entrusted the task of conducting a baseline survey, to identify the development deficits, in 90 minority concentration districts for implementation of a multi-sectoral development programme in these districts. The Council has sought six month time for conducting the baseline survey in a district.

[English]

Recruitment and Training of Air Traffic Controllers

779. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be please to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of skilled and trained Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) to manage air traffic control in India;

(b) if so, the details and the measures taken/proposed to be taken to recruit more Air Traffic Controllers;

(c) whether ATCs have been found guilty of not following prescribed guidelines for communication, resulting in risk to air passengers security; and

(d) if so, the details and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard to improve efficiency of ATCs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. There is some shortage of Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs).

(b) As against the sanctioned strength of 1707, there are 1504 ATCOs. In addition, 167 and 156 ATCOs would be required for the new airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore which are scheduled to become operational in March next year. The shortage has risen due to sudden and unprecedented growth of air traffic in the recent years. Airports is in the process of recruiting 148 more. According to the recruitment plan of AAI, the shortage of ATCOs would be overcome by the middle of 2009.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Criteria for Construction of New Rail Track

780. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for the construction of new rail tracks;

(b) the zone-wise details of the new rail tracks to be constructed during the last three years;

(c) whether steps have been taken to start the construction of any rail track out of these rail tracks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The policy for taking up new line projects was enunciated by the National Transport Policy Committee 1980 and the following criteria was prescribed:

- Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources;
- Missing links for completing alternative routes to relieve congestion on existing saturated routes;
- Lines required for strategic reasons; and
- Lines for establishment of new growth centres or giving access to remote areas.

(b) Zone-wise details of new railway lines taken up during the last 3 years are as follows:

S.No.	Railway zone	Name of the projects
1.	East Central	Chhapra-Muzzafarpur
2.	East Central	Motihari-Sitamarhi
3.	East Central	D a r b h a n g a - Kusheshwar Asthan
4.	North Eastern	Hathua-Bhatni
5.	North Eastern	Chhitauni-Tumkuhi Road
6.	Northeast Frontier	Araria - Galgalia (Thakurganj)
7.	Northeast Frontier	Dimapur-Kohima (Zubza)
8.	Northeast Frontier	Azra-Byrnihat
9.	South Central	Manoharabad-Kotapalli
10.	South Central	V i s h n u p u r a m - Janapahar
11.	South Central	O b u l a v a r i p a l l e - Krishnapatnam
12.	South Central	J a g g a y a p e t - Mallacheruvu
13.	Southern	Tindivanam-Gingee- Tiruvannamalai
14.	Southern	Tindivanam-Nagari

(c) to (e) Preliminary activities like final location survey, preparation of detailed estimate, yard plans, etc. have been taken up/completed in respect of the new line projects taken up during the last 3 years.

[English]

Gauge Conversion for Shimoga-Talaguppa Railway Line

781. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for Shimoga-Talaguppa broad gauge conversion;

(b) if so, whether this project requires about Rs. 140 crore for completion and the State Government has agreed to provide 50% of the cost required for completion of gauge conversion between Shimoga and Talaguppa;

(c) whether the Railways has made a provision of Rs. 70 crore for this project in 2007-08; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be started/completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the revised estimate prepared by the Railways, the cost of gauge conversion of Shimoga-Talaguppa has been assessed as Rs. 165 crore. State Government of Karnataka has agreed to share 50% of the cost of the project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The work has already been taken up. Gauge conversion of Shimoga-Anandapuram section (56 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2007-08 and the balance portion i.e. Anandapuram-Talaguppa (41 Kms.), gauge conversion is planned for completion during 2008-09.

[Translation]

Drawing of Unauthorized Subsidy by Fertilizer Companies

782. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any complaints regarding drawing of unauthorized subsidy by fertilizer companies on presentation of fake bills during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Poor Loan Recoveries by NMDFC

783. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any survey/ study to focus on reasons for poor loan recoveries by the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC);

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the steps taken to help minority communities secure funds at reasonable subsidized rate of interest to set up projects in different States;

(d) whether the Government proposes to rope in private sector banks to disburse loans at reasonable rate of interest to projects of entrepreneurs from minority communities and ensure security of loans of these banks in case of defaults; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.K. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The level of recovery from most State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) to the NMDFC is not unsatisfactory. However, the recovery is not satisfactory from some States because of the weak infrastructure of SCAs. A scheme for strengthening the SCAs has been approved recently.

(c) NMDFC provides terms loans at concessional rates, for setting up self-employment and income generating projects by persons belonging to minority communities living below double the poverty line.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal.

[Translation]

Passenger Train between Barvadih and Bhavnathpur

784. SHRI GHURAN RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a passenger train is proposed to be started from Barvadih junction to Bhavnathpur in Jharkhand State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have received any request in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter has been examined but not found feasible as Bhavnathpur is a Goods siding and Meralgram-Bhavnathpur section is not fit for running of passenger services.

Rail Linkage from Bhiwani and Hisar to Shirdi

785. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to provide direct rail link from Bhiwani and Hisar to Shirdi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Bhiwani, Hisar and Puntamba are already connected by broad gauge rail network. From Puntamba to Shirdi, the work of new line has been taken up which is targeted for completion during 2007-08.

Income Earned by the Railways from the Passenger and Goods Trains

786. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the income earned by the Railways from the passenger and goods trains during the last three years;

(b) whether the Railways are formulating a scheme to increase the income;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which income is likely to increase after implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The earning from Passenger and Goods traffic during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)		
Year	Passenger	Goods
2004-05	14112.54	30778.40
2005-06	15126.00	36286.97
2006-07	17224.56	41716.50

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Railways have introduced a number of schemes like a slew of Freight Incentive Scheme has been launch this year for attracting more rail traffic like;

Traditional Empty Flow Direction (30% discount), Loading Bagged Consignment in BOXN (40% discount), Long term Special Incentive Scheme (20% concession), Incremental Traffic (15% discount), Lump sum Special Rates and Service Level Agreement, Freight Forwarders, Two Leg Freight Concession (15% in busy season and 20% in lean season).

Besides, Ministry of Railways has been considering individual proposal for grant of Freight Concession in Freight Rates to tap traffic. Few proposals are as :

30% concession of booking of Iron-ore, 50% concession for rice traffic, 15% concession for timber waste and 13% concession on movement of gunny bale or jute traffic.

For passenger traffic following steps have been taken to increase the earnings;

Generating additional seating capacity in trains by introducing new trains, reduction of fare of 1st AC and 2nd AC, attaching additional coaches to clear wait listed passengers and introduction of upgradation scheme to upgrade full fare paying passenger to next higher class against available accommodation.

As a result of above schemes Freight and Passenger earning is likely to be increased by 14% during the current year i.e. 2007-08.

[English]

Running of Garib Rath Train between Delhi and Jammu/Udhampur

787. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan under the consideration of the Railways for running Garib Rath train from Delhi to Jammu/Udhampur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rorieck Art Gallery

788. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to develop and publicise the Rorieck Art Gallery developed by the Russian painter around hundred and twenty five years ago at Naggarr in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Roerich Art Gallery is managed by a Trust under the State Government of Himachal Pradesh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh is the Chairman of this Trust. Under the scheme of "Promotion and Strengthening of Regional & Local Museums" a sum of Rupees two crores were released by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India to the International Roerich Memorial Trust (IRMT) for development of the Museum in the year 2001-02 and 2003-04.

[English]

Nagpur Airport

789. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to transfer the Nagpur Airport to a joint venture company of Airports Authority of India and Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd;

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

(c) whether the Union Cabinet has given its clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been signed on 18.12.2006 between Ministry of Civil Aviation/Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Government of Maharashtra/Maharashtra Airport Development Company Limited (MADC) regarding transfer of Nagpur airport to a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for development of Nagpur International airport into a Multi-modal International Cargo Hub. As stipulated in the MOU, the JVC will be formed with the equity participation of AAI and MADC.

(c) to (e) Matter is under consideration for obtaining a decision of the competent authority.

Repair Work in Chandrapur Unit

790. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chandrapur 500 MW unit which was under repair work at M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has since been repaired as per schedule;

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

(c) the time by which the said unit is likely to be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Repair of Chandrapur Unit-V (500 MW) of Maharashtra Power Generation Company Limited (Mahagenco) was undertaken by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and the unit was re-commissioned ahead of schedule on 14th December, 2006. It is running satisfactorily and generating full load since its re-commissioning.

[Translation]

Gram Paryatan Pariyojana

791. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has contemplating to formulate any scheme for augmentation of Gram Paryatan Pariyojana in the country;

(b) is so, the details thereof and status of its implementation;

(c) the details of Gram Paryatan Pariyojana being implemented in the country especially in the various districts of the Maharashtra;

(d) the details of the amount sanctioned and released during the last three years till date for these projects and the progress made therein, and

(e) the time likely to be taken to complete the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UTs including Maharashtra for infrastructure development in rural sites having tourism potential, under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations & Circuits. Capacity Building is supported by GOI-UNDP Endogenous

Tourism Project and under the scheme of Capacity Building for Service Providers (CBSP). The objective of rural tourism is to showcase the rural life, art culture and heritage at rural location and villages, which have core competency in terms of crafts/handloom/culture/textiles, etc.

(c) to (e) The details of CFA provided to State Government/UT Administration for such Rural Tourism

sites in the last three years till date including Maharashtra are given in the enclosed statement.

The implementation of the sanctioned projects is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Ministry of Tourism monitors the progress in implementation of the sanctioned projects through review meetings from time to time.

Statement

CFA Extended to State Governments/UT Administration in last three years under Rural Tourism Scheme

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	1	Puttaparthi, Ananthpur Distt.	2004-05	49.50	49.50
	2	Chinchinada, East Godavari Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	3	Srikalahasti, Chittoor Distt.	2004-05	70.00	56.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	4	Village Rengo, Distt. East Siang	2005-06	49.62	39.69
	5	Ligu village, Distt. Upper Subansiri	2006-07	66.00	52.80
	6	Village Ego-Nikte, Distt. West Siang	2006-07	66.50	53.20
3. Assam	7	Dehing-Patakai Kshetra, Distt. Tinsukia	2004-05	44.33	35.46
	8	Sualkuchi in Kamrup Distt.	2004-05	69.95	55.96
	9	Village Asharikandi, Distt. Dhubri	2005-06	48.97	39.17
4. Bihar	10	Nepura Village, Distt. Nalanda	2003-04 2004-05	70.00	56.00
5. Chhattisgarh	11	Kondagaon, Distt. Bastar	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	12	Mana-Tuta, Distt. Raipur	2006-07	70.00	56.00
	13	Village Chilpi, Distt. Kabirdham	2006-07	68.75	55.00
	14	Village Odh, Distt. Raipur	2007-08	62.05	49.64
6. Gujarat	15	Nageswar, Distt. Navsari	2007-08	69.84	55.87
	16	Dandi Village, Distt. Navsari	2006-07	70.00	56.00
7. Himachal Pradesh	17	Village Baroh, Distt. Kangra	2006-07	50.00	40.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	18	Village Drung, Distt. Baramula	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		19	Surinsar, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	69.00	55.20
		20	Gagangir, Distt. Srinagar	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		21	Village Pahalgam, Distt. Anantnag	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		22	Village Jheri, Distt. Jammu	2005-06 2006-07	69.00	55.20
		23	Village Akingaam, Distt. Anantnag	2006-07	64.26	51.40
		24	Village Dori Degair	2006-07 2007-08	70.00	56.00
9.	Jharkhand	25	Amadubi	2007-08	66.44	53.91
		26	Deuridih, Distt. Saraikela Kharsawan	2007-08	67.38	53.95
10.	Kerala	27	Balrampur in Thiruvananthapuram Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
		28	Village Kalady, Distt. Emakulam for Spice Circuit	2006-07	67.20	53.76
		29	Village Anakkara, Distt. Idukki for Spice Circuit	2006-07	70.00	56.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	30	Orchha, Distt. Tikamgarh	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		31	Amla, Distt. Ujjain	2006-07	68.69	55.95
		32	Rural Tourism at Village Devpur, Distt. Vidisha	2007-08	60.34	48.27
12.	Maharashtra	33	Sulibhanjan-Khultabad	2003-04 2004-05	70.00	70.00
		34	Morachi Chincholi	2006-07	70.00	56.00
13.	Manipur	35	Khongion, Distt. Thoubal	2006-07	49.75	39.80
		36	Village Noney, Distt. Tamenglong	2006-07	50.00	40.00
		37	Andro, Distt. East Imphal	2006-07	50.00	40.00
14.	Meghalaya	38	Village lalong, Distt. Jaintia Hills	2006-07	64.80	51.84
		39	Village Sasatgre, Distt. West Garo Hills	2006-07	58.49	46.79
15.	Nagaland	40	Avachekha, Distt. Zunheboto	2007-08	70.00	56.00
		41	Changtongia, Distt. Mokokchung	2007-08	70.00	56.00
		42	Village Leshumi, Distt. Phek	2007-08	70.00	56.00
		43	Village Thetsumi	2007-08	61.24	48.91

1	2	3	4	5	6	
16.	Orissa	44	Pipli in Puri Distt.	2004-05	70.00	56.00
		45	Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		46	Barpali, Distt. Bargarh	2006-07	63.00	50.80
		47	Hirapur, Distt. Khurda	2006-07	50.00	40.00
		48	Padmanavpur, Distt. Ganjam	2006-07	50.00	40.00
		49	Deuljhari, Distt. Angul	2006-07	50.00	40.00
		50	Gurukul of Konark Natya Mandap	2007-08	70.00	56.00
17.	Punjab.	51	Boothgarh, Distt. Hoshiarpur	2006-07	50.00	40.00
		52	Rajasansi, Distt. Amritsar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
		53	Chamkaur, Sahib, Distt. Ropar	2006-07	46.00	36.80
		54	Jainti Majri, Distt. Mohali	2006-07	50.00	10.00
		55	Village Chhat	2006-07	45.00	36.44
18.	Rajasthan	56	Haldighati, Distt. Rajsamand,	2006-07	69.32	55.45
19.	Sikkim	57	Lachen in North Distt.	2004-05	70.00	56.00
		58	Village Chunbung, Distt. West Sikkim	2007-08	69.96	55.96
		59	Village Tingchim	2007-08	68.71	54.97
20.	Tamil Nadu	60	Devipattinam Navbhashnam in Ramnathpuram Distt	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		61	Thirukurugudi, Distt. Tirunelveli	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		62	Thirupudaimaurthur, Distt. Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu	2005-06	49.55	39.64
		63	Village Kombai, Distt. Theni, for Spice Circuit	2006-07	70.00	56.00
		64	Thadiyankudissai, Distt. Dindigul, for Sipce Circuit	2006-07	70.00	56.00
21.	Tripura	65	Village Joychandrapur, Distt. South Tripura	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		66	Durgabari, Distt. West Tripura	2007-08	54.68	43.74
		67	Devipur, Distt. West Tripura	2007-08	68.55	54.84
		68	Malayanagar, Distt. West Tripura	2007-08	59.68	47.47
22.	Uttarakhand	69	Agora Village (Dodital) Uttar Kashi Distt.	2005-06	48.50	38.80
		70	Mottad and its satellite station	2005-06	48.05	38.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	
	71	Cekhoni Bora, Distt. Champawat	2005-06	44.20	35.28	
	72	Koti, Indroli	2005-06	47.10	37.68	
	73	Mana, Distt. Chamoli	2005-06	70.00	56.00	
	74	Village Sari, Distt. Rudraprayag	2005-06	45.14	36.00	
	75	Village Adi Kailash, Distt. Nainital	2006-07	70.00	56.00	
	76	Padmapuri, Distt. Nainital	2006-07	70.00	56.00	
	77	Nanakmatta, Distt. U.S. Nagar	2006-07	68.82	55.00	
	78	Tryuginarayan	2006-07	70.00	56.00	
23.	Uttar Pradesh	79	Bhitar Gram, Distt. Rae Bareli	2005-06	49.52	39.62
		80	Mukhrai, Distt. Mathura	2005-06	45.89	36.00
		81	Bhaguwala, Distt. Saharanpur	2004-05 2007-08	70.00	56.00
24.	West Bengal	82	Sonada Village, Distt. Darjeeling	2004-05	50.00	40.00
		83	Mukutmonipur, Distt. Bankura	2006-07	70.00	56.00
		84	Village Antpur, Distt. Hoogly	2006-07	50.00	40.00
		85	Village Kamarpukur	2006-07	68.30	54.64

National Mission for Development of Skills of Dalits and Minorities

792. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to launch National Mission for development of skills of dalits and minorities with a provision of 31,000 crore rupees and a special campaign to make available trained workers;

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

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented in each State of the country particularly in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Prime Minister in

his Independence Day Speech, 2007 announced that the Government will soon launch a Mission on Vocational Education and Skill Development.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission is working out the modalities on priority.

Construction of Hotels Near International Airports

793. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to build luxurious hotels near all the major international airports in the country for the comfort of the NRIs and Foreign Nationals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. Ministry of Tourism has been in regular touch with the various land owning agencies like Ministry of Civil Aviation, DDA, Ministry of Urban Development and State Land Owning Agencies etc. for identifying additional hotel sites.

[English]

Prices of Cancer Medicines

794. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the treatment cost of cancer is very high and beyond the reach of the common man;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce the prices of cancer medicines by providing incentives to drug producers and waiving customs and excise duties on these drugs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Prices of most of the anti-cancer drugs are quite high. In order to reduce the prices of cancer medicines the Government has recommended to the Department of Revenue for Customs and Excise Duty exemption for all anti-cancer drugs. Moreover in the proposed Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 it has been proposed, *inter-alia*, that Government would completely exempt all anti cancer drugs (bulk and formulations) from all types of Central taxes, excise duty, import duty, etc., and effort would be made that the benefit would be passed on to the consumers. Industry and trade would be requested to reduce their margins to the barest minimum level and pass on the benefit to the consumers. A Cancer Medicines Assistance Scheme as a public-private partnership model has also been proposed for providing cheaper medicines to the patients through cancer hospitals.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The

Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007 and the Second meeting was held on 12-9-2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Cheaper Iron Tablets

795. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron tablets available in the country are comparatively costly;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to get cheaper iron tablets manufactured in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

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

Status of Bridges on the Narkhed Railway Line

796. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of road over bridges on the Narkhed railway line in Bhusawal Zone of Central Railway;

(b) whether these projects are lagging behind the schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways for early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Work on five Road Over Bridge (ROB) is being executed by Railway as a part of Amravati-Narkhed New Broad Gauge line. General Arrangement Drawings (GAD) for two works is being prepared in consultation with State Government and work

on three ROBs has already started. These ROBs will be completed alongwith the Amravati-Narkhed Broad Gauge line. Work is going on smoothly.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Development of Tourism in Kerala

797. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals of development of tourism in the State of Kerala are pending with the Union Government for necessary clearance;

(b) is so, the details of the projects pending for clearance; and

(c) the reason for the delay in issuing clearance for the projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of places/spots of tourist interests is primarily undertaken by the State Government/ Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritized in consultation with the State Governments.

During 2007-08, 12 proposals have been received from the Kerala Government and details of these proposals are given in the enclosed statement. Proposals which are complete in all respect as per guidelines are processed on *inter-se* priority basis and funds released subject to availability under the respective head.

During the current financial year, the following proposals have already been sanctioned for Central Financial Assistance to the Government of Kerala:

1. Destination Development of Wayanad for Rs. 201.72 lakhs
2. Development of Kodungallur Heritage Tourism Circuit for Rs. 361.75 lakhs
3. Development of Pathiramanal Bio Park for Rs. 499.61 lakhs.

Statement

List of Proposals Received from Kerala Government during 2007-08

1. Development of Kalamandalam as a tourist destination
2. Development of Kasaragod & Bekal
3. Development of Kozikode as a destination - Sarovaram Wetland Nature Park
4. Development of Farm Tourism in the Estates of Plantation Corp. of Kerala Ltd.
5. Onam and Nishagandha Festivals
6. Pooram Festival
7. Destination Development of Elephant Park at Punnathoor (Additional work)
8. Development of Mangalam Dam as a Tourist Destination
9. Development of Kottakkunnu in Malappuram as a Tourist Destination
10. Development of Wayanand in Kerala
11. Development of Kodungallur Heritage Circuit, Kerala
12. Development of Pathiramanal Bio Park, Kerala.

Smuggling of Gold and Silver through Parcel Wagons

798. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that gold and silver are smuggled through parcel wagons in important trains;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years, State-wise/Zone-wise;

(c) whether involvement of some officers of Railways and Railway police have also been found in such smuggling cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Zone-wise summary of such cases for last three years are as under:

Railways	2004	2005	2006	2007
			(Upto September)	
Northern	06	01	-	-
Western	01	01	-	-

The details of such cases reported during the last three years are as under:

1. On 03.3.2004 on an information received from Army Intelligence, the Leased front brake van of 2916 Ashram Express was checked at Delhi Main Station and 886 Kilograms (Kgs). of Silver, 7.3 Kilograms (Kgs.) of gold and Rs. 55,03,225/- in cash (Total worth Rs. 1.77 Crores approx.) were seized by Delhi Police Special Branch with the assistance of Railway Protection Force. The case was handed over to Delhi Police for further inquiry. They have referred the case to the Income Tax Department.
2. In the 2nd case on 03.4.2004, a team of Railway Protection Force and Railway Vigilance staff detected 614 KGs of silver valued approximately Rs. 1 (one) crore, booked as general goods and was to be loaded in the rear brake van of train No. 2724 Andhra Pradesh Express at New Delhi Railway Station. The parties affected had filed the case in the Delhi High Court and the goods are being released to the parties after imposing appropriate fines under the Railways Act, after clearance from the Income Tax Department.
3. In the 3rd case, on 02.7.2004, on an information received by the Railway Vigilance, suspected packages were unloaded from the front brake van of train No. 2916 Ashram Express at Delhi Main Station and 600

Kilograms of silver, .11 Kilograms of gold, Rs. 41,68,330/- in cash and precious stone worth Rs. 65,000/-, totally valued at Rs. 1.5 crore were seized. The case was handed over to Government Railway Police / Delhi Main who have registered a case *vide* crime No. 36/04 under section 420, 406, 34 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 163 of the Railways Act, 1989 with the arrest of one accused. The case is under trial.

4. In the 4th case, on 01.8.2004 the Leased brake van of 2952 Mumbai Rajdhani Exp. was checked by Railway Protection Force / New Delhi and gold and silver weighing 605 KGs and currency Notes of Rs. 1000 denominations totally valued Rs. 1 (one) crore were seized.
5. From the above said same train, on 02.8.2004, on arrival at Mumbai Central, 02 more packages containing approximately 250 Kilograms of silver, valued approximately Rs. 12,10,000/- were seized. All these valuable items were declared as general goods. Cases under the Railways Act, 1989 were registered against 03 accused at New Delhi station and they were convicted with fines. The case against 02 accused registered under the Railways Act in Mumbai is under trial.
6. On 18.9.2004, RPF/Delhi Main seized Gold and Silver jewelry valued Rs. 3,90,000/- from leased front SLR of train No. 9105 Ahmedabad Mail at Delhi Station and arrested one lease holder and his five associates. In this connection, RPF/Delhi Main registered a case *vide* crime No. 59/04 U/S 163 of the Railways Act dated 19.9.2004 against the above accused persons. The five associates were fined Rs. 500/- each and the seized property was handed over to the owner on 5.11.2004 as per order of the Court. The case is under trial.
7. On 18.12.2004, RPF/New Delhi seized 212 Kgs. Gold and Silver jewelry valued Rs. 15,00,000/- from leased rear SLR of train No. 2724 A.P. Express at New Delhi Station and arrested one lease holder and his two associates. In this connection, RPF/New Delhi

registered a case *vide* crime No. 297/04 U/S 163 of the Railways Act dated 18.12.2004 against the above accused persons. The case is under trial.

8. On 19.10.2005, Chief Parcel Supervisor/Indore informed to Inspector/RPF/Indore by return memo that the railway marka 384337/5 Gunny pack cartoons are suspected. After receiving the memo in presence of Sub-Inspector/RPF, Chief Parcel Supervisor, Party and before two panchas, all the gunny pack cartoons were opened and 225.4 kgs. Silver found from the cartoons. It is a case of false declaration. A case *vide* Crime No. 01/05 Under Section 163 of the Railway Act dated 19.10.2005 was registered and accused was produced before the Hon'ble Railway Court/Indore where accused was fined Rs. 1500/-.
9. On 19.12.2005, RPF/New Delhi seized 285 Kgs. Gold and Silver Jewelry valued Rs. 45,00,000/- from a leased rear SLR of train No. 2615 G.T. Express at New Delhi Station and arrested the lease holder. In this connection, RPF/New Delhi registered a case *vide* crime No. 1029/05 U/S 163 of the Railways Act dated 19.12.2005 against an accused person. The case is under trial.

(c) and (d) No evidence of involvement of Officers of Railways and Railways Police was found in any of the above mentioned cases.

(e) The Railways have been asked to take the following preventive measures:

1. The Lease Holders are asked to furnish a certificate that no illegal goods are being transported in the leased Second Class Luggage Brake Van.
2. Government Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force and Commercial Staff have been advised to gear up intelligence in a coordinated manner and keep a close watch on movements of suspicious characters in the Station area.
3. To avoid recurrence of such incidents, surprise checks are conducted by the Railways.

[Translation]

Atrocities against SC/ST

799. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any suggestions from Hon'ble MPs or social organisations regarding the fixing of roles of the people's representatives for the strict compliance of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and regarding major issues of harassments like large scale murder of people belonging to the said communities or heavy losses inflicted on their properties and also for fixing the responsibility of the concerned District Collector and the Police Commissioner and to take action against them in such cases;

(b) is so, the reaction of the Government therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Such a suggestion has not been received in the recent past. Rule 16 and Rule 17 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, however, provide for constitution of a State Level and a District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees respectively, wherein the elected Members of Parliament, State Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council are Members. As regards action against public servants, the provision for abetment of an offence/punishment for neglect of duties is already provided in Section 10 of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Section 4 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

[English]

Inadequate Supply of Gas to Power Plants

800. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is facing huge shortage of gas and many power plants are not getting adequate supply of gas;

(b) is so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the shortage of gas will cease once KG Basin starts production; and

(d) if so, by when the K.G. Basin will be able to supply gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The demand of power sector is higher than the present availability of natural gas in the country.

(c) and (d) The shortage of natural gas would reduce with the availability of approximately 40 Million Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD) from KG basin during the year 2008, which is likely to be 80 MMSCMD from 2011-12 to 2016-17.

Hike in Prices of Crude Oil at International Level

801. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of continued rise in prices of crude oil at the international level on the developing economy of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to meet situation and to contain the prices of petroleum products in the domestic market; and

(d) the total increase in terms of money in the import bill of the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The global prices of crude oil and petroleum products since 2004 have remained high and volatile. The Indian Basket crude oil touched an all time high of \$ 91.12 per barrel on 07.11.2007.

As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in hardship to the common man, the Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing between the Government and the oil PSUs to protect the interest of vulnerable sections of society. The Government has also taken a number of measures to rationalise taxes and duties on petrol and diesel. To protect the vulnerable sections of the society, the Government has not increased the prices of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG over the last three years and there has been no increase in prices of petrol and diesel during the current year. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

The total increase in terms of money in the oil import bill of the country during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Import Bill

Trade	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07 Prov.		
	Qty	Value		Qty	Value		Qty	Value	
	TMT	Rs. Crore	\$ Million	TMT	Rs. Crore	\$ Million	TMT	Rs. Crore	\$ Million
Crude Oil Import	95,861	117,003	25,990	99,409	171,702	38,776	111,502	219,029	48,389
Petroleum Products Import	8,828	14,887	3,277	13,441	27,971	6,302	16,967	40,389	8,891
Total Import	104,689	131,891	29,266	112,850	199,673	45,078	128,469	259,418	57,280
Total Products Export	18,211	29,928	6,659	23,460	49,974	11,232	32,737	80,898	17,814
Net Import	86,478	101,963	22,607	89,391	149,699	33,845	95,732	178,521	39,466

Oil Prices

802. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has asked Organization of Petroleum Exporting Nations (OPEC) to raise their crude oil output and squeeze skyrocketing prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the OPEC thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, while addressing the OPEC international Seminar held in September, 2006 at Vienna, Austria, Union Minister of P&NG had raised the soaring oil price issue. The Minister pointed out that "Oil security is not just oil supply security. Even with the secure oil supply source, a developing country may not be in a position to procure adequate oil unless price is affordable. So the price stability has become an important constituent of oil security. Given the vital role of energy prices in the economic and social well being of the common man, it is imperative to provide oil at affordable prices and this is becoming increasingly difficult given the present oil price scenario."

[Translation]

Oil Pilferage from Trains

803. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of liters of petrol/diesel is pilfered from the trains in transit with the collusion of officers/staff of petroleum companies and the railway staff;

(b) if so, the number of cases of such oil pilferage from trains that came into light during the last one year; and

(c) the action taken against the employees of oil companies caught in each of such incidents and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Allocation of Fertilizers

804. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:-

(a) the allocation of fertilizers made to various States during this year;

(b) whether some State Government are facing a severe scarcity of fertilizers;

(c) if so, whether such State Governments have demanded higher allocation of fertilizers and particularly urea; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to meet the demand of urea and other fertilizers to such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer, movement and distribution of which at present is under partial control of the Government of India (GOI). Availability of urea at state level is ensured by the GOI and all other fertilizers viz. DAP & MOP etc. are decontrolled ones and availability of these fertilizers are decided by the market forces of demand and supply. The state-wise details of demand, availability and sales of fertilizers in 2007 (Kharif season) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) No Sir, sufficient availability of fertilizers to sustain sales was ensured by the Department of Fertilizers in each of the months in Kharif and Rabi 2007-08 at the state level.

Statement***State-wise-Requirement, Availability, Sales and Closing Stock of Fertilisers up to September 2007***

Date: 30th Sept. 2007

Qty. in ('000') MKs

KHARIF : 2007

Name of State	PRODUCT											
	UREA				DAP				MOP			
	Req. up to September 2007	Cum. Avail. as on 30th Sept. 2007	Cum. Sales up to 30th Sept. 2007	Closing stock as on 30th Sept. 2007	Req. up to September 2007	Cum. Avail. as on 30th Sept. 2007	Cum. Sales up to 30th Sept. 2007	Closing Stock as on 30th Sept. 2007	Req. up to September 2007	Cum. Avail. as on 30th Sept. 2007	Cum. Sales up to 30th Sept. 2007	Closing Stock as on 30th Sept. 2007
Andhra Pradesh	1400.00	1379.99	1209.82	170.18	424.00	382.37	377.22	5.15	235.00	231.70	206.35	25.35
Karnataka	780.00	788.94	747.47	41.47	380.00	292.00	285.57	6.47	200.00	221.79	207.99	13.80
Kerala	75.00	79.71	67.18	12.54	18.00	11.10	9.11	1.99	70.00	58.97	58.44	0.53
Tamil Nadu	435.00	363.71	318.16	45.56	200.00	156.09	151.97	4.12	230.00	235.28	206.73	28.55
Gujarat	850.00	961.90	927.38	34.52	280.00	333.25	290.99	42.27	70.00	93.05	80.25	12.80
Madhya Pradesh	475.00	606.04	572.82	33.22	350.00	331.53	283.93	37.80	50.00	47.91	41.81	6.10
Chhattisgarh	480.00	432.22	399.83	32.39	115.00	100.21	97.78	2.43	54.00	53.06	50.22	2.85
Maharashtra	1250.00	1415.65	1334.81	80.83	425.00	335.97	335.14	0.84	125.00	161.53	154.56	6.98
Rajasthan	520.00	564.86	506.96	57.90	280.00	228.53	207.69	20.84	8.00	13.65	9.13	4.52
Haryana	775.00	898.22	842.06	56.16	185.00	273.32	255.91	17.41	25.00	22.99	18.92	4.07
Punjab	1250.00	1366.10	1312.69	53.41	250.00	452.69	403.43	49.25	60.00	46.40	40.87	5.54
Jammu & Kashmir	80.62	71.60	60.06	11.52	49.29	14.89	13.28	1.61	16.66	3.69	3.09	0.60
Uttar Pradesh	2500.00	2512.68	2229.44	283.24	500.00	499.16	438.20	60.96	150.00	91.79	84.86	6.93
Bihar	900.00	894.94	786.59	108.34	175.00	114.83	100.42	14.41	75.00	41.49	36.20	5.29
Jharkhand	145.00	113.99	111.22	2.77	60.00	51.56	50.96	0.60	8.00	4.49	4.49	0.00
Orissa	375.00	380.89	313.95	66.94	75.00	115.80	106.85	8.95	70.00	75.87	58.73	17.14
West Bengal	520.00	475.73	417.47	58.26	185.00	196.55	179.57	18.99	150.00	137.57	123.98	13.59
Assam	110.00	115.77	99.45	16.32	25.00	4.40	4.33	0.07	35.00	28.57	23.53	5.04
All India	13168.70	13640.82	12458.43	1182.39	4008.30	3908.73	3613.48	295.25	1652.26	1577.67	1417.99	159.67

Harassment of Foreign Tourists

805. SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the increase in the incidents of harassments, cheating, molestation and rape involving foreign tourists, the Union Government has asked the State Governments to introduce special tourists police for safety of women tourists and so far only 10 States have introduced special tourists police;

(b) if so, the details of the States who have not so far considered the directive of the Union Government;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the State Government are likely to be introduced tourist police force at various tourist sports?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The following ten states namely; Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have deployed tourist police in one form or another. Safety & Security is a State subject and the decision regarding introduction of tourist police has to be taken by the concerned State Governments. The Ministry of Tourism has been advising all State Governments to deploy tourist police for the safety & security of foreign & domestic tourists.

ISO Certified Trains And Facilities Provided In Such Trains

806. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the International Standards Organization (ISO) certified trains in the country, zone-wise;

(b) whether different ratings of the quality of services are provided in the trains in India and abroad;

(c) if so, whether the quality of services provided in the air conditioned compartments of ISO certified trains is much below the specified standards;

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

(e) the steps being contemplated to improve the service in ISO trains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) to (e) The standard and scale of amenities and services provided to the passengers in trains in the Railways across the world vary based on geography, climate, economy, passenger profile etc., and accordingly the ISO certification of trains on Indian Railways does not relate to a universally applicable quality standard, but to distinct quality standards as laid down for each train. It is continually endeavored that the prescribed quality standards in the ISO certified trains, including those for air conditioned compartments of such trains, are achieved and sustained.

Statement

The details of the International Standards Organization Certified Trains in the country; zone-wise is as under:

S.No.	Railway	Train No. (Pair)	Train Name
1	2	3	4
1.	Central Railway	2123/24 2137/38 2051/52 2109/10	Deccan Queen Express Punjab Mail Jan Shatabdi Express Dadar-Madgaon Panchvati Express
2.	Northern Railway	2057/58 2413/14 2055/56 4257/58	Jan Shatabadi New Delhi-Chandigarh Puja Express Jan Shatabdi New Delhi-Dehradun Kashi Vishwanath Express

1	2	3	4
3.	North Eastern Railway	2559/60	Shiv Ganga Express
4.	Southern Railway	2007/08	Shatabadi Express Chennai - Mysore
5.	South Central Railway	2706/05 2717/18 2715/16 2797/98 2733/34 2747/48	Inter city Express Guntur - Secunderabad Ratnachel Express Sachkhand Express Venkatadri Express Narayanadri Express Palnadu Express
6.	Western Railway	2971/72 2957/58 2901/02 2915/16 9309/10 2925/26 2907/08 2951/52 2953/54 2009/10	Bhavnagar-Bandra Superfast Express Ahmedabad New Delhi Swarnajayanti Rajdhani Express Gujarat Mail Ashram Express Indore-Gandhinagar Shanti Express Paschim Express Maharashtra Sampark Kranti Express Bandra (T) - Hazrat Nizamuddin Mumbai Central-New Delhi Rajdhani Express August Kranti Rajdhani Express Mumbai Central-Nizamuddin Shatabdi Express Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad
7.	West Central Railway	2155/56 2185/86 2187/83 2059/80 1471/72	Bhopal Express Habibganj-Nizamuddin Bhopal Rewa Revachal Express Bhopal Rewa Revachal Express Jan Shatabadi Express Kota Nizamuddin Bhopal - Jabalpur Overnight Express
8.	North Central Railway	2417/18	Prayag Raj Express
9.	All Other Zonal Railways	Nil	

New Train between Bangalore and vijaywada

807. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a new train between Bangalore and Vijayawada *via* Gunthakal-Kadapa-Renigunta;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Revival of BHPV

808. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has referred the ailing and sick Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited (BHPV) to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the latest status with regard to the revival and rehabilitation of BHPV?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) Yes. The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has considered the Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited (BHPV) revival proposal.

(b) BHPV is proposed to be revived by taking over by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) as its subsidiary. BHEL has sought certain concessions for reviving the BHPV. Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to the proposal for the transfer of land to BHPV as BHEL takes over. The bankers of BHPV have agreed to waive interest in lieu of One Time Settlement of the full principal amount. Government of Andhra Pradesh has also agreed to all the concessions sought. A proposal for financial restructuring and strengthening of BHPV envisaging waiver of Government of India loan and interest, infusion of funds by the Government for setting the outstanding liabilities of the bankers and others, investment of funds by BHEL in BHPV and take over BHPV by BHEL, was sent to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises.

BRPSE considered the proposal on 02.07.2007 and recommended financial restructuring and strengthening of BHPV. Based on the recommendations of BRPSE as well as comments received from all concerned Ministries/ Departments, a decision in the matter will be taken by Government shortly.

[Translation]

Kisan Sahayak Kendra Scheme

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

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of petrol pumps are being run under the 'Kisan Sahayak Kendra Scheme' (Farmer Assistance Centre Scheme) by the Government;

(b) if so, the main features of the said scheme;

(c) the State-wise number of petrol pumps sanctioned under the said scheme till date;

(d) whether merely petrol and diesel are being sold under the said scheme and the farmers are being given no other assistance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) are setting up rural retail outlets (such as Kisan Seva Kendra, Hamara Pump, etc.) all over the country to cater to the needs of farmers, agriculturists and other consumers of petrol and diesel in the rural areas. This has been done with the intention of reaching product predominantly diesel, and ensuring quality at the correct price in far-flung areas to meet the rural agricultural demand. Apart from petrol and diesel, wherever there is requirements, other items like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, implements, etc., are stocked and sold to the agriculturists from these rural retail outlets. These retail outlets are set up at identified rural locations having sufficient potential which are economically viable as established by survey and feasibility studies. State-wise number of rural retail outlets allotted by OMCs as on 30.09.2007 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Number of Rural Retail Outlets (Kisan Seva Kendra, Hamara Pump, etc.) Allotted by The OMCs As On 30.09.2007

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of KSK ROs
1	2	3
	States	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	284
2.	Assam	59
3.	Bihar	264

1	2	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	125
5.	Goa	22
6.	Gujarat	214
7.	Haryana	231
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	71
10.	Jharkhand	59
11.	Karnataka	262
12.	Kerala	215
13.	Madhya Pradesh	328
14.	Maharashtra	544
15.	Manipur	9
16.	Meghalaya	11
17.	Nagaland	4
18.	Orissa	166
19.	Punjab	601
20.	Rajasthan	352
21.	Sikkim	2
22.	Tripura	3
23.	Tamil Nadu	336
24.	Uttaranchal	39
25.	Uttar Pradesh	601
26.	West Bengal	211
27.	Pondicherry	17
	Total	5047

*[English]***Commissioning of Gas Cracker Projects by BCPL**

810. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for commissioning of the gas cracker project by the Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Ltd. (BCPL) project showing the details of phase-wise implementation;

(b) the domestic as well as international market link envisaged for the products and for the down stream industries;

(c) the steps taken for awareness and training of entrepreneurs in phases for direct and indirect employment avenues; and

(d) the details of recruitment drive already made and planned for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The scheduled date for completion of the gas cracker project by BCPL is 60 months from the date of financial closure. Detail of proposed phase-wise implementation schedule is enclosed as statement.

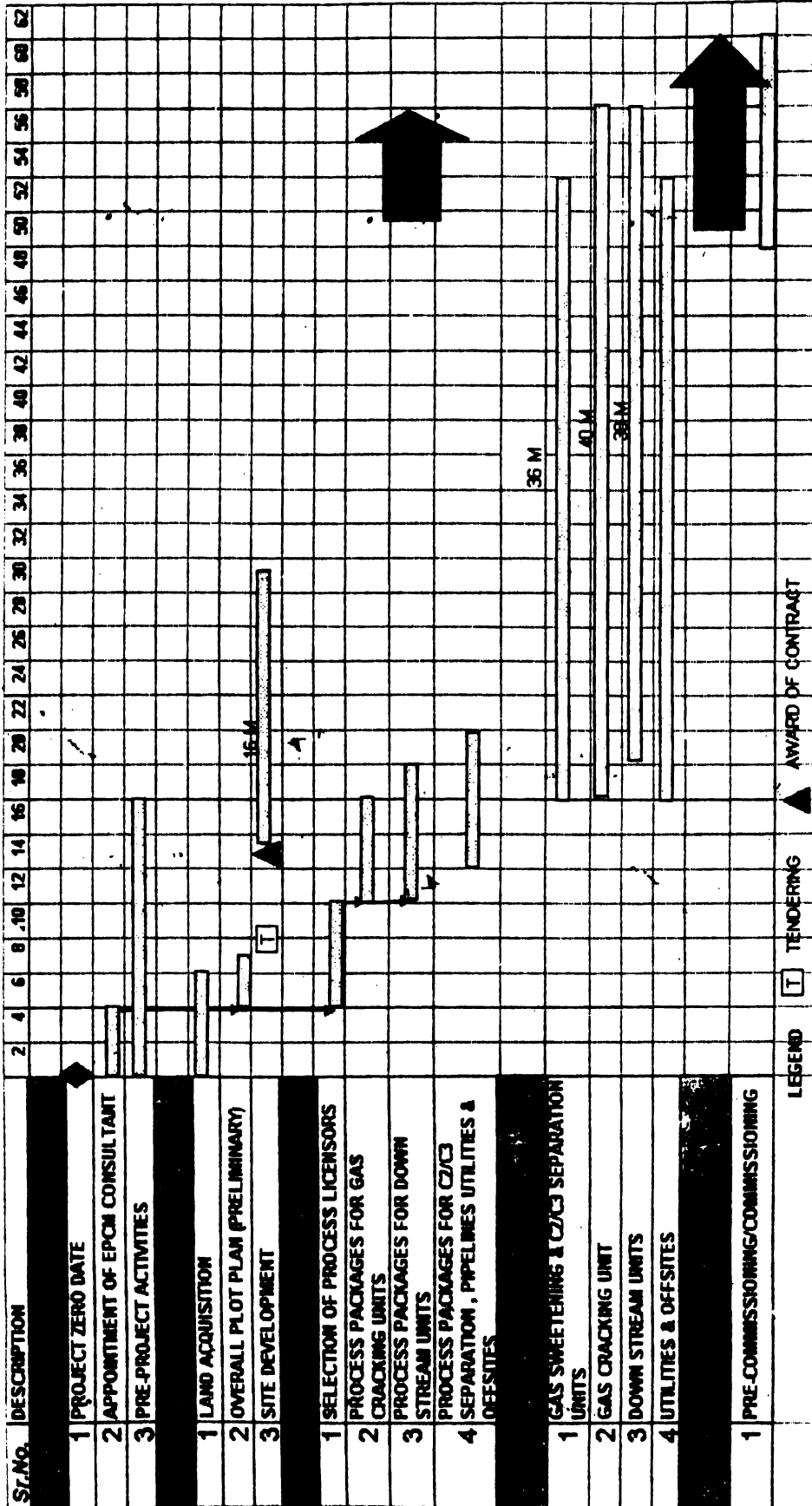
(b) There is a gap between demand and supply of Polymer materials in the domestic market and it is envisaged that the product will be consumed by domestic polymer processors.

(c) Trainings and skilled development is being organized by Government of Assam through identified ITIs in the State with the help of Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Guwahati.

(d) In the initial stage of the project implementation, manpower resources are being mobilized through secondment by the promoters (GAIL). Further reinforcement of manpower may be done as and when it is required for construction, commissioning and operation of the project.

Statement

Project Schedule (in months)



Emergency Landing due to Technical Snags

811. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions, the aircraft of Indian Airlines (IA) or its subsidiary Alliance Airlines had to be grounded or had to make emergency landings due to various technical snags during the last three years;

(b) the reason for the emergency landing of the said planes;

(c) whether any in depth investigations into the causes of emergency landing have been conducted.

(d) is so, the details thereof; and

(e) the losses suffered by IA and its allied services due to emergency landing of its flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There was no emergency landing due to technical snags during the last three years (1st April, 2004 to 31st March, 2007). The details of Groundings due to technical reasons, during the above period, are as follows:

Type of Aircraft	No. of Technical AOGs	Technical AOGs per 100 Take-offs
A-319	04	0.03
A-320	719	0.27
A-300	17	0.14
DO-228	17	1.82
B-737	96	0.21

AOGs - Aircraft on Ground

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Conversion of Fast Passenger Train Into Express Train

812. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the passenger train No. 329/330 running from Amritsar to Dehradun has been converted into express train;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether stoppage of this train is being provided at Sarsava railway station in Saharanpur;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any public demand has been received for the stoppage of this train at Sarsava railway station; and

(f) if so, action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Passenger train 329/330 has been upgraded to an Express train (4631/4632) with effect from 01.08.2007. After its up gradation, the running time has been curtailed by 2 hours 35 minutes from Amritsar to Dehradun and by 2 hours 30 minutes from Dehradun to Amritsar. Further the train has been provided with 6 additional sleeper class coaches (GSCNs) from 22.02.2006 and 1 ACCN (AC-3 Tier) coach from. 15/4/2006.

(c) and (d) Stoppage of this train at Sarsawa station has been withdrawn due to poor patronization.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. The request has been examined, but stoppage of the train at Sarsawa has not been found commercially justified.

Amendment in Existing Rules of Construction

813. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India is going to amend the existing rules that prohibit construction near protected monuments;

(b) if so, the details of the present rules and amendments likely to be made; and

(c) the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Archaeological Survey of India has started the process of reviewing the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959 based upon past experience and the contemporary ground realities so as to enable better management of protected monuments and sites.

Revival of Closed/Sick Fertilizer Units

814. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of closed or sick chemical fertilizer units in the country alongwith the reasons for their closure/sickness.

(b) whether the Government proposes to revive the closed/sick units;

(c) if so, whether the Government has prepared a report for revival of these units;

(d) if so, whether the Bureau of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction has approved the report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the present status of the revival process of closed/sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The state wise details of closed or sick chemical fertilizer units in the country under the Central Public Sector, alongwith the reasons for their closure / sickness are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Pursuant to a decision taken on 12.4.2007, the Government has initiated the process of examining the feasibility of revival of the closed / sick units, subject to the confirmed availability of gas.

(c) The feasibility reports are being prepared.

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

(f) The revival process of closed / sick units is in the stage of examination / preparation of feasibility reports. Some will run fertilizer PSUs like RCF and NFL and a fertilizer Multi-State Cooperative Society, namely, KRIBHCO have shown interest in the revival of few of the closed units. Other options including possible investment by State Governments are also being explored.

Statement

State-wise Details of the closed/Sick Chemical Fertilizer Unit under the Central Public Sector and Reasons for their Closure/Sickness

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Name of unit and State in which situated	Date of closure	Reason for closure/sickness
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL)	Sindri Unit (Jharkhand)	Decided to be closed by the Government on 5.9.2002.	Economic un-viability, huge accumulated losses resulting in networth becoming negative and obsolescence of technology.
		Talcher Unit (Orissa)	-do-	-do-
		Ramagundam Unit (Andhra Pradesh)	-do-	-do-
		Gorakhpur Unit (Uttar Pradesh)	-do-	-do-
		Korba Project (Chhattisgarh)	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (HFCL)	Barauni Unit (Bihar)	Decided to be closed by the Government on 5.9.2002	Economic un-viability huge accumulated losses resulting in networth becoming negative and obsolescence of technology.
		Durgapur Unit (West Bengal)	-do-	-do-
		Haldia Unit (West Bengal)	-do-	-do-
3.	Pyrites Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL)	Amjore Unit (Bihar)	Decided to be closed by the Government on 5.6.2003	Economic un-viability, huge accumulated losses resulting in networth becoming negative and obsolescence of technology.
		Saladipura (Rajasthan)	Decided to be closed by the Government on 05.09.2002	-do-
		Dehradun (Uttarakhand)	-do-	-do-

*[Translation]***Scam In Pawan Hans Helicopter Limited**

815. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large scale scam and corruption has been unearthed regarding the upgradation of the Pawan Hans Helicopters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the officers and agencies found guilty in this regard; and

(d) the details of the action being taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) On 31.7.2007 CBI has registered a regular case against former Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Pawan Hans

Helicopters Limited, former General Manager (Engineering) and other 3 officers of PHHL and M/s Eurocopter and M/s SOFEMA, regarding award of contract for retrofitment of CVFDR, ADELTA, Radio Altimeter, Upper Torso Restraints Seat Belts, Life Rafts, Pop Out Windows and Mini-Hums etc. in Dauphin helicopters at a cost of Rs. 66 crores.

(c) and (d) CBI has not yet completed the investigation in the matter.

*[English]***Direct Rail Linkage Between Amritsar and Ferozepur**

816. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any representation regarding direct rail link between Amritsar and Ferozepur Cantt.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from State Government of Punjab and elected representatives for new rail line from Khemkaran to Firozpur to provide direct connectivity between Amritsar and Firozpur. The survey work for the new line has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3.75 lakhs.

New Railway Line from Narkhed to Amravati

817. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite spending more than Rs. 115 crore work has not been completed on Amravati-Narkhed route of the Central Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the original cost of the project and the cost escalation registered so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Section from Badnera to Chandurbazar (44 Kms) has been completed. In Chandurbazar-Narkher Section (94 Kms), earthwork, bridge work and ballast collection have been taken up.

(c) The work was included in Budget 1993-94 at a cost of Rs. 120.90 crore. The revised estimate is sanctioned for Rs. 284.27 crore.

Policy on Bio-Diesel

818. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of the Government on bio-diesel has not generated the desired results;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of bio-diesel procured by the public sector companies so far;

(d) the new steps taken by the Government to make comprehensive changes in the policy; and

(e) the details of the proposal for extensive use of green fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) In order to promote the use of Bio-diesel, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has announced a Bio-Diesel Purchase Policy with effect from 1.1.2006. As per the policy, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) shall purchase Bio-diesel for blending with High Speed Diesel (HSD) to the extent of 5% at 20 identified purchase centres across the country. OMCs would buy Bio-diesel at a uniform landed price, which is to be reviewed every six months. At present the purchase price of bio-diesel is at Rs. 26.50 per litre. However, no supplier has shown interest to supply bio-diesel at this price. OMCs have not been able to procure Bio-diesel at the identified purchase centres till date.

The production of bio-diesel from seeds coming from plants such as Jatropha is at a nascent stage.

(d) and (e) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Rural Development are in the process of formulating policies for extensive use of green fuel.

Talcher Bimlagarh Rail Project

819. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the Talcher-Bimlagarh railway project was started along with the initial target date for completion;

(b) the time and cost overrun of the said railway project of Orissa; and

(c) the time by which the said project is targeted to be completed and likely to be opened for passenger traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Talcher-Bimlagarh (154 Kms) new line project was included in the Supplementary Budget 2003-04. Preliminary works like the final location survey, soil exploration survey along the alignment, geotechnical investigation of tunnels & bridges, preparation of detailed cost estimates, etc. were taken up thereafter. No target date of completion of this project has been fixed as yet.

(b) The project was included at a cost of Rs. 726.96 crore in the Supplementary Budget 2003-04. The Detailed Estimate for the project has recently been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 810.78 crore.

(c) No target date of completion has yet been fixed. The work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

Railway Facilities for Sabarimala Pilgrimage in Kerala

820. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has made special request for Special Train Service, stoppages of trains at important stations, sufficient number of additional bogies, Information Centre at important stations which would function round the clock;

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

(c) whether the Railways are also considering to issue time table for Sabarimala pilgrimage season in Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and other languages;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways would also take steps for the expeditious implementation for the proposed Rail lines touching Sabarimala;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Railways to meet the unprecedented rush of pilgrims during the ensuing Sabarimala pilgrimage in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Work on Angamli-Sabarimala new line has already been included in the Budget 1997-1998. However, on Sabarimala end, this new line has been decided to be terminated at Azhutha, short of Reserved Forest Area. Work on this new line has been affected due to objections from the landowners. So far, State Government has made available only 68.60 hectare out of 516.42 hectare of land to the Railways. The work would be progressed depending upon availability of resources once the land is made available by State Government.

(g) Railway has planned 13 pairs of special trains between Chennai Central and Kottayam and 29 pairs of special trains between Chennai Egmore and Thiruvananthapuram for Sabarimala pilgrims. Besides, 2695/2696 Chennai Central-Thiruvananthapuram Central Express, which passes through Kottayam, have been augmented with 5 coaches on permanent basis.

Prices of Diesel, Petrol, Cooking Gas and Kerosene

821. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present rates of diesel, petrol, cooking gas and kerosene in each State/UT;

(b) whether there is any differences between the rates in each State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to make them uniform in each State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The current retail selling prices of diesel, petrol and cooking gas in the State Capitals/Union Territories are given in the enclosed statement-I. The retail selling price of PDS Kerosene in the metro cities are given below:

	Rs./Ltr
Delhi	9.09
Mumbai	9.05
Kolkata	9.40
Chennai	8.40

(b) to (f) Though the basic ex-storage point price of these petroleum products are common across the country, the retail selling prices vary from place to place due to the following reasons:

- Freight from nearest refinery to the market
- State sales tax/VAT
- Other local levies like toll tax, octroi, entry tax, delivery charges, etc.

The sales tax/VAT in various States is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I***Retail Selling Prices of Petroleum Products as on 1.11.2007***

State/UT	Capital	Diesel Rs./Ltr	Petrol Rs./Ltr	Dom. Packed LPG Rs./14.2 Kg Cyl
Maharashtra	Mumbai	34.94	48.38	297.95
Delhi	Delhi	30.48	43.52	294.75
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	33.30	47.44	288.10
West Bengal	Kolkata	32.87	46.86	300.50
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	34.78	46.95	328.75
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	35.21	47.74	312.10
Goa	Panjim	33.17	44.33	307.95
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	34.11	44.79	301.80
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	33.63	46.37	294.85
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	31.37	45.65	294.70
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	30.63	44.09	303.25
Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	31.94	46.11	303.55
Uttaranchal	Dehradun	32.69	44.55	293.60
Rajasthan	Jaipur	33.05	46.45	297.50
Haryana	Ambala	30.55	43.47	298.90
Punjab	Jalandhar	30.23	47.85	296.50
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	33.80	48.79	302.85
Kerala	Trivandrum	33.71	46.01	302.10
Karnataka	Bangalore	35.23	50.58	306.85
Pondicherry	Pondicherry	31.60	41.70	285.40
Jharkhand	Ranchi	32.99	43.94	305.20
Bihar	Patna	32.96	46.45	302.65
Orissa	Bhubneshwar	33.49	44.53	305.40
Assam	Guwahati	31.38	45.48	286.60

Note : The above data has been provided by HPCL.

Statement II*State-wise VAT/Sales Tax Rates as of 1.11.2007*

State	MS	HSD	SKO(PDS)	LPG (Dom.)
Maharashtra (Mumbai)	28% + Rs. 1000/KL	28%	4	4
Delhi	20%	12.50%	4	4
Tamil Nadu	30%	23.43%	4	4
West Bengal	25% + Rs. 1000/KL	17% + Rs. 1000/KL	4	4
Madhya Pradesh	28.75% + 1% Entry Tax	28% + 1% Entry Tax	4	4%+9.5% Entry Tax
Gujarat	28% + 2% Cess	24% + 3% Cess	Nil	4
Goa	22%	21%	4	4
Chhattisgarh	25%	25%	4	4% + 1% Entry Tax
Uttar Pradesh	25% + 1% SDT	21% + 1% SDT	10% + 1% SDT	4
Himachal Pradesh	25%	14%	0	4
Chandigarh	22% + Rs. 10/KL	12.5% + Rs. 10/KL	4	4
Jammu and Kashmir	20% + Rs. 1000/KL	12%	4	4
Uttaranchal	25% - Rs. 780/KL	21% - Rs. 380/KL	12.5	4
Rajasthan	28% + Rs. 500/KL	20% + Rs. 500/KL	4	4
Haryana	20%	12%	4	4
Punjab	27.5% + Rs. 1000/KL	8.8%	4	4
Andhra Pradesh	33%	22.25%	4	4
Kerala	29.01%	24.69%	4	4
Karnataka	28% + 5% Entry Tax	28% + 5% Entry Tax	4	4
Jharkhand	20%	20%	4	4
Bihar	27%	20%	12.5	4
Orissa	20% + 1% Entry Tax	20% + 1% Entry Tax	4% + 1% Entry Tax	4% + 1% Entry Tax
Assam	25.75%	15.5%	2	4

Note : The above data has been provided by HPCL.

Joint Venture Company

822. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the creation of joint venture company between Railway and Steel Industries Kerala Ltd. to be established at Alleppy in Kerala, as declared in the Railway Budget for 2006-07 and for which 85 crores of rupees has been set apart; and

(b) the time by which the proposed joint venture company is likely to commence its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) including provision for constitution of the Joint Working Group consisting of officers from Railways and Government of Kerala to be signed between Government of Kerala (GOK) and Ministry of Railways towards setting up of the Joint Venture Company is under finalization with GOK. Thereafter MOU will be sent to Ministry of Law and Legal Affairs for legal clearance and then signed.

(b) Time-frame for commencement of functioning of the joint venture company (JVC) can not be advised at this stage.

Penalty on Delay/Cancellation of Flights

823. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to penalise airlines for flight delay/cancellation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government is continuously monitoring the punctuality of airline operations. While there are several factors like bad weather, technical snags, air traffic congestion etc. which may be beyond the control of airlines, some of the delays could be attributable to the airline industry. Government is already working with airlines industry through fora like Airline Facilitation Committee, the Federation of Indian Airlines etc. on the need to maintain the approved schedules.

*[Translation]***Availability of Fertilizers to Farmers**

824. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of fertilizers in the country, State-wise and fertilizer-wise;

(b) the measures adopted by the Government for making fertilizers accessible to the farmers in proportion to their demand in the country; and

(c) the details of arrangements for making fertilizers available as and when required by the farmers at places accessible to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) State-wise demand, availability and sale of Urea, DAP & MOP in the major agricultural States of the country during 2007-08 (Kharif 07) (Rabi - 1.10.2007 to 31.10.2007) are given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

(b) and (c) Under the New Pricing Scheme Stage-III for urea units, which has been approved by the Government on 1st February 2007 :

- (i) The State agriculture departments are required to prepare a month-wise, district-wise and company-wise supply plan in consultation with fertiliser manufacturers/suppliers;
- (ii) The subsidy will be paid only after the fertiliser reaches the district in conformity with the approved supply plan;
- (iii) The freight on movement of urea will now be paid on actual rail and road leads under NPS-III. The rail freight will be paid as per the actual expenditure under the new dispensation. The road freight will be escalated on the basis of a composite road transport index;
- (iv) A buffer stocking scheme of urea has been introduced in major States to take care of the emergent requirement of farmers;
- (v) The freight payable for decontrolled 'P & K' fertilizers has also been rationalised keeping in view escalation in rail/road freight.

Statement I**State-wise Requirement, Availability, Sales and Closing Stock of Fertilizers up to September 2007**Date: 30th Sept. 2007
QTY IN ('000') Mts

KHARIF : 2007

Name of State	UREA				DAP				MOP			
	Req. up to September 2007	Cum. Avail. as on 30th Sept. 2007	Cum. Sales up to 30th Sept. 2007	Closing stock as on 30th Sept. 2007	Req. up to September 2007	Cum. Avail. as on 30th Sept. 2007	Cum. Sales up to 30th Sept. 2007	Closing Stock as on 30th Sept. 2007	Req. up to September 2007	Cum. Avail. as on 30th Sept. 2007	Cum. Sales up to 30th Sept. 2007	Closing Stock as on 30th Sept. 2007
Andhra Pradesh	1400.00	1379.99	1209.82	170.18	424.00	382.37	377.22	5.15	235.00	231.70	206.35	25.35
Karnataka	780.00	788.94	747.47	41.47	380.00	292.04	285.57	6.47	200.00	221.79	207.99	13.80
Kerala	75.00	79.71	67.18	12.54	18.00	11.10	9.11	1.99	70.00	58.97	58.44	0.53
Tamil Nadu	435.00	363.71	318.16	45.56	200.00	156.09	151.97	4.12	230.00	235.28	206.73	28.55
Gujarat	850.00	961.90	927.38	34.52	280.00	333.25	290.99	42.27	70.00	93.05	80.25	12.80
Madhya Pradesh	475.00	606.04	572.82	33.22	350.00	331.53	293.93	37.60	50.00	47.91	41.81	6.10
Chhattisgarh	480.00	432.22	399.83	32.39	115.00	100.21	97.78	2.43	54.00	53.06	50.22	2.85
Maharashtra	1250.00	1415.65	1334.81	80.83	425.00	335.97	335.14	0.84	125.00	161.53	154.56	6.98
Rajasthan	520.00	564.86	506.96	57.90	280.00	228.53	207.69	20.84	8.00	13.65	9.13	4.52
Haryana	775.00	898.22	842.06	56.16	185.00	273.32	255.91	17.41	25.00	22.99	18.92	4.07
Punjab	1250.00	1366.10	1312.69	53.41	250.00	452.69	403.43	49.25	60.00	46.40	40.87	5.54
Jammu and Kashmir	80.62	71.60	60.08	11.52	49.20	14.89	13.28	1.61	16.66	3.69	3.09	0.60
Uttar Pradesh	2500.00	2512.68	2229.44	283.24	500.00	499.16	438.20	60.96	150.00	91.79	84.86	6.93
Bihar	900.00	894.94	786.59	108.34	175.00	114.83	100.42	14.41	75.00	41.49	36.20	5.29
Jharkhand	145.00	113.99	111.22	2.77	60.00	51.56	50.96	0.60	8.00	4.49	4.49	0.00
Orissa	375.00	380.89	313.95	66.94	75.00	115.80	106.85	8.95	70.00	75.87	58.73	17.14
West Bengal	520.00	475.73	417.47	58.26	185.00	198.55	179.57	18.99	150.00	137.57	123.98	13.59
Assam	110.00	115.77	99.45	16.32	25.00	4.40	4.33	0.07	35.00	28.57	23.53	5.04
All India	13168.70	13640.82	12458.43	1182.39	4008.30	3908.73	3613.48	295.25	1652.26	1577.67	1417.99	159.67

Statement II**State-wise Requirement, Availability, Sales and Closing Stock of Fertilizers Month of October 2007**Date: 30th Oct. 2007
QTY IN ('000') Mts

RABI : 2007-08

Name of State	UREA				DAP				MOP			
	Req. Month of October 2007	Cum. Avail. as on 31st Oct. 2007	Cum. Sales up to 31st Oct. 2007	Closing stock as on 31st. Oct. 07	Req. Month of October 2007	Cum. Avail. as on 31st Oct. 2007	Cum. Sales up to 31st Oct. 2007	Closing Stock as on 31st. Oct. 07	Req. Month of October 2007	Cum. Avail. as on 31st Oct. 2007	Cum. Sales up to 31st Oct. 2007	Closing Stock as on 31st. Oct. 07
Andhra Pradesh	265.00	441.13	183.54	257.59	70.00	86.73	78.49	8.24	90.00	70.93	46.82	24.11
Karnataka	130.00	155.39	94.63	60.76	32.00	42.37	42.31	0.06	46.50	37.86	23.54	14.32
Kerala	19.00	19.21	10.65	8.56	3.00	4.50	2.74	1.76	18.75	9.66	9.66	0.00
Tamil Nadu	110.00	163.63	119.69	43.94	45.00	44.22	40.20	4.02	52.00	63.77	48.04	15.73
Gujarat	125.00	186.48	45.75	140.73	80.00	105.74	59.83	45.91	24.00	28.26	16.94	11.32
Madhya Pradesh	129.82	235.19	186.17	69.02	247.13	165.72	90.41	75.31	30.00	15.52	12.40	3.12
Chhattisgarh	15.70	49.32	5.88	43.64	5.00	4.56	3.34	0.72	0.40	2.97	0.67	2.30
Maharashtra	131.00	243.80	68.30	175.50	31.00	53.18	50.14	3.04	24.00	25.24	19.53	5.71
Rajasthan	140.00	194.99	118.56	76.43	160.00	165.06	133.13	31.93	6.00	4.82	2.26	2.56
Haryana	140.00	243.16	148.32	94.84	220.00	162.83	145.65	17.18	10.00	11.44	4.94	6.50
Punjab	200.00	281.51	165.34	116.17	300.00	181.38	169.05	12.33	15.00	13.67	7.22	6.45
Himachal Pradesh	2.00	3.05	0.08	2.97	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	4.00	14.03	0.87	13.16	5.00	1.61	1.54	0.07	1.00	0.60	0.19	0.41
Uttar Pradesh	275.00	772.51	314.54	457.97	330.00	301.49	193.31	108.18	40.00	8.10	7.39	0.71
Uttaranchal	2.20	18.05	6.33	11.72	4.00	3.44	2.56	0.88	2.00	0.96	0.96	0.00
Bihar	178.00	226.61	84.62	141.99	50.00	36.08	14.13	21.95	15.00	21.13	11.40	9.73
Jharkhand	10.50	17.73	4.54	13.19	6.90	4.01	3.49	0.52	0.90	1.86	1.38	0.48
Orissa	20.00	89.46	13.17	76.29	1.40	11.28	3.17	8.11	2.60	26.33	5.09	21.24
West Bengal	78.00	152.85	66.66	86.19	51.00	45.98	27.49	18.49	34.00	28.71	22.44	6.27
Assam	10.80	38.09	4.68	33.41	4.05	0.07	0.00	0.07	4.50	5.04	0.00	5.04
All India	1996.05	3564.17	1626.76	1937.41	1648.81	1421.41	1062.12	359.29	420.00	380.61	242.10	138.51

*[English]***Black Marketing of LPG**

825. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the black marketing of LPG cylinders is on the rise in connivance with LPG agencies;

(b) the details of the complaints received by the Government from the consumers against LPG agencies during the last three years;

(c) the details of the mechanism available to deal with consumer grievances against non-satisfactory services to them;

(d) the details of the action taken/to be taken by the Government against the LPG agencies; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to stop black marketing of LPG cylinders and make LPG agencies customer oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Nos, Sir. However, the possibility of black marketing of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders cannot be ruled out by some unscrupulous elements due to huge difference in the prices of subsidized and non-subsidized LPG.

(b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 226 established cases of complaints of overcharging by the LPG distributors in the country during the last three years and action was taken as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

(c) Customer Service Cells (CSC) are being operated by OMCs to deal With consumer grievances against unsatisfactory services. Customers can contact these CSCs in person, over telephone or through post to register their complaints. Prompt action is taken on the complaints so that the grievance is redressed. The address and telephone numbers of these CSCs are displayed at the showrooms of all the LPG distributorships appointed by the OMCs is the country.

(d) and (e) Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) in accordance with the provisions of the MDG. MDG provides for following action against the distributor:

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to taken action against black marketing of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiates legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the black-marketing/diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

Further, LPG distributors are also under instructions to ensure 100% weighment of cylinders at their godown before delivery at the customers' premises. In a bid to enhance customer satisfaction levels, distributors in selected markets have been advised by OMCs to provide a spring balance to enable the customers to verify the correctness of the weight of LPG in the cylinder. OMCs have introduced this scheme in major markets of the country.

The officials of OMCs carry out randum checks at distributors godown, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no pilferage takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed

to ensure that the seals are verified and shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges levied by the OMCs.

Train Manufacturing by the Private Sector

826. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways have any plan to invite private players to get involved with the manufacturing of the trains for both passenger and freight traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Railways have identified private players for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways is exploring the feasibility of Joint Venture with Private Sector Participation in setting up the following manufacturing units:

1. Diesel Loco Factory at Marowhra, Bihar.
2. Electric Loco Factory at Madhepura, Bihar.
3. Coach Factory at Rae-Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Linkage of Kedarnath and Badrinath to Rishikesh

827. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal to link the pilgrimage centres of Kedarnath and Badrinath to Rishikesh;

(b) if so, the response of the Railways thereto;

(c) whether the Railways have initiated a feasibility study to implement this proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of acute constraint of resources and heavy throwforward of ongoing projects, it would not be feasible to consider the construction of the suggested line at present.

Setting up of a Refinery in Turkey by IOC

828. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) propose to set up a refinery in Turkey, as Joint Venture with Indian Oil and Turkish Calk Enerji;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) the steps taken and being taken in that direction; and

(d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is in consultation/discussion with Calk Enerji of Turkey, for setting up a refinery at Ceyhan, Turkey.

[Translation]

UNESCO's concern over Historical Sites

829. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNESCO has expressed its concern over the conservation works of several historical sites/monuments of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reactions of the Government there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) UNESCO had recently expressed its concern over certain proposed conservation/restoration works at the Ajanta Caves. Archaeological Survey of India has informed UNESCO that suitable precautions would be taken during the execution of conservation works at Ajanta, which are undertaken only after their approval by the Panel of Experts constituted for the purpose.

[English]

Regulator For Domestic Carriers

830. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need to set up regulator for the domestic carriers as the complaints against them are growing as reported in the "Times of India", dated October 25, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has issued instructions to the domestic carriers to set up an independent industry regulator;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the response of the domestic airlines thereon;

(e) whether the Government is considering alternative mechanism in case the domestic carriers does not follow the Government instructions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (f) With reference to passengers complaints regarding refund of tickets, charges being levied for wheel chairs etc. the Chief Executive Officers of Private Airlines have been impressed upon the need to evolve a credible mechanism for self regulations during periodic meetings taken by senior officials. The response from the industry is expected in due course. As the self regulating mechanism is still to be put in place the question of alternative mechanism is not being considered at this stage.

Preservation of Historic Monument – Kappe Arabettada Shasana

831. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the Kappe Arabettada Shasana dating back to 5th and 6th Century which was very well expressed by Hiueth Sangh of China regarding prosperity of Chalukyas including 2nd pulakesni at Badami is not protected, hence on the verge of destruction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to preserve and protect the monument?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Kappe Arabettada Inscription at Badami lies within the protected area of Bhutanatha Group of Temples which are declared protected as of national importance vide Notification No. 8305 dated 10.01.1930. The Archaeological Survey of India is undertaking regular conservation and maintenance of these monuments besides developing and landscaping the surroundings. The following expenditure has been incurred on these monuments:

2003-04	Rs. 7,51,639/-
2004-05	Rs. 655,897/-
2005-06	Rs. 76,344/-
2006-07	Rs. 95,182/-

Reservation for Muslims/Christians in Tamil Nadu

832. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has announced exclusive reservation for Muslims and Christians in Government services and educational institutions within the 30 per cent quota meant for the State's OBCs;

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

(c) whether the Union Government was taken into confidence before announcing such policy by the Government of Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(e) whether it is as per recommendations of the Backward Commission; and

(f) if so, the details so far the question of legal advice relating to the Constitution is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (f) As reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu, it has enacted the Tamil Nadu Backward Class Christians and Backward Class Muslims (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions including Private Educational Institutions and of Appointments or posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2007 (Tamil Nadu Act 33/2007) providing for 3.5% reservation for Backward Class Christians and 3.5% reservation for Backward Class Muslims in admissions to educational institutions and appointments to public services from out of the 30% reservation provided for Backward Classes in the State. The above Act is deemed to have come into force on the 15th September 2007.

The reservation for Backward Class Christians and Backward Class Muslims was provided on the basis of the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Commission.

Kirloskar Pneumatics for Road Rallers

833. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have signed any MOU with Kirloskar Pneumatics for road-railers;

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

(c) the extent to which Railways is likely to be benefited through this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir, A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Ministry of Railways and M/s Kirloskar Pneumatic Company Limited (KPCL) on 19.07.2007 for running of Road Railer (RR) train initially on Delhi – Chennai sector as a pilot project.

(b) No agreement has yet been signed for this purpose. However, as per the MOU, Indian Railways (IR)

will provide line haul service with its locomotives to operate RR Trains. M/s KPCL will operate inter modal freight service with Road Railer equipment. This would cover freight consolidation/collection of freight on road, long distance line haul between end points on rail and delivery of freight on road. M/s KPCL will provide all necessary equipment including Road Railer units for the inter modal operation and will be responsible for marketing, freight consolidation, collection and delivery of freight on road, coupling and decoupling of Road Railer units at terminal.

(c) IR will be benefited by way of attracting light weight, high value, white goods traffic which generally moves by road, increase in pool of rolling stock with new versatile multi-modal wagons. Such wagons which move both on rail as well as road are presently not available with IR. Through this pilot project IR can judge the efficacy of such wagons.

[Translation]

Dwarika City

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

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Indian Navy are trying to discover the remains of Dwarika city submerged in the sea near Gujarat coast by conducting a joint survey;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any information has been received from remains collected from the submerged city;

(d) whether the specimen of such remains has been sent to foreign laboratories to get information about them; and

(e) if so, the conclusions drawn so far on the basis of such information?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India in collaboration with Indian Navy, has conducted underwater excavation off Dwarka in January – February 2007 with the objective of studying the antiquity and nature of the sunken remains. Diving was carried out in the Arabian Sea near Samundra-Narayan Temple upto a distance of 200 m from shore.

Stone blocks and remains of structures, lying on the seabed, were cleaned and documented. These submerged remains are fragmentary in nature and are lying scattered on the seabed. Hence it is difficult to determine their provenance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Outsourcing of Manufacturing and Research to India

835. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that global pharma companies are keen to outsource manufacturing and research to India;

(b) if so, the estimated size of outsourcing in monetary terms; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to seize this opportunity for the benefit of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per the information received from pharmaceutical industry sources, the outsourcing of manufacturing activity is being carried routinely in pharmaceutical industry. It is used to meet short term needs for capacity, special regulatory requirements and product specific technology needs which benefit the smaller units by making them economically viable through use of their idle capacity. Owing to cost advantage, many leading overseas companies are getting their research projects outsourced through some Contract Research Organisations (CROs) as well as in-house R & D units being operated by various Indian Pharma Companies. Exact data, on the size of such activities in monetary terms is not monitored by the Government.

(c) Government is providing many fiscal incentives to in-house Research and Development Units. These incentives are being extended to DSIR approved R & D units including those engaged in Contract Research work for Global Pharma Companies.

Oil Bonds

836. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given approval to issue Oil Bonds with a view to restore financial health of the Oil Marketing Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the approximate target amount to be secured through financial securities; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved that 42.7% of the total under-recoveries of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for the current financial year (2007-08) may be borne by the Government in the form of Oil Bonds.

(c) and (d) The target amount to be secured through financial securities will depend upon the price of petroleum products and crude oil in the international market, which vary on a daily basis. Currently, there is great volatility in the international market.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Medicines in the List of Controlled Medicines

837. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to include more medicines in the list of price controlled medicines scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact any legislation in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. Government has not made any amendment in the list of bulk drugs in the First Schedule of DPCO, 95 in the recent past.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007 and the Second meeting was held on 12.9.2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.

[English]

Fixation of Transportation Charges of Gas

838. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/criteria laid down for fixing transportation charges for transporting gas in different areas;

(b) whether some State Governments, particularly Gujarat have demanded changes in the existing policy and requested for some benefits because of lower cost for transporting gas over shorter distance vis-a-vis hinterland States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Transmission tariff of a network or spur line to a customer is computed on the basis of investment made therein. However, in case of trunk lines, viz., Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) pipeline and Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline (DVPL), a combined single tariff of Rs. 831/MSCM, with escalation formula, is being followed w.e.f. 1.6.2006. However, based on the request of Gujarat State

Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) and to benefit the customers in Gujarat, the tariff for connectivity of Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) to DVPL has been kept at Rs. 280/MSCM.

(b) to (d) There has been a demand that lesser transportation cost should be charged from those customers, who are at shorter distance from the sources of gas. Customers in Gujarat have to pay much lower tariff for connectivity to DVPL.

[Translation]

Management of Shrine of Moinuddin Chisti

839. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had passed any Act for the management of the holy shrine of Moinuddin Chisti located at Ajmer (Rajasthan) in 1954;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether suggestions have been received by the Government from time to time for making amendments in the Dargah Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Durgah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955 was enacted for the proper administration of the Durgah and the Endowment of the Durgah of Khawaja Moin-ud-din Chisti at Ajmer.

(c) to (e) A review of the Act has been undertaken recently.

Development of Railways in Chhattisgarh

840. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received from Chhattisgarh during the last three years for development of the railways in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Normally, no detailed record of each and every demand received for new projects falling in a State is maintained. However, in the recent past, demands have been received from the State Government and the elected public representatives for construction of Barwadih–Chirimiri, Bilaspur–Mandla–Jabalpur new lines and Raipur–Dhamtari gauge conversion. Surveys for Barwadih–Chirimiri and Bilaspur–Mandla–Jabalpur new lines had been conducted in the past but projects were not taken up. An updating survey for Raipur–Dhamtari gauge conversion has been taken up and further consideration of the proposal will be feasible once the updating survey report becomes available.

[English]

New Programme for Welfare of Minorities

841. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has launched any new programme for welfare of minorities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed by the Union Government to achieve the programme and any instructions have been given to the State Governments for achieving the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide a fair share for minorities in the Central and State services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of Minorities was announced in June, 2006. The details of the programme are available at website 'www.minorityaffairs.gov.in'.

(c) and (d) The programme envisages, wherever possible, earmarking of 15% of target and outlays for the minorities under the schemes included in the programme to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged sections of the minority communities. Targets have been earmarked for schemes, included in the programme which are

considered amenable to earmarking and have been conveyed by the Ministries/Departments concerned to the State Government/UT Administration.

(e) The Department of Personnel & Training has issued guidelines on 8.1.2007 to all the Ministries/Departments for ensuring fair representation to the minorities in Government employment, including public sector enterprises, public sector banks and financial institutions and the Railways.

Agreement with Foreign Oil Companies for Exploration of Oil and Gas in North–East

842. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Memorandum of Understanding have lately been signed with Foreign Oil Companies for exploration of oil and gas in the North–East;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some areas and oil fields are still unexplored;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the terms of the understandings and the areas allocated for exploration; and

(f) the total production of oil and gas achieved from these explorations work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, Government of India has contracted 25 exploration blocks/fields through open international bidding in North Eastern States to Indian Pvt. Companies/National Oil Companies and Foreign Companies. Out of 25 blocks, in 12 blocks, 9 Foreign Companies are consortium partners.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, Offering of acreages for exploration is an on-going process.

(e) The terms of contracts are as per Production Sharing contracts under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NEPL) and Pre–NELP.

(f) Under the PSC regime, 1100 barrels of oil per day (bopd) and 0.013 MMSCMD of Natural Gas are

produced from Kharsang field in Arunachal Pradesh. In addition, 180 bopd of oil and 0.056 MMSCMD of natural gas are produced from Amguri field in Assam.

Foreign Pilots in Indian Carriers

843. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian carriers have hired foreign pilots;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering to train more Indian Pilots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign pilots are engaged by the Indian carriers to meet the demand of type rated pilots. So far Directorate General of Civil Aviation has cleared 804 foreign pilots. The airlines-wise break up is Indigo-66, Paramount Airways-21, Blue Dart-10, Spice Jet-42, Air Deccan-149, Alliance Air-20, Go Air-13, Kingfisher Airlines-95, Jet Airways-271 and Air India-117.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled Indian pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for pilots for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions, upgradation and modernization of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/ Aero Club of India.

CRR Schemes in CPSEs

844. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises) who have opted for VRS/VSS in last three years;

(b) the details of middle, lower management, supervisory and labourers level personnel who opted VRS/VSS, year-wise and category-wise and details of VRS dues paid to each of these categories;

(c) the number of VRS/VSS optees who have been covered under Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment (CRR) Scheme;

(d) the number of CRR beneficiaries who have been redeployed;

(e) whether there is a gap between the VRS/VSS optees and CRR beneficiaries and those who have been actually re-deployed;

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

(g) the steps are being taken to improve the coverage under CRR Scheme and to make it more effective in terms of ratio of redeployment of beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per available information during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 number of employees who opted for VRS/VSS from Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) was 45125, 22698 and 13661 respectively.

(b) Details of Category-wise VRS/VSS optees and VRS dues paid are maintained by the respective CPSEs.

(c) and (d) Year-wise number of VRS/VSS optees trained and redeployed under Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment (CRR) Scheme during last three years is as under:

Year	No. of VRS/VSS optees	
	Trained	Redeployed
2004-05	28003	11917
2005-06	32158	15488
2006-07	34398	15621

(e) and (f) Some gap between VRS/VSS optees and actual number of persons trained remains. Reasons for

such gap include start of own business, getting alternative employment and relocation of VRS optees after separation.

(g) In order to improve the coverage of the scheme and make it more effective, following modifications have been incorporated in the Scheme:

- (i) One dependent of VRS optees could be considered where VRS optee himself is not interested.
- (ii) Duration of the training has been extended from 20/30/40 days to 30/45/60 days and expenditure norm has also been revised from Rs. 5300/, Rs. 6600/- and Rs. 7900/- to Rs. 7000/- Rs. 9000/- and Rs. 11000/- respectively.
- (iii) Separate amount has been earmarked in the expenditure norm for follow-up.
- (iv) Effective targeting, monitoring and redeployment.

[Translation]

Arrest of Persons by RPF/GRP

845. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the offenders are arrested by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police (GRP) under Railway Act and the other Acts;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, zone-wise; and

(c) the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

National Commission For Minorities

846. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the problems being faced by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in safeguarding the rights

and interests of minorities as provided under the Constitution;

(b) whether the Government proposes to amend the constitution to empower the Commission with powers to investigate and monitor all matters while safeguarding the interests of minorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Absence of Powers to investigate and monitor matters regarding the safeguards provided to minorities is considered as one of the reasons inhibiting the Commission from doing so more effectively.

(b) and (c) The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Bill, 2004, to confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities, was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2004. The Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment, which examined the Bill, has recommended, *inter alia*, that the Bill should provide for powers of investigation and monitoring to the Commission. Official amendments to the Bill have not been moved as yet.

[Translation]

Autistic/Mentally Retarded Passengers

847. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether autistic/mentally retarded persons are not allowed to board a flight in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to formulate rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Person suffering from mental disorders or epilepsy are not allowed on board aircraft unless certified by a registered medical practitioner to be fit to travel by air without being a risk to other passengers or to the aircraft, and in addition:

- (i) has not taken or used any alcoholic drink or preparation within twelve hours of the commencement of the flight;

- (ii) is kept under proper sedative, if in a state of excitement, during the flight and stops en route; and
- (iii) is accompanied by an attendant, provided that in case he has been in a state of excitement requiring sedation within the two weeks preceding the date of commencement of the flight, he shall be accompanied by a registered medical practitioner and adequate escort who shall individually and collectively be responsible for ensuring that no alcoholic drink or preparation is taken by the person in their charge and that such person is kept suitably sedated during the flight and stops en route.

Opening of CNG Outlets

848. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations opened in the country, particularly in Orissa during the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the present number of CNG filling stations are sufficient to meet the requirement of urban and rural areas;

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to set up more CNG filling stations in future in the urban and rural areas, State-wise; and

(d) the total funds allocated and spent so far in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Due to non-availability of pipeline and gas source in the vicinity, there is no CNG filling station in Orissa. The number of CNG outlets opened during the last 3 years, i.e., from 2005-06 to present, and the total number of CNG outlets, as per information available, in the various States are given below:-

Name of the State	CNG Station opened during the last three years	Total CNG outlets
Delhi	18	153
Maharashtra	22	127
Andhra Pradesh	09	09
Uttar Pradesh	12	12
Tripura	01	01
Gujarat	53	71

(b) and (c) The expansion of CNG infrastructure in different cities in the country is being taken up in a phased manner. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. Providing of CNG facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

(d) Government of India does not allocate funds for this purpose. The PSUs and Joint Venture Companies allocate and spend funds according to the plans of their projects.

[English]

Airport at Navi Mumbai

849. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navi Mumbai Airport Project at Panvel has run into rough weather;

(b) if so, whether the City and Industrial Development Corporation has brought to the notice of Civil Aviation that 25% of the 1100 hectares earmarked for the project falls under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and it needs to be denotified;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for getting a notification issued that de-notifies the affected Navi Mumbai site so that it does not remain a CRZ area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The area earmarked for the airport is about 1142 Ha. About 25% of this area is under CRZ-1.

(c) and (d) The subject matter was considered in a meeting of Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) on 13.11.2007 and earlier in a meeting of National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) on 30.10.2007. Both MCZMA and NCZMA have recommended for amendments to the Coastal Zone Notification to facilitate development of the airport. Necessary action in this regard would be taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Hostel Facilities for SCs

850. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to formulate an effective scheme for providing sufficient hostel facilities in educational institutions to the girls/boys belonging to Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, whether the Government has also received any requests or suggestions in this regard so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The Government has approved the revision of the existing scheme for providing hostel facilities to the girls and boys belonging to SC category. The revised scheme envisages central funding for girls hostels from existing 50% to 100% and reduction in the period of completion of construction of hostels for girls & boys from 5 to 2 years, with a view to expedite implementation of, and to improve upon, the scheme.

[*English*]

Welfare of Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes

851. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the meeting of Forum of SC/ST Members of Parliament held on May 22, 2006 in the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, the issues of De-notified Tribes (DNTs) were discussed and the need for their upliftment was felt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations/requests for making a provision of separate Sub-Plan for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic Tribes and Banjaras in Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Government has also received representations for making a separate budget provision for upliftment and betterment of DNTs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was *inter-alia* mentioned in the meeting that Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan by the Planning Commission had highlighted problems faced by DNTs.

(c) to (f) The representations have been received. To study the developmental aspects of Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, a National Commission has been set up.

Development in Railways

852. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-availability of land is a major problem in the development of railways;

(b) if so, the details of the railways projects hampered due to non-availability of land across the country;

(c) whether the Railways have asked the States to make available the land for laying new railway lines in their States;

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Railways for speedy execution of railway projects and fast development of railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Selection of Minority Students for Public/Private Coaching Institutions

853. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students from minority communities admitted in public sector Government institutes for providing professional coaching for admission in higher technical and professional courses;

(b) the steps taken and criteria laid down for identification of coaching institutes both in public and private sectors in each State and for selection of students for admission to these coaching institutes;

(c) whether the Government proposes to generate/create separate fund to finance students from minority communities for coaching at public and private coaching institutes/centres for securing admission in technical and professional courses and get employment in various sectors of the economy seeking trained and skilled manpower; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) A Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for candidates belonging to the minority communities has been launched this year. Under this scheme, coaching institutes, both government and private, are assisted for imparting coaching to students belonging

to the minority communities for employment in Government, public and private sector and entrance examinations for admission to technical and professional courses. The details of eligibility criteria for the institutes and students are given in the scheme which is available on the website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

(c) and (d) This is a central sector scheme and an amount of Rs. 10.00 crore has been provided for this scheme this year.

Applications for Overseas Services

854. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aviation Industry is not happy with the Government's proposal to examine applications for overseas services on a case-to-case basis instead of going by the uniform domestic flying experience;

(b) if so, whether only big private airlines are given the benefit and the smaller private airlines are ignored;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The issue is being addressed in the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy, which is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GOM).

(b) to (d) Do not arise at this stage.

Food Processing Industries in the States

855. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Government from various States for setting up food processing industries during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of applications cleared/under consideration, State-wise;

(c) the criteria fixed for the approval of such applications;

(d) the time by when such proposals are likely to be accorded approval; and

(e) the financial assistance proposed to be provided to the State Governments for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) A statement showing details of State-wise number of applications for setting up, modernization of food processing units received, approved and under various stages of processing is Annexed.

(c) The Ministry processes applications for financial assistance and sanctions grants on the basis of criteria such as submission of application before commercial production, installation of new plant and machineries, appraisal of the project by a scheduled Bank or financial

institution for its financial and technical viability and furnishing of relevant documents.

(d) Consequent on decentralization of processing and disbursement of grant under the scheme through banks and financial institutions, the pending applications are being sent to the concerned banks from which the units have taken term loan for sanction and disbursement of grant under the scheme. Necessary funds are also being provided to the banks for disbursement of grant to these units. Depending upon the availability of funds, efforts are being made to clear these long pending applications expeditiously.

(e) The State Governments who have been functioning as State Nodal Agencies for providing an interface between the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the entrepreneurs are provided Rs. 5 lakhs as annual recurring grant and Rs. 5 lakhs as non-recurring grant for a period of five years.

Statement

Details of State-wise number of applications for setting up, modernizations of food processing units received and approved during the last three years and upto 16.11.07

Sl.No.	State/UT	Received (2004-05 to 2007-08 upto 16.11.07)	Approved (2004-05 to 2007-08 upto 16.11.07)	Pending at various stages of consideration
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	27	12	16
2.	Himachal Pradesh	36	21	13
3.	Punjab	49	62	15
4.	Chandigarh	1	0	0
5.	Uttarakhand	41	24	14
6.	Haryana	52	30	15
7.	Delhi	11	6	3
8.	Rajasthan	110	45	51
9.	Uttar Pradesh	117	96	37
10.	Bihar	10	5	4
11.	Sikkim	1	0	1

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	2	4
13.	Nagaland	23	3	17
14.	Manipur	11	4	5
15.	Mizoram	3	0	1
16.	Tripura	1	1	0
17.	Meghalaya	6	4	2
18.	Assam	42	29	19
19.	West Bengal	86	51	31
20.	Jharkhand	7	6	2
21.	Orissa	36	8	8
22.	Chhattisgarh	18	11	3
23.	Madhya Pradesh	54	25	26
24.	Gujarat	93	37	47
25.	Daman and Diu	1	0	0
26.	Maharashtra	308	165	157
27.	Andhra Pradesh	189	105	79
28.	Karnataka	90	61	40
29.	Goa	8	2	3
30.	Kerala	79	60	30
31.	Tamil Nadu	125	84	43
32.	Pondicherry	1	5	0

[Translation]

Fares in Private Airlines

856. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fares for the same sector are different in various private airlines and the Government airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has no control in this regard and no sector-wise minimum fares have been fixed;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e)

Domestic air fares are not regulated by the Government. Domestic airlines are free to fix their respective air fares as per the market forces.

Single Railway Track in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

857. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Railway division in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in which traffic gets affected due to single Railway track;

(b) whether the Railways propose to double the tracks in view of the increased Railway traffic; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Railway Divisions in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in which traffic gets affected due to single railways track are as under:

Madhya Pradesh

(i) Bina-Guna-Ruthiyai-Dharmada section of Bhopal Division;

Chhattisgarh

(ii) Bilaspur-Venkatanagar section of Bilaspur Division;

(iii) Kirandul-Jagdalpur section of Waltair Division;

(iv) Raipur-Khairar section of Sambalpur Division.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On Bhopal Division, a survey for doubling of Guna-Ruthiyai section was completed and the report is under consideration in the Ministry of Railways. On Bilaspur Division, doubling of Bilaspur-Anuppur section is under progress.

On Waltair Division, a survey for doubling of Kottavalasa-Kirundal line is in progress.

On Sambalpur Division, doubling of Raipur-Khairar is under progress.

[English]

Maulana Azad Education Foundation

858. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Maulana Azad Education Foundation has been implementing various programmes for minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to widen the scope of functioning of Maulana Azad Education Foundation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) has been set up for formulating and implementing educational schemes for the benefit of the educationally backward minorities. Details are at the Foundation's website www.maef.nic.in.

(c) and (d) The corpus fund of the Foundation has been increased from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 200 crores in 2006-07.

Device to Spot the Damage to Tracks

859. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways along with IIT, Kanpur propose to develop a device to spot the damages to the tracks, especially the uprooting of the tracks etc.;

(b) if so, the details with status thereof; and

(c) the time by which the device is likely to be installed in the rail system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Eco-Tourism

860. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the MINISTER of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any steps to explore and boost the eco-tourism potential of the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to exploit such tourist potentials along with budget

allocations made for the purpose for each State during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/Union Territories for development of tourism circuits/destinations including Eco-Tourism sites under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits.

The Central Financial Assistance (CFA) provided to State Governments/UT Administrations for development of Eco-Tourism in the last three years till date is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Central Financial Assistance provided to State Governments/UT Administrations in last three years till date for development of Eco-tourism

State	Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	1.	Development of Bhavani Island, Krishna Distt.	2004-05	500.00	400.00
	2.	Development of Laknavaran lake as Eco-tourism destination in Warrangal Distt.	2006-07	468.63	337.90
2. Arunachal Pradesh	3.	Eco-tourism Project in Arunachal Pradesh	2004-05	83.29	83.29
3. Assam	4.	Development of Heritage and Eco-tourism Resort at Majuli	2002-03	382.25	325.21
	5.	Integrated development of Tourist Complex at Agartoli Range, Kaziranga	2003-04	158.00	158.00
	6.	Eco-tourism development at Kokrajhar	2005-06	460.00	368.00
	7.	Circuit development of Manas-Guwahati-Kaziranga	2005-06	781.00	624.80
4. Bihar	8.	Development of Eco-tourism at Haflong	2007-08	63.47	50.77
	9.	Eco-tourism development at Bhimband (Munger)	2004-05	427.07	313.12
	10.	Eco-tourism development of Balimiki Nagar (West Champaran)	2004-05	300.06	240.00
6. Karnataka	11.	Development of Eco-tourism Circuit in Chhattisgarh State	2004-05	648.35	518.68
	12.	Development of Chickmagalore Wilderness	2004-05	202.48	161.98
	13.	Expansion of eco-tourism activity-feasibility report	2004-05	15.00	7.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	
	14.	Development of Wilderness Tourism Circuit	2006-07	226.88	204.20	
	15.	Destination development of Bandipur Tiger Reserve	2004-05	195.70	156.56	
	16.	IT infrastructure for Eco-tourism by M/s. Jungle Lodge and Resorts	2005-06	53.29	26.64	
	17.	Bijapur-Bidar-Gulbarga Circuit	2007-08	640.97	512.78	
7.	Kerala	18.	Development of Elephant Park at Punnathur Kotta, Guruvaur, Distt. Thrissur	2005-06	349.50	279.80
		19.	Development of Ranipuram as Eco-tourism Destination	2006-07	357.01	285.60
8.	Manipur	20.	Development of Eco-tourism Park at Imphal	2006-07	345.29	172.64
9.	Madhya Pradesh	21.	Development of Panna as Tourist destination	2006-07	421.66	337.00
10.	Pondicherry	22.	Development of Bharti Park	2003-04	245.17	196.13
11.	Nagaland	23.	Eco-tourism Centre Phiphema	2004-05	351.00	351.00
12.	Orissa	24.	Development of Eco-tourism at Bhitarkanika	2006-07	383.22	191.61
		25.	Development of Simlipal, Distt. Mayurbhanj	2006-07	297.12	237.70
13.	Sikkim	26.	Construction of Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism at Chemchi	2007-08	389.54	311.63
14.	Tamil Nadu	27.	Integrated development of Eco-tourism at Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, Muthupet	2004-05	368.00	294.40
15.	Uttaranchal	28.	Development of rural tourism (Eco-tourism) in Devriyatal at Village Sari	2005-06	45.14	36.00
		29.	Development of Corbett National Park as a Tourist Circuit	2007-08	602.00	481.60
16.	Uttar Pradesh	30.	Destination development in Dudhwa National Park	2005-06	312.60	250.08
		31.	Development of Katerniaghat Park Wildlife Sanctuary in Distt. Baharaich	2005-06	105.00	84.00

Exploration of Oil and Gas

861. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to made changes in Model production, sharing contract and to tighten laws for oil and gas exploration;

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

(c) whether under the provisions for the 7th round of NELP-VII, how many blocks are likely to be offered and firms to whom these will be awarded; and

(d) the manner in which the production of oil and gas is likely to increase due to awarding of blocks in the NELP-VII ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Before every round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) is launched, consultations are held with all stakeholders to suggest and incorporate improvements. The same process is being followed for the upcoming Seventh round of NELP (NELP-VII).

Number of blocks to be offered under NELP-VII will depend upon the blocks for which data packages are available and the data reveals promising prospects which may attract E & P companies.

The blocks would be offered through International Competitive Bidding.

The exploration activities in the respective awarded blocks may result in oil and gas discoveries. The exact quantity of production will depend on its commerciality and subsequent development plans.

Acquisition of Railway Land

862. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of land so far acquired by Railways for their dedicated rail freight corridor, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to simplify the land acquisition process for their projects;

(c) whether Railways also propose to amend the Railway Act for faster acquisition of land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Land acquisition process will commence after final location survey which is in progress.

(b) to (d) In order to expedite the land acquisition process for dedicated rail freight corridor, a proposal to amend Railways' Act is under process.

Pricing and Tarrif Structure for Petroleum Products

863. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has since received the Rangarajan report on pricing and tarrif structure for petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government has since examined the report and propose to take further action in the matter; and

(d) if so, the time by which action will be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The report of the Rangarajan Committee on pricing and taxation of petroleum products was received by the Government on 17.2.2006. The recommendations made in this report can be divided broadly into three groups as under:

1. On pricing of petrol and diesel:

- (i) Shift to a trade parity pricing formula for determining refinery gate as well as retail prices;
- (ii) Government to keep at arms length from price determination and to allow flexibility to oil companies to fix the retail price under the proposed formula; and
- (iii) Reduce effective protection by lowering the customs duty on petrol and diesel to 7.5%.

2. On pricing of domestic LPG and PDS kerosene:

- (i) Restrict subsidized kerosene to BPL families only;
- (ii) Raise the price of domestic LPG by Rs. 75' Cylinder,
- (iii) Discontinue the practice of asking upstream companies to provide upstream assistance, but instead collect their contribution by raising the OIBD cess from the present level of Rs. 1,800/MT to Rs. 4,800/MT; and
- (iv) Government meeting the balance cost of subsidy from the budget.

3. On restructuring excise duties:

Shift from the present mix of specific and ad-valorem to a pure specific levy and calibrating the levies at Rs. 5.00/litre of diesel and Rs. 14.75/litre of petrol.

The Committee had recommended that each of the first two sets of recommendations should be implemented as integrated packages.

The Government has accepted the following recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report:

- (i) Pricing of petrol and diesel on Trade Parity basis which shall be a weighted average of Import Parity and Export Parity prices in the ratio of 80:20.
- (ii) Reduction of custom duty on petrol and diesel from 10% to 7.5%.
- (iii) In principle revision to restrict subsidized PDS Kerosene to BPL families only.

Accordingly, the pricing of petrol and diesel was changed from Import Parity to Trade Parity basis (weighted average of import and export parity price in the ratio of 80:20). The custom duty on petrol and diesel was reduced to 7.5% from 10% with effect from 16.6.06.

Grant-in-aid to NGOs in West Bengal

864. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grants-in-aid released to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Voluntary Organisations (Vos) in West Bengal under various programmes/schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and physically challenged persons during the last two years;

(b) whether any study has since been conducted by the Government to check the proper utilization of grants by these NGOs/VOs for the schemes meant for SCs/STs/OBCs and physically challenged in West Bengal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEEESAN): (a) The details of grants-in-aid released to Non-Governmental Organizations in West Bengal under various schemes/programmes for SCs/STs/OBCs and physically challenged categories during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The utilization of grant by NGOs are monitored through half yearly progress reports and annual inspection carried out by the State Governments/Ministry's officials/designated agencies.

Statement*Grants-in-aid to NGOs in West Bengal*

(Rupees in lakh)

Name of the Scheme	Amount Released	
	2005-06	2006-07
Scheme of Coaching & Allied for the students belonging to Scheduled Castes	—	17.68
Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for the welfare of Scheduled Castes	116.34	166.57
Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme	541.62	383.68
Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of Other Backward Classes	4.86	9.05
Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes	198.58	304.96
Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of women literacy in tribal areas	24.56	58.62

*[Translation]***Production of Ethanol**

865. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted the production of ethanol directly from sugarcane with a view of increase the availability of ethanol in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production of ethanol directly from sugarcane is likely to be profitable for the industry in view of its present selling price; and

(d) if so, the estimated amount of profit likely to be earned by the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The Government has approved to permit

sugar factories to produce ethanol directly from sugarcane juice to augment availability of ethanol and reduce oversupply of sugar.

(b) to (d) As per estimates made by sugar industry, the reduction of one ton of sugar by diverting cane juice for ethanol production will result in 600 litres of ethanol. The profitability of ethanol production directly from sugarcane would depend on relative prices of sugar and ethanol.

The Government has not made any estimate with regard to the amount of profit likely to be earned by the industry due to production of ethanol directly from sugarcane juice which will depend on the sugar production, sugar prices as well as ethanol prices.

Setting up of Tirthatan

866. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate Department 'Tirthatan' for protection and promotion of pilgrim sites of mythological and religious importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring all the pilgrim sites of various States under the said department; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development at tourism sites including places of religious and mythological importance under the scheme of 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Airports Operated by AAI/IAF

867. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country being operated by Airports Authority of India and Indian Air Force where commercial and private aircrafts are allowed to operate, separately;

(b) whether the number is sufficient to meet the increasing requirement of passenger and cargo traffic; and

(c) if not, the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is operating 66 airports including 2 airports under Joint Venture. In addition, there are 19 airports belonging to Indian Air Force (IAF) where AAI is having civil enclaves.

(b) and (c) In order to meet the increasing passengers and cargo traffic demands, AAI has envisaged various developmental activities for operationalisation of a number of non-operational airports, expansion/modernisation of several existing airports and development of Greenfield airports in the North Eastern Region.

Profit to Public Sector Steel Plants

868. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the public sector steel plants earning profit at present alongwith the total profit earned by them during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has identified the loss making steel plants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their revival ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The details of the public sector steel plants earning profit at present along with the total profit earned by them during the last three years are as under:

Name of the PSU	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	(Rs. in Crores)
				2007-08 (April-September)
Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)-(Profit After Tax)	6817	4013	6202	3225
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)-(Profit After Tax)	2008	1252	1363	785

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

Encroachment on Railway Land

869. SHRI M. APPADURAI:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale encroachment on railway land in the country;

(b) if so, the number of encroachers penalized and evicted during the last three years, zone-wise;

(c) whether some officials were found guilty of dereliction of duty in dealing with encroachments;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. As on 31.03.07, out of total land holding of approximately 4.31 lakh hectare, only about 1910 hectare of Railway land is under encroachment.

(b) Zone-wise details are as given in statement attached.

(c) to (e) During the last three years ending 31.03.07, one Senior Section Engineer (Works) was found guilty of dereliction of duty in dealing with encroachments. He has been penalized with stoppage of annual increment.

Statement

The zone-wise details of encroachers penalized and evicted from Railway land during the last three years ending 31.03.07

Zone	Number of encroachers Penalized/Evicted
1	2
Central	18525

1	2
Eastern	15826
East Central	976
East Coast	75
Northern	1903
North Central	34
North Eastern	45
North-east Frontier	3160
North Western	113
Southern	1575
South Central	2549
South Eastern	2004
South-east Central	1735
South Western	203
Western	8452
West Central	210
Total	57385

Shortage of LPG

870. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problem of shortage of LPG is due to illegal storage of LPG and Oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government to solve the problem and to check illegal storage of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir. OMCs have not reported any instance of illegal storage of LPG in the country.

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

(c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the requirement of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs had reported occasional backlog in certain State/Union Territories due to natural calamities such as floods, road breaches, collapse of bridge and stoppage of work by various sections of employees, transporters and contract labourers, hartals etc. The Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States/UTs by operating the bottling plants on holidays and by extending hours of working.

[Translation]

**Selling of Government Shares in Public Sector
Exploration Company**

871. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided and given clearance for selling the Government shares in Public Sector exploration company Oil India Limited and also given clearance for issue of its IPOs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has accorded approval to the proposal of Oil India Limited (OIL) for fresh equity issue of 10% of its post-issue paid up capital through Initial Public Offer (IPO) to enable the Company to get listed on the Stock Exchanges. Approval has also been accorded for the issue of an additional 1% of its post-

issue paid up capital to the employees of OIL. In addition, it has also been decided to divest 10% of OIL's pre-issue paid up capital in favour of the three Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz, IOC, HPCL and BPCL in the ratio of 2:1:1 respectively. The divestment in favour of OMCs would not only strengthen existing synergies but would also help them raise resources by disposing these shares in the open market at an opportune time to tide over their under-recoveries. The proceeds of divestment would accrue to Government for meeting the needs of social sector programmes and revivable CPSEs.

[English]

Allocation of Funds under SCSP

872. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds for Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) are being allocated by all the Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of funds allocated by each Ministry/Department to SCSP during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is aware that some States are diverting the funds under SCSP to activities other than welfare/development of Scheduled Castes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government against the erring States; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to stop the diversion of funds from SCSP to Non-SCSP related activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Fourteen Central Ministries/ Departments are allocating funds under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) in consultation with Planning Commission.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Funds under SCSP are earmarked and cannot be diverted.

[Translation]

Fire Incidents at ONGC Production Areas

873. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL Gases be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of fire have been reported from various production areas of ONGC;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during the last three years along with the details of the loss of

life and property caused by each of the above incidents; and

(c) the number of officers found guilty by the Government for the said incidents along with the details of punitive action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Six incidents have been reported at production areas of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in the last three years as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Incident	Date	Loss of Property	Lives Lost
1.	Fire in 8" gas pipeline from Jotana GGS to Sobhasan CTF (Ambasan Village)	31.1.05	Negligible	Contractual-2
2.	Sagar Laxmi, Neelam & Heera Field, Mumbai Sector	18.5.05	Negligible	Contractual-2
3.	Major Fire Incident at BHN Platform, Mumbai High, Mumbai Sector	27.7.05	US \$ 406.248 Million	Loss of live: 22 (ONGC-15, Contractual-7)
4.	Major Fire Incident (Blowout) at Drilling Rig E-1400-20, Rajahmundry	08.09.05	Rs. 12.2 Crores	Loss of Lives: nil
5.	CFU-II Uran Plant	03.04.06	Negligible	Contractual-1
6.	CFU at CPF Gandhar	18.10.07	Estimated: Rs. 15 lacs	Loss of lives: nil

(c) All accidents were enquired. Based on the recommendations of the enquiry committees, gaps in the safety system were identified and necessary actions have been taken to mitigate the risks.

To further improve Safety Management System, all ONGC operations are certified for occupational health and safety based on OHSAS-18001 standard which is most widely accepted standard internationally.

Production of SSP Fertilizers

874. SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of fertilizers like Single Super Phosphate which is necessary for pulses cultivation has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this is one of the major reasons of low production of pulses;

(d) if so, whether the Government is contemplating for a scheme for the production of such fertilizers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIR (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The

production of SSP during 2006-07 and 2007-2008 (April to October 2007) is as below:

Year	Production of SSP in Lakh Metric Tonnes
2006-07	29.73
2007-08 (April to October 2007)	11.50*

* Provisional

(c) The production of pulses during 2006-2007 (estimated) and target for 2007-2008 is as follows:

Year	Production of Pulses in Million Metric Tonnes
2006-07	14.23 (Estimated)
2007-08	15.50 (Target)

(d) and (e) In order to make the SSP industry economically viable and to ensure sufficient supply of SSP in the country, Department of Fertilizers has provided additional freight of Rs. 150/- per Metric Tonne with effect from 1.4.2007 in addition to the existing adhoc subsidy of Rs. 975/-. As such, subsidy to SSP from 1.4.2007 is Rs. 1125/- Per Mt.

[English]

Evaluation of Drug Policy and Price Controlling Mechanism

875. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to evaluate the effectiveness of drug policy and price controlling mechanism so as to check improper profit earned by the drug manufacturing companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith implementation and the lacunae in the drug policy and price controlling system; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of life saving drugs and make them available at cheaper prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise in reply to (a) above;

(c) The prices of 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are controlled in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). In case of any overcharging, action for recovery of overcharged amount is taken by NPPA. Hence, prices of medicines under price control have been effectively controlled and kept low.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R & D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. Prices of these drugs are regularly monitored and corrective measures taken where public interest is found to be adversely affected.

The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not distinguish between life saving and other drugs. There are no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drug can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug in general is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

The Drug Policy as announced from time to time is directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the poor.

Merger of IA and AI

876. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the technical and procedural formalities completed so far for merging Indian Airlines (IA) with Air India (AI);

(b) the extent to which the merger would be beneficial to the Government and the civil aviation sector;

(c) the status of employees of both the airlines after merger; and

(d) the strategy being adopted to meet effectively the challenges posed by private competitors in the aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The legal process of merger of Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited into a new company called the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has been completed and the new Board of NACIL has also been constituted on 18.09.2007.

(b) and (d) The integration of the two airlines will lead to developing seamless connectivity network of regional operations, short to medium haul trunk operations and long haul operations resulting in an improved product offering through wider network coverage. The merger will also provide significant synergy for procurement, sales and distribution besides affording an opportunity for leveraging common assets. The new airline, with more than 112 aircraft, having an international and domestic footprint would set fresh benchmarks for efficiency and reliability, thus benefiting the civil aviation sector in the country, specially the travelling public.

(c) Employee interests have been taken due care of through the Scheme of Amalgamation approved by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. All employees of the erstwhile Indian Airlines Limited and Air India Limited have become employees of NACIL without any breach or interruption of service and on terms and conditions not less favourable than those applicable to them on the date of amalgamation. A 3-tier Grievance Redressal Machinery has been put into place to address any employee grievances.

Discrimination against Dalits and Muslims in Securing Jobs in the Private Sector

877. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per study by University Grants Commission's Chairperson the dalits and Muslims face discrimination in securing jobs in the private sector just on the basis of their names;

(b) if so, the details and findings of the study; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No such study has been undertaken by the University Grants Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loss/Profit-Making Airports

878. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of nearly 90 airports that are being used for commercial operations in the country, only some airports are making profits and the rest are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details of the airports that are gaining profits and incurring losses during the last three years, year-wise and amount-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make the loss incurring airports into profit-making airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) out of 127 airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI), only 15 airports (including Civil Enclave) made profits during 2006-07. The details of their operating results are given in the enclosed statement-I and details of losses incurred by other airports during last three years are given in the enclosed statement-II

(c) While many of the loss making airports are being maintained on socio-economic considerations, AAI is making efforts to increase non traffic revenue at airports by better exploitation of commercial opportunities. The city side development of select 24 of the 35 non metro airports, taken up for modernisation, is being undertaken through Public-Private Partnership mode so as to maximise generation of non-traffic revenue.

Statement I*Operating results of the airports for the last three years, which earned profit during 2006-07*

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Airport/State	Operating results during 2004-2005	Operating results during 2005-2006	Operating results during 2006-2007
1.	IGI Airport (Delhi)	34491.29	51453.27	48234.41
2.	Mumbai Airport (Maharashtra)	31552.33	49537.72	47521.43
3.	Pune (Maharashtra)	639.94	1477.87	1992.58
4.	Juhu (Maharashtra)	874.52	1043.86	1196.17
5.	Bangalore (Karnataka)	6204.53	12105.57	16282.02
6.	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	2665.34	7327.25	16151.79
7.	Kolkata (West Bengal)	7482.47	5215.92	8079.93
8.	Goa (Goa)	1326.64	2328.74	3735.60
9.	Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	-196.37	1200.43	2496.13
10.	Calicut (Kerala)	496.17	1404.09	1879.34
11.	Trivandrum (Kerala)	-439.79	265.60	2361.15
12.	Chennai (Tamilnadu)	14950.94	19161.08	30632.88
13.	Coimbatore (Tamilnadu)	-21.07	-20.10	627.92
14.	Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir)	-519.51	-351.70	115.96
15.	Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar)	-357.43	-284.88	252.91

Statement II*Airportwise Details of Loss Incurred By Airports During Last Three Years*

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	Name of Airport	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
			Loss	Loss	Loss
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah #	- 8.06	- 11.66	- 10.47
2		Donakonda #	0.00	0.00	0.00
3		Nadirgul (Flying Club) #	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.		Rajamundry	- 137.78	- 62.38	- 189.17
5.		Tirupathi	- 401.34	- 407.57	- 328.64
6.		Vijaywada	- 332.48	- 376.56	- 339.06
7.		Vishakhapatnam (C.E)	- 270.79	- 298.31	- 306.95
8.		Warangal #	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Arúnachal Pradesh	Along # (C.E)	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.		Daporizo (C:E) #	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.		Passigate #	- 4.09	0.00	0.00
12.		Tezu (C.E)	- 19.02	- 19.72	- 20.14
13.		Zero (C.E) #	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Assam	Dibrugarh (Mohanbari)	- 412.79	- 546.84	- 770.63
15.		Guwahati	- 5109.67	- 3711.61	- 2874.31
16.		Jorhat (C.E)	- 172.37	- 181.60	- 203.03
17.		Lilabari (North Lakhimpur)	- 203.27	- 290.09	- 343.25
18.		Rupsi #	- 2.15	0.00	0.00
19.		Shella #	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.		Silchar (Kumbhigram) (C.E)	- 149.48	- 189.60	- 339.78
21.		Tezpur (C.E)	- 61.73	- 100.83	- 182.89
22.	Bihar	Gaya	- 642.23	- 823.82	- 1114.22
23.		Jogbani #	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.		Muzaffarpur #	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.		Patna	- 1193.64	- 1239.63	- 1076.63
26.		Raxaul #	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh (C.E)	- 279.75	- 258.84	- 228.24
28.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur #	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.		Raipur (Manna Camp)	- 362.31	- 311.76	- 77.01
30.	Delhi	Delhi (Safdarjung)	- 702.07	- 1050.21	- 1013.66
31.	Gujarat	Bhavnagar	- 356.32	- 439.32	- 374.99
32.		Bhuj (C.E)	- 132.61	- 326.12	- 322.19

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.		Dessa (Palampur) #	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.		Jamnagar (C.E)	- 77.73	- 32.68	- 48.74
35.		Kandla	- 56.78	- 89.86	- 145.42
36.		Keshod (Junagarh)	- 62.13	- 109.26	- 85.85
37.		Porbandar	- 190.57	- 207.84	- 313.24
38.		Surat	- 28.77	- 37.67	- 74.67
39.		Rajkot	- 307.32	- 539.28	- 458.09
40.		Vadodra (Baroda)	- 199.60	- 563.40	- 406.11
41.	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra (Gaggal)	- 196.10	- 380.96	- 285.41
42.		Kullu (Bhuntar)	- 298.67	- 362.29	- 417.79
43.		Shimla	- 267.04	- 312.95	- 245.57
44.	Jammu and Kashmir	Leh (C.E)	- 10.83	- 166.49	- 121.63
45.		Srinagar (CE)	- 34.53	- 116.86	- 141.91
46.	Jharkhand	Chakulia #	0.00	0.00	0.00
47.		Ranchi	- 665.90	- 769.10	- 737.72
48.	Karnataka	Belgaum	- 158.65	- 223.65	- 823.72
49.		Hassan #	0.00	0.00	0.00
50.		Hubli	- 130.81	- 128.88	- 79.83
51.		Mangalore	- 636.40	- 1114.18	- 891.03
52.		Mysore #	0.00	0.00	0.00
53.	Kerala	Cochin (C.E) #	0.00	0.00	0.00
54.	Lakshdweep Island	Agatti	- 130.04	- 173.66	- 182.55
55.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	- 888.40	- 1060.24	- 1015.32
56.		Gwalior (C.E)	- 205.85	- 245.27	- 262.04
57.		Indore	- 315.87	- 436.25	- 225.48
58.		Jabalpur	- 370.19	- 404.94	- 297.16
59.		Khajuraho	- 673.28	- 821.25	- 672.06
60.		Khandwa #	0.00	0.00	0.00
61.		Panna #	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
62.		Satna #	0.00	0.00	0.00
63.	Maharashtra	Akola #	0.00	0.00	0.00
64.		Aurangabad	- 362.33	- 431.62	- 485.73
65.		Gondia	0.00	- 3.24	0.00
66.		Hadapsar #	0.00	0.00	0.00
67.		Kolhapur (SG) #	- 0.06	- 5.12	- 6.12
68.		Nagpur (Sonegaon)	- 2918.72	- 2439.54	- 1348.28
69.		Sholapur (SG) #	0.00	0.00	0.00
70.	Manipur	Imphal	- 275.38	- 262.82	- 749.50
71.	Mehalaya	Shillong (Barapani)	- 115.59	- 123.26	- 139.53
72.	Mizoram	Lengpui (Aizwal)	- 61.22	- 72.83	- 115.91
73.		Tural (Aizwal) #	0.00	0.00	0.00
74.	Nagaland	Dimapur	- 266.79	- 357.77	- 572.70
75.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	- 1470.95	- 1357.11	- 1038.48
76.		Jharsuguda	- 50.56	- 74.28	- 78.11
77.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	- 29.86	- 42.56	- 46.14
78.	Punjab	Amritsar	- 755.58	- 500.93	- 405.12
79.		Ludhiana	- 142.91	- 124.33	- 198.96
80.		Pathankot	- 170.30	- 288.31	- 264.32
81.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	- 1275.75	- 1195.91	- 111.81
82.		Jaisalmer (C.E.)	- 45.70	- 26.15	- 34.46
83.		Jodhpur (C.E.)	- 248.89	- 292.37	- 278.91
84.		Kota	- 11.89	- 43.80	- 61.57
85.		Nal (Bikaner) (C.E) #	- 115.39	- 94.70	- 99.73
86.		Udaipur	- 408.44	- 592.81	- 434.42
87.	Tamilnadu	Madurai	- 399.34	- 454.72	- 299.86
88.		Salem	- 22.48	- 25.08	- 29.56
89.		Tiruchirapalli	- 498.77	- 457.27	- 549.80
90.		Tuticorin	- 28.08	- 31.69	- 57.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
91.		Vellore	- 5.39	- 6.88	- 6.93
92.	Tripura	Agartala	- 848.77	- 688.22	- 1171.11
93.		Kailashahar #	- 11.71	- 1.81	- 1.24
94.		Kamalpur #	0.00	0.00	0.00
95.		Khowai #	0.00	0.00	0.00
96.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra (C.E)	- 466.46	- 414.26	- 467.07
97.		Allahabad (C.E)	- 1613.44	- 192.38	- 104.78
98.		Gorakhpur (C.E)	- 3.37	- 4.28	- 34.00
99.		Jhansi #	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.		Kanpur	- 173.90	- 205.43	- 324.08
101.		Kanpur (Chakeri) (C.E) #	0.00	0.00	0.00
102.		Lalitpur #	0.00	0.00	0.00
103.		Lucknow	- 1080.06	- 1491.36	- 1059.84
104.		Varanasi	- 1455.74	- 1491.49	- 1145.75
105.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	- 126.78	- 144.72	- 173.27
106.		Pant Nagar	- 89.58	- 103.98	- 110.95
107.	West Bengal	Asansol #	0.00	0.00	0.00
108.		Bagdogra (C.E)	- 129.12	- 23.61	- 355.21
109.		Balurghat	- 4.07	- 5.89	- 4.51
110.		Behala	- 20.30	- 21.87	- 24.88
111.		Cooch-Behar	- 12.30	- 23.05	- 60.72
112.		Malda	- 6.38	- 18.55	- 22.76

(C.E) = Civil Enclave.

= Non Operational Airports.

Non-Stop Flights of AI

879. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India (AI) proposes to start more non-stop flights to U.S., Canada, Australia and more destinations in the SAARC and other regions;

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

(c) the time by which the said services are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air India has started daily non-stop flights on the Mumbai-

New York sector this year. It plans to operate non-stop flights between Delhi-New York sector in early 2008. Further, regular market studies are conducted to explore the possibility of introducing services to new destinations, and a decision on introducing non-stop services is taken based on the availability of aircraft capacity and commercial viability of such service.

Facilities for unaccompanied Train Passenger

880. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to augment the rail specific infrastructure/facilities needed by an unaccompanied average train passenger; and

(b) the details of the steps taken to address the concerns and needs of senior citizens, single women travellers and certain other categories of passenger who generally bank upon relatives or friends at both boarding and disembarking points?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Various passenger amenities/facilities have been provided at railway stations for the convenience of the passengers. These are augmented on regular basis. During the year 2006-07, Railways spent Rs. 407.9 crores on various passenger amenities works. During the current year budgetary provisions of Rs. 493 crores under Passenger Amenities Head has been made.

(b) Certain special amenities/facilities have been accorded by the Railways for senior citizens/single women/physically challenged persons which are as under:

- (i) Concession for senior citizens/physically challenged persons.
- (ii) Attaching of special designed SLRD coaches exclusively for handicapped passengers.
- (iii) Earmarking of a combined quota of 2 lower berths per coach in sleeper class, AC 3-Tier and AC 2-Tier classes for senior citizens, female passengers above 45 years of age and above and pregnant women, when travelling alone.
- (iv) Earmarking of a quota of 6 berths in sleeper class exclusively for ladies, irrespective of age, when travelling alone or in a group.

(v) Earmarking of unreserved accommodation for ladies in various trains (both suburban and non-suburban).

(vi) Wheel Chairs.

(vii) Separate booking counter.

Inter-Ministerial Group on Greenfield Airports

881. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inter-Ministerial Group set up to recommend principles, guidelines and licensing conditions for Greenfield airports, has recommended that mandatory approval for such airports is not required except in special cases;

(b) if so, the details and the main recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the State Governments want to set up Greenfield Airports themselves;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has finalized draft guidelines and licensing conditions for Greenfield airports in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) A new policy for Greenfield Airports is under formulation and discussion.

[Translation]

Beating of Students in Jammu Tawi Express

882. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the cases of security lapses and corruptions are rising during the rail journey recently as is evident from the beating of students, throwing of ticket examiners out of running trains and taking bribe by the police personnel while checking the luggage of passengers;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are aware of incident of beating of students in Jammu Tawi Express as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated November 7, 2007;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Railways against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No case of security lapses reported over Railways and throwing out of ticket examiners out of running trains has been reported during the year 2007 (upto September). However, one incident of beating of students in Train No. 3152 Jammu Tawi Express has been reported on 6.11.2007. As regard, taking of bribe by police personnel while checking of luggage of travelling passengers, 02 cases of corruption by security personnel reported during the year 2007.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. On 6.11.2007, about 80 students of Banguwasi College Kolkata were returning from Jammu by Train No. 3152 Jammu Tawi Express to Sealdah after completion of educational tour. One army personnel travelling in the said train had conflict with them en-route near Gomoh Station. At Gomoh, the army personnel called some local people and beat the students.

(d) A case has been registered by Government Railway Police/Gomoh vide Crime No. 12/07 dated 6.11.2007 under section 341, 323, 504, 526, 34 IPC against the Army personnel and others.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Bhimapur-Nagbhid Railway Line

883. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have proposed any funds for conversion of Bhimapur, Nagbhid, Maharashtra metre gauge line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There is no such station named Bhimapur, Biwapur is an existing station on Nagpur-Nagbhir narrow gauge railway line. The gauge conversion of this line is not sanctioned.

Prices of Generic Drugs

884. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of several generic drugs will come down substantially after implementation of new Pharma Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the specific drugs whose prices would come down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007 and the Second meeting was held on 12.9.2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy. Since no final decision has been taken on the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006, it would not be possible, at present, to assess/ascertain the impact of price control on drugs.

Foreign Assistance

885. SHRI N. S. V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) foreign assistance received during the last three years for restoration and upkeep of Heritage Monuments in the country;

(b) the monuments covered under this assistance and the amount spent on each monument so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect such monuments from its own resources?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) has given a soft loan for conservation of selected monuments around Ajanta-Ellora. The conservation of Jaisalmer Fort is being

assisted by the World Monument Fund. The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

at these monuments are done by Archaeological Survey of India from its own resources. The expenditure incurred by ASI in the last three years is shown in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) Routine maintenance and other minor repair works

Statement-I

Details of the Expenditure Incurred during the last three years under JBIC Project for Ajanta-Ellora and World Monument Fund for Jaisalmer Fort

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl.No.	Work Sub – Component	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
JBIC Projects				
1.	Ajanta Caves	2.16	2.42	35.89
2.	Ellora Caves	53.16	40.12	33.79
3.	Aurangabad Group of Caves	16.82	3.70	18.23
4.	Bibi-ka-Maqbara	15.73	15.44	29.45
5.	Pitalkhora Group of Caves	–	–	2.87
6.	Patnadevi Temple	–	–	11.98
7.	Daultabad Fort	20.23	35.05	85.93
8.	Lonar Group of Monuments	–	–	1.81
World Monument Fund Project				
9.	Jaisalmer Fort	34.54	33.30	12.56

Statement II

Details of the Expenditure Incurred during the last three years Monuments Around Ajanta-Ellora and Jaisalmer Fort

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl.No.	Work Sub – Component	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajanta Caves	64.63	59.54	31.64
2.	Ellora Caves	11.23	9.95	10.03
3.	Aurangabad Group of Caves	5.84	2.32	3.60
4.	Bibi-ka-Maqbara	11.59	14.54	14.78
5.	Pitalkhora Group of Caves	0.10	0.43	0.32

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Patnadevi Temple	0.09	0.09	0.45
7.	Daultabad Fort	25.90	13.53	15.13
8.	Lonar Group of Monuments	0.56	1.18	4.23
9.	Jaisalmer Fort	18.06	28.90	12.21

*[Translation]***Schemes/Projects Received by State Governments**

886. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several proposals of schemes/projects relating to petroleum sector received from State Governments during last three years and are lying pending before the Union Government;

(b) if so, the State-wise details in this regard, till date;

(c) the details regarding date of receipts of proposals for each project;

(d) the reasons for delay in according sanction to these projects/proposals; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to accord sanction to these projects/proposals at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir. No scheme/project received from the State Government is pending for approval of this Ministry.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

*[English]***Uniform Rate of Drugs**

887. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to have a uniform rate of drugs inclusive of the local taxes printed on the medicine packs for the benefit of the consumers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the rate of local taxes vary from State to State;

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to resolve this issue in consultation with the State Governments;

(e) whether it was also decided to print the price of the drugs and the sales tax to be charged thereon separately on the pack in view of the varying rates of the taxes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken to resolve the issue of inclusion of local levies in the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (g) Vide S.O. No. 946 (E) dated the 26th June, 2006, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of medicines inclusive of all local taxes has been made effective from the 2nd October, 2006. The batches manufactured after 2nd October, 2006 are required to carry the MRP inclusive of all taxes. However for imported formulations, MRP inclusive of all taxes has been made applicable w.e.f. 1.3.2007. Accordingly, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has now started notifying ceiling prices (exclusive of Excise Duty and VAT) and equivalent MRP (Inclusive of Excise Duty and VAT).

Increased Use of Environment Friendly Bio-Fuels

888. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to replace 10% of its transport fuels with environment friendly bio-fuels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of consumption of petrol and diesel during 2006-07;

(d) the details of percentage of environment friendly bio-fuels replaced during 2006-07 in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the use of environment friendly bio-fuels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) It is proposed to make 10% blending of ethanol with petrol optional under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme in the country except North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

(c) The details of consumption of petrol and diesel during 2006-07 are as under—

(i) Petrol – 9295000 Metric Tonnes (provisional)

(ii) Diesel – 42884000 Metric Tonnes (provisional)

(d) 0.64% of petrol consumption has been replaced by bio-friendly fuel, *i.e.* ethanol, by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during 2006-07 in the country.

(e) The Government has taken following steps to increase the use of environment friendly bio-fuels—

(i) Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme—Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas vide its notification dated 20th Sept., 2006 has directed the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sell 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) subject to commercial viability as per Bureau of Indian Standards specification in entire country except North-Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep with effect from 1st November, 2006.

Further the Government has decided that 5% EBP programme be made mandatory across the country except

North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. It has also been proposed to make 10% ethanol blending optional.

Dedicated Freight Corridor Project

889. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funding plan for the dedicated freight corridor project has been finalised by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many companies have shown their interest in being part of the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(e) whether initial survey work of the said project has been started and completed;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the details of the funds allocated for the said purpose; and

(g) the details of the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Dedicated Freight Corridor Project is proposed to be financed through a mix of internal generation, market borrowings, budgetary and non-budgetary resources including multilateral and bilateral funding such as by Japanese Government under Special Terms of Economic Partnership (STEP) Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey (PETS) at a cost of Rs. 15.28 Crores has been done in January 2007 for both the corridors. As per the report, the 1483 Kilometers long Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Mumbai) to Tughlakabad/Dadri Western Corridor and the 1279 Kilometers long Ludhiana to Sonnagar Eastern Corridor is estimated to cost a total of over Rs. 28,000 Crores. Plans & Drawings of 1590 Kilometers have been completed by RITES Limited.

*[Translation]***Opening of LPG Agencies in Jharkhand**

890. SHRI GHURAN RAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any requests for opening new LPG gas agencies in Jharkhand district-wise particularly in districts of Palamu and Gadwha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to meet the shortage of LPG; and

(d) if so, the time by which the shortage is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that location Daltonganj in Palamu District has already been rostered under Industry Marketing Plan 2004-07 for opening of an independent LPG distributorship which has since been advertised on 18.10.2007. However, location Gadwha in the State of Jharkhand does not appear in the Industry Marketing Plan 2004-07 as the location was found not to be economically viable for opening/setting up of an independent LPG distributorship at this juncture.

OMCs have also finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 13 locations in the State of Jharkhand for setting up of LPG distributorships.

(c) and (d) There is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including in the State of Jharkhand, and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the requirement of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs had reported occasional backlog in certain States/Union Territories including the State of Jharkhand due to natural calamities like floods, road breaches, collapse of bridge and stoppage of work by various sections of the employees, strike by transporters and contract labourers, hartals etc. The Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States/UTs by operating the bottling plants on holidays, extended hours of working and also by ensuring adequate supply of cylinders.

*[English]***Setting up of Small Airports**

891. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to set up a network of at least 500 small airports in the country to facilitate growth of regional airlines and the future domestic aviation industry;

(b) if so, the broad features and details of the plan and its estimated cost; and

(c) the steps being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A new policy for Greenfield airports is under formulation. The policy is aimed to provide required impetus to, *inter-alia*, construction of several airports in smaller cities/towns.

It is also proposed to develop the unused airstrips, which are large in number, for commercial utilization. In this endeavour private sector would also be involved.

Protection of Tourist Sites

892. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete steps have been initiated to protect tourist sites of the country due to high tourist inflow during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The conservation, preservation, structural repairs, environmental development and provision of visitors' facilities at the ASI protected monuments are undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India also extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for upgradation of tourist infrastructure at tourist sites and also conservation and refurbishment of monuments. Further, Ministry of Tourism through an ongoing integrated campaign in the electronic and print media creates awareness about the need for protection and preservation of monuments and tourist sites from garbage and graffiti.

[Translation]

New Railway Lines in Maharashtra

893. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for laying new railway lines between Ghule and Nardala in Maharashtra and between Manmad and Indore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in laying the said railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of new broad gauge line from Manmad to Indore via Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur (350 kms) has been completed during 2004-05. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this line has been assessed as Rs. 1001.16 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraints of resources, it has not been found feasible to consider the project. State Government of Maharashtra have been requested to examine sharing at least 50% of the cost of the project.

New Civil Aviation Policy

894. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the notification of the new civil aviation policy is on anvil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal to set up 'atropoqis' is also included in the policy;

(d) if so, the names of the cities proposed to be covered under the above mentioned scheme; and

(e) the time by which the policy is likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The New Civil Aviation Policy is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GOM).

[English]

Airport at Greater Noida

895. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to reply to USQ No. 567 dated August 16, 2007 regarding 'Airport at Greater Noida' and to state :

(a) whether the matter has been examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said airport is likely to be completed and become operational; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to ease congestion at Delhi airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A proposal for setting up a new Greenfield International Airport at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar District in Uttar Pradesh has been received. The matter is under consideration of Government of India.

Aviation Master Plan for Gujarat

896. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received an aviation master plan for the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for implementation of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) have either undertaken development of or have development plans for airports in Gujarat at Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Kandla, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara.

Revenue by Selling Advertising Space

897. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are earning huge revenue by selling advertising space;

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

(c) whether all the divisions have taken steps to promote more revenue by advertising space;

(d) if so, whether any target have been fixed for the current year and for the coming years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detail of the revenue earned by Railways (Zone-wise) through advertisement during the last three years (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) is given in the enclosed statement. Division-wise earnings are not maintained, the earnings are maintained Zone-wise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Railways have been advised to maximise the earnings through commercial publicity, however, no individual targets have been fixed centrally for the divisions.

Statement

The Revenue Earned by Advertisement on Railways (Zone-wise) during the last 3 years (2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07)

(Rs. in thousands)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Central Railway	55844	130301	237165
Eastern Railway	25216	35888	53052
East Central Railway	5992	4589	4338
East Coast Railway	6792	6960	9012
Northern Railway	96562	104483	53769
North Central Railway	4644	3528	15869
North Eastern Railway	5716	7757	8732
North East Frontier Railway	1032	4072	12647
North Western Railway	16514	21924	28649
Southern Railway	32367	61760	124054
South Central Railway	16220	27240	32658
South Eastern Railway	6892	9144	11997
South East Central Railway	12131	4515	4257
South Western Railway	16523	26622	29342
Western Railway	144778	256622	262019
West Central Railway	4217	9395	12911
Metro Railway, Kolkata	50662	66052	104538
Total	502102	780852	1005009

Development of Chandub Lake, Guwahati

898. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any project proposal for development of Haflong and Chandub lake as tourist destinations from the Government of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present tourism infrastructure at these spots; and

(d) the funds allocated for the projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A project-Development of Tourist Circuit Barak Valley and Two Hill Districts (Southern Assam Circuit) in Assam has been sanctioned for a total amount of Rs. 605.42 lakh in the current financial year. One of the components of the project is the Development of Eco-Tourism project at Haflong for which Rs. 63.47 lakh has been allocated. No project proposal has been received in respect of Chandubi Lake.

(c) Department of Tourism, Government of Assam has a Tourist Lodge with 6 rooms and a Tourism Promotion Office at Haflong. At Chandubi it has a Picnic Cottage with 4 rooms.

(d) As stated under (a) and (b).

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Gwalior-Shyampurkala

899. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion in Madhya Pradesh particularly Gwalior-Shyampurkala to Kota railway line; and

(b) the time by when the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Three projects of gauge conversion falling fully/partly in the State of Madhya Pradesh are included in budget. One project is

completed and work has been taken up in other two projects. An outlay of Rs. 155 crore has been provided during 2007-08. No targets of other two projects have been fixed. As regard to gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan and extension upto Kota (200 Kms.), an updating survey has already been sanctioned. Further consideration of the project would be feasible once the updated survey report becomes available.

[English]

Promotion of Tourism in Andaman and Nicobar

900. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to promote tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to attract the foreign and domestic tourists to Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(d) the extent to which the tourism industry in the Andaman Islands has suffered on account of Tsunami in 2004; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to revive the tourism industry and the success achieved so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has been promoting tourism in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This promotion was further reinforced after the Tsunami in December 2004. A nation-wide print and electronic domestic media campaign was launched to boost domestic travel to these islands. Brochures and Compact Discs on Andaman and Nicobar were produced for distribution in domestic and international markets and Familiarization trips of domestic tour operators and journalists were also organized.

A statement showing the details of tourist arrivals to Andaman & Nicobar Islands during the pre and post Tsunami period is as under:

2004	1,09,582
2005	32,381
2006	1,27,631
2007 (upto October 2007)	1,08,688

Re-Development of Mumbai High by ONGC

901. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has implemented the next phase of its plan to re-develop its prime Mumbai High Oil fields to arrest production decline from the ageing fields;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be invested and the quantum of investment made so far in this regard; and

(c) the quantum of additional oil expected on account of the redevelopment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The second phase of the redevelopment of Mumbai High South has been approved by ONGC Board on October 3, 2007 at an estimated cost of Rs. 5713.07 Crores with completion schedule of 31.5 months from the date of approval.

(c) The project envisages an incremental gain of 20.7 MMT of oil and 3.32 BCM of gas by the year 2030.

Merger of Instrumentation Limited

902. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., is planning to make Instrumentation Ltd., as its active production unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any move to merge Instrumentation Ltd. with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has conducted due diligence. As per the latest information from BHEL, it finds synergy in making only Palakkad unit

of Instrumentation Limited as its active production unit for valves and allied products complementing BHEL's own product range. The revival proposal for Instrumentation Limited is under active consideration of Government.

Near Air Collision

903. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has since completed its probe into the near air collision of the special Aircraft carrying UPA Chairperson and a Virgin Atlantic Flight;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has since taken any steps to ensure that no lapse occur in future on air collisions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The case has been investigated, which has revealed that the incident was that of breach of standard separation and not near air collision.

(c) and (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements making it mandatory from January, 2003 the installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) on aeroplanes, which enables the pilots to have a position picture of all aircraft in his vicinity their reference height and distance from his aircraft. It also guides the pilot to take evasive action, whenever any aircraft comes in proximity to his aircraft, to avoid conflict. Mono-pulse Secondary Surveillance radars have since been installed at major airports in the country to provide altitude information to the Air Traffic Controllers thereby enabling improved air traffic management and surveillance. Minimum Safe Altitude Warning (MSAW) system has also been provided. Air Traffic Management service is also being modernised to include air traffic conflict warning in the system. Non-RVSM aircraft have been restricted to flying in RVSM airspace (above 29,000 feet). Flexible use of airspace to reduce traffic congestion in the airspace has been

implemented. Further, based on the investigations carried out on all the reported air proximity incidents, the following additional measures have also been taken:

- (i) Regular proficiency checks for Air Traffic Controllers and pilots;
- (ii) Specific co-ordination procedures for transfer of traffic from one unit to the other, which are reviewed periodically;
- (iii) Whenever required, Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) are given corrective training;
- (iv) Standard operating procedure/co-ordination procedure, whenever required are modified/changed or established based on the investigation.

Transparency In Sale of Scrap

904. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to bring transparency in selling the scrap;
- (b) whether any pilot project is being commissioned by the Indian Railways in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Railways to keep the mafia out of the trade of scrap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Scraps are disposed of through well established and transparent procedures over Indian Railways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The measures to check and prevent the influence of mafia in the area of disposal of scrap has already been implemented over Indian Railways.

[Translation]

Production of Gas by Public Sector Oil Companies

905. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise installed capacity of Public Sector Companies for production of gas during the last three years and the actual production achieved by them;

(b) the cost marked out on production of one kilogram gas alongwith the company-wise cost of production of gas; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the aforesaid cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Year-wise targets and actual production of natural Gas in respect of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) during the last three years are as follows:

	Figures in MMSCM			
	ONGC		OIL	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
2004-05	22127	22970	2059	2009
2005-06	21406	22574	2076	2270
2006-07	21966	22442	2365	2265

(b) and (c) The cost of production of Natural Gas depends upon various factors including size of Reservoir, location of the fields, availabilities of surface facilities, accounting procedures adopted by the Companies. In case of Public Sector Oil Companies, cost of production during 2006-07 by ONGC was Rs. 3490/- per thousand cubic metres. The cost of production by Oil India Ltd. during 2006-07 was Rs. 1629.30 per thousand cubic metres excluding statutory levies. It may be noted that most of ONGC's gas production comes from offshore areas and in respect of OIL it comes from onland areas.

The cost of production is monitored by the Boards of respective companies. Both the companies adopt stringent economic measures in its areas of operations to reduce the cost of production.

Modernisation of Railway Stations in Maharashtra

906. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations modernized so far in Maharashtra including other States, particularly the tribal areas during the last three years;

(b) the funds allocated particularly to the Western Railway for this purpose during the said period and the details thereof, station-wise;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is severe shortage of drinking water at railway stations, particularly in tribal areas in Gujarat and the quality of water is also of lower level;

(d) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct a survey in this regard in the country, particularly in the Western Railway;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the scheme formulated for providing drinking water facility to the passengers at the railway stations, particularly in the tribal areas, and also for modernisation of the railway stations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During the year 2006-07, 334 railway stations were identified for modernisation on Indian Railways and further 303 more railway stations have been identified for modernisation during 2007-08, which includes stations in Tribal areas of Maharashtra State also. Out of this, 271 railway stations have been modernised. In Maharashtra State, 20 stations have been modernized under Touch and Feel scheme.

(b) During the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, Rs. 253.03 crores, Rs. 401.10 crores and Rs. 493.30 crores respectively were allocated under Plan Head – Passenger Amenities for upgradation of passenger amenities at railway stations which include funds for works relating to improvement/modernization of railway stations. Funds allocated to Western Railway during the above

years are Rs. 25.37 crores, Rs. 28.48 crore (Revised) and Rs. 41.77 crores respectively. Station-wise details of allocation of funds are not maintained.

(c) There is problem of availability and quality of water during summer months at some stations. In such situation, water supply is arranged through rail or road tankers apart from normal water supply arrangements.

(d) and (e) The availability of water at station is periodically reviewed to identify location of scarcity and to plan preventive action.

(f) Railway has made efforts to ensure adequate sources of water supply by providing additional bores, hand pumps and taking supply of water through contract at stations wherever required. The water supply at platforms provided in water huts/water coolers/water hydrants is chlorinated to make it safe for drinking and regular check on the quality of water is carried out by Medical Department.

[English]

Integration of Tribal Art and Culture with Tourism

907. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering not only to documents but also to conserve, promote and integrate different kinds of folk and tribal art and culture with the tourism related activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan chalked out by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of tourist infrastructure and promotion of tourism including rural and tribal tourism products on the basis of the proposals received from State Governments/UT Administrations. Projects are appraised as per Guidelines and funds released subject to availability under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits. The objective of Rural Tourism is to showcase life, art, culture, heritage etc. at rural

locations and in villages, which have core competency in terms of crafts/handloom/culture/textiles etc.

During the 10th Plan, 106 projects for Rs. 6212.32 lakh have been sanctioned for development of Rural Tourism in the country.

Dedicated Security Force For Railways' Security

908. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have a plan to form a dedicated security force for the security of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Railways to adopt the system prevalent in other countries which have a single security agency to check crimes in the trains which has proved quite effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Indian Railways have its own history and unique role to ensure travel of passengers and goods through the length and breadth of the country. Security aspects of Indian Railways are presently being looked by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) which is under the Ministry of Railways and by the Government Railway Police (GRP) which is a wing of the concerned State Government. Assistance of District Police and other security agencies is also taken as per exigency. The system is reviewed from time to time and necessary corrective measures are accordingly taken. As a result of this approach, Railway Protection Force, which has its origin as a watch and ward organisation in Railways, has become an Armed Force of the Union with statutory provisions under the RPF Act, Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act and the Railways Act. Presently the security of passenger is being taken care of by the Railway Protection Force as well as Government Railway Police in a coordinated manner.

Stampede at Mughalsarai Railway Station

909. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
 PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
 SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of stampede recently occurred at Mughalsarai railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the full details of passengers killed and injured in the incident;

(c) the amount of compensation/*ex-gratia* relief given to the victims;

(d) the findings of the investigation made regarding this tragedy and action taken against officials found guilty; and

(e) the measures being taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents and overcrowding at the railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 03-10-2007, at about 12.30 hrs train No. 531 Up Buxar-Mughalsarai Passenger arrived at platform no. 5 and at about 12.45 hrs train no. 709 Up Gaya-Mughalsarai Passenger arrived at Platform No. 6 of Mughalsarai Railway Station. In the meantime, at about 12.45 hrs train No. 2 FM (Faizabad - Mughalsarai Passenger) also arrived at Platform No. 4 of Mughalsarai Railway station. A large number of women devotees on the way to Varanasi to take a holy dip on the occasion of JYUTIA got down at Mughalsarai station from 531 Up Buxar-Mughalsarai Passenger and 709 Up Gaya-Mughalsarai Passenger. In addition, a large number of passengers also assembled at these platforms to catch trains going towards Gaya, Buxar and Varanasi.

On seeing train No. 2 FM (Faizabad-Mughalsarai Passenger) reaching on Platform No. 4, the women who had to go to Varanasi started climbing the stairs of foot over bridge (Delhi end) to reach Platform No.4. On the other hand, the passengers who wanted to board Mughalsarai-Gaya, Mughalsarai-Buxar Passenger trains started coming down by using the same stairs. This led to over crowding on the stairs of foot over bridge connecting Platforms No. 5 & 6. The ensuing confusion among passengers, led to stampede on the stairs of the foot over bridge. As a result, 62 women and 03 minor became unconscious due to suffocation and injuries.

In this incident of stampede at Mughalsarai railway station on the 3rd October, 2007; 15 persons lost their lives, while 12 persons sustained grievous injury and 39 persons sustained simple injury.

(c) Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on the claim filed in this regard in the Railway Claims Tribunal. So far, no claim has been filed. However, the following amount of *ex-gratia* has been paid to the victims of the incident by the Railway Administration:

- (i) Rs. 15,000/- has been paid to the kins of each of the deceased persons after postmortem.
- (ii) Rs. 5,000/- has been paid to each of 12 grievously injured persons.
- (iii) Rs. 500/- has been paid to each of 30 simply injured persons.

In addition, Hon'ble Minister for Railways has enhanced amount of Ex-gratia to Rs. 2 lakh per head in case of death.

(d) A Committee consisting of Chief Commercial Manager (PS), Chief Medical Director/East Central Railway and Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force, Mughalsarai/East Central Railway, has been constituted to conduct enquiry into the incident. The enquiry by the above Committee is under progress.

(e) Following steps are being taken to avert such incidents of over crowding and stampede:

- Better crowd management practice like effective use of Public Address System and Electronic Surveillance System (wherever available).
- Decongestion of platforms by shifting commercial activities to concourse area.
- Abolition of platform tickets especially during festival seasons to avert sudden crowd build up and stampede in passenger area.
- Running of special trains from different stations especially in Metropolitan Cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata etc. during festivals.
- Nomination of specific platforms for important trains especially at originating stations.
- Deployment of Home Guards, volunteers from NGOs, Civil Defence personnel, Scouts & Guides, etc. during peak rush season to assist Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police in crowd management.

Concession Policy For Handicapped People In Railways

910. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is compulsory for some categories of handicapped people to take escorts with them and purchase an additional ticket whereas some categories of handicapped people are exempted from this provision and they can travel alone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for this discrimination;

(d) whether the Railways propose to revise its concession policy for the handicapped people and bring all handicapped people at par in regard to giving concession in train fare;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Concession is admissible to only those Orthopaedically handicapped/ paraplegic persons and mentally retarded persons who cannot travel without an escort. Therefore, they are required to purchase ticket for escort also. However, blind and deaf and dumb persons are permitted to travel alone also.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal to revise concession policy at present.

Setting up of Liquid Gas Based Chemical Plants

911. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up liquid gas based chemical plants in the country;

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

(c) whether such plants have set up terminal for LNG in their plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated cost of such plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Revival of Viable PSUs

912. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive viable Public Sector Units by providing necessary assistance;

(b) if so, the names of the PSUs which have been identified for revival; and

(c) the details of the financial assistance proposed to be given to these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government INTER ALIA stipulates that while every effort will be made to modernize and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss-making companies will either be sold-off or closed, after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. The private industry will be inducted to turnaround companies that have potential for revival. Accordingly, Government had constituted Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December 2004 as a part-time advisory body to advise the Government on the strategies, measures and schemes related to the strengthening, modernization, revival and restructuring of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

(b) and (c) Based on the recommendations of BRPSE the Government have approved revival of 26 CPSEs. Details of financial assistance approved for these CPSEs are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Cash and Non-Cash Assistance Approved in Respect of Revival Proposals Recommended by BRPSE As on 31.10.2007

SLNo.	CPSE	Assistance (Rs. In Crores)		
		Cash #	Non-Cash @	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	4.28	73.30	77.58
2.	NTC including its subsidiaries	39.23	-	39.23
3.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	60.00	42.92	102.92
4.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.	-	54.61	54.61
5.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	7.40	43.97	51.37
6.	Praga Tools Ltd.	5.00	209.71	214.71
7.	Braithwaite & Company Ltd.	4.00	280.21	284.21
8.	British India Corporation Ltd.	47.35	-	47.35
9.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.	73.60	280.00	353.60
10.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	102.00	1116.30	1218.30
11.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	184.29	1267.95	1452.24

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Richardson & Cruddas Ltd.	-	-	-
13.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	137.59	267.57	405.16
14.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	250.00	NA	250.00
15.	Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	-	670.37	670.37
16.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	-	-	-
17.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	-	267.29	267.29
18.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.	-	104.64	104.64
19.	Central Electronics Ltd.	-	6.02	6.02
20.	Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	—*	—*	—*
21.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.	3.37\$	153.15	156.52\$
22.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	207.19	233.41	440.60
23.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	723.00	157.80	880.80
24.	MECON Ltd.	93.00**	23.08	116.08
25.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	—	457.14	457.14
26.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	—	612.94	612.94
Total		1941.30	6322.38	8263.68

Cash Assistance may involve budgetary support through equity/loan/grants.

● Non-cash Assistance may involve waiver of interest, penal interest, GOI loan, Guarantee fee, conversion of loan into equity/debentures etc.

* The revival plan approved by the Government *inter alia* envisaged non-cash assistance of Rs. 2470.77 crores and waiver of service charges of Rs. 14 crores per annum from 2004-05 from Coal India Ltd.

\$ In addition ONGC and BHEL would extend cash support to extent of Rs. 150 crores and Rs. 20 crores respectively.

** Excludes continuation of 50% interest subsidy not exceeding Rs. 6.50 crores per annum on VRS loans.

New Fertilizer Investment Policy

913. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been working on a new fertilizer investment policy that will throw in huge tax sops to attract investments in the fertilizer sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new policy is expected to give momentum to the setting up of regional hubs on the lines of petro hubs;

(d) if so, the time by which this new investment policy will be implemented; and

(e) the extent to which this policy will help reducing the gap between the consumption and domestic production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) The pricing policy for new and expansion projects in urea sector has been notified by the Government in January 2004. There has been no indigenous investments in the Urea sector in last 8 years. The availability of gas, which is the critical feedstock for production of urea, has been one of the major constraint in attracting investments in this sector.

In view of the projected improvement in availability of gas in future, the Government is looking into all options for finalization of a new policy for investments in urea sector, which may attract investments in Urea Sector in all parts of the country.

[Translation]

Profit Earned by ONGC

914. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

	Profit on Crude Oil			
	2006-07		2005-06	
	IN INR	IN US\$	IN INR	IN US\$
Margin per Barrel	846.95	18.70	852.40	19.25
Corp. Tax @ 33.66%	285.08	6.29	286.92	6.48
Post Tax Margin per Barrel	561.87	12.41	565.48	12.77

Note: Average US Dollar Exchange rate Rs. 45.29 for FY 2006-07 and Rs. 44.28 for 2005-06.

(c) ONGC's crude oil production during 2006-07 (April-September) and 2007-08 (April - September) are as under:

Year	Crude Oil Production (MMT)
2006-07 (April - September)	12.863
2007-08 (April - September)	12.875

Note: Above figures exclude contributions from the fields being operated by Joint Ventures (JVs).

The percentage increase is approximately 0.09%.

Entry of Male Passengers into Ladies Coaches

915. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil company, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is earning profit to the tune of 77 US dollar per barrel during the current financial year which is 16% more than the profit earned by the company during the last financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage increase in the production of crude oil by the said company so far in this year in comparison to the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) No Sir.

The details of profit margin per barrel of crude oil in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for Financial Year (FY) 2006-07 and FY 2005-06 are as follows:

(a) whether inspite of providing separate ladies coaches in trains keeping in view the convenience of the women passengers, male passengers are boarding the said coaches without any checks and are misbehaving with the women passengers;

(b) if so, the number of male passengers apprehended while travelling in ladies coaches during 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(c) the details of the action taken against such passengers;

(d) whether there is any strict action plan in the Railways to prevent the entry of male passengers into ladies coaches; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Some such incidents do come to notice. However, Railways make regular efforts to check such cases. During the year 2005-06, 48084 male passengers were apprehended while travelling in ladies coaches and a sum of Rs. 62.72 lakhs was realized from them. Similarly, in 2006-07, 50472 male passengers were apprehended and a sum of Rs. 77.91 lakhs realized from them.

(d) and (e) Regular checks are conducted to prevent entry of male passengers into ladies coaches and offenders apprehended are prosecuted under section 162 of the Railways Act, 1989 and fined. Besides, Lady Squads consisting of women TTEs (Travelling Ticket Examiners) and lady constables have been formed on each of the Zonal Railway to instil confidence amongst the lady passengers.

[English]

Night Landing/Take-off Facilities at Airports

916. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the airports having night landing/take-off facilities;

(b) whether it is proposed to provide night landing/take-off facilities at all the airports in view of the constant increase in the number of flights;

(c) if so, the airports being taken up for such facilities during the next two years; and

(d) the time by which all the airports will be provided with the night landing/take-off facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 60 airports in the country having night landing/take-off facilities. They are at Agartala, Agra, Allahabad, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Belgaum, Bhavnagar, Bhubneshwar, Bhub, Bhopal, Calicut, Chandigarh, Cochin, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Gaya, Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Hubli, Hyderabad, Imphal, Indore, Jaipur, Jammu, Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Jorhat, Khajuraho, Kolkata, Lengpui, Lilabari,

Lucknow, Mangalore, Madurai, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Pune, Port Blair, Ranchi, Raipur, Rajkot, Srinagar, Surat, Tezpur, Tirupathi, Trichy, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Vadodara, Varanasi, Vishakhapatnam and Vijaywada.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per AAI's plan, such facilities would be made available at the remaining airports by 2008.

Setting up of International Airports

917. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up any international airports during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the sites selected where these international airports are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the stages at which these proposals are pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government does not have any plan to set up any new international airport in the 11th Plan by itself or through Airports Authority of India (AAI). However, it would like to promote such airports in Public Private Partnership (PPP), Private Sector and State Sector. Two such airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad are getting commissioned early next year. In principle approvals for international airports at Mopa (Goa) and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) in PPP have been accorded.

Promotion of Tourism

918. SHRI M. APPADURAI:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to States to improve facilities for domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government is contemplating coordination with the States to draw a comprehensive State-wise plans for promotion of tourism in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, during the 10th Five Year Plan the Central Government has assisted the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in the preparation of 20 Year Perspective Plans to ensure integrated development and promotion of tourism.

Further, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development and promotion of tourism. During the 10th Five Year Plan the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 2012.02 crore for 1160 projects to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for promotion and development of tourism including improvement of facilities for tourists. Implementation of the projects is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of implementation and utilization of released central assistance from time to time.

Trained Pilots for Low Visibility Foggy Conditions

919. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airlines which are not having pilots trained for flying in low visibility foggy conditions;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to make them fully trained for such conditions; and

(c) the stern message being passed on to these airlines in case of non-compliance of such conditions by them before the winter schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India Charters Limited, Airline Allied Services Limited, Blue Dart Aviation Limited and Paramount Airways are not having pilots trained in low visibility foggy conditions.

(b) and (c) Air India Charters Limited, Airline Allied Services Limited, Blue Dart Aviation Limited and Paramount Airways have been advised to upgrade their aeroplanes and train their pilots for operations in low

visibility conditions. Their flight schedules are approved on the basis of number of pilots trained by the operators for low visibility operations and the suitability of the planes for such operations. Airlines who do not train their pilots for CAT-II/III operations, shall not be scheduled to operate to/from IGI Airport during winter season when low visibility operations are experienced.

[Translation]

Hike in Prices of Petroleum Products

920. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
DEO:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for increasing the prices of petrol and diesel in the country;

(b) the number of times the countries from where petroleum products are imported have increased the rates of the said products;

(c) the dates when the petroleum prices were hiked by the said countries alongwith the extent to which the said price hike was made each time; and

(d) the details of the percentage of price hike in the said petroleum exporting countries alongwith the corresponding percentage of price-hike in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The Global prices of crude oil and petroleum products since 2004 have remained high and volatile. The price of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market rise and fall on a daily basis. The Indian Basket crude oil touched an all time high of \$ 91.12/barrel on 7.11.2007. The impact of volatile and sharp increase in international oil prices needs to be reflected in the domestic retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products. However, to protect the interests of common man and vulnerable sections of society the burden of high international oil prices is being shared by the oil PSUs and the Government. The prices of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG have remained unchanged over the last three years and there has been no increase in prices of petrol and diesel during the current year.

The trend of movement in international prices for petrol and diesel from April'07 to October'07 is given below :

Period	Petrol \$/bbl	Diesel \$/bbl
April'07	82.69	77.60
May'07	87.96	78.79
June'07	83.82	79.09
July'07	84.36	82.86
Aug'07	76.05	79.95
Sept'07	81.35	88.02
Oct'07	87.46	92.62

[English]

Food Testing Laboratories

921. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently invited United States (US) and European Union (EU) countries to jointly set up food testing laboratories in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of MNCs that have come forward to set up laboratories; and

(d) the criteria being following for providing grants to private limited companies or non-Government bodies or MNCs for setting up of food processing and testing laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) In order to up-grade the existing food testing infrastructure in the country, one of the thrust areas for discussions with various countries including United States (US) and European Union (EU) has been on the possibilities of benchmarking/certifying food testing laboratories in India by these countries, to facilitate the food processing industries/exporters of food products to adhere to required standards of importing countries, so that the consignments of food products are accepted by those countries.

MFPI has been providing financial assistance under its 10th Plan Scheme to Central/State Government organizations, IITs, Universities and private sector organisations for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories in order to meet domestic as well as international standards of food products. Central/State Government organisations, IITs and Universities are eligible for grant-in-aid amounting to entire cost of the capital equipments required for setting up/up-gradation of laboratories. All other implementing agencies such as non-Government Bodies and private sector organisations are eligible for grant-in-aid limited to 33% of the cost of capital equipments required for setting up/up-gradation of such laboratories for general areas and 50% for difficult areas. The food testing facilities created with the financial assistance of MFPI, are treated as common facilities for the use of food processing units in and around the area.

As per guidelines of this Ministry, complete proposals are to be recommended by the State Governments/Union Territories if they are received from private sector organisations or non-Government Bodies including MNCs for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories. These proposals are examined and considered for approval of financial assistance, based on specific requirements such as quality parameters being tested, laboratory equipments required to test these parameters, testing requirements of the food processing industries and other stockholders in and around the area and the capabilities of the applicant to manage the laboratory.

National Culture Fund

922. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of monuments undertaken for restoration in the country under National Culture Fund since the inception of the fund, State-wise;

(b) the amount that has been sanctioned for carrying out above work and the amount that has been spent so far, year-wise;

(c) the details of national and international corporate houses contributed to the National Culture Fund since its inception, year-wise; and

(d) the details of the mechanism this Fund has to implement the project through Project Monitoring Committee for various projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The projects are implemented by the National Culture Fund (NCF) through the mechanism of an MOU entered with the participating agencies. The MOU specifies

the details of the project to be implemented, contribution to be made by the donor agency, responsibility of various partners and lays down the structure of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC), which is primarily responsible for implementation, monitoring and release of funds for the project.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Monument and State	Details of the National/International Corporate Houses which contributed to the NCF Projects	Amount Sanctioned/contributed			Expenditure incurred year wise
			Sanctioned by Govt.	Contributed by Corporate/Private Sector	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Shaniwerwada, Pune, Maharashtra	There was no Corporate house involved. The Govt. Agencies are executing the project	Nil	Rs. 60.51 lakhs		2000-01 — Rs. 3,512,614.00 2001-02 — Rs. 204,473.00 2002-03 — Rs. 303,764.00 2003-04 — Rs. 399,883.00 2004-05 — Rs. 831,556.00 2005-06 — Rs. 798,535.00 2006-07 — Nil
2.	Humayun's Tomb, New Delhi	(i) Indo British 50th Anniversary Trust 29, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi-110003. (ii) The Oberoi Group of Hotels Oberoi Maidens, 7 Shyam Nath Marg New Delhi-110054. (iii) The Agh Khan Trust for Culture 1-3 ave de la Paix, Geneva 1202, Switzerland.	Nil	\$500.00	\$500,000	2000-01 — Rs. 997,603.00 2001-02 — Nil 2002-03 — Rs. 1,605,018.00 2003-04 — Nil 2004-05 — Nil 2005-06 — Nil 2006-07 — Nil — Nil
3.	Konark Sun Temple, Orissa	Indian Oil Foundation Scope Complex, Core - 2 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003	Nil	Rs. 26 crores	Rs. 26 crores.	2001-02 — Rs. 260,000,000.00* 2002-03 — Nil 2003-04 — Nil 2004-05 — Nil 2005-06 — Nil 2006-07 — Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh	M/s. Indian Hotels Company Ltd. Taj Palace Hotels, New Delhi Sardar Patel Marg, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi-110021.	Nil	Rs. 1.87 crores	Rs. 1.87 crores	2001-02 — Nil 2002-03 — Rs. 678,898.00 2003-04 — Rs. 1,257,619.00 2004-05 — Rs. 4,000,000.00 2005-06 — Rs. 4,366,508.00 2006-07 — Rs. 876,073.00
5.	Jantar Mantar, New Delhi	M/s. Apeejay Surrendra Hotels Pvt. Ltd. Pragati Bhawan, Jai Singh Road New Delhi - 110001.	Nil	Rs. 10 lakhs	Rs. 10 lakhs	2001-02 — Nil 2002-03 — Nil 2003-04 — Rs. 103,020.00 2004-05 — Nil 2005-06 — Rs. 204,977.00 2006-07 — Rs. 221,043.00
6.	Jaisalmer Fort, Jaipur, Rajasthan	World Monuments Fund, New York	Rs. 4 crores	\$500,000	Rs. 4 crores & \$500,000	2003-04 — Nil 2004-05 — Rs. 1,415,784.00 2005-06 — Nil 2006-07 — Rs. 8,165,024.00 2007-08 — Rs. 3,124,791.00
7.	Pardesi Synagogue Clock Tower, Cochin, Kerala	World Monuments Fund	Nil	Rs. 15.23 lakhs	Rs. 15.23 lakhs	2001-02 — Nil 2002-03 — Rs. 398,722.00 2003-04 — Rs. 933,907.00 2004-05 — Rs. 100,000.00 2005-06 — Rs. 90,000.00 2006-07 — Nil
8.	Lodhi Tomb, New Delhi	M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. Ispat Bhawan, Lodhi Road, P.O. Box 3049, New Delhi - 110003.	Nil	Rs. 1 crore	Rs. 1 crore	2006-07 — Nil 2007-08 — Rs. 200,000.00

*The money contributed by Indian Oil Foundation was given back to them for implementation of Project.

Agreement with Mauritius

923. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed a 2 billion dollar petroleum agreement with the Mauritius to meet the requirements for petroleum products; and

(b) If so, the salient features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA

PATEL): (a) and (b) MRPL, a Government of India Undertaking, has entered into Three Year Term Contract effective August, 2007 with the State Trading Corporation, Mauritius to supply One Million Tonnes of petroleum products per annum for 3 years valued at approximately US\$ 2 Billion.

Derailed Railway Projects in Rural and Backward Areas

924. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have admitted that there are about 80 railway projects worth over Rs. 20,000 crores lying derailed as these projects are mostly in the rural and backward areas and thus are not commercially viable;

(b) if so, whether the Government is seriously considering now as a socio-economic consideration to undertake all these projects under priority list in future; and

(c) if so, the time by which the final decision in allotting the funds for completing these projects is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Most of the new line and gauge conversion projects except a few required on operational considerations are aimed to improve connectivity to backward, tribal, remote and under-developed areas of the country so as to bring about socio-economic development of the region through which the line passes. However, railways have a huge throwforward of projects requiring over Rs. 61,000 crore for completion. The funds are limited and projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources. Keeping in view the operational requirements and other considerations, the prioritization of railway projects under new line and gauge conversion was done by the Government in April 2005 in the following categories:

- Category (I) - Projects where progress is more than 60% and throwforward is less than Rs. 100 Crore.
- Category (II) - Viable/Operationally required projects.
- Category (III) - National Projects, Projects in Assam & North East Region, Cost Sharing with State Governments, Defence Funded Projects and projects covered under Public Private Partnership.
- Category (IV) - Other ongoing projects not covered in Categories (I, II & III).

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken to expedite completion of these ongoing projects. Minister of Railways has also written to Chief Ministers of concerned States to consider suitable cost sharing for the ongoing new line and gauge conversion projects to the extent of 50% or more.

[Translation]

Special Trains

925. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of special trains run by the Railways for tackling the passengers rush during the festivals and other occasions in each State of the country during the last three years and current year as on date;

(b) the details of the benefits accrued to the passengers and profits or loss earned by the Railways by running these special trains;

(c) whether the Railways are aware that the performance of the special trains are not satisfactory due to disparity in their operation and the schedule; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of special trains run during last three years i.e. during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto September, 2007) are as under:

Year	Special trains run (in number of trips)
2004-05	5432
2005-06	13902
2006-07	15432
2007-08 (upto September, 2007)	2822

However, planning of special trains is not State-wise. It depends upon pattern of traffic, operational feasibility and availability of the coaching stock.

(b) This data is not maintained.

(c) and (d) Instructions are issued to Zonal Railways from time to time to ensure and monitor the punctuality of all the services including special trains. However, on some specific occasions due to Alarm Chain Pulling, Agitations, bad weather and other unforeseen circumstances, punctuality of these trains get affected. However, overall punctuality of special trains are satisfactory.

*[English]***Decline of Art and Culture**

926. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the importance of Indian Art and Culture is on the decline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to spread the Indian Culture in India and foreign countries; and

(d) the funds provided for the same during the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Cultural performances, exhibitions and other promotional activities are undertaken by various institutions and organizations under the Ministry of Culture and other organizations like Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) etc.

(d) The expenditure of the Ministry of Culture during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in Crores)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
600.20	670.90	715.58

Facilities for Tourists

927. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited various religious and devotional destinations in different States each year during the last three years till date;

(b) the hospitality and healthcare facilities available at these destinations;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage private sector to invest in providing hospitality services including accommodation at reasonable costs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The present system of collection of statistics on domestic and foreign tourists does not provide information on the number of such visitors to various religious and devotional destinations in various States.

Development and maintenance of facilities for tourists at tourist destinations, including those of hospitality and healthcare, is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/UT Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to States/UTs for tourism related projects.

Provision of hospitality services, including accommodation at reasonable cost, in mainly a private sector activity. To facilitate augmentation of budget category accommodation for tourists, the Government has asked all the State/UT Governments and other land owning agencies including Indian Railways to allocate land for building hotels, especially in the budget category. They have also been advised to follow investor-friendly land policies, adopt single window approach for promoting hotel projects, allot sites on revenue sharing basis, grant extra FAR/FSI for hotels, permit extra commercial usage in the hotels etc. so that Budget Hotels are promoted. Further, in order to increase the number of rooms in the budget category, Ministry of Tourism has floated schemes for the approval of Guest Houses and Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishments.

*[Translation]***Exploration/Drilling/Refining of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

928. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made towards exploration, drilling and refining of petroleum and natural gas in the country during the last five years;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon and the results thereof;

(c) the percentage of total requirement of oil and gas of the country being fulfilled through the indigenous production and the quantum of oil and gas being imported along with countries from where this import is being made;

(d) the latest achievement made in consequence of the exploration of oil and natural gas and future expectation therefrom;

(e) the latest status of exploration, drilling of oil and gas carried out in Rajasthan; and

(f) the time by when commercial production is likely to be commenced therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) During last five years (2002-07), the total quantum of exploratory inputs expended by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), in its operational areas include acquisition of 11,698 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2D seismic and 10,899 sq km of 3D seismic data in the onland and 47,985 Line Kilometre (LK) of 2D seismic and 82,091 sq km of 3D seismic data in the offshore areas. During the same period, ONGC also drilled 576 exploratory wells, of which 439 were in the onland and 137 in the offshore areas.

During last five years, Oil India Limited (OIL) has carried out 7574.51 GLK of 2D seismic surveys and 3404.25 sq km of 3D seismic surveys. Exploratory drilling by OIL during the said period was 2,19,227 metres and development drilling amounted to 4,12,914 metres.

As far as private companies are concerned, total seismic survey of 111174 LK of 2D seismic and 98400 sq km of 3D seismic was carried out. Total 305 Exploratory wells were drilled by Private Companies.

Regarding Installed capacity of refineries in the country, it was 118.37 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) in the year 2002-03, which has increased to 148.97 MMT in the year 2006-07.

(b) Total expenditure made by the ONGC during the last five years on exploration activities is Rs. 17428.55 crore and Rs. 9823.68 crore were expended on development drilling. The expenditure incurred by OIL on survey, exploratory and development drilling efforts in the

last five years was Rs. 2446.42 crore. The Exploratory expenditure incurred by private companies in the last five years was US\$ 3272.5 (Million).

(c) Import dependence on crude oil and petroleum products is about 70% in the country. The list of countries from where crude was imported in the last year 2006-07 is enclosed as statement.

(d) During last five years (2002-07), ONGC has accreted 676.76 MMT of in place reserves in its onland and offshore operational areas. The accretion to oil and gas in-place reserves made by OIL during last five years was 105.74 MMT. Private and Joint Venture companies have accreted 909.43 MMT of in place oil and equivalent gas.

The exploration for hydrocarbons is a continuous process and is probabilistic rather than deterministic in nature. Full potential of any area can be known only after a discovery is made.

(e) and (f) ONGC is presently operating in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan in two PELs i.e. Miajlar East and South Khartar. It has carried out 20570.43 GLK of 2D Seismic survey, 432.11 sq km of 3D seismic survey and drilled 71 exploratory wells till 1.10.2007. As on date, it has made seven gas discoveries, namely, Manhera Tibba, Ghotaru, Khartar, Chinnewala Tibba, Bankia, Bakhri Tibba and Sadewala. The total quantum of gas established by ONGC in the Jaisalmer basin 3.35 BCM with ultimate component of 1.76 BCM as on 01.04.2007.

Commercial production of natural gas by OIL in Rajasthan had commenced in the year 1996. It is currently supplying 295 Million Standard Cubic Metre gas to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited for power generation.

M/s Cairn India Ltd. has also declared a number of oil discoveries in block RJ-ON-90/1 falling in Barmer Sanchor Basin in Rajasthan State. Commerciality in respect of six of these discoveries namely, Mangala, Saraswati, Rageshwari, Aishwarya, Bhagyam and Shakti have been declared by the operator. The six oil discoveries together account for 46.8 MMT of ultimate reserves of oil. ONGC is a licensee in this block and has 30% Participating Interest in development areas covering above mentioned discoveries.

The commercial production in Block RJ-ON-90/1 is likely to commence in 2009.

Statement

Country-Wise Crude Oil Import

QTY. in MMT		
2006-07		
1	2	3
	1. Iran	14.701
	2. Iraq	13.449
	3. Kuwait	11.382
Middle	4. Neutral Zone	1.632
East	5. Qatar	1.727
Region	6. Saudi Arabia	24.626
	7. UAE	8.755
	8. Yemen	4.543
	Sub Total	80.815
	9. Algeria	0.646
	10. Angola	2.609
	11. Australia	
	12. Azarbaijan	0.709
	13. Brazil	0.422
	14. Brunei	0.634
	15. Cameroon	
	16. Egypt	1.930
	17. Ecuador	
Other	18. Equitorial Guiena	0.409
Region	19. Ivory Coast	0.145
	20. Libya	0.130
	21. Malaysia	4.731
	22. Mexico	1.949
	23. Nigeria	13.067

1	2	3
24.	Russia	0.400
25.	Sudan	0.156
26.	Venezuela	2.317
	Sub Total	30.687
Total		111.502

[English]

Security of Railway Passengers and Properties

929. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the respective responsibilities of the Government Railway Police (GRP) and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) for the security of the passengers and their properties; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure proper co-ordination between RPF, GRP and the State Governments and to enforce accountability of those responsible for the security of the railway passengers and their properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Law and order being a State subject, primary role of policing on Railways rests with the concerned State Government which ensures it through its police wing called the Government Railway Police. As such security of passengers and their property is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police.

However, Railway Protection Force Act and the Railways Act have been amended in the year 2003 enlarging the role of Railway Protection Force to the realm of passenger security. At present Railway Protection Force is assisting the Government Railway Police in the area of passenger security by escorting trains, ensuring access control at important stations, taking action against anti-social elements under various sections of the Railways Act.

(b) Orders have been issued to Railway Protection Force officers to ensure coordination meetings periodically at field levels as well as divisional and zonal levels. Minutes are drawn in these meetings and follow-up action is ensured.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies

930. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petrol pumps and gas agencies allotted to ex-servicemen and their dependents during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints in respect of distribution of such agencies and petrol pumps;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) have allotted 236 retail outlets and 43 LPG distributorships to Ex-Servicemen and their dependents during the last three years.

(b) to (d) The OMCs have reported that they have received 12 complaints against allotment of such agencies and petrol pumps. As and when complaints about violation of policy/guidelines are received, the same are examined as per the grievance redressal mechanism of OMCs and action is taken accordingly.

[English]

Dues Outstanding against State Governments

931. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount due to Indian Airlines and its subsidiary airlines from the various State Governments against tickets issued on credit basis, through the agents as well, as on October 31, 2007;

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

(c) whether the Indian Airlines and its subsidiary airlines have stopped issuing tickets to State Governments on credit basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Indian Airlines to realise the outstanding amount from the respective State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The total dues receivable by erstwhile Indian Airlines and its subsidiary airline, Alliance Air from various State Governments including Departments against tickets issued on credit basis as on 31st October, 2007 amounts to about Rs. 2.37 crores.

(b) Outstanding amount against State Government of Bihar is Rs. 1.04 lacs, Tripura - 6.5 lacs, Orissa - 0.10 lacs, Manipur - 0.03 lacs, West Bengal - 1.09 lacs, Meghalaya - 0.05 lacs, A & N Islands - 0.81 lacs, Uttar Pradesh - 0.27 lacs (as on 31st May, 2007), Tamil Nadu - 152.50 lacs, Andhra Pradesh - 14.17 lacs, Kerala - 32.70 lacs, Goa - 4.32 lacs, Gujarat - 0.20 lacs, Maharashtra - 20.71 lacs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) All possible efforts are made to realise the dues as per credit policy, by the concerned airline offices.

Merger of OMC with SAIL And NMDC

932. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to merge Orissa Mines Corporation (OMC) with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government of Orissa in this regard; and

(d) the percentage of stake of the Government of Orissa in Orissa Mines Corporation as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) There is no proposal to merge Orissa Mines Corporation (OMC) with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC).

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

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Expansion Programme of SAIL and RINL

933. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MUNE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is concerned about any delays in the expansion of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL);

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) The expansion plans of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are planned to be completed by the year 2010-11 and by the year 2008-09 respectively as per their schedules. The implementation of both expansion plans are reviewed and monitored by their respective Boards and the Ministry of Steel periodically at various levels and corrective actions are also taken to cut down delays wherever noticed.

[Translation]

New Railway Line in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

934. SHRI GHURAN RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to connect Barwadih in Jharkhand to Chirmiri in Chhattisgarh by rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Between Chirmiri and Barwadih, Chirmiri—Bishrampur (129 Kms) section is in operation since 1962 and Bishrampur—Ambikapur (19.80 Kms) new line has been completed and commissioned on 03.06.2006.

A survey for construction of a new line between Ambikapur and Barwadih (182.20 Kms) was completed during 2003-04. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 182.20 Km long new line was assessed as Rs. 406.86 crore with a rate of return of merely 4.85%. The survey report was examined and the project was found to be financially unviable with no operational advantage.

In view of the non-remunerative nature of the project, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been considered feasible to take up construction of Ambikapur-Barwadih new line segment.

Misbehaviour with Passengers by Railway Staff

935. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of misbehaviour with the passengers by the railway staff are on the rise;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received in this regard during each of the last three years, zone-wise;

(c) the number of employees against whom action has been taken on the complaints; and

(d) the details of steps being taken by the Railways to check the rising incidents of misbehaviour of railway staff with the railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. During the period April to September, 2007, there has been a decrease of 4% and 15% in the number of complaints received against commercial and non-commercial staff respectively when compared to the same period of last year.

(b) The details of complaints received against Railway staff during each of the last three years, zone-wise, is as under:

S.No.	Railway	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto September, 07)
1.	Central	360	412	275
2.	Eastern	84	73	41
3.	Northern	357	361	185
4.	North Eastern	36	35	10
5.	North East Frontier	9	26	5
6.	Southern	247	278	122
7.	South Central	115	134	66
8.	South Eastern	142	96	16
9.	Western	143	178	70
10.	East Central	78	165	77
11.	East Coast	77	86	37
12.	North Central	115	109	47
13.	North Western	97	84	36
14.	South Western	57	48	25
15.	South East Central	48	32	21
16.	West Central	60	65	29

(c) The number of employees against whom action has been taken during the last three years is as under:

2005-06	2524
2006-07	2359
2007-08 (upto September)	1162

(d) Complaints received with specific details are inquired into and the staff wherever found responsible are taken up under Disciplinary Rules. The staff who come in contact with the public are also sent for customer care training.

[English]

Decongestion Plan at Delhi Airport

936. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some airlines do not follow the decongestion plan at the Delhi Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Slot allocation to airlines at all airports is done primarily taking into consideration their terminal/s and runway/s capacities. All the airlines are obliged to operate as per the slots allocated to them.

(c) To meet the future demand at III Airport, Delhi M/s Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL), who is the airport operator, is building a new Domestic Departure Terminal and a new runway. After completion of these two projects by middle of the next year, the congestion problem at the airport would get satisfactorily addressed.

Incentives to the Regional Airlines

937. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various Regional Airlines presently operating in the country;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to grant more incentives to the Regional Airlines which provide air connectivity to smaller cities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Regional Airlines are also allowed to operate in metro cities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present there are no regional airlines operating in the country.

(b) and (c) Government has already issued guidelines for Regional Airlines where airlines can operate aircraft of take off mass of less than 40,000 kg. with reduced equity requirements of Rs. 12 crores upto 3 aircraft.

(d) to (f) The concept of regional airline has been introduced with a view to promote air connectivity within a region, expand air travel services for Tier II and Tier III cities and between specific region. There are four regions identified as North, South, West East/North-East coinciding with the Flight Information Regions (FIRs) as defined by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The regional airlines are not permitted to operate on category I routes which includes metro routes. However, the southern regional airlines are allowed to operate to/ between the metros within the Southern region.

[Translation]

Revival of IDPL and HAL

938. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding the revamping, modernization and revival of prominent Pharmaceutical companies, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) and Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current state of production in the said companies;

(d) whether this has adversely affected the chances of making available medicines at cheaper rates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) In March 2006, Government approved rehabilitation scheme for revival of HAL. The company is on revival path.

The rehabilitation plan for revival of IDPL was placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet has referred the revival of IDPL to Group of Ministers (GOM) for consideration at the first instance. GOM has since been constituted.

(c) During the first 6 months (April-September) of current year (2007-08) the production of HAL has increased to Rs. 50.38 crores as compared to Rs. 23.85 crores during the corresponding period last year.

During the period upto October 2007 (2007-08), the production of IDPL has increased to Rs. 24 crores as compared to Rs. 18 crores during 2006-07.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Installation of ATMs in Trains

939. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to allow banks to install Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) in selected trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ATMs that will be installed in one particular train considering the number of passengers travelling in the train; and

(d) the special security arrangements proposed to be made in trains passing through the terrorist/naxalite affected areas while installing such ATMs in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Any such proposal from a bank will be examined.

Transportation of Agriculture Products through Rail Network

940. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to set up at non-metro stations, the facilities for transportation of agriculture products using the rail network and also to facilitate their sale at the local level;

(b) if so, the details of the plan prepared by the Railways in this regard;

(c) the objectives of the said plan; and

(d) the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Expression of interest has been invited from interested entrepreneurs to seek essential information on the extent of their interest in using spare land at non-metropolitan stations for agri-retail logistics. At present, no plan has been finalized and no time frame can be stipulated.

Cancellation of flights From Calicut

941. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the prevailing severe situation at the Karipur Airport of Calicut in Kerala regarding the sudden cancellation and rescheduling of its international flights without any prior intimation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to regulate the situation;

(c) whether recently officials from Air India had visited Calicut to make on the spot study of the whole issue; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the visits and the remedial measures suggested and proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Over the last 6 months, all Air India flights from Calicut have operated except 2 flights which were cancelled in October, 2007. Further, due to operational constraints, 2 flights per week had been re-scheduled for a period of 3

months. However, effective Winter schedule, all flights have been reverted to the original schedule.

As far as Air India Express and erstwhile Indian Airlines are concerned, few re-schedulings occurred due to reasons such as bad weather etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, Executive Director - Southern India and Executive Director - Corporate Communication visited Calicut to assess the situation. To ensure on-time departure, it was decided to position an additional Air India Express aircraft as standby at Calicut until 10 November, 2007. Presently, an aircraft is on standby in Kochi and Mumbai, which can be sent to Calicut in case of prolonged delays. Senior officers are closely monitoring all incoming and outgoing flights from Calicut and are empowered to take corrective action in case of any emergency.

Linking of Iron Ore Mines in the country

942. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has signed a MOU with Indian Railways to link various iron ore mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the steel plants likely to be connected by rail in the country;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the project; and

(d) the expenditure to be shared by various agencies in the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed among the Ministry of Railways, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and the then State Government of Madhya Pradesh on 02.04.1988 for construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat-Jagdulpur new line project on cost sharing basis. The new line will connect Bailadila iron ore mines and ensure sustained iron ore supply to SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant. However, the work could not be taken up as SAIL did not deposit the cost of construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat (95 Kms)

segment. A revised MOU on this project has been finalized to be signed shortly among the Ministry of Railways, SAIL, NMDC and the State Government of Chhattisgarh.

(c) The revised cost of Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat-Jagdapur new line project is Rs. 968.60 crore (at 2004-05 price level).

(d) The share in the updated cost of Rs. 968.60 crore (at 2004-05 price level) has been assessed to be Rs. 445.60 crore for SAIL, Rs. 70.70 crore for NMDC, Rs. 76.30 crore for the State Government of Chhattisgarh and Rs. 376 crore for the Railways.

[Translation]

**Handing over Oil Wells back to Families after
Extracting Oil and Gas**

943. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has handed over oil wells back to the such families from whom such wells had been acquired, after extracting oil and gas therefrom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) ONGC acquires land for its exploration activities as per the procedures laid down in the Land Acquisition Act. In case, there is no discovery, the site is surrendered back to the land owner. On exploration, if it is found that the area bears oil & gas, the site is acquired on permanent basis by compensating the land owner as per the rates fixed by the respective State Governments.

**Projects/Proposals from Gujarat Finance and
Development Corporation**

944. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation have received some projects/proposals from the Gujarat Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and the Gujarat Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects/proposals which have been approved by the Union Government and financial assistance allocated and released thereunder; and

(d) the time by when the remaining projects/proposals of the State are likely to be approved and the reasons for delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Details of project proposals received by National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) and National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) from its SCAs in Gujarat during the last three years are as under:

NSFDC

Year	No. of Proposals		Amount (Rs. in Crore)	
	Received	Sanctioned	Sanctioned	Released
2004-05	8	8	8.96	0.13
2005-06	5	5	4.96	12.54
2006-07	8	7	8.19	7.80

One proposal received in 2006-07 was closed due to non-receipt of required clarification from GSCDC.

NSTFDC

During 2004-05 and 2005-06 no proposal was received. During 2006-07 based on the proposal of GTDC,

an amount of Rs. 14.35 crore was allocated and the same amount was released.

NMDFC

NMDFC makes State wise allocations at the beginning of the financial year. The SCAs draw funds against the allocation, as per preparedness to utilise the funds. Allocations made by NMDFC and funds released to GMDFC during the last three-years are as under:

Year	Funds (Rs. in crore)	
	Allocated	Released
2004-05	9.25	1.00
2005-06	7.25	Nil
2006-07	4.25	2.95

Further release of funds would be considered as per drawal proposals of the SCA.

[English]

Merchant Airports

945. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up merchant airports all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cities identified to set up merchant airports in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the time-frame fixed for implementation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A new policy for Greenfield Airports is under formulation and discussion.

Setting up of Aviation University

946. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab has decided to set up aviation university;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has been approached for help in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to encourage other States to open such universities to meet the requirements of the fast growing aviation sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No proposal from Government of Punjab has been received for setting up of Aviation University.

(d) and (e) Necessary technical inputs for setting up of Aviation University regarding the courses and curriculum etc., would be provided by the Ministry of Civil Aviation through Directorate General of Civil Aviation as and when required.

Quality of Food in Trains/Stations

947. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of food served in trains and at railway stations has been deteriorating day-by-day;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during 2006-07, till date, zone-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Railways on such complaints, zone-wise;

(d) whether any surprise checks are being conducted by any monitoring authority to check the quality of food items;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the culprits; and

(f) the steps taken to improve the quality of food served in trains and at railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railways provide hygienic and quality food to the passengers at stations and in trains. Continuous efforts are made to improve

the quality of catering services in Railways. Catering services of Indian Railways are being transferred to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a wholly owned company of Indian Railways, in a phased manner with a view to upgrade and professionalize the same. Major catering services of Indian Railways have already been transferred to IRCTC.

(b) and (c) Number of complaints received and action taken by IRCTC thereon during 2006-07 and upto September, 2007 is indicated in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the officials of zonal railways and IRCTC. During the period from April 2007 to September 2007, 11925 inspections have been conducted by IRCTC and in 656 cases, fines have been imposed on the licensees where lapses were found during the course of inspections.

(f) Catering services of Indian Railways receive constant attention of IRCTC and zonal railways. Regular monitoring of catering services is done by railways and IRCTC officials. IRCTC have engaged independent food audit agencies to ensure quality of food being supplied to the passengers of Indian Railways. In addition, dedicated quality inspectors have also been engaged for constant monitoring of quality of food.

Statement

Number of Complaints received by IRCTC and Action Taken Thereon During 2006-07 and Up to September 2007.

Railways	No. of complaints	Action taken
1	2	3
Central	106	41-warned, 47-fines imposed, 8-advised suitably, 10-not substantiated
North Western	12	2-warned, 7-fines imposed, 3-advised suitably
Western	302	157-warned, 41-fines imposed, 4-contract terminated, 67-advised suitably, 33-not substantiated

1	2	3
West Central	22	14-warned, 5-fines imposed, 2-advised suitably, 1-not substantiated
South Eastern	64	33-warned, 12-fines imposed, 1-contract terminated, 17-advised suitably, 1-not substantiated
South Eastern Central	18	16-warned, 1-fines imposed, 1-advised suitably
Eastern	249	8-pending, 111-warned, 14-fines imposed, 1-contract terminated, 9-advised suitably, 25-not substantiated
East Central	42	15-warned, 20-fines imposed, 5-advised suitably, 2-not substantiated
East Coast	45	18-warned, 8-fines imposed, 10 advised suitably, 9 not substantiated
North Frontier	10	2-warned, 4-fines imposed, 4-advised suitably
North Eastern	21	3-warned, 12-fines imposed, 1-contract terminated, 5 advised suitably
Northern	615	119 warned, 114 fines imposed, 30-contract terminated, 249-advised suitably, 23-not substantiated
North Central	42	11-warned, 9-fines imposed, 10-advised suitably, 12-not substantiated

1	2	3
South Central	491	97-warned, 128-fines imposed, 261-advised suitably, 3-not substantiated, 2-pending
Southern	485	167-warned, 22-fines imposed, 1-contract terminated, 288-advised suitably, 7-not substantiated
South Western	114	25-warned, 3-fines imposed, 94-advised suitably, 2-not substantiated.

Purchase of Aircrafts

948. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to purchase more aircraft after the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to issue IPOs of the Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the merger has the profitability of both the Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) into which Indian Airlines and Air India have been merged, has informed that there is need for additional aircraft after the delivery of the aircraft currently on order is completed by 2011. This is on account of growth in domestic and international traffic, addition of capacity by foreign and Indian private carriers and additional services through synergy benefits from merger. An in-house Joint Working Group has been constituted by NACIL to prepare

a concept paper on strategic network and capacity deployment plan.

(c) No such decision has been taken so far for launching the IPOs of the Airlines.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The merger of the two airlines will provide the following benefits:

(i) Create the largest airline in India, comparable in size to the other competitor airlines in Asia; (ii) Provide an Integrated international and domestic footprint, which will significantly enhance customer proposition and allow easy entry into a global airline alliance; (iii) Enable optimal utilization of existing resources through improvement in load factors and yields on commonly serviced routes as well as deployment of 'freed up' aircraft capacity on alternate routes; (iv) Provide an opportunity to fully leverage assets, capabilities and infrastructure; (v) Provide an opportunity to leverage skilled and experienced manpower available with both the Transferor Companies to the optimum potential; (vi) Provide a large and growth oriented company for the people in larger public interest; (vii) Provide maximum flexibility to achieve financial and capital restructuring through revaluation of assets; (viii) Provide an increased thrust and focus on airline support Businesses. It is estimated that this decision would result in net benefit of about Rs. 600 crores during the first three years of the merger.

[Translation]

Electrocution of Running Train Near Betul (MP)

949. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of electrocution of bogies of train had occurred due to falling of a broken electricity wire on a running train near Betul (MP) railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people injured and killed in the accident;

(d) whether an inquiry has been conducted to ascertain the causes of this incident;

(e) if so, the outcome of the enquiry conducted; and

(f) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bogies were not electrocuted.

(c) One person who was not a train passenger, identified as Shri Shriram Warkhade, of Seetalzhari village was electrocuted at a location No. 834/9 when the Andhra Pradesh Express was passing the location No. 834/9.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The enquiry report concluded that the said victim and come in contact with railway traction line at a location No. 834/9 unauthorisedly, leading to the incidence of breakage of overhead electrical equipment on to the running train.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

**Powers and Functions of Chief
Commissioner for PWD**

950. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI MOHAN JENA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the powers and functions of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as provided in the Act;

(b) the details of the Commissioners appointed and presently functional, State-wise;

(c) the present status of the process of constituting and functioning of State Coordination Committee and State Executive Committee, State-wise;

(d) the details of the meeting held and the decision taken by these committees;

(e) the details of complaints received by the Commissioners and the present status of its disposal; and

(f) the funds allocated and spent for the purpose of bringing awareness about the facilities available to the disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) As per Sections 58 & 59 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities is to (i) Coordinate the work of the commissioners (ii) Monitor utilization of funds disbursed by the Central Government (iii) Take steps to safeguard the rights and facilities made available to Persons with disabilities (iv) Look into complaints relating to deprivation of rights of Persons with disabilities, non-implementation of laws, rules, bye-laws, regulations, executive orders, guidelines or instructions for welfare and protection of their rights and take up with the concerned authorities. The Chief Commissioner can take action on his own motion or on the application of an aggrieved person.

To perform the above functions, the Chief Commissioner has been given certain powers of Civil Court namely (i) summoning and enforcing the attendance of witness (ii) requiring the discovery and production of any document (iii) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office (iv) receiving evidence on affidavits and (v) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

(b) All the State Governments/UT Administrations have appointed Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities, who are functioning.

(c) All the State Governments have constituted State Coordination Committees and State Executive Committees.

(d) As these are Committees at the State level the records of these meetings are not maintained by the Central Government.

(e) The Complaints received by the State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities are handled by them independently, being competent authorities under the Act and are not centrally monitored.

(f) For Persons with Disabilities various Appropriate Governments i.e. Ministries of Central Government, the State Governments, Central/State undertakings, local authorities and other appropriate authorities formulate

schemes, which include awareness generation schemes. No separate details of funds allocated and spent for the purpose of bringing awareness, however, are centrally maintained.

Pricing of Gas from Auctioned Acreages

951. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by foreign Minister has been set up to examine a Secretary panel's recommendations on pricing of gas from auctioned acreages;

(b) if so, to what extent it has agreed to the recommendations made by the Secretary-panel; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Government constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) headed by Minister of External Affairs to consider and decide issues of gas pricing and commercial utilization of gas under NELP. EGoM considered the report submitted by the Cabinet Secretary and the report of the Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

EGoM has decided the issue of pricing of gas under NELP.

(c) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Cabinet Secretary, Government has strengthened the Management Committee mechanism under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC). Further, in addition to the regular audit mechanism under the PSCs, CAG has been requested to carry out special audit of some blocks having high stakes for the Government in the form of royalty, profit petroleum, etc.

Availability of Natural Gas from Krishna-Godavari Basin

952. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings and availability of natural gas for commercial sale and purchase from Krishna-Godavari basin;

(b) whether the government has received a proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to speed up

approval of a local pipeline network company and extend same concessions to Krishna-Godavari Gas Network Private Ltd. (KGGNL) as are being enjoyed by GAIL; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Total gas production in the KG Basin was approximately 6.47 MMSCMD during 2006-07. 40 MMSCMD of gas production is expected to commence from KG Basin D-6 block from July, 2008, which is projected to increase to 80 MMSCMD in 2011-12.

(b) and (c) Government had received a proposal from Krishna Godavari Gas Network Limited (KGGNL) for grant of authorization for laying, building and operating common carrier natural gas pipelines in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The policy adopted by MOP & NG is that authorization for laying, building and operating common carrier natural gas pipelines is granted only on the basis of a gas sourcing tie-up with a producer, whose production profile is duly certified. KGGNL has informed that its gas pipelines network would be based on offshore fields of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) in the KG Basin. DGH has informed that GSPC has two discoveries in the KG basin, namely, KG-8 & KG-17. As the production profile of these fields has not been certified by DGH, the authorization to KGGNL could not be granted. The Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board has now been constituted and they are now authorized in this regard.

[Translation]

Closed Gas Outlets

953. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil and gas outlets of various companies are lying closed in the various parts of the country due to the orders issued by the Supreme Court and other subordinate courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent by the oil companies to provide infrastructural facilities at the said outlets;

(d) the losses being suffered by the Government oil companies due to the closure of the said outlets each month;

(e) the policy formulated by the Government to reopen these outlets in near future; and

(f) the time by when these outlets are likely to be re-opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The number of retail outlets of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) lying closed and total investment made thereon are as under:

OMC	Number of ROs lying closed	Investment made (Rs. in lakhs)
IOC	11	302.7
HPC	3	119.0
BPC	7	283.7

OMCs have reported that there is no LPG distributorship lying closed, as whenever any distributorship is terminated, customers of the terminated distributorships are immediately shifted to the nearby existing distributorship. The losses suffered by OMCs are in the nature of not getting returns on the investments made by them.

(e) and (f) These retail outlets are lying closed due to reasons like eviction from land due to refusal of the landowner to extend the lease in favour of OMCs, pending resitment, etc. The endeavour of OMCs is to re-open these closed outlets at the earliest while following the due legal course.

Proposals for Construction of Airports

954. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the major cities in the country have been connected with the air services;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether several political organisations and public representatives have requested to the Union Government to construct airports in the States during the last three years, till date;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, scheduled air services are available to/from 81 airports in the country. Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

(c) to (e) Requests are received from political organisations, public representatives, State Governments etc. from time to time for construction of airports. Government has given 'in-principle' approval for international airports at MOPA (Goa) and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra). New green field airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore are expected to become operational by March, 2008. Some more greenfield airports have been proposed by the concerned State Governments at Jewar near Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Kannur (Kerala), Pakyong (Sikkim), Chietu near Kohima (Nagaland), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Chakan (Rajguru Nagar) near Pune (Maharashtra).

[English]

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

955. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an arrangement has been arrived at between India and Pakistan regarding the sharing of gas from the proposed Indo-Iran gas pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which the pipeline project will commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline. 60 MMSCMD of gas is proposed to be supplied in Phase-I, to be shared equally between India and Pakistan. Various important issues are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(c) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests as also to avoid any future problems in the successful operation of the project. Implementation of the project can commence only after satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion.

Expansion and Modernisation of Plants and Mines by SAIL

956. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has any plan to expand and modernize its different plants and mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to modernize Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and to convert it into a four MTPA facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount likely to be invested; and

(e) the time by which the modernization/expansion work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) proposes to modernize and expand capacity of its plants and mines. The Expansion Plan of SAIL for its steel plants targets to

increase production of hot metal from the present level of 14.6 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to about 26 million tonnes per annum by the year 2010. Apart from augmenting the production capacity at the plants, the plan also envisages removal of technological obsolescence, reduction in energy consumption, improvement in product mix, upgradation of pollution control measures and augmentation of infrastructure facilities in all the plants to support higher production. To meet the enhanced requirement arising from the expansion plans of the steel plants, SAIL has decided to modernize and expand its existing mines at Kiriburu, Meghahataburu, Gua, Bolani and Barsua and develop new mines at Rowghat, Chiria, Taldih and Thakurani.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) proposes to expand its capacity to achieve hot metal production of 4.5 million tonnes per annum at an indicative cost of Rs. 7668 Crore. The expansion work of RSP is likely to commence by June' 2008.

Committee on Infrastructure

957. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Infrastructure headed by Prime Minister has approved the draft guidelines on Greenfield Airport Policy and the same have been sent for Cabinet's approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Cabinet is likely to give its clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Laying of New Railway Line through Public-Private Partnership

958. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to lay some new railways lines through private partnership in the country, particularly in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any private players have come forward to participate in the construction of new lines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways, through Rail Vikas Nigram Limited (RVNL), have decided to lay the following new lines with private participation:

- (1) Haridaspur - Paradip New Railway Line
- (2) Obulavaripalle - Krishnapatnam New Railway Line

However, there is no proposal for new railway line project either in Maharashtra or Uttar Pradesh with private partnership at present.

(c) and (d) The following private parties have either participated or have agreed in-principle to participate, in the some of the new railway line projects:

Project	Private Parties
Haridaspur-Paradip New Railway Line	(i) Essel Mining & Industries Limited. (ii) Rungta Mines Limited. (iii) Jindal Steel & Power Limited. (iv) POSCO India Private Limited. (v) MSPL Limited.
Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam New Railway Line	(i) Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited (ii) Bramhani Industries Limited.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid—Shri A.R. Antulay.

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (2) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7232/07]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (1) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.
- (2) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7233/07]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2005-06.
(ii) A copy of Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2005-06, together with Audi Report thereon.
(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2005-06.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7234/07]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2005-06, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7235/07]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7236/07]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Second Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 694(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th November, 2007 under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7237/07]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. 2006/E&R/700/1/Pt. (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September 2007, constituting the new Division at Salem on Southern Railway with effect from the 1st November, 2007, issued under Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7238/07]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 559(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2007, making certain amendments in the scheduled to the Oil fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 regarding determination of well head price issued under sub-section (4) of section 6A of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7239/07]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

9th Report

[*English*]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges.

12.02½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

57th Report

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to present the Fifty-Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2007-2008) on "Under valuation due to adoption of lower mutually agreed price."

12.03 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

Statement

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Statements (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Final Action Taken Statements of the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in Chapter-I of the Sixth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Working of Integrated Tribal Development Projects in Rajasthan."
- (2) Final Action Taken Statements of the Government on the recommendations/ observation contained in Chapter-I of the Sixteenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Fair employment policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in public and private sector—A review of position globalisation and other reform measures."

12.03½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN
DEVELOPMENT**

25th to 27th Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Bobbili): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2007-2008):

- (1) Twenty-Fifth Report of the Committee on "Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme";
- (2) Twenty-Sixth Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Urban Development; and

- (3) Twenty-Seventh Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Twenty-First Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

MR. SPEAKER: Henceforth the hon. Member will speak from her seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: In future, you please speak from your seat.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: Thank you, Sir.

12.04 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER
RESOURCES**

8th Report

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I beg to present the Eighth 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 Seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Status of Implementation of the Recommendations
Contained in the 16th, 23rd and 24th Reports of
Standing Committee on Social Justice and
Empowerment Pertaining to the Ministry of Social
Justice and Employment**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to make this statement on the status of implementation

of recommendations contained in 16th, 23rd and 24th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the Direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II, dated September 1, 2004.

The 16th Report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment relates to Demands for Grants of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2006-07. The Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 16.5.2006 and laid in the Rajya Sabha on the same day. The report contains 23 recommendations. Action Taken Note on the recommendations contained in the 16th Report was sent to the Committee on 17.11.2006. The Action Taken Note has now been updated and revised.

The 23rd Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment relates to Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 16th Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2006-07. The Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 28.4.2007 and laid in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 2007. The Report contains nine recommendations. Action Taken Note on recommendations/observations contained in the 23rd Report was sent to the Committee on 13th August, 2007.

The 24th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment relates to examination of the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2007-08. The Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 28.4.2007 and laid in Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 2007. The report contains 19 recommendations. The Ministry has furnished a detailed Action Taken Note on these recommendations to the Committee on 13.8.2007.

The status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee in their 16th, 23rd and 24th Reports is indicated in the Annexures I, II and III to my statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7240/07]

12.06¹/₂ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Supervisory Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That in pursuance of clause (f) of sub-section (2) of section 7 read with sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two women members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Supervisory Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That in pursuance of clause (f) of sub-section (2) of section 7 read with sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the members of the Speaker may direct, two women members from amongst themselves to serve as member of the Central Supervisory Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

The Motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take the Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, when will the 'Zero Hour' be taken? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As everybody knows, it is taken up after Calling Attention.

12.07 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of High Cost of Health Services and Need to Evolve Laws to Regulate Private Nursing Homes*

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of high cost of health services and need to evolve laws to regulate the private nursing homes."

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you may lay your statement on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, private investment in the Health Sector is made primarily on market considerations except the investment made by the charitable and philanthropic institutions/organizations. Despite this, the private sector plays an important role in providing basic health care services in the country.

Notwithstanding the above, under the mandate of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA Government, Health Care is one of the 7 Thrust Areas, wherein it is proposed to increase the expenditure in health sector from 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP over the next five years. This is being implemented through a basket of strategies:

1. **Effective Primary Health Care through NRHM:** National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched from April 2005 throughout the country with special focus on 18 States which include 8 Empowered Action Group States (Bihar, Jharkhand, M.P. Chhattisgarh, U.P., Uttaranchal, Orissa and Rajasthan), 8 North East States (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) Himachal Pradesh and

Jammu and Kashmir. The main objective of NRHM is to provide assessable, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of the population. Under the strategy of NRHM, the gaps in the existing scenario of rural health care are to be addressed by creating of a cadre of community level functionaries called Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) to assist the Anganwadi Worker and ANM at village to make the increased health services accessible to the rural people of the country.

2. **Tertiary care through PMSSY:** Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) has been approved in March 2006 with the objective of correcting the imbalances in viability of affordable/reliable tertiary level healthcare in the country in general and to augment facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States. The PMSSY envisages:
 - (i) Setting up 6 AIIMS like institutions one each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur), Chhattisgarh (Raipur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh) at an estimated cost of Rs. 332 Crores per institution. Each institution will have a 850-bedded hospital intended to provide health care facilities in 39 specialty/super-specialty disciplines. Medical College will have 100 UG intake besides facilities for imparting PG/doctoral courses in various disciplines.
 - (ii) Upgradation of 13 existing medical institutions with an outlay of Rs. 120 Crores per institution, of which Rs. 100 Crores would be borne by the Central Government and the remaining Rs. 20 crores by the respective State Governments.
3. **Financial Assistance under RAN:** My Ministry is also operating a scheme called Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi under which financial assistance is provided to the patients living below poverty

*Laid on the table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 7241/2007).

line who are suffering from major life threatening diseases to enable them to receive proper medical treatment at government hospitals. Central Government also provides grant in aid to states/UTs to set up similar state level illness Funds and except for a few states, all other have set up such funds and are providing financial assistance to below poverty line patients for taking treatment in respective state government hospitals.

4. Setting up of Vaccine and Medi-Park: A decision has recently been taken to set up a medi-park for production of health care equipments/devices. In addition, a vaccine park will also be set up adjacent to the medi-park for production of vaccines which are currently required for running our programmes. This will also include many vaccines which are currently being imported from other countries at high cost. These facilities will be set up in about 200 acres of land which is available at Chengalpet.

It is expected that the cost of manufacturing of these vaccines at the vaccine park and medical equipments at the medi-park will be considerably lower than the current cost which we are incurring in importing these vaccines and equipments/devices. These will have definite contributions towards reducing the cost of health services.

In so far as a need for enactment of a Legislation to regulate the Private Nursing Homes is concerned, the Central Government have already introduced the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2007, in the Lok Sabha on 30.8.2007. The Bill is presently being examined by the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare and after enactment, this legislation will initially apply to four states of Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Mizoram as also to all Union Territories. It is hoped that after the Bill gets enacted, all remaining States will adopt the same. Some States already have their own laws for regulatory clinical establishments.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I do not know where to begin.

MR. SPEAKER: In this House!

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: In this House and also on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Precisely.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister has made a statement. I have read the statement most carefully. It is very well written and well drafted, but I am constrained to say whatever he may like, whatever epithets he may choose, it is either a school-boy essay or a lame-duck statement. Whatever epithets he likes, I am ready to ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you insult school boys?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I did not follow it ...*(Interruptions)* It is a far more indictment ...*(Interruptions)* I accept your statement ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why should you refer to the school boys *vis-a-vis* his statement?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Let me not go into it. Let me come to the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not read the statement as yet.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: But lame-duck statement is an epithet which we can still use for the statement.

I begin by asking questions on two points. Is the hon. Minister aware of the poverty of India, the capability of the people, their resourcefulness to receive the treatment? Is he aware of what is the actual allocation that has been made for health as a percentage of GDP? Or, is he aware that the Government he represents has violated the promise made in the Common Minimum Programme? After all, he is the Health Minister of the country and he must know the health of the country.

Just to tell about the poverty of the people of this country, let me quote a Government Report. It is not the report of the Left or of the BJP or any other party. It says:

"6.4 per cent of the people daily spend Rs. 8.9; 15.4 cent of the people spend Rs. 11.6 per day per head; 19 per cent people spent Rs. 14.6 per day; and 33 per cent of people spend less than Rs. 20."

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

It is a statement of a Committee appointed by the Ministry of Labour on the unorganised labour.

What is the health of the nation? The per-capita food intake has declined. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): What is the poverty status in the State of West Bengal? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, is this the way? ...*(Interruptions)* Let him speak. I yield to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhury, please cooperate with the Chair. We already have had enough commotion in this House. Let us not add to it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Can the hon. Members of the House not even have the patience to listen about India? This is the Indian Parliament, and it is not the West Bengal Assembly.

Anyway, the per-capita food intake has declined to 64 grams per head per day, and in terms of calories it is 250 calories. There has been rise in the absolute and relative number having nutritional deficit. Hon. Health Minister, this is the status of health in India.

India is home to 50 per cent of the hungry people of the world; 50 per cent of Indian children under the age of five years are suffering from malnutrition or are undernourished; and 1.2 million people ...*

MR. SPEAKER: No, let these comments not be made please. This should be deleted.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, this is not an unparliamentary word. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not necessary. The hon. Minister has to do his job, and you are doing your job. Kindly come to the subject before us.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, he is a very good friend, but he would not acknowledge this in public.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Hon. Minister, I respect you for your intolerance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Personal comments need not be made here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Anyway, 1.2 million people die every year due to malnutrition; 118 million people do not have drinking water at home; and diarrhea claims lakhs of lives in this country. This is the public health of this country.

What is this Government spending on public health? The UPA had made a commitment before elections that they will be spending between 2 per cent and 3 per cent of the GDP on health. This was the commitment of this Government. ...*(Interruptions)* I wish Prof. Malhotra would listen to me as it will be useful for him in the elections. The World Health Organisation (WHO) suggested 7.5 per cent of the GDP. What is this Government spending? Why should I not be intolerant of the hon. Minister of Health? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, just a minute. Your Calling Attention is on the situation arising out of high cost of health services and need to evolve laws to regulate the private nursing homes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am coming to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: This Government is spending 1.38 per cent of the GDP. Is it not shameful? Is it not unfortunate? ...*(Interruptions)* Is it consistent with the spirit of the commitment that the Government has made to improve the health situation in this country? This is the reason for privatization.

We are talking about privatization: What is the reason for it? India is sixth in the world in terms of privatization. How poor is the country, and how intense is the privatization of health in India! Therefore, the Government has refused to increase the spending on health and deteriorating health condition in India in the background of stagnating poverty.

I would like to give one more statistic as to how the health standard is declining. The percentage of Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres has declined if we calculate its number based on the 2001 census on population and the 2004 data on infrastructure.

What is the cause for high cost of health services? I am coming to this point only. What is the condition of hospitals? The condition of the hospitals is that there are no doctors; if there are doctors, there are no medicines; if there are doctors and medicines, then there are no beds; and if there are beds, then three persons are sleeping on the same bed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate on the Health Ministry. Your specific issue is how to regulate the private nursing homes

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yesterday, I said that under the National Rural Health Mission, we could have half-an-hour discussion on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, we shall have half-an-hour discussion on that, if the hon. Members want.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: This is the condition. The public health system has almost collapsed in this country. Secondly, health insurance premium has been trebled. In this background, there is a mushrooming growth of private nursing homes in the country. How it is so? Most of the State Governments give land on a subsidized rate for the construction of a private nursing home/hospital, and the condition is that they must treat some poor patients at subsidized rates. That is the pre-condition. In Mumbai also, I know Mr. Murlu Deora that it is the case and that a poor man like you should get subsidized treatment, I know that. That point is that the Government gives the land at a subsidized rate. They take the land at a subsidized rate, they take the money from the banks, and that is how the private nursing homes/hospital are set up.

How do they charge? There are two kinds of costs that are charged. If you are insured, they will charge you a higher cost; they will claim a higher charge, if you are insured. If you are not insured, they will charge you a lower rate. How are they functioning? Recently, a dead body was operated upon and the patient's relative was asked to pay the money. What a shame! Every now and then, dead bodies are held up by the private nursing homes; if they do not get the payment, they would not

hand over the dead bodies to the relatives. After an accident, if a patient requiring emergency treatment goes to a private nursing home, the first thing they ask is, "Where is the money? Who will pay the money? Tell us the name first." Ultimately, they are not admitted. This is a reckless, ruthless exploitation by private nursing homes that are mushrooming in India because of the failure of the public health system in the country and because of the failure of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Health is also a State subject.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is concurrent subject also. Why is mushrooming of private nursing homes taking place? It is because the public health system has declined and it is because the Government, in the Budget, has allocated a very small amount. That is my contention.

MR. SPEAKER: Now come to your questions, please.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am coming to the questions. I am just giving the price rise and do not be horrified, Sir. You are a senior person and do not be horrified at the list that I am submitting. The decontrolled drug prices rose ten times. The Minister's statement does not mention it at all. Ten times! I will give you a few examples; Ptomaine tablets, price increase was to the extent of 321 per cent; Paraxine tablets, price increase was to the extent of 218 per cent; Rosaline capsules, price increase was to the extent of 64 per cent; Vivaron tablets, the price increase was to the extent of 146 per cent, and Betaloc tablets, the price increase was to the extent of 148 per cent.

This is the monitoring which the Health Ministry is doing. He is too much busy with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, I know.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. Do not make personal accusations. Why is it being done?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): AIIMS does not come under him.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The hon. Minister is saying that AIIMS does not come under the Health Ministry. What ignorance!

MR. SPEAKER: You know very well that the price of drugs is dealt with by the Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry. You should have asked him.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, that is not issue. The Health Minister has the moral right to look after it. This is the price. Secondly, Sir health is a subject which is under him. I will now coming to the statistics of the Government of India.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already taken 15 minutes.

SHRI GURDAS DASGUPTA: The infant mortality rate, India's place is 56, next to Bangladesh and below Pakistan.

MR. SPEAKER: The whole country has to consider this and not the Government alone.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: In regard to immunization coverage, Bangladesh is ahead of us, and we are below Pakistan. This is the state of health. ...*(Interruptions)* You can have a look at it.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not get diverted. You have one more minute to conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Too intolerant is the Chief Whip of the ruling party.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Yes, if you are referring to ten year old information.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is taken from the 'Economic Times' of 2007.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question to the Minister.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: You will find the truth if you look at West Bengal in terms of health, in terms of poverty.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except questions by Shri Dasgupta, if any. Mr. Chowdhury, please cooperate.

*(Interruptions) ...**

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Chowdhury is suffering from Bengal Syndrome, I appreciate.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Health is not solely the Union Subject. It is a Concurrent Subject.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair, Mr. Chowdhury.

[English]

What is happening?

[Translation]

No rule, no system, no procedure, no discipline, no respect for the Chair, and no respect for the House and the people who have sent you here! We are here because we are elected by the people. I hope they will look at us and decide in the next election.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even about us ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even the voters feel if one say so ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I want that, courage is required for that. It should have some effect, that is why the TV channel is there.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is for all the people ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The TV Channel is a testimony to your behaviour here.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Enough, Shri Dasgupta, put your questions now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the hon. Minister agree to the fact that there is mushroom growth of high-cost private nursing homes with low standards sucking the blood of patients which is resulting in deterioration and decline of standards of treatment? If he agrees with that, will he be ready to talk about stringent measures including introducing a Bill and having it passed as early as possible? Will the hon. Minister agree to monitor the implementation of the law which he intends to bring? In view of the serious complaints that I have made, will the Minister agree to set up a Parliamentary Committee to look into the conditions and functioning of private hospitals in the country everywhere including Bengal?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: You yourself are always treated in private hospitals and nursing homes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Ignorance is virtue!

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything. Only the hon. Minister's reply will be recorded now.

...(*Interruptions*)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to reply. Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta, a very senior leader of the House, has raised this important issue of how the Government intends to regulate the high cost of the private sector health care. I wish he had given me more inputs on how that could be done. He had gone through a spectrum of issues and statistics about how the Government is lacking.

Sir, I had inherited the system just three and a half years ago. Health is in the social sector, not the economic sector. My Ministry is a social Ministry. Infant mortality rate in the country today is 58 per thousand live births. To bring that number down by one point from 58 to 57, it takes more than ten lakh to twenty lakh people working for it now. That is how this sector works. I cannot just transform this overnight by implementing some programmes and changing priorities. When the UPA Government took over three and a half years ago, we have taken a commitment to increase the ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Nobody is allowed to put questions. Somebody who has written in advance asking for permission to raise questions is not given opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not obliged to do that. I have announced it in the Leaders' meeting.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is a rule. It is not being applied.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not obliged to tell you, but there is no such rule.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The rule is there.

MR. SPEAKER: You read the rule first.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: When our Government took over three and a half years ago, we had committed very blatantly in the Common Minimum Programme that we would increase the public spending in health expenditure from a minimum of 0.9 per cent, when we took over, to a minimum of two to three per cent in the

next five years. As a part of the commitment of the Government of India, we are really keeping it up this. When I took over as the Health Minister three and a half years ago, my budget was approximately, Rs. 6,400 crore or Rs. 6,500 crore. In three years, my Prime Minister has increased it to nearly Rs. 15,800 crore from Rs. 6,500 crore, which has not happened anywhere in the post-Independence history. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. This is not right. What is happening? I won't allow. Not a single word will be recorded except the reply of the hon. Minister.

(*Interruptions*) ...*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: That is the commitment and the GDP is increasing every year. Public spending does not mean only the Central Government. It includes the State Governments also. It is both – the Central Government and the State Governments – put together. The State Government, in the 1990s, the total spending on the health sector from the budget is 7.5 per cent. In the early 2000, it came down to 5.5 per cent; today, in some States, it is nearly 2.5 per cent of the total budget. We are, through the Planning Commission and through all sources of measures, we are asking the State Governments to increase the contribution in the form of spending on the health sector. Moreover, health is a State subject and definitely they have to increase the spending. We are doing on our part.

We have a National Rural Health Mission, which is a flagship programme, and Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, I do not know whether you have gone through your constituency; your Government in West Bengal is using a lot of money from the Central resources and from the National Rural Health Mission. Not only West Bengal, but all the States, from Uttar Pradesh to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, who are receiving hundreds of thousands of crores of rupees for the upliftment and upgradation of all the Sub-Centres, all the Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, District Headquarters Hospitals, about which I stated yesterday, where mobile medical units would be put up in almost all the districts. There has been simply resurgence of healthcare activities. Yesterday, I have stated that in the next two to three years. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded except the reply of the hon. Minister. Please do not do this.

(*Interruptions*) ...*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: All the survey has been done. The survey about which Shri Dasgupta has mentioned had been done three years ago. Some surveys had been done between 2001 and 2005. After that, just because these surveys had been done in the previous period, that is the reason why precisely we have brought in National Rural Health Mission, which has been appreciated so much, not only nationally but also internationally. The World Health Organisation has appreciated us; the U.N. bodies have been appreciating us on our efforts on immunization coverage, increase in institutional deliveries, a *Janani Suraksha Yojana* of the Government of India scheme. In 2005-06, under the *Janani Suraksha Yojana*, there is an increase in the institutional deliveries. We have conducted nearly six lakh deliveries. In just one year, deliveries conducted under this scheme have gone up to nearly 28 lakh from six lakh. I am giving one of the reasons as to how there is a decline in the maternal mortality, which is happening.

We are in the social sector. I just cannot overnight vanish all those things just like that. I have brought a Bill in the last Session of Parliament—the Clinical Establishment Act. We have introduced it and it is in the Standing Committee right now. All the clinics, both private and public, will be registered and regulated. In fact, not only the clinics but even the diagnostic facilities in the country would be regulated. They will be given Indian Public Standards so that within two to three years, they have to fulfill all these standards and see that these facilities are given to them—whether it is a one-bed or 5,000-bed hospital, whether it is a Government or public or private hospital. After that we will accredit them about the facilities they have. These are some of the things to be regulated to have more quality and increase in the standard.

Then, about the *Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna*, upgradation of AIIMS-like institution, we are working on it and the work is going to start in December this year. A surge of activities are happening on these fronts also.

The problems today in India in the health sector is that we have approximately the lowest cost of treatment in the entire world. But we will want to lower the cost of treatment to take care of the problem of the weaker sections of the people, of the *am aadmi*. Nearly 90 per cent of diagnostic equipment and devices are imported. That is the problem we are having. That is precisely the reason why we are trying to start Medical Parks and

Vaccine Parks. As a pilot project, we have started the first Park. For the medical devices, medical diagnostic and other equipments manufactured here, the main condition is that 80 per cent of the manufactured equipment should be used in India so that the cost would further come down and it would be beneficial to the patients.

We are very conscious of the fact that there has been an increase of private sector. Unfortunately I inherited a system which had nearly 80 per cent in the private sector and 20 per cent in the public sector. I just cannot transform it overnight. We are trying to do our best through the National Rural Health Mission and through other similar activities of empowering, increasing and expanding the health facilities of India.

On health insurance, our Prime Minister has taken three presentations; definitely we are bringing in health insurance; different Departments are bringing it in the health sector – Labour Department, Health Department, etc. All are trying to bring in some innovative schemes. But earlier, health insurance scheme did not take off much. That is why, we are trying to have cash-less transaction so that there is no problem of reimbursement and all that. I am sure, when all these are brought into, it will be all right.

As far as the private sector is concerned, in every meeting where I go, whether it is CII or ASSOCHAM or FICCI or any other body, when I meet them, I tell them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. Hon. Members, please do not disturb the House. Please go and tell him. What is this going on?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I tell them in public in any forum, in any Conference, that the Government is aware of the fact and we will, at no point of time, tolerate and we will increase it in the private sector for the patients. We have been consciously trying to do these things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

MR. SPEAKER: He is answering your questions.

*Not recorded.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I am trying to give you an answer. If you are not interested, what can I do? You are a senior person. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Minister is delivering a lecture. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: It is not a lecture; these are the activities that we are already doing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, I will close the discussion. I will close the discussion, if you interrupt him; if you are not prepared to listen to him, I will ask him to sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I had brought forward the Bill; the Clinical Establishment Bill was brought forward. I had been telling them.

Sir, he wanted what the Government is doing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill is before the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee can make recommendations.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded. Do not record anythings.

*(Interruptions) ...**

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, he asked me what the Government is doing and I am trying to tell him what the Government is doing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, you do not want to listen to him further! Either you should listen to him or you should not listen to him. Why should the time of the House be wasted?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: On the price of drugs also, the Government definitely is taking action. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You want the Minister to respond only to suit your whims.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, if this is the case, how can I reply? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, please take your seats. Do not record anything.

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, my colleague, Shri Paswan, the hon. Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers has been very conscious of the fact that the prices of drugs should not increase; and then there has been a lot of policies. They are going through the National Pharmaceutical Policy, where we are having a discussion and the Group of Ministers have been put into that. All these spectrum of activities are taking place consciously and definitely we are aware of the fact; we will take all steps necessary so that the general public, especially the poor people, those who are below the poverty line and people who are in the rural areas are not affected. So, we are having these series of programmes focused on this section of people.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us come to urgent matters of public importance.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, it is unfortunate. The Minister did not reply at all. It is unfortunate.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, on 'important matters'.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, We have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, then, I will adjourn the House. I have just started. You do not have the patience to wait. Do not try to dictate to me; you must be realizing by this time.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, I never rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why did you rise now?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you rising now? No. I would not do it. If you do it, I would not call your name.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: You are unnecessarily giving a comment. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you do this, I will not call your name, Mr. Yadav.

[Translation]

I will call you also to speak.

[English]

Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Chandra Pal Singh. He has that important matter to raise.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Singh Ji, Please come here. Please come. I do not want to be here. You decide whatever you would like to.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Budelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh is a very backward region. Even today, poverty, starvation and helplessness is rampant there. There is no industry in that area where people would get employment. It is on account of continuous drought for the last three years

that there exists the problem of drinking water in this area. Wells, handpumps and ponds have dried up. On account of negligence of the Government official, the water could not be stored in dams as well. People of that region are compelled to cover a distance of 10 kms by their bullockcats to fetch water. In this situation the survival of the people has become very difficult. Sir, through you, I would like to submit that in the absence of rainfall for the last three successive years to the agriculture has been badly affected and the yield was rather negligible. Since farmers are completely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, so, they are migrating from that region. 90 percent holdings in Bundelkhand are lying dry in which nothing has been produced. Even the farmers having 100 'Bigha' of land are compelled to work as rickshaw pullers in Delhi, Lucknow and Kanpur to support their families. In this situation there is no option left for the farmers except to commit suicide because the burden of debt on them is increasing day by day. It is on account of this misery that they are committing suicide. I suppose that daily four – five persons are committing suicide. The figures of such suicides are being suppressed by the State Government and it is on account of this that the actual figures are not reported. I would like to submit to the Central Government that it should waive off the loans of the farmers who are facing increasing burden of debt. During the last sessions, I had met the hon'ble Prime Minister and requested him to pay attention towards starvation prevalent in that area. I feel that the Central Government did not show any sensitivity towards this matter and it is on this account that farmers are falling prey to starvation and are compelled to commit suicide. The people in Meza, Karchhana of Allahabad and Chitrakut district along with Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Banda in Bundelkhand and the area adjacent to Madhya Pradesh have been braving severe drought. So, the Government should show sensitivity in this matter and provide relief to the people of Bundelkhand region that also falls in Madhya Pradesh where also people are facing drought and are compelled to commit suicide. Through you, I would like to request the Government to pay attention to this issue of urgent public importance and announce the waiving off of loans of the farmers of Bundelkhand region and I also work on a war footing to provide relief to the people of this area. Along with this, I would also like to request the Central Government that it should provide special package to Bundelkhand at the earliest and restart development works which are lying stalled at present. The State Government has no funds. The Government should immediately take concrete steps to save the lives of the people and provide them

employment, food and drinking water. So, the relief work should be started on a war footing and the Government should give assurance in the House so that we could inform the people of our area, accordingly.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with him.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): I also associate myself with him on this issue. The hon'ble Minister should give information to the House in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are deliberately creating problem. I cannot compel the Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: The people there are dying due to starvation, the people are dying as drinking water is not available. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have said that and I have given you an opportunity. You have made a very forceful presentation.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: The Government has not given us any assurance as to the time by which relief work will begin. ...(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with this issue. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure when I allow matters to be raised, they are important matters and it is expected that the Government will take note of these.

This procedure is not there that anybody raising an issue and immediately the Ministers have to respond.

[Translation]

You know it, may be new Members are not aware of it. Please sit down.

[English]

Please do not create problem.

[Translation]

I have allowed you. A new trend has been set that everybody acts as per one's sweet will...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJUJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that by now the Government, the hon'ble Minister of Finance and all others would have been acquainted with my state. Madam Sonia ji is also present here. In 2005, our state was hit by floods and natural disasters and at that time the State Government had demanded a big package from the Union Government. Now, it is the end of year 2007, but that demand has still not been met, I cannot understand the reason. When I visit my area, I see that there are no bridges, and roads over there. Therefore, I am unable to visit many areas of my constituency. The Union Ministers visit that area by helicopters, the bridges and roads are not required for such visits and they have not realized all this. But they must have come to know about to through the report. In the month of August, the Union Government had asked the State Governments to give a presentation. The State Government gave a presentation in the inter-ministerial meeting and the inter-ministerial committee has agreed that funds should be provided for rehabilitation and construction work over there. Along with it, the Planning Commission also agreed that it is a serious matter and funds should be provided for restoration at the earliest. National Disaster Authority has also agreed that the funds for this purpose should be given. Therefore, when all the authorities are in agreement, funds should be provided there. What are the reasons for releasing the funds? The Minister of Home Affairs is probably

*Not recorded.

[Shri Kiren Rijju]

annoyed with my State. I have come to understand that Madam Sonia Gandhi ji has also agreed in principle to sanction the amount, the hon'ble Prime Minister too has agreed to provide funds, then why the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is not releasing the funds and has been sitting on the files, due to which the life of our people has become disturbed. In brief, I would like to demand that as all the hon'ble Ministers are sitting here and hon'ble Sonia ji is also present here, they should tell the hon'ble Minister to immediately please the funds in consonance with the demand for huge amount of funds pending with the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Next Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. Everybody tries to bulldoze the Chair. This is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a very disciplined Member.

MR. SPEAKER: You yourself are boasting of being disciplined, you will be called disciplined only when I say so.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even the disciplined Members face a flak deserved by the indisciplined ones. It is painful.

MR. SPEAKER: Discipline is a bitter pill.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a matter of urgent national importance. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the truth of Gujarat has come out before the world and the country through the operation 'Kalank'. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): What is he speaking. ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: What I said has been reported by the media only. It has come out before the whole world. ...(Interruptions) I have not added a single word to it on my own.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not said a single unparliamentary word. He is not ready to bear the truth. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is he saying? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, when I asked you not to do like that, you did not pay heed. When other people speak, then, you mind it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The statement given before the camera by a BSP leader has been seen all over the world. I do not want to take the name of anyone. The statement given has been seen all over the world. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only the speech of Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement has ripped off the secular fabric of the constitution. We all have the duty to keep the constitution intact. The constitution does not permit anyone to make a plan of mass killings while holding a constitutional post. It does not allow anybody to provoke acts of mass killings or initiate state-sponsored riots. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia and Shri Ramji Lal Suman are associating with it.

Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: That should be reinvestigated by the CBI. It was a heart rending incident

*Not recorded.

in the country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my demand is that criminal proceedings may be initiated against the people involved in the planning of mass murders. Peace may be restored in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have already mentioned it.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Three thousand people of a particular community have fallen prey to genocide. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Please allow me to speak. I have given a notice on the same subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the name of another Member.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of hepatitis-A, hepatitis-B, Malaria and AIDS patients is increasing due to transfusion of infected blood available in the private and Government blood bank of the country to the patients. In Gondia, Maharashtra, 40 people were given blood from the blood bank which turned out to be HIV positive. There is a racket involving sale of blood at high costs after luring rickshaw pullers, beggars and the poor people into blood donation. This has been exposed by a news channel. Blood banks have no facility to test the blood and if somewhere such a facility is available, it is conducted through the old conventional Elisa method of HIV test.

It is essential to use new technique DUP 24 in place of that. I request that the new technique DUP 24 should be used for blood test. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given a notice on the same subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Gujarat is very much a part of India.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is there to listen.

[Translation]

Kindly associate yourself with the issue raised by Shri D.P. Yadav. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Blood should be tested before donating. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Shiwankar, please wait for a while.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I congratulate Tehlka for its expose on what happened on 20th February. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been made very clear that billions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.45 p.m.

12.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then Adjourned till forty-five minutes past thirteen of the clock.

13.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at fifty three minutes past thirteen of the clock.

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH *in the Chair*]

MOTION RE : FORTY-SECOND REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item no. 15.

Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st November, 2007."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st November, 2007."

The motion was adopted.

13.53 hrs.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
LAWS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 2007**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a further period of one year and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a further period of one year and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I withdraw the Bill.

13.55 hrs.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
LAWS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) SECOND
BILL, 2007**

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item No. 17, Shri B.K. Handique.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Madam, on behalf of

my colleague, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a further period of one year and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a further period of one year and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

13.56 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE : NATIONAL CAPITAL
TERRITORY OF DELHI LAWS (SPECIAL
PROVISIONS) SECOND ORDINANCE***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2007.

13.57 hrs.

**PAYMENT OF BONUS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2007@**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7242/2007.

@Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 22.11.2007.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the payment of Bonus Act, 1965."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Madam, I introduce** the Bill.

13.57½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE : PAYMENT OF BONUS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007.

13.58 hrs.

NEPA LIMITED (DISINVESTMENT OF OWNERSHIP) BILL, 2007

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for disinvestment of shares of the NEPA LIMITED and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for disinvestment of shares of the NEPA LIMITED and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

***Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7243/2007.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

13.59 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item No. 22. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya.

- (i) **Need to ensure adequate supply of power from central pool to Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Madam, there is a need for an action plan for the time bound implementation of effective steps for ensuring the generation of power at the domestic level to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the country so that self sufficiency could be achieved in the power sector.

The Union Government should ensure immediate supply of adequate power to meet the demand of power for agriculture and industry in Madhya Pradesh.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma —not present.

14.00 hrs.

- (ii) **Need to ensure adequate supply of LPG in Hoshiarpur Parliamentary Constituency, Punjab.**

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Madam, LPG appears to be vanishing from the kitchen of the common man. The availability of LPG cylinder at Government rate has now become a dream. There is only one gas agency in Garhshankar Tehsil of District Hoshiarpur, Punjab and the people of village Saila have to travel a distance of ten kilometers to fetch a cylinder. People living in Nurpur Bedi, Shri Anandpur Saheb and Balachaur cities of Hoshiarpur Lok Sabha Constituency are facing a lot of difficulties owing to unavailability of LPG in sufficient quantity and non availability of LPG cylinders at fixed price owing to lack of gas agencies in

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

proportion to the number of consumers. Even this region is backward, so, particular attention needs to be paid to it. People jam the streets in protest against non-availability of gas cylinders and there is always a fear of law and order situation getting worse. The distribution system should be revamped and new agencies should be allotted.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Madam Chairman, gas is not available for the people.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is no such need but what you say will go on record.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Angadi – not present.

Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal – not present.

Shri P. Karunakaran.

(III) Need to augment operation of direct flights between Calicut (Kerala) and Gulf countries

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Madam, even though the Calicut Airport is declared as an International Airport, for those coming from foreign countries, yet it has no landing facilities available there. The flights supposed to land at Calicut are diverted to Coimbatore. This causes undue hardship to thousands of Keralites working in the Gulf countries.

People working overseas from Kerala especially from Malabar Region have to take their flight first to Bombay and then taking transit flight to Coimbatore to reach Calicut as there is no direct flight.

Presently, the Indian Airlines operates some flights from Calicut to Gulf countries. No private airlines are permitted to operate. This is causing great inconvenience to the passengers from the Region.

To improve the situation, the Indian Airlines and Air India should have more flights from Calicut. If this is not possible, other private airlines should be permitted to operate from Calicut. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Santasri Chatterjee – not present.

Shri Rajnarayan Budholiya.

(iv) Need to form a New State of 'Bundelkhand'

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Madam Chairman, India is a vast country. The fast development of the whole country is possible only when small states in place of big ones are constituted within time as per the requirements of the people. The Government of India have constituted a number of states from time to time as per the needs of the people. All these newly formed states have shown rapid progress. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh is a very big State. Population of Bundelkhand is in cresce. A gross regional imbalance prevails in Bundelkhand. People of this region are migrating to developed states like Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab to earn their livelihood. The whole population of Bundeikhand region belonging to 29 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is facing the problem of unemployment. The entire land has turned into wasteland due to absence of any rainfall for the last five years. Poor people are getting poorer on account of the burden of price-rise. For the development of Bundelkhand region, a special package has been sought from the Union Government several times, but no fund has been provided so far. The constitution of a separate State has been demanded by the people of Bundelkhand region for the last thirty years. Widespread resentment has been prevailing among the people. The forest and mineral resources of the states are being exploited in large quantities and are being sent to other areas, which is leading to prosperity in those areas. The electricity generated from the dams. Matateela and Pariksha is not supplied to Bundelkhand despite those being situated in the State if Bundelkhand is formed as a separate State, it will not only have 24-hour power supply all across the State but will also be in a position to sell the surplus electricity to other states as well. Despite being home to several major rivers like Yamuna, Betwa, Ghasan, Chandrawal, Cane, Virma and Narmada, it has no irrigation or drinking water facility. The entire region is deprived of industries. It also does not have any institutions for technical and higher education. The road, railway and air infrastructure is also in a pathetic condition. Uttar Pradesh Government have already announced to form Bundelkhand as a separate State so the Union Government should also come out to lend its support to the said proposal of forming Bundelkhand, as separate State with the same spirit.

I therefore, request through the House, the Union Government to form a new State of 'Bundelkhand' by merging the districts of Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Banda, Chitrakut, Jhansi, Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh and the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh together.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar—not present.

Shri Mohan Singh

- (v) **Need to re-open the closed unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Madam Chairman, a big fertilizer plant was set up by Fertilizer Corporation of India in Gorakhpur in order to solve the problem of shortage of fertilizer to the farmers of the Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Because of its closure for the last ten years the supply of fertilizers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh has turned into a big problem. The present Union Government had given an assurance to revive this closed unit. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers had announced to reopen this unit but it has not been able to make it operational so far due to which the farmers of eastern U.P. are facing a lot of problems for fertilizers. I, therefore, demand to sort out the problem regarding supply of fertilizers to the farmers of eastern U.P. and re-open this unit at the earliest.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao Renge Patil—Not present.

- (vi) **Need to declare Erumeli in Kerala as a National Pilgrim Centre**

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Madam Chairman, Erumeli, a small town in Kottayam District of Kerala is the gateway to the world renowned Sabarimala temple. Here pilgrims from all parts of the country, more particularly from the southern States like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh come to offer prayers at a small temple of Lord Ayyapa and then

go over to the Mosque to visit Waver before visiting Sabarimala temple. This is, perhaps, the only place in the country where Hindu Pilgrims offer prayers and offer at a mosque. Every year during pilgrim season millions of devotees visiting Sabarimala pass through Erumeli which causes acute shortage of drinking water, accommodation, parking space, traffic constraints and severe pollution. The problem is mounting every year with manifold increase in the number of pilgrims. Even though local administration has taken certain measures to cope with the problems, yet because of resource constraints, inadequacies could not be addressed properly on long term basis. The people of the area feel that the above problems can be dealt with effectively if Erumeli is declared as a National Pilgrim Centre.

I, therefore, urge the Government to take note of the sentiments of the people of that area and with a view to provide better amenities to pilgrims, declare Erumeli as a National Pilgrim centre.

- (vii) **Need to give financial assistance under a Special Central Scheme to non-commercial Public Educational Institutes in Assam**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Madam Chairman, although education is a state subject, the Union Government is promoting education through UGC grants and various Central Schemes including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Anganwadi, Mid-day-Meal, etc. besides establishing Central Universities, Regional Engineering Colleges, Kendriya and Novodaya Vidyalayas, etc. In Assam, many Public Institutes including Madrasas from Lower Primary Level to Degree Level are imparting formal education to more than half of the total enrolled students without getting any financial aid either from Central or State Government. A large number of such institutes established and managed by public have served up to 25 years after duly recognized by Assam Government on getting affiliated to concerned Universities and Boards. Also, the central funds are flowing to the institutions, which are already getting regular grants from Assam Government. Further, more than half of the formal education in Assam is running without Government support. The Union Government avoided supporting these non-private institutes simply categorizing them as Private Schools and Colleges. These institutes are not covered under grants from Central Education Cess, even for monthly salary of teachers. Also, many teachers died or retired without getting a single penny from Government after dedication of long 20 to 25 years of service.

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

I urge upon the Government to extend financial support to these non-commercial public institutes under a special Central scheme.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Thupstan Chhewang – Not present.

14.10 hrs.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND THE POST-GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to move:*

"That the Bill further to amend the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956 and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act 1966, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Madam Chairman, it has been the convention of this House that no Bill is passed here without being referred to the Standing Committee. However, this is the first Bill which the Government are trying to bulldoze into passing it here. The manner in which AIIMS has been demolished brick by brick is not very proper. It is the rule and convention of the Standing Committee that no Bill can be passed here without sending it to the Committee. What was special about this Bill which prompted its passing here without sending it to the Standing Committee and why the Government are trying to introduce it here? After all, when we do have a standing Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: These are the discretionary powers of the Speaker.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is under the pressure of the Minister that thing is being done. It has never been done.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Malhotra ji, you are a very senior member.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would like to condemn such practice and would like to show my protest that if they want to destroy AIIMS, it is not the proper way that Bill is being bulldozed into passing here without sending it to the Standing Committee.

[English]

We strongly condemn this attitude. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have already said that it is under the discretionary power of the Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Madam Chairman, for the last fifteen years this convention has been followed in the House and the House has accepted it as a norm by framing the rules which state that every bill after its introduction will be referred to the Standing Committee, hon'ble Members of all the parties will examine it, and it will be presented in the House with a report. The Government of India is free to accept or reject the recommendations of the said Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mohan Singh ji, all the members will be given opportunity to speak after the Minister's speech. You please express your views at that time.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: At any stage one can talk about the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There are limited number of Members in the Standing Committee, here it is open for the entire House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: If it was so, what was the need to frame this rule? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Rasa Singh ji, your point has already been raised by Vijay Kumar ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Don't record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have already said that it is the discretionary power of the Speaker. Now this Bill has been moved here, all of you can discuss it.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Handique ji.

...(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam Chairman, We have objection to the introduction of this Bill. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can express your views when members from your party speak. You may express your viewpoint then.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Standing Committees have been constituted for the purpose of discussing bills. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please take your seats and maintain the decorum of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Madam Chairman, I would like to make a submission. This matter was taken up in the Business Advisory Committee meeting. It was discussed by all the Members of the BAC and then the hon. Speaker decided that it will not be sent to the Standing Committee. ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Madam Chairman, so far as the matter towards which Prof. Rasa Singh Rawatji has drawn attention is concerned, I would like to say that there cannot be any dispute on the fact that after having discussion in the Committee constituted to look into the entire gamut of business of the House, the hon'ble Speaker has been authorized that if he desires, he can refer the matter to the Standing Committee. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is not fair.

[Translation]

It is not proper to mention here as to what transpires in the BAC.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let us not question the Hon'ble Speaker's decision. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The hon'ble Minister is bringing everything to the notice of the House. Sometimes you say that everything should be brought to the notice and at others you say that everything should not be brought to the notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We have to present the report of BAC in the House. We not only have to present the report but also seek the approval of the House. The business decided upon in the BAC report is not finalized unless the hon'ble Speaker gives his consent.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Madam Chairman, we always abide by the hon'ble Speaker's decision. However, you may see the ruling of the former Speaker, Shri Shivraj Patilji, also where in he had said that every matter besides any grammatical correction, changing of comma or full stop etc. should be referred to the Standing Committee for consideration. He was also a Speaker. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Don't compare one with another. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the statement of Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss.

...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We strongly condemn this attitude of the Government. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR (Outer Delhi): Why are you allowing it without taking the House into confidence? ... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Everything is on the record. The Hon'ble Minister has mentioned everything.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All of you should speak from your own seats. After that the hon'ble Minister would give reply.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Priya Ranjan Dasmunsiji has told you everything, you should accept that. Now the hon'ble Minister will speak. After that all of you can express your views.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Members of the Standing Committee are also present here. They will express their views here.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam Chairman, with due respect, I am saying that the speech of respected Prabhunathji influences me a lot. However, I would like to know as to why they did not raise any objection when he brought Members Salaries and Allowances Bill. ... (Interruptions) Why did not they raise objection on that day? ... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You first listen to the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: As per our convention, if the business of the House has already been read out in the House and approved by the hon'ble members. ... (Interruptions) We cannot read that again. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please maintain the dignity of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down for now, you may speak when your name is called. You are a very senior member, let the hon'ble Minister speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Through this Bill, he wants to bring disrepute to All India Institute. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, at least, maintain the decorum of the House. You are all very senior Members.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Then dissolve all the Standing Committees. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We are not talking about all the Standing Committees. Dasmunsiji has already told you under what circumstances this Bill has been introduced. It is the discretionary power of the hon'ble Speaker.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): When it was decided in the BAC, how can they differ on that now? ... (Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This Bill should go to the Standing Committee.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: First you give the hon'ble Minister a chance to speak. You first listen to the views of hon'ble Minister; after that express your views.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, in Business Advisory Committee, majority of the Members agreed. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is not a question of majority or minority. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A majority of the Members agreed to bring the Bill directly to the House without referring it to the Standing Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A number of Bills were not referred to the Standing Committee. They were brought directly to the House. ...*(Interruptions)* In spite of our objections. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Madam, the House has not been taken into confidence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: House has to be conducted on the basis of some rules and it is according to those rules that the business of the House is transacted.

... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Everything is clear now. Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister speak and then you can speak.

... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Respected Prabhunath Singhji, you are a very senior Member. You express your views after the hon'ble Minister has spoken.

... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please sit down, everything has become clear now. You want to impose your views by saying it again and again.

... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded.

*... (Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prabhunathji, you are not maintaining the dignity of the House. The hon'ble Minister is on his legs and you are not allowing him to speak.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, it is now time for the Government business. I proposed the business with full concurrence of the House the other day. With full concurrence of the Speaker, I proposed the business to go. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Madam, if this bill is passed then it would be the darkest bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No more interruptions.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Everything is recorded now.
Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Thank you, Madam, for giving me an opportunity to bring in a small amendment to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act as well as the PGI Chandigarh, proposed as Medical Education and Research Act.

In the last Session of Parliament, I have introduced two Bills to be amended. One Bill was the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Bill; another Bill was the All India Institute Bill. ...(Interruptions) Out of the two Bills which I introduced in the last Session, one Bill was passed in this august House and in the other august House without going to any Committees. This is the second Bill. It is not that there is no precedence of any Bill not being passed going to the Committees. Out of the two Bills which I have brought in the last Session, one Bill – Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Bill – was passed without going to the Committees. I do not think that I am such a big person to influence the Speaker not to refer it and all these things. This is a part of the responsibility of the Government.

This is just a small amendment which we would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of Parliament where we are fixing the tenure of 65 years for the Directors of both the institutes, the All India Institute as well as the PGI Institute Chandigarh. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We are just fixing the tenure of 65 years because, in fact, the High Court going into a lot of cases had instructed us to fix the tenure of the Director of these two Institutes. That is why we are fixing the tenure of the Director. The retirement age for All India Institute and PGI Institute Chandigarh for teaching cadres, teaching professionals is only 62 years. Here, we are increasing it for three years and we are fixing a tenure up to 65 years.

There is another amendment which I would like to bring. There are two clauses which we want to introduce. One clause is 65 years. Second clause is that we are bringing an official amendment and deleting that. In the second part of the amendment which we are bringing, we are deleting that voluntarily. This is not only for the All India Institute; for both the Institutes, the All India Institute and the PGI Institute Chandigarh – we are asking them – we are trying to bring in this amendment. So we have nothing personal of any Institute as such as was alleged by the Members of the other side. As a responsible Government, we want the Institute to be one of the best in world. I am also a medical professional; I am also a doctor. ...(Interruptions) We are trying to improve the structure. We want All India Institute of Medical Sciences to be like an Institute of Johns Hopkins or Harvard University or Stanford University which was the best. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not the way; please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We want to reach the level. This Bill is not aimed at any individual as such. The Institution has to improve. As collective responsibility to this august House, it is our responsibility to improve the Institution. This amendment is a small amendment which I am trying to bring. I would like to have the cooperation and support of all the Members of Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956 and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966, be taken into consideration."

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Before I begin, let me say that I oppose this Bill and I think it would be in the fitness of things for it to be referred to the Standing Committee. One of the reasons that it has not been referred to the Standing Committee – reasons that has been given – is that the House can have an opportunity to debate it. That opportunity would have been given to the House any way, even after the Standing Committee. The reason why it should go to the Standing Committee is that the Standing Committee has the time

and the expertise to hear witnesses, to hear wiser professional counsel and therefore give the best of what they can give to this House. However, since the Speaker has deemed it fit to allow the Bill Straight to the House, let us first be clear which Institution we are talking about, that is being tampered with today.

I do not refer to PGI because we know that PGI has just been put as an addition. The real purpose is the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. This was the dream of Pandit Nehru to make a super specialty centre that would be the best in Asia. A dream that the centre would create and attract the best medical talent and be a shining example of India's abilities, an independent, autonomous centre as good as any in the West, a dream that is survived when many of the others have fallen by the wayside.

All of us in this House send our poor, our hopeless, indeed ourselves to this hospital with the belief that they can do medical miracles. From my personal experience. I have seen that they do miracles many times, this in spite of the fact that they are under-funded and extremely overworked with 25 lakh patients a year. This can only be achieved as you all will agree that the administration of the hospital, which is so much under stress, is good.

A Bill is brought into Parliament after it has been carefully considered by the Cabinet. It is passed when the Cabinet believes that it is for the good of this country. Sometimes the Cabinet makes an honest mistake and it turns out otherwise. The history of independent India, indeed of the world, is replete with such examples. Humans are not infallible and politicians even less so. However, this is the first time that I have seen a Bill that has been brought in by the well-meaning Government simply to push the personal agenda of one man who wants to remove another. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Let her speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

*(Interruptions) ...**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can speak when your turn comes. Let her speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can say whatever you want when your turn comes. Now, let her speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: In the process of this removal, the morale and abilities of the entire institution will be put under threat. The Congress which claims descent from the ideals of Pandit Nehru should do so is really very sad.

What is this Bill? On the face of it, it is a simple one. It says that the Director of AIIMS can only hold office for a term of five years or till he turns 65. Then, it says that the Central Government, if it is of opinion that this is in the public interest, can remove the Director any time before the expiry of his term. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Do not disturb her.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: The amendment is yet to come. Therefore, it is still there technically.

Then, it says that the Central Government, if it is of the opinion that this is in the public interest, can remove the Director any time before the expiry of term by giving a notice of three months or giving him three months salary and asking to leave immediately.

This is not a peon, mind you – to whom the Government cannot do this. This is Director of AIIMS. As I said before, I deliberately do not include the Director of other excellent institution, PGI, Chandigarh who has been added to try and disguise the actual target of the Bill.

I am a member of the Standing Committee on Health and for three years I have been watching the course of this attack on the Director of AIIMS by the Minister for Health. Not just I, every Indian has been reading about each foray by the Minister into the citadel of AIIMS whether by direct action or by remarks in the Press or by bringing Bill into Parliament. In this case, ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

*(Interruptions) ...**

*Not recorded.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

*(Interruptions) ...**

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: In this case, the Minister is in such a hurry that he has tried twice to pass an Ordinance between the last Parliament Session and this one.

For the uninitiated, let me give you a history of the last three years so that you, in the Treasury Benches and you, that support them, can see the total picture. As soon as he became the Minister for Health and Family Welfare, he moved into the AIIMS Guest House. This, in itself, is unprecedented for a Minister of Health. However, let that be. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Madam Chairman, I need your protection here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let him also speak.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Let the Minister sit because I do not yield. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I have been seeing for the last three and a half years during my tenure as the Minister that every time she has got up to speak about me or my Ministry. She has been alleging a lot of things. Can this go on and on? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ponnuswamy, please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Minister is competent enough to defend himself. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am afraid that he is a Minister for the first time in the Government and he must realize that every Member has the right to do things in the public interest.

However, let there be, as he is entitled to, as he is technically the President of the AIIMS. ...*(Interruptions)* I am pointing out only facts. There are no aspersions here; there are only facts. Did he not move into the AIIMS? is

*Not recorded.

he not the President of AIIMS? Therefore, he is entitled to. That is exactly what I have said.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Manekaji, please complete your point.

... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please do not disturb.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Ponnuswamy, the Minister is capable of defending himself. Why are you interrupting? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: If that had been the only thing and done because the Minister believed in being there because he wanted to oversee the hospital as part of his many-many functions, I would have applauded in his action. But what was the reason? Did he not start working with Unions in order to destroy discipline and remove the Director? Immediately, we started hearing remarks from his colleagues in the Health Ministry about the one caste stranglehold and how it needed to be broken; and this is part of the recorded document in the Health Ministry, and that the Minister would do it. That the person who said this, and it is recorded as I said in the Health Ministry meeting, later changed his mind and became a critic of the Minister's doings, is also recorded.

This is the first time that we have seen doctors in the light of the castes in AIIMS, and I wonder the Minister did not see them as doctors but his representatives of social divisions.

After the Minister took up residence in AIIMS, he appointed an OSD, who is a retired Sub-Inspector of the Tamil Nadu Police. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, there is a standing practice in the Parliament that if any hon. Member wants to make any allegation against a Minister, he should give an advance notice and seek the permission. That is the rule of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Lalanji, this is the practice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': It is not an allegation, rather it is a fact. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Manekaji, kindly speak on the subject only.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Chairman that if there is any allegation against the Minister then permission has to be taken after furnishing it is the rule of the House copy for this. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am not making allegations. I am sorry, these are not allegations but these are facts. He appointed an OSD, the OSD is a retired Sub Inspector of the Tamil Nadu Police Force; and he gave him a Guest House in the AIIMS, is also a fact. Now, each Minister is entitled to have personal staff at the expense of the Government. But this personal staff is only for his official work in the Ministry. They are not supposed to deal with autonomous institutions on a day-to-day basis, and specially not, because the number of trained personnel from AIIMS is debuted from the Nirman Bhavan for providing all official assistance to the Health Minister in his capacity as the President of the AIIMS. This OSD took the Guest House meant for scholars, international scientists, and started meeting staff, officers, faculty and Unions in order to create more confusion. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ponnuswamy, please let her speak. When your turn comes, you may also speak.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: The files pertaining to the administration of AIIMS, which should have been totally autonomous, but which have been going to the Ministry for years and years and being passed by previous Ministers which admit, who simply regard this as a formality, were now held up for months. The appointment of officers, the foreign visits of faculty for medical seminars – these are just some of the files held up. ...(Interruptions)

Every senior doctor claims that he had to meet this OSD in order for his justified work to be passed on file. Of course, now that we find that degrees for students were held up for years together in spite of the fact that India needs doctors desperately and this had to be solved

by a High Court intervention which is one of many High Court interventions in these last three years. These were not the only things. Projects that had been passed by your Planning Commission for the betterment of medical facilities provided for AIIMS were also held up. So much for your commitment to healthcare!

Till today the Health Minister has not constituted any Committee for formulating recommendations towards implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission for the staff again which is what were supposed to have been done three years ago.

Then it was decided that the sins of omission were not enough; let us have some sins of commission as well. So, he broke all the rules framed to appoint the Dean of the AIIMS and appointed a Dean without even consulting the Director. In fact, he even disregarded the recommendation of a Search Committee appointed by himself. It is the tradition that the Dean of AIIMS is appointed from the senior most professors. The current Dean is 24th in seniority and has superseded 23 more senior faculty members for no reason at all except the Minister's prerogative. ...(Interruptions)

The dust had not settled on that when the anti-quota agitation broke out among students who had simply gone to AIIMS to be doctors and had not thought that caste would be an impediment to their ability to serve the country, during this agitation, the Director made every effort to defuse an ugly situation and he wrote. ...(Interruptions) We have, the Health Committee has all the letters. The Standing Committee on Health has all the letters given by the Director. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Madam, this is not correct. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. A member of your party is speaking. Please let her speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: He wrote to the Police Commissioner, the Health, Home and Cabinet Secretaries and to the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. The Minister who lives there, did not visit the AIIMS campus during the agitation and did not hesitate to constantly and publicly blame the Director.

You have all met Dr. Venugopal. Many of you have been treated by him including the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing else will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Madam Chairman, please control them. The House cannot be run like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, I would like to make it abundantly clear that this UPA Government is not against any individual. We are streamlining the policy only. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am happy that you have said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Policy making is the right of the Government. Individual is not the issue. Let us not bring individuals. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Let her complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Why do you name the persons? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

*(Interruptions)** ...

*Not recorded.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Nobody is supporting you. You are the only two people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Malhotraji, you please ask your party members to sit.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Nobody in the House is supporting you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Does he look like the kind of man who has the health, the time or the inclination for any kind of political manoeuvring and specially to engineer an agitation that puts his own institution with which he has been associated for over 48 years under stress ?

When the Minister went to the press to blame the Director, the Director simply defended himself by saying that he was not responsible for the agitation. On June 16, the Minister went to the Press and publicly warned Director that action would be taken against him for defending himself in the media. I fail to see the crime. The Minister can attack a senior doctor of anything, but the Director, who is senior and much older, cannot say anything! The Minister then announced his own decision to remove officials and cut pay of the doctors who had taken part in the protest and he said to the Director that he was free to resign and that he should not lobby for people to try and stop him from resigning. Does it sound like the statement of a Minister ?

Then, Dr. Venugopal went on leave in June, 2006. In his absence, the Minister using the Dean that he had appointed ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': It seems that there is something fishy ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Ranjan Ji, please do not waste his time. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will come on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You sit down. The hon'ble Minister will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): If they are bent upon interrupting like this then the hon'ble Minister should lay his reply ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please let him speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: If the hon. Member, for whom I have great respect, believes that I am wrong, he is most welcome to contradict every single thing. I am not infallible. I say things as I see them. ...*(Interruptions)* I have been ...*(Interruptions)* He is most welcome to say ...*(Interruptions)* I will not interrupt him when he speaks ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Ponnuswamy, please do not disturb now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': From his attitude it seems that there is something fishy. That is why time and again they are interrupting.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Something is wrong in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

There is something fishy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing is wrong. Let her speak. The Minister will reply. Everything will be clear.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: When the Director went on leave in June, 2006 ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not stand again and again.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : She raises her voice for the cause of the animal ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Does the director look like an animal to him ? He is a respected Director. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Ponnuswamy, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: In the Director's absence, the Minister using the Dean he had appointed himself, removed the Senior Financial Advisor and no reasons were given. He removed the first woman who had ever been made Sub-Dean and again put his own person as Sub-Dean. Then, he removed the woman who was incharge of the media and put his own person there. The lady, media incharge, was also removed as were a large number of women. These appointments can only be made by the Director, but the Minister, of course, is above the rules.

Not content with tinkering around with staff, whose removal was aimed at provoking the Director to resigning because of the humiliation, the Minister was infuriated by the calm and indifference shown by the senior doctors and the Director. But on 5th July 2006, the Minister in his role as President of the institute body of AIIMS sacked the Director. No rules were followed. The Director was made to sit outside on a bench when this decision was taken, even though he was a member of the institute

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

body. Every newspaper, every parliamentarian reacted and the entire academia and medical community reacted. The Health Committee of Parliament issued a unanimous condemnation. This Committee is made of Members from all parties in Parliament and a great deal of good work is done by the ruling party Members in that Committee.

The entire Committee on Health and Family Welfare of the Parliament issued a unanimous condemnation of this illegal act. The Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): I am sorry to interrupt, but I was a Member of that Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Karan Singh Yadav ji, please speak later on.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Madam, she has not spoken a single point on the Bill being discussed in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: One person objected, but even then I may bring it to your notice that the condemnation was drafted by the person who is your current Minister of Defence. ...*(Interruptions)* Two days later, the hon. High Court of Delhi stayed the termination of the Director, terming it as illegal.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Gandhi, please conclude your speech.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: They also passed remarks against the Minister saying that he should pay more attention to the health crisis in the country—which at that time was an outbreak of Dengue—rather than concentrating on disrupting the entire hospital. This is what the hon. High Court had to say regarding this issue.

The Minister spent the next few months working on the next move. On 18 October 2006 he called an Institute

*Not recorded.

Body Meeting where the Director was again publicly humiliated, and he was asked to submit answers to the queries made by the Minister and his Body. He was also given only a limited time to do so. The Director sent his replies within the time stipulated, but not one has been looked up in a year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Gandhi, please conclude your speech.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am not going to conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your Party was allotted only 14 minutes for this discussion. The name of one more speaker from your Party is there to speak on this issue.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I will take 10 more minutes to conclude my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If this is the case, then no other Member from your Party will speak on this subject.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am taking the entire time allotted to BJP. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Vijayji please ask the Chair to allot the remaining time of the party to me.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Madam Chairman, hon'ble Maneka Gandhi will speak for the remaining time of the party.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It does not matter if five-ten minute's time is extended however, it will not be allowed that only one Member will speak and not anybody else.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Madam, she has not even mentioned a single point regarding the Bill. All the points mentioned by her are irrelevant here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ponnuswamy, you can speak during your turn to speak. She is concluding her

speech as only 14 minutes were allotted to her Party.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: No, I am not concluding my speech. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to Shrimati Gandhi's Party is exhausted. She has already taken more than 14 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: She has taken almost 23 minutes although only 14 minutes were allotted to her Party.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Madam, five minutes have gone in disruption out of the 14 minutes allotted to the Party.

Not one answer of the Director has been looked at in a year or discussed. So important was the information demanded!

On 29 March 2007, that is, six months later, the Division Bench of the hon. High Court ordered the Institute Body to discuss the answers given by the AIIMS Director, and ordered the Institute to be fair and objective. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Madam, is this point relevant here? ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Gandhi, please conclude your speech. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: The hon. High Court is telling the Minister to be fair and objective. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Gandhi, please conclude your speech. You have already taken more than 24 minutes. It is more than the time actually allotted to your Party for participation in this discussion, which was originally 14 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: It is the most important institution in the entire country.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your Party was allotted a total time of 14 minutes, and you have already taken more than 24 minutes to speak on this subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Madam, I will conclude in five more minutes.

So huge was the uproar that the Prime Minister stepped in and appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Veliathan to look at the functioning and autonomy of AIIMS. The Veliathan Committee submitted its report in October, and contrary to what the Minister wanted, this Committee highlighted the achievements of AIIMS under this Director and recommended the removal of the health Minister and the Health Secretary from the Institute Body of AIIMS and recommended autonomy for the institution. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude your speech.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Gandhi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: This report was passed on by the Prime Minister's Office to the Health Minister for action. It has been ignored. ...(Interruptions)

The saga does not stop here. The AIIMS Registrar was charged with serious malpractice and vigilance cases in the selection of Senior Residents. He was transferred by the Director to a rural Health Centre in Ballabgarh. The Health Minister intervened, and he ordered that the man may not be transferred notwithstanding any criminal investigation ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, my humble submission—without any disrespect to Shrimati Maneka Gandhi—is that I will take the entire contents to the hon. Speaker.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Yes, you may do it.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If there are any specific allegations about the conduct of a Minister, then it has to be tabled with a copy to the Minister in advance and provided the rule permits.

It never happened like this. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: She is not making any allegations. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I know the rules better than you, Mr. Malhotra. According to the rules, it is an allegation. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The last sentence is a specific allegation. A specific allegation can be made only with a prior notice to the Minister with a copy to the hon. Speaker. You cannot make comments against the Minister just like that and *suo motu*. I demand that it must be expunged from the records because it is not permitted under the rules. ...(Interruptions) How can she make sweeping remarks against the Minister? It is not permitted under the rules. She can quote anything, but if it is a specific allegation, then the Minister should be given prior notice of it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): What she is saying is true.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Lakshman Singh, do not try to teach me the rules. If it is an allegation, whether it is right or wrong, you must give prior notice to the Minister. It does not matter whether it is a BJP Government or a Congress Government. You cannot go on like that. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Maneka ji, please speak on the AIIMS (Amendment) Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Parliament is run on the basis of rules and not by the personal designs of

anybody. It is wrong. If she is ignorant of the rules, she can take the BPST course. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Rules are the last word in Parliament. You cannot do like this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Manekaji, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We are not getting only one information. Maneka ji is so studious and I respect her. The only information she should give to the House is since which date the Scheduled Castes' students have to stay in a separate hostel and use a separate canteen. That information should come before the House.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Maneka ji, please conclude now. Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Smt. Maneka Gandhi.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Hon'ble Maneka ji is free to speak, however, if any allegation is levelled against the Minister, then a prior notice is required to be given.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If the allegation is levelled not only against the Minister but also a member of Parliament, prior notice is required to be given.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have taken half-an-hour, please conclude now Maneka Ji.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: No, I will not conclude. I need ten more minutes to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Maneka ji, please conclude within two minutes.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I need ten minutes more because most of my time has been taken away by interventions.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. I will give you only two more minutes and please finish your speech by then otherwise, I will call the next speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Let her conclude her speech please.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Madam, more than half of that time has gone in interruptions. I would not need to say all this, if this Bill had gone to the Standing Committee. If that had been the case, all these views would have been put on record there. It is a fact that on the one hand the Government said.

Everybody will get an opportunity to speak.

[English]

And then they say we cannot speak. This is against the principles of natural justice. Either you send it to the Standing Committee, in which case we can point this out there. Otherwise, you have to give us time to place our views in the House. I am sorry but I cannot be responsible for the time lost in interruptions. I am going to carry on for another five minutes.

As per the statutory regulations, in the AIIMS each Faculty Member has to perform to the satisfaction of the Director. Even though the Governing Body is the appointing authority of the faculty, the regulations confer the power of confirmation and also of initiation of any disciplinary action against the faculty members, on the Director. In the last few months we know how many senior doctors have been suspended directly by the Minister without even informing the Director. Can this happen in any institution anywhere in India ?

Madam, you have asked me to wind up. I am sure there will be other points, if other people are speaking I can give them the facts and they can carry on. I would like to say one thing. The Minister has gone again and again to court, to the High Court, to the Supreme Court. Who has paid the fee of lawyers that the Minister has

used for going to court ? ...*(Interruptions)* This is not an allegation.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now, you have taken 34 minutes.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Do you know ...*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have taken more time than allotted. You have already taken 34 minutes. Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Give me one minute more.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please conclude within half a minute. You have already taken 34 minutes.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Of which 20 minutes have gone in interruptions.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Only 14 minutes were allotted to your party.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: All right. I am going to conclude.

Madam, I would like to thank you for giving me this time. Who is this Director ? Who is this person that we are targeting and getting rid off so unmercifully ? Is he a terrorist ? Is he a bad man ? Is he a bad Director ? He is a recipient of Padma Bhushan given by you. He is one of the most eminent people in India. He is a gentle, unassuming and a completely professional Director who does not care for fame. He will go to the Saibaba Institute that he had set up which runs free for the poor. He is there as the Director of AIIMS because Pandit Nehru, Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, two Rajya Sabha Standing Committees, the Vaidyanathan Committee and so on recommended autonomy. This Bill goes completely in the opposite direction. This Bill will make the Director completely subservient to whoever Minister comes. It has nothing to do with this one. Is that what you wanted to do today?

15.00 Hrs.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Madam Chairman, I rise to support this Bill which restricts the

*Not recorded.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

retirement age to 65 years. Normally, the age of retirement of the teaching faculty in AIIMS is 62 years. In this Bill there is a provision of 65 years of age or a tenure of 5 years whichever is less. It is a fact that there are several cases in the High Courts and the Supreme Court which are related to the introduction of this Bill. The Supreme Court has also given a direction to this effect that the Government should have a clear policy in this regard. The previous Government had fixed the tenure of the Director for 5 years whereas the incumbent Director has already attained the age of 65 years. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards whatever happened last year in AIIMS. The speech of the Hon'ble Member who spoke prior to me was well drafted, well articulated and well written.

[English]

I unfortunately do not have that kind of education and knowledge to vent my views in such an articulated manner. But we have to look into why every time All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) becomes the epicentre of all anti-reservation movements. This time when the legislation came and Central institutes were provided with the reservation facilities for OBC and others, the AIIMS became the epicentre. The whole media knows and the whole country knows that the administration and the people are there who gave them protection; nobody can enter into the AIIMS area. They cannot put up the *shamiana* or tents and relax their in the coffee house and sweet shops are opened up. They are all treated like VIPs. But it is not only the AIIMS boys, but all also those who opposes the reservations, a large fund is being given to them and the AIIMS administration keep silence over that. Nobody is bothered about that. It does not stop that. After that, what has happened in the AIIMS, especially for the people of SCs, STs and OBCs, it is a shame that the photographs of Baba Bheemrao Ambedkar, the books of Bheemrao Ambedkar and the copies of the Constitution were burnt in that institution. The boys of SCs, STs and OBCs are discriminated. Hon. Minister, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni just now was telling that they have to be segregated in different hostels; they have to be segregated in different canteens; they have to go into different cafeterias after 60 years of Independence. Are we heading to that state where there is such a gross discrimination ?

Here, a lot of things have been talked about. Why should we not discuss the Thorat Committee report, which has gone into threadbare as to what is the percentage of

SCs and STs employees in the institution; as to how the reservations are being implemented; and as to how much opportunities are being given to them. I admire Dr. Venugopal for many things. Madam, fortunately, I come from the same profession. I had been a doctor myself. Believe me, honestly, when I say that he was a great surgeon; it was because of his surgeon competence and hard work that this country has recognised him and given him Padma Sri and Padma Bhusan. But this does not give him a guarantee that he can run the AIIMS in an autocratic way or in whatever way he wants it. The AIIMS is governed by certain rules and laws. There is a Governing Body; there is an AIIMS Body where eminent scientists and doctors from various parts of the country are members. This Parliament has chosen two of us from this House and there is a very senior and eminent Member from Rajya Sabha, Shri Dhawan, if I name him, are members of that committee. It is not the direction of the Health Minister; if a Director sitting there takes a vow that he would not obey a single order of the, - leave the President of the Institute, leave the Health Minister-Government Body, that body which is governing the AIIMS, and that Governing body if it gives some direction, it will not be obeyed or it will be absolutely floated, then, what is the answer ? Lucky are they! In this country we know what is happening; I have nothing to say against the hon. courts, which are so favourable and so kind that we cannot get a date and the very next day, they go and get a stay on whatever they want to— whether it is reservation in the Central Institutes or whatever it is.

On the one hand, the courts say 'no work, no pay'. It has been implemented all over; the Communist friends might know and everybody knows that. They have been fighting; they want the right to strike, but the Supreme Court said, 'no work, no pay'. The AIIMS Resident Doctors, the blue-eyed boys went the other day and the Health Ministry was told to take appropriate decision. It did not say what the appropriate decision was, whether salary should be paid to them or not. They did not comply with that. The appropriate decision was — the court's decision — 'no work, no pay'. The next time when the Health Ministry went there, the Lordship said, 'you came kneeling to this court and they discontinued the strike, give them the salary'. They were paid the salary. It has not happened in the country. We cannot say anything against the judiciary. But anything that you say is taken care of by the courts.

I have been the member of the AIIMS' Governing Body. I know the working of everything. The AIIMS is

now run in a most autocratic way; autonomy is blatantly misused. The case of the Registrar was cited here. This gentleman was a protégé of his; he was a staunch supporter of the present Director. He was elevated from a small post to the post of the Registrar. As long as that, he was pleased. The moment, he did not obey a single order, he was removed the next day. He does not have the power to remove the Registrar, who is being appointed by the Committee or by the Institute's Governing Body.

The Governing Body called the Director and they took a decision, whatever complaints that he has against the Registrar, will be sorted out; we will investigate the complaints. But suddenly he found that he was not qualified and suddenly he found that he had a large corruption charges. You can ask anybody in the AIIMS, they will tell you how close this gentleman was with him. If he was corrupt, then who is to be blamed? Why was he made Registrar? He was not appointed Registrar by Ramadoss or the present Governing Body.

This Bill should be passed as early as possible because the situation is deteriorating every day. As a doctor, we know the mistakes are committed sometimes by the doctors, knowingly or unknowingly. Recently there was a case where the surgeon was alleged to have left a screw in the chest of the patient, while operating. This happens; the mistakes can happen sometimes; and this has happened with every doctor who has practised surgery in this world.

If the matter was reported to the hon. President of the Governing Body, in his wisdom, he took a decision to penalize that doctor. I say with all honesty; I know the doctor who was penalized – Dr. Bishoi – he is a very good surgeon; he is a very qualified surgeon; he is a very excellent surgeon as far as the skill is concerned.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb; nothing will go on record. Let him speak. Shrimati Maneka Ji, please sit down. Nothing will go on record, except what Dr. Yadav says.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Maneka Ji, please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: The President constituted a Committee and believe me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Only what Dr. Yadav says will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Maneka Ji, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Madam, nothing should go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record; I have said that already.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: We would have protected him. There is no reason why we would not have protected him. He is a good surgeon and mistakes can happen with anybody but one cannot be sacrificed for a small mistake. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him.

...(Interruptions)

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: But what did the Director do the next day? He suspended the Head of the Department, Dr. Sampat Kumar, who was heading that Department. Now the situation in AIIMS is that Dr. Sampat Kumar is working because the Health Minister or the President thinks that he is not at fault. He is working under his guidance. The other chap who was suspended is working because the Director or the Court has given him a life. In such a situation, people have started finding fault with each other. Doctors are busy in getting information about the weaknesses of other doctors. AIIMS has become the centre of politics. At 6.00 O'clock when you walk in the Director's Office a coterie of people will be surrounding him. Director is a good man but he is being surrounded by so many people who.
...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, please do not disturb him. Let him speak. Please maintain the decorum.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): We have the right to support. Why are you shouting ? ...*(Interruptions)*
Do you want to act as a lawyer in the Parliament ?
...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.
Yadav Ji, you may please speak.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: He is a good man
and you do not recognize a good man. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Do not say what is good and
what is bad. Please let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: It is not a question of
good or bad. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass, please sit
down. Do not disturb him. If you want to discuss
something you can go outside. Please sit down. Do not
discuss among yourselves.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not fight with each
other. If you want to discuss anything you can go out.
Please do not disturb the House. Yadav Ji, you can
carry on.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV : Madam Chairperson,
in this House the present Minister who was an MP at
that time brought in a Call Attention Motion on the
problems of AIIMS and the actions which were being
taken against the employees' union. We were at that
time on the other side. Former Prime Minister Shri
Vajpayee protected him. Madam Maneka Gandhi protected
him. From the Congress Benches I supported him. But
after the reservation issue when we found that the people
of the oppressed classes are treated as the second grade
or third grade citizens, we have no business to support
any high and mighty ...*(Interruptions)* He has made
compromises with all the unions. Whatever action he has
taken, he has been pleasing everybody. He has been
regularizing everybody now. The Students' Union, Faculty
Union, Fourth Class Employees' Union, everybody is
supporting him because now in the Director's Office he

*Not recorded.

has taken a view that till the date of his retirement, that
is in June, somehow or the other, by hook or crook he
has to sit on the chair and has to see that this governing
body of this Parliament can do nothing about him. That
is his aim and doctors are working day-in and day-out
going to the courts left and right. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Do not destroy AIIMS
in the process. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please keep silence. Nothing,
except Shri Yadav's statement, will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: The Governing Body
has been insisting for many years, after we became a
part of it, to see how the trauma centre could be
developed. It is a large institution where we have to take
care of the accident victims. With a great persuasion
some semblance of trauma centre has started working.
The AIIMS does not have the burns and plastic surgery
unit.

We want that the cancer surgery unit should be
developed. But whatever is being developed, it is at the
whims of the Director. This is one example in this regard.
I would appeal to all my fellow parliamentarians to think
about the autonomy of that kind where you give all
autocratic powers to some individual. But these powers
are not given by the Constitution. All the powers vest
with the Governing Body and he is a gentleman who just
does not obey the Governing Body. He does not replay
to the letters of the Governing Body. What can you do
in this situation ? My friend could tell me.

About the appointment of Registrar or Dean or Sub-
Dean, it is for the first time that a young Health Minister
who is committed to the ideology of down-trodden and
OBCs and has appointed some of the very bright OBC
SC/ST people as the Dean and the Sub-Dean. But they
do not like it. The President has appointed them but they
were not allowed to work. The charge was given to some
third person. The file would not go to the Registrar. The
file would go to the Dean. Whenever he wants he can
put the tenth man in the seniority at the top in the
Selection List and the senior people are ignored. It is a
clear case where science is not developing and where
most of the faculty is now interested only in how politics

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is done. People are becoming more expert in fighting court cases. It is high time that we resolve that the Bill is passed so that the AIIMS is restored to normally and a good environment is created. It is very disgusting to see the condition of AIIMS these days.

So far, reservation for OBC has not been implemented in education but in service of the Registrar, the reservation has been implemented. This year when the Registrars got elected and when it was found that a large number of SC/ST and OBC candidates have cleared the written examination, they changed the format. They changed the format in such a way that they conducted the interview. When the Governing Body asked how did you do that, that report has not been submitted by them. After all you will have to run the institution. The Health Minister was forced to say on *ad hoc* basis that the case is pending in the court. Everything is being decided by the courts. So that situation should never happen in this kind of institution. As a doctor, I do feel that autonomy has to be there. The academic, teaching and selection autonomy has to be there. But this does not mean that in the name of autonomy, you would not carry out the legal provisions and statutory laws of implementing the reservation for OBCs, SCs and STs. The boys and girls of these communities and classes would remain always under fear and terror. There have been examples of this. There have been examples which show that boys and girls who took part in the agitation have been failed in the examination. The boys who have come from their own merit have been failed. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb. Please sit down. Nothing will go on record except Dr. Karan Singh Yadav's statement.

*...(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Manekaji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yadavji, you please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Manekaji, you please sit down. Do not disturb the House. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ponnuswamy, please sit down. Nothing will go on record except Mr. Yadav's statement.

*...(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yadavji, you kindly address the Chair.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Madam, the examinations in AIIMS are conducted by the AIIMS Examination Section. The Examiners are appointed by the Director. In fact, certain boys and girls belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities came up with a specific complaint. *...(Interruptions)*

They came out with their past records and showed that they had been admitted as general candidates despite being SCs/STs. They had cleared all the examinations but because they participated in the agitation, they had been failed in the examination. The Governing Body took a decision that these boys may be examined again but the same set of people were appointed as Examiners.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb. You are disturbing again and again.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: The failing of a student is being attributed. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb the House.

Nothing will be recorded except the speech of Dr. Karan Singh Yadav.

*...(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please let him speak. You already have spoken for 36 minutes. Please sit down now. Please have some decorum in the House.

Nothing will go on record except the speech of Dr. Karan Singh Yadav.

*...(Interruptions)**

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: The extent of autocracy in the institution was to such an extent that there was a

[Shri Karan Singh Yadav]

dispute between the two Heads of Departments. The room of a lady professor was locked and guards were stationed. She was not even allowed to walk into her room. We in the Governing Body said that this at least should not be done. We as doctors cannot stoop to that level of locking the rooms. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am asking you time and again not to disturb him. Nothing, except the speech of Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Yadav, you please address the Chair.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Unfortunately what happened was that when this issue of reservation came, the so called intellectuals approached the courts and appealed that there should not be any reservation for the OBCs. The matter was pending in the courts. But the court did not prevent them from recruiting people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They recruited everybody on an *ad hoc* basis. Almost 200 Assistant Professors were appointed on *ad hoc* basis and they continued in their positions. When they completed their tenure of four years, the previous Governing Body, the one of which I was not a member, was convinced — it is clearly stated in the DOPT rules that *ad hoc* services cannot be counted for future promotions — and all those who had been in *ad hoc* service were selected and was promoted to higher positions. As a result of that the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the OBC communities were deprived. AIIMS have their own people and they keep on selecting them and no one from outside can come in there.

Madam, it is an institution which needs to be taken care of. It is the responsibility of this House and this Government to see that this institution runs well. Everything is not fine there. It is time to bid a farewell and say a good bye to all those who have served the institution so far either as doctors and surgeons or others. We have honoured them. It is time to ask them not to damage this institution any more.

Madam, with these few words, I strongly support and also request the House that in the interest of the

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institution, in the interest of the profession, in the interest of the poor man and the down-trodden people and other communities this Bill should be unanimously passed and we should see to it that AIIMS start improving hence forth and there is no further deterioration.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

Madam, this Bill was pressed in the last Session in its original text. It had sought amendment to Section 11 of the Act of 1956. Though I was in a different mood at that time, our party position was clear that we cannot support this Bill in its original form. It was because, earlier, it was intended to encroach upon the autonomous spirit of the Governing Body of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. But now, the hon. Minister has circulated the relevant amendment for the disputed clauses 2 and 3, sub-section 1 (b) and by that amendment, it is clear that the objectionable and disputed part has to be deleted. Due to that reason, I rise to support this Bill on behalf of my party as it intends to streamline the administration and management of the Institute which is a pioneer Institute in our medical system under our Government meant for the ordinary public.

We take this Institute as having the stature of the Supreme Court. It is an Institute for giving tertiary care for the people. It is an Institute for higher learning in medical sciences, training and research. This Institute is meant for this objective. We are proud of this Institute for various reasons. But I cannot say right now that this Institute is doing all well. At this point of time, we cannot say that this pride is still prevailing. We cannot be proud of this Institute for many reasons. It is the Institute which is meant for giving tertiary care to the alling human beings. We know the ills of human beings. But, unfortunately, this Institute itself is suffering from some dreaded illness. That is the main point. Why I am saying this here?

I have some specific observations. Many things have been said by Madam Maneka Gandhi who had put her points elaborately. Many intricacies are there. I do not want to go into all of them now. Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, my colleague who is a doctor, expressed his views from the side of the Government. But I am definitely not in a position to charge any person. I would not cast aspersions on any particular person. I am only speaking on the merits of the Bill.

Madam, a few days ago, when our country was in turmoil, unfortunately, this Institute found a place in the media. The name of this Institute was highlighted by the media. It was on the anti-quota movement. An Institute which is meant for giving tertiary care and valuable care to the ailing patients has become the citadel of the anti-quota movement. Unfortunately this Institute has been dragged into nasty politics. It is not my personal observation. It is the observation of the Fact Finding Committee, appointed by the Government, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Thorat, who is the Chairman of the UGC. This Committee has come out with many findings, observations and recommendations in its Report. Though that Report has not been tabled in this House, the text of the observations and recommendations have come out in the media, in the Press. We are astonished about it. Being a doctor and a social worker, I am ashamed of this Institute. If these observations are correct and if this is the factual position, then it is a very dangerous thing, which is happening there. This Report implicates the administration itself. I do not know what is the actual position.

I demand that the Thorat Committee Report should be tabled in this House. It has so many observations and recommendations, which are very much damaging and unsoothing; which are against the natural justice and human rights of a particular segment of people; a particular segment of students; a particular segment of faculty members; a particular segment of junior and senior residents. These ills are happening there.

We, in the Parliament, are for streamlining the administration. We have to streamline the administration of the Institute so that these ills could be removed from the body politic of AIIMS. Otherwise, our pride cannot be protected. That is why I rise to support this Bill.

I have recorded some observations, which came out in the media. I want to put all those findings here. So, Madam Chairman, I seek your protection.

Many of our colleagues, here and outside, are always vociferous about human rights. The most important thing, that is the statutory reservation, which is enshrined in our Constitution, is not being followed in AIIMS. The Government has given statutory reservation power to AIIMS also. But unfortunately, for the last many years the reservation policy is not being followed. It has been given a go-bye.

Some students who might have been misled, say they are against reservation and that they are for merit and equal justice. They say that merit should be the primary basis. But unfortunately, the position is this. Then, why 33 per cent reservation for the AIIMS today in seats? That 33 per cent is exclusive of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe statutory reservation. These kind of defects and deficiencies are there, through which legitimate statutory rights of the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe students are being compromised. I charge the Government – whichever Government it may be – these sorts of things are happening for so many years. They are going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Dome, please conclude your speech. You were allotted five minutes, but you have already taken 15 minutes.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Madam, I need few more minutes.

A lot of Members have spoken for so many minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not want to put any aspersions or allegations against anybody. I do not want to put any illegitimate things here. I would only just want to put some legitimate observations here.

Madam on 24th August, 2001, the Supreme Court in its order struck down the reservations for category other than those constitutionally provided as *ultra virus*. Even then, that sort of reservation by-passing this Supreme Court order is going on. How is it going on?

Madam, in the case of post-based roster system, which is the only basis for reservation provided by the Government of India, it is not being followed by the AIIMS authority in the case of Senior Resident ship whereas in the case of Junior Residentship, roster for admission is followed. These sorts of anomalies are there.

There is discrimination in training and posting and even in the examination system. A lot of hon. Members have pointed it out. It is not just mere observation. This is happening there. We must apply our mind. The Government and the Parliament cannot sit idle. They must act. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students allege about the discriminatory attitudes towards them in posting, personal attention during training and during examinations and they also faced such treatment of harassments during and after the anti-quota agitation. There is discrimination in other spheres also. The Resident

[Dr. Ram Chandra Dome]

Doctors Association is there. This is the front runner organization of the Resident Doctors. But this Association also has been made caste-based. This is very unfortunate.

Madam, the pro-quota students had to face harrowing experiences out of those repercussions. One glaring example that has come in the media is about the case of Dr. Ajitha Gil. It is a unique example. I would urge upon the Government to investigate this case. It is a clear case of discrimination. She was meted out with psychological and mental torture. It is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Dome, your Party time is over. Now, please conclude.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Madam, similar situation is prevailing in the case of selection of faculty members. A lot of examples have been mentioned here in this House by my learned colleague, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav. So, I am not going into the details. The denial of research opportunities also has been mentioned here. The recommendation of the Thorat Committee has come in the Press. I would like to briefly point out the text of those recommendations :

"Post-based roster system should be strictly followed in the faculty appointments. Reservation policy should be applied in its totality..."

"The Liaison Officer should monitor and report to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare about its implementation".

Participation of the SC/ST and OBC faculty in all the Committees of the AIIMS should be ensured.

There should be a redressal mechanism for complaints and grievances of the faculty and resident doctors in an appropriate forum."

Now, I come to the role of the Administration. The observation of the Committee, the text is very painful. The Committee observes:

"From the account of faculty residents and students, direct and indirect evidence to believe, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Administration headed by the Director had a role in promoting the anti-quota agitation."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Dome, please conclude now.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : If this is the situation, if this is the factual position, then, it is really damaging the administration and the body-politic. I am not against any particular Professor. I also have regards for him. He may be a known person ...*(Interruptions)* But nobody is above the statutory law of the land. So, this should be investigated and appropriate action should be taken against the erring person or persons. This is my request to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

One of the Senior Professors, even the Dean of Medicine of AIIMS was humiliated by the anti-quota agitationists. This is an unfortunate situation. There is segregation in all the social activities of the Institute in respect of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Backward Class students. This has been pampered. This is the factual position. They are not able to take their meals in a common dining room. ...*(Interruptions)* There is segregation in games and sports.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Dome, your Party's time is over. You have taken more than 15 minutes. Please conclude now.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: They are not able to read in a common reading room in the Library. If this is the situation, it is very shameful. We have to eradicate those evils and we have to streamline this Institute. Definitely, the Administration is the main culprit here. Knowingly or unknowingly, it is playing different roles in all these ills. That is why, now it is the right time to streamline the Institute. That is why, the proposal of the Government through this Bill is before us. Though it is a small amendment, yet it has a tremendous, positive impact. It will have a tremendous, positive impact on streamlining this Institute. As the intention is to streamline the Institute, to deliver the goods to the people, to raise the standard of health of the people, we once again support this Bill.

On behalf of my Party, I would like to say that we all do not support the intention of any encroachment on the autonomy of the Institute. There should be no encroachment on the autonomy of the Institute. We are for the strengthening of the autonomy of the Institute. That is why, I am supporting this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Madam, Chairman, I rise to speak in favour of All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007 introduced today by the Hon'ble Minister in the House. AIIMS is an important institute and people from different parts of the country come there for treatment. The institute have carved a niche for itself. It is not only a hospital for treatment rather research is also been conducted here on various diseases. The patients of the various parts of the country get disheartened from the treatment in their State come to AIIMS to save their lives. The people especially from Bihar come to AIIMS as there are no big medical institutes in the State where they can get treated. Many persons from Bihar come here and get proper treatment. It is not only a hospital but it also provides excellent treatment and saves the lives of the people. The Bill that has been introduced here is not only in respect of the AIIMS rather it is also in respect of the PGI Chandigarh. The Bill is aimed at improving the institute by way of streamlining its administration and making it impartial. So, the Hon'ble Minister has introduced this Bill in the House to get the approval of the House.

Madam, the Hon'ble Member of the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), Maneka Gandhiji is presently not sitting in the House. She was strongly opposing this Bill that the Bill should be sent to a Standing Committee. I feel that all the opposition parties are opposing this Bill. they are feeling inconvenient. They do not want reforms in AIIMS. They want that the AIIMS should remain a wrestling ground, patients continue to die and do politics through this institute. That is why it is being recommended by the Members to refer it to the Standing Committee. Some Members want that it should not be discussed in the House. In fact, the views expressed by the BJP Members on this Bill reflect the psyche of the Bhartiya Janta Party. Their base is standing on it. They do not like OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The credibility of the institutes has witnessed a steady decline during the past. Since the setting up of this institute, no other director as the present one has been so much controversial and he is the one who has divided the institute by indulging in politics and caste politics. Such a director should be removed from his post. It is a different thing, however, that he should also be punished for his untoward activities. This institution is not the political arena. It did not see any serving director who

has separate yard sticks for dalits and OBCs and who led procession and gave direction. OBCs and Dalits are being oppressed in the Institute. The Hon'ble Minister or the Government are unable as to from which quarters he is getting support.

What kind of situation has arisen? The voting is being resorted to. A ruling through Court is being brought in which it is being stated what has to be done, or what not. 'No work-No pay' is the ruling of the Supreme Court. But this order is being implemented in a different way over there. The people who are calling on strike for meeting their demand are being harassed. This is an unheard incident that the Director of an Institution has made separate arrangement of catering for people belonging to Dalit community. The India has its own constitution and it has been a salient feature of our polity since independence. The people have been given equal rights in the Constitution drafted by Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar. What kind of agony the people are facing? Even after 60 years of independence, this kind of attitude is being adopted against the people belonging to Dalit and OBC communities—it is being practiced out in a Government Institute through a Government Director who himself is a doctor. Doctor has an exalted status. As per popular belief doctor is considered to be next to God. The untouchability is being practiced through that doctor. The Director has worked against the spirit of our constitution. ...*(Interruptions)* That Director should not only be sacked, but also be arrested and awarded most stringent of punishment, but people will not be able to tolerate it. The people are doing politics on the pretext of providing social justice to people of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and OBCs, because they want vote. But people of the country have become aware. Now, they are not going to be carried away by their rhetoric. They are not going to win without the support of people belonging to OBCs, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and nor are going to get vote. But all this is mere window-dressing, which has become very much evident to the people. Such kinds of people are being encouraged. They are being backed. This is not going to work. The poor class of this country, which constitutes 75 per cent population of this country, has become aware of rights granted to them by the constitution. If their rights are violated and honour is hurt, the people belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and OBCs will not tolerate it. The people who will come in way of their interests will get ruined. What to talk about just an ordinary Director. The director is humiliating the hon'ble Minister because the Minister himself belongs to scheduled

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

castes, scheduled tribes and OBCs. Those people are not able to digest it. If a person belonging to upper caste instead of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and OBC had been holding the portfolio of Minister; then probably he would not have to face this kind of harassment.

Probably he is the first Minister of Health who has to face such a humiliation—because of an ordinary Director who is an appointee. It is being contended that he should be given autonomy and his post should not be abolished. The hon'ble Minister should state as to who will take responsibility in such a condition. The God forbid if any mishap happens at AIIMS that 500 patients die due to one's carelessness, and still it is being said that he should be allowed to officiate for five years. He should be able to officiate for entire term. If 500 patients die due to a Director, who is at the helm of affairs there, in such a situation whether responsibility on him would be fixed or not? Whether such people should be allowed to continue for five years. Whether an hon'ble Minister cannot sack him? What kind of law is this? Who will answer this? Who is accountable for it? Whether Director will give reply to Parliament? It is the responsibility of hon'ble Minister and nobody has any control over the Minister. Now, what the hon'ble Minister will do? What can he do?

Madam, the situation has become very serious. I understand that continuing with the service of such officers is not in interest of us and democracy. It is not in the interest of constitution either. On one hand, we talk about heading into 21st century and on other, we stick to anachronistic beliefs. The hatred, enmity nurtured during thousands of years is being propagated through this Director, which is very much evident.

Madam, through you, I would like to make a humble request to all the Members of Parliament that existence of such persons even for a single day is not in the interest of that esteemed organization. All of you are aware of the situation prevailing in AIIMS. Every now and then we people also have to go to AIIMS. The turn for treatment comes after six months or one year even if the condition of the patient is serious. The people are dying, but treatment is not being given. There are many such examples. Nobody gets proper date for treatment. We people too send recommendation letters, several people particularly people from poor sections of Bihar might have been approaching you also for such recommendation letters, but despite that nobody entertains them over there. Our recommendation letters are thrown

into garbage bin. Is this the importance of MP, his recommendation is ignored and patients are rebuked and sent back because they have come with the recommendation letter of an MP.

Madam Chairman, I would like to cite an example. Raghunath Jha is a senior MP from our party. Some days back, he was ill and was undergoing treatment in AIIMS. He became critical and he was admitted to ICU. The hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad visited him. He found that he was not being given proper treatment, as Raghunath ji's condition was very critical. The hon'ble Minister of Railways asked Akhilesh Singh ji, the Minister of State accompanying him to call on the Director of AIIMS and inform him that the arrangements were not adequate. When Akhilesh ji approached him, he refused to accompany. It is very shameful that the Director did not respond to the call of a State Minister of Government of India. This is a kind of dictatorship and dictatorship cannot go in democracy. What does this Director think of himself? This is suffice to indicate the kind of the mismanagement in AIIMS and the situation is beyond repair while their Director continues to hold post. Hundreds of people are fighting with death, but nobody is seeing them. It has degraded to such an extent. If we register our complaint to hon'ble Minister, he will not be in a position to redress our grievances and the Director is not going to listen to anybody.

The reservation for OBC on the line of SC/ST reservation was provided. The Bill was passed with the support of all the political parties in Parliament. However, anti-reservation movement was launched in protest and people were provoked to oppose the provision of the reservation. The finding was done over there for this work. The AIIMS doctors were directed to oppose this move. By this way, the people over there were provoked. If the politics is allowed to creep in such a sacred institutions, they will lose the sanctity attached to them.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am speaking with a heavy heart.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Also keep the time in mind.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am expressing the sentiments of crores of people. We are very disappointed and aggrieved because of the continuation of working Director in the institution. How can be people of Bharatiya Janata party share that grief?

The tents were erected at AIIMS when the agitation against reservation for OBC was going on. The photograph of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar was burnt over there.

How can you save the country this way, the photograph of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, who is worshipped across the country, was burnt. It would be better if the Director of the AIIMS leaves his job and joins politics since he seems to be more inclined for it.

16.00 hrs.

It would have been much better if he had worked among the public. This Bill seeks to exercise control and nothing else. There is no need to raise such a hue and cry on this issue. This Bill is in the interest of the general public. I would like to submit that the Director of the AIIMS and people sharing his ideology or with such a mentality should be punished.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the need to set up institutes on the lines of the AIIMS in every State.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Institutes on the lines of AIIMS are proposed to be set up at six other places. Decision to set up an AIIMS in my constituency has also been taken. The Bhartiya Janata Party got the foundation stone laid by H.E. Mr. Vice President. Funds were not sanctioned and no action was taken. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the UPA and the hon'ble Minister of the UPA Government and my leader Shri Lalu Prasad ji with whose efforts funds were sanctioned. However, the amount being sanctioned is like a drop in the ocean. The funds being sanctioned are not sufficient. Despite seeking Rs. five crores, funds have not been sanctioned. There is no MP at whose residence 50 people do not visit daily to seek recommendation for treatment at the AIIMS. The setting up of an AIIMS there would reduce the load on this Institute. With the setting up of several AIIMS alongwith the one in Patna, the patients would not suffer as much as they are suffering now. I was making my submission, however, owing to paucity of time, I would aver that I extend my full support to this Bill which would further strengthen the Hon'ble Minister. Besides, action should be taken against the Director whose actions are tantamount to abetting untouchability. Therefore, he should not be only removed from service rather he should be punished under the law and sent to jail so that in future no director should dare do such a thing and a healthy

environment could be created. People suffering from some complex or a disgruntled person should not be appointed to such posts.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Madam Chairman, we are discussing the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007. We are fortunate that the hon. Minister is from a branch of medical science and doctors' fraternity. Dr. P. Venugopal is a prominent and internationally reputed doctor and surgeon who has rightly been rewarded with Padma Bhushan by the nation.

But what is happening in the recent past in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the prime Institute of the country, is most disheartening for everybody of us.

The Minister is the Chief Executive of the Ministry, the representative of this Parliament, and our representative in the Government. He deserves respect, no doubt but he should not also disrespect anybody. The way he is functioning is a cause of concern for all of us. We do not approve his action. He should concentrate more for the benefit of the nation and for the improvement of medical science in the country but it seems that his tenure is full of litigation. He is more interested in litigation. He has always been dragged to court. His entire action is being determined by the hon. Court so many times.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences is an autonomous institution of national importance, established with an objective of developing patterns of teaching in UG, PG and medical education so as to demonstrate a high standard of medical education to all other medical college institutions in India.

Pursuant to the judgment of the Delhi High Court dated 29th November, 2002, the Union Government had appointed Dr. P. Venugopal as the Director of AIIMS. The term of five years of Dr. Venugopal as the Director is up to 3rd July, 2008. He is left with only six or seven months of his service. The judgment of 29.3.2007 concludes that such appointment is according to the prevailing laws and was in consonance with the 'practice' adopted and prevalent in the Institute for a considerable time. So, he has been appointed legally. He is also

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

continuing legally. He had been appointed according to what was followed for a long time in AIIMS. But what is happening now?

The Delhi High Court has recorded this in its earlier order dated 18th November, 2006, which says that there seems to be only one point agenda of the Union Health Minister, that is, to remove Dr. P. Venugopal, Director of AIIMS in any possible manner.

Madam, this Bill is coming here for that purpose. The court has observed one year back, that the only agenda of the hon. Health Minister is just to remove Dr. P. Venugopal. I do not know why he is so much interested just to remove a person, who is an internationally reputed person.

Madam, the Bill is placed for seeking the approval of this House retrospectively just to get rid of this gentleman. This is the most important point. He is to retire after six months. The entire intention of this Ministry and this Bill is just to remove one person, the House is discussing this now, and we are taking the entire time of the House for this purpose. What is his fault? I just want to know this from the Government. Why is he so much interested in this? Let us know what the fault of this doctor, so that we can also support but that is not in the objective of this Bill. The Minister should tell us, what the real position is. We would like to know why the Minister is interested to remove the Director of AIIMS. He should say that, and he should share that with the nation.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb. Let him speak. The Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): The Bill does not say that ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You go through the Bill. I am just going through the Bill.

Madam, I would like to quote para 3 (IA), lines 21 to 29, of the Bill. It says:

"Provided that any person holding office as a Director immediately before the commencement of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Post-

Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Act, 2007, shall in so far as his appointment is inconsistent with the provision of the sub-section, cease to hold office on such commencement as such Director and shall be entitled to claim compensation not exceeding three months pay and allowances for the premature termination of his office or of any contract of services".

What is the intention of this provision? That is there in the Bill itself ... (Interruptions)

Who is the Director? ... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Noting will go on record except the speech of Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: We are not ignorants ... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tripathy, you please address the Chair. Do not reply to the Member.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Madam, he is disturbing me.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ponnuswamy, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, let him continue his speech.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am drawing the attention of the hon. Minister as also the entire House. It is about the provision in the Bill itself.

'Any such provision seeking to exclude giving of notice, opportunity of hearing and the existence of justifiable reasons for any premature termination shall be unconstitutional.' This is the verdict of the court. So, this would be unconstitutional.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tripathy, please come to the point.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Pardon!

*Not recorded.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You give your gist point-wise.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: No Madam, this interference should not be there. This is such an important Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I can understand, and that is why I have given you the time.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: There is no limitation of the time. We are discussing the Bill.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am saying, you address the Chair and speak within the time limit.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: There is no limit of the time. This is the Bill. We cannot pass the Bill like this. Every sentence, you are just interfering
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Time has been allotted on this Bill.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusaral): This is such an important Bill, and there is no time limit for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am saying that time has been allocated to each party and one should stick to that time. You give only the points.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am only mentioning points. This provision is unconstitutional. That is why I am referring to the court order. I have just cited the provision of the Bill, and I am also citing the court order stating how this provision would be unconstitutional.

If you approve this thing, tomorrow, it would be declared unconstitutional by the court. So, should we be ignorant like this and approve this?

That is my point and I am just trying to draw the attention of the entire House to know the provision of law. The same would be declared unconstitutional in the light of law laid down by the Supreme Court in a number of cases. If time permits, I can cite a number of cases where it has already been declared unconstitutional by the hon. Supreme Court.

I may tell you that this Act, after the Bill is passed would also be unconstitutional. This Government has been

dragged with litigation and the entire House has been taken for a ride. We have been alerting this Government not to make such a legislation; which would be struck down by the court. But the Government is not listening. In so many cases in the past, it has happened.

About this case, I am again requesting the hon. Minister — we have tremendous respect for him — that he should not take this House for a ride by passing this provision because it would be struck down by the court as unconstitutional. I would again urge the Government to consider this point.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Do not side with him.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : I am not siding with anybody.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That is why I am saying, you should address the Chair. Do not pay attention to what they are saying.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Madam, this Government has also issued some orders from different Ministries. I am just telling how they are doing things in two face. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam Chairman The Health Ministry is seeking the approval of the House restricting the age to 65.

It is now restricting the age of the Director to 65 years. What is the order of the other Ministry, Ministry of Human Resource Development? It says in the light of the recent development, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has already issued orders for increasing the superannuation age of all teaching appointments in the universities from the age of 62 to 65, with a further condition that in individual cases the superannuation age is extendable to the age of 70 years.

This present Government, their Ministry of Human Resource Development, have issued such an order that the age of the teachers in the universities can be extended to the age of 70 years. Now, through this Bill they are seeking to limit the age of the Director in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to 65 years. Why is it so? Why is the Government giving just two orders — one Ministry is giving one order extending the age to 70 years and the other Ministry is restricting the age of 65 years? This is only to remove a particular person.
...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

Madam, I am also drawing the attention of this House to what will happen after. It is also reported that about 130 to 150 doctors, the faculty members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have made a representation to the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Rashtrapatiiji and the hon. Minister also. What is their contention? They faculty members of AIIMS in a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on 13th November, 2007 have threatened mass resignation against the AIIMS (Amendment) Bill, 2007. The letter says: "Your own Government, through the Health Minister, is pressing for a draconian and repressed Bill to reduce the chair of the Director of the AIIMS to a subversive yes-man for all times to come whereas your own initiative of Valiathan Committee report is gathering dust for more than a year." This Government has appointed the Valiathan Committee, a very reputed Committee which has also submitted its report one year ago. The Minister is not taking any steps. The report is gathering dust. But the hon. Minister is interested just to remove the Director. ...*(Interruptions)* The recommendation says – it will be pertinent to emphasise it here – that "the AIIMS Act needs a comprehensive amendment" and hence review in the light of the Valiathan Committee report is necessary. So, let the hon. Minister come with some amendments for the AIIMS Act so that the recommendations of the Valiathan Committee can be incorporated. We will welcome that thing.

The Valiathan Committee report says on how to make the All India Institute of Medical Sciences an autonomous institution. But what is he doing? Where is he leading to? He is from the same faculty, he is from the same fraternity.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: He is also a doctor. The way in which he is seeking the approval of this Bill from this House is detrimental to the entire reputation of the House.

Lastly, the faculty members of AIIMS have also told it.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you Tripathyji. Please conclude now.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Yes, Madam. I am concluding.

I would request the hon. Minister that he should withdraw this Bill because of the respect for the doctors'

fraternity. He belongs to that fraternity. I respect it. The entire House is also in support of withdrawal of this Bill. The hon. Minister should withdraw this Bill and he should come with a comprehensive Bill so that we can support it. Why should be the entire nation will unnecessarily come to an ugly situation where the court will again strike down the act etc.? We should not allow to take it to that position.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you Tripathyji. Thank you very much.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Madam, I hope good sense should prevail on him. He has made some amendments in this Bill. He should also withdraw this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Madam Chairman, I strongly oppose the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007. Several kinds of Bills are presented in the House and discussions are held thereupon. When a Bill is presented in the interest of the people at large, then the entire House unanimously extends its support. However, the very purpose of this Bill is dilution of autonomy. All India Institute of Medical Sciences is an autonomous body but the Hon'ble Minister for one and a half years, has been trying to dilute this autonomy by interfering in its day to day administration. The Ministry of Health has been functioning even in the past, there have been Ministers even in the past and there have been Directors too and the Institute has continued to remain functional in the past as well. However, never before a Minister has tried to establish his authority in the Institute, the way the Minister of this Department, who is also the Chairman of this Institute, has done by way of interfering in the functioning of the Institute during the past one and half years. This has necessitated the presentation of this Bill. Why it was necessary? That we because several times he moved the High Court and the Supreme Court too. Everywhere the Government and the Minister had to eat dust and after this defeat, he again wants to capture the All India Institute of Medical Sciences by taking the approval of the House. We are from Bihar. Out of the total number of patients coming to the hospital everyday seven per cent are from Bihar. We have been noticing it. When I visit All India Institute of Medical Sciences, I often come across complaints of this kind that how the

Minister has been issuing directives even in the appointment of small faculty lecturers. If the Minister in the capacity of the Chairman of the Institute has the courage, he may tell that how many times he has issued direction to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. We would like to know from him that how many times he moved the High Court and the Supreme Court where he was made to eat dust and the judgements that were issued by the hon'ble Courts.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Is he supporting judicial activism.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': This is not judicial activism, you cannot label everything as judicial activism. How many times he has interfered in the routine working of the Institute. Shrimati Maneka Gandhi referred to so many things. If he dare challenge that, he should replay. She also referred to the manner in which he occupied the guest house of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences* ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Do not mislead. ...*(Interruptions)* When you do not know, do not allege. Do not allege blindly. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not do that. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not befitting of you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Please delete this from record. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please delete this word from the record.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Please delete these words. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have already deleted these words.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Because she told you ...*(Interruptions)* Do not do that. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Please delete this word. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramadass, I have already deleted this word.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It may be expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Please give its reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Madam, it may be deleted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is already deleted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': He should reply. Your Minister will respond, why are you standing? Please listen to the truth. Truth is bitter. ...*(Interruptions)*

Try to learn the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please speak on your point. Silent please. Please sit down.

[English]

I have already deleted these words.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is already deleted from the record. Please sit down. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: He is using unparliamentary words. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': I have not used any unparliamentary words.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Chair will take care of it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': If I have spoken any unparliamentary words, I am ready to apologise. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': I have said 'misuse of power'. Who has said that 'misuse of power' is unparliamentary ?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will come on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': 'Misuse of power' is not unparliamentary word. That is a parliamentary word.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Cross-talk will not come on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please tell me.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': I would like to tell you that when the Courts ruled that the matter should be sent to the ACC Cabinet Committee on appointments. ...*(Interruptions)* When it came to filing an affidavit in the Supreme Court that very Chairman filed an affidavit against his Government. ...*(Interruptions)* This is on record. I am not levelling any allegation. Why was it happening ? It was because the entire Government was not supporting him in his efforts to establish his authority. Today, he wants the approval of the entire House to maintain his authority. He wants to possess it. ...*(Interruptions)* He got Rs. 70 crore slashed from the funds to 'AIIMS'. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Member Tripathiji was saying that the Ministry of HRD has issued a directive. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Are you relenting ? If you have got any proof that I have reduced the funds of Rs. 70 crore, then please give it to me. Please do not make any allegation on something that you do not know. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister can respond to all these points during his reply to the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, please speak only to the point.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass and Shri Ponnuswamy, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Are you prepared to challenge him on this issue ? Please do not tell untruth. Be a Parliamentarian, and do not tell untruth. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is already deleted. The hon. Minister will respond to all these issues in his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': I am coming to your point also. Why are you so worried? Let the Minister reply. Why are you getting so agitated? The truth is always painful. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not resort to cross-talks. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass and Shri Ponnuswamy, please sit down. Please do not disturb the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Madam, I would like to say ...*(Interruptions)* ... Be seated

*Not recorded.

...(Interruptions) Madam, just now Tripathiji made a mention of seventy years. ...(Interruptions) HRD Ministry has issued a directive. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister of Health as to how many times the Director of an institute has been given extension upto the age of seventy years, whereas on the other hand extension is being repeatedly given to the Director of another institute. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Rajiv Ranjan Ji, please express your views in points. The hon'ble Minister will reply to them.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Madam, this is the reason that we have opposed it initially and suggested that it should be sent to the Standing Committee ...(Interruptions). Then he said that today he cannot issue the limitation. I will conclude my speech within next five minutes ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Besides, he is misleading the Parliament today. He wants to establish his hegemony over AIIMS under the cover of enacting a Parliamentary Act. I would like to quote a para from Supreme Court's judgment may have to suffer humiliation in the Supreme Court. State Bank of India ...(Interruptions) Mistry ji, leave it. You have got a very good reputation. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chairman, not Mistry ji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': I would like to quote a para from the Supreme Court's judgement in regard to State Bank of India staff Unions vs. Union of India case and after that, I would like to narrate my experience in one line and then I will conclude.

[English]

It states that:

Whenever any amendment is brought in force retrospectively or any provision of the Act is deleted retrospectively, in this process rights of some are bound to be effective one way or the other. In every case the exercise by legislature by introducing a new provision or deleting an existing provision with retrospective effect per se does not amount to violation of Article 14 of the Constitution. The legislature can change, as observed by this Court in Caurvery Water Disputes Tribunal, Re (1993) Supp. (1) SCC 96 (II), the basis on which a decision is given by the Court and thus change the law in general, which will affect a class of persons and events at large..."

"...It cannot, however, set aside an individual decision inter parties and affect their rights and liabilities alone. Such an Action the part of a Legislature amounts to exercising the judicial power of the State and to function as an Appellate Court of Tribunal, which is against the concept of separation of powers."

This is the Supreme Court's order. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is just quoting the Supreme Court's order. Now, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Madam, it is Supreme Court's order, it is the judgement of the Supreme Court. The day, a legislation is enacted to eliminate an individual, the Court will definitely intervene and the Government will face reprimand ...(Interruptions). I would like to narrate my own experience. I have never met, nor am I acquainted with. Dr. Venugopal who has been discussed over here. If this doctor had treated this noble profession, as business, he would have been sitting on a gold mine, but he preferred to remain in the AIIMS for the service of humanity. You people are slinging mud on him.

Madam Chairman, last year, I got infected with Dengu, and I was admitted in the AIIMS. The hon'ble Minister visited AIIMS with his retinue to see the dengue patients. Besides, Shri Dasmunsi, a Union Minister, also visited AIIMS and they visited patients before the TV Crew. I was admitted in the adjoining room, but the hon'ble Minister of Health did not have time to inquire about the Health of an MP. ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': But Dr. Venugopal, who was to at all related to me, used to visit me at 6.30 am daily and then used to go to the ward. What discussion can these people hold, who want to further their interests.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Madam Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to speak on the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

Madam, on this Bill our many hon'ble Members have expressed their views. AIIMS is at the top of the medical institutes in our country and its name is taken with a great honour and pride all over the country. As has been mentioned by the hon'ble Members that a dispute has been going there for the last one and half years between the hon'ble Minister and the Director and nobody knows as to what was the reason that caused the dispute or, in fact, what was the dispute. This institute, as Shri Rajiv Ranjan said, has been in existence since long and many ministers and Directors have come and gone and, at the same time, the treatment of patients has also been going on. But to my knowledge, it may be possible that Mr. Minister, as he himself is a doctor, may have been trying to plug its some loopholes or shortcomings for providing better services to the patients visiting there or there may have been some other reasons.

Madam Chairman, I was just going through this Bill and I realized how the dispute between the institutes and the administration has lowered the credibility of the institute and how the Minister has got involved in the dispute. We have been reading this thing in newspapers regularly. I have also read it in various magazines. Even the matter came up in High court first and, then, in Supreme Court. It is a matter of great concern. As so many hon'ble Members have said that the institute has its own prestige and credibility. As patients, whosoever visited there, they were given proper treatment. It is also true that the constitution has guaranteed education, health and

*Not recorded.

employment to all, but now-a-days it has been seen that there is no arrangements for the treatment of the poor in the rural areas either in CHC, PHC or in district hospitals or in so many such institutes. It has also been emphasized in the calling attention motion, just moved by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, that the Government doctors, while working in any institute, do not treat the patients whereas the Government hospitals and institutes have still better facilities and equipments with which the patients can get better treatment, but they compel them to go to private pathological labs and nursing homes apart from doing their government services, they also visit nursing homes most of the time, other pathological labs, CT scan or X-ray centres to which they are associated with. But now the matter under discussion is about the tenure of the director in which it has been stated that the director can remain in his office for a period of 5 years or till he attains the age of 65 years or whichever earlier. I do not know as to what is the provision in case of directors of either institutes or how long they can hold their office, but the legislation which is being brought forward for the AIIMS has raised a question mark and, so, the Government will have to consider it seriously. Or, it may be possible that Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss belongs to SC or OBC, however, it is not known to me, but for such a conflict, it may be one of the factors that if someone being an SC or OBC assumes the highest office of one institute, the entire lobby of the institute always tries to let him down. It may also be one of the reasons. It should be investigated. The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court but there should not be such a situation in which the Government may have to face the music when Supreme court delivers such a verdict which is not in favour of the Government after the legislation is passed. We will also have to take it seriously. Before bringing in this legislation we should consult all the concerned experts and only then we should think to its passage. Now that discussion is on, so I would like to put forth some demands for my own State. The population of Uttar Pradesh is around 18 crores. It has KAVAL i.e. five metropolitan cities such as Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Agra and Lucknow having more than 50 lakh population. Here is the need to open five such big institutes. Earlier I have requested the hon'ble Minister to help with the money, if the same is needed in setting up these institutes. You should set up such institutes where good doctors, directors could be produced and a large number of patients could get benefits of it. You will have to do provisions for these things. There is a provision in this Bill regarding AIIMS, that provides for the fixed tenure of

the Director for a period of 5 years or till he/she attains the age of 65 years, or whichever is earlier. So the same should also be applicable to other institutes in the whole country only then it can be justifiable. Else we will have to ensure that we are not going to do injustice against anybody through this Bill.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Madam, Chairman, I rise not to oppose the Bill as such, but I must say that we should study the Amendment Bill in depth. A lot of questions have been raised here. It is a matter of grave concern that All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been a centre of anti-quota movement. We have been proud of that institution, but the fame of that institution has been lowered nowadays.

So, it is a matter of deep concern, not only to the august House but it is also a concern to the people at large. So, it is a national concern. Hence, we cannot just keep mum about the situation in the AIIMS. Hon. Members, particularly, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome and other Members from the Congress side, have narrated the present situation of AIIMS. But other questions are also involved. Firstly, the question about the encroachment of the autonomy is being met or not should be judged or assessed.

Secondly, already some verdict has been passed by the Supreme Court. Have we taken that into account or not? I am not challenging or contradicting the will and the intention of the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill itself. But my question is that, in that situation, why does the Government not bring forward a new legislation? Why do you bring the amendment to the existing Act? So, I am not opposing the Bill but my appeal to the Minister is that for having in-depth discussion and to take all the points which have been raised in this House itself, this should be referred to the Standing Committee. After that we can discuss on that and we can express our judgements. Hence, I think, the Government will think over it and take necessary steps in this regard.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam, Chairman I regret to say that AIIMS, which was said to be one of the prestigious and super speciality medical

institutes of the country, has suffered a major set back to its prestige and credibility following clash of ego between the two persons viz. the hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, President of its Governing Body and its Director, Shri Venu Gopal. As perceived by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, AIIMS was providing a better and world class medical service to the poor. It had name and fame and almost all was going well in order, but now I feel that due to clash of ego of two personalities its prestige is at stake. The name of AIIMS is still at the top of the Medical Institutions. Whether it is Rajasthan, Bihar, U.P. or any other part of the country, the name of AIIMS is taken as the top most institution. It is a matter of great pride for us that we have an institute like the AIIMS. When the NDA led Government was in power, people were demanding that AIIMS like institutes should be established in their areas. There is much rush in AIIMS, so institutes like AIIMS should also be set up in other States. At that time, it was decided that six AIIMS would be set up in various parts of the country and that decision was made by assuming the AIIMS as a model. While once chronic patients were treated at the AIIMS, but now no care is being taken of them. This all happened due to the prevailing dissension and the tendency to demoralize one another. This situation, I think, is not in the interest of any institute from any point of view. If you have given the status of autonomy to this institute, then there should not be any kind of interference in its affairs.

Madam, Chairman, through you, I would like to say that an institute like this has been set up in Pondicherry. A decision has been made that the hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare should not interfere in its affairs. I would quote it and it is very important which the Parliamentary Standing Committee had recommended that the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Health-Secretary should have no direct interference in the affairs of the AIIMS and the institutes like this. The atmosphere of confrontation created in AIIMS is causing harm to its autonomy. The Parliamentary Committee of Health (Rajya Sabha) under the Chairmanship of Shri Amar Singh from Samajwadi Party had presented its report on Jawahar Lal Nehru Institute of Post Graduate Medical and Research (JIPMAR) Pondicherry Bill, 2007 in Rajya Sabha wherein it was constrained to make this comment because a number of untoward incidents affecting the autonomy of AIIMS had taken place. The Committee had recommended that the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Health Secretary should not be directly associated with any such institutes. The Committee pointed

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

out that it is now being proposed to make the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Health Secretary ex-officio members of JIPMAR. If it so happened, this institute will have to face the same problems the AIIMS has been confronting. From the recommendation in respect of the said Institute of Pondicherry, it can be assumed about the situation that has been created. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Prof. Ramadass, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Other institutes will also have to face such problems. So, the proposal like this needs to be reconsidered so that the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Health Secretary cannot interfere in the functioning of such institutes. In this regard, I would like to quote an Urdu verse. 'Na Surat Buree hai, na Seerat Buree hai, Bura wahi hai, Jiskee neeyat buree hai'. It would have been better if this Bill was brought for *interalia* extending the superannuation age of the Director to 65 years etc. But, the intention is revealed as this Bill has been brought in the guise of PGI, Chandigarh. It shows his malafide intention. That is why I was constrained to oppose this Bill. I would like to quote it with your kind permission. "Sarkar ka hastkshep AIIMS kee swayatata ke liye khatra" (Interference of Government is dangerous for the autonomy of AIIMS)—the autonomy of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is being affected because of the battle of supermacy between the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Director for the last few months. The interference of Government in these prestigious institutes is very unfortunate. So, the issue of inclusion of Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Health Secretary as ex-officio members in the governing body of the said institute should be reconsidered. The comment of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare indicates the direct interference of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare in the affairs of AIIMS. Its report says that it is not proper to include the Minister incharge and the Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as ex-officio President and Secretary of the prestigious

*Not recorded.

institutes like Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research. Through you, I would like to know from the Government as to why this Bill was not referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is comprised of members from all parties where full discussion would be held on this Bill. In their meeting, the Secretary of the Government may also be called. It would be better if this Bill was brought after a full discussion in the Standing Committee. It has been brought directly to the House by violating the dignity of democracy and the constitutional system ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Rawat Ji, please mind the time, these things have already been said.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: There should not be any kind of interference in their autonomy. Madam Chairman, you also know that the interference in the affairs of any university or such institutes is condemnable. After all, it is worth considering that the courts have given several decisions in favour of its officials or director. It shows that the Government are committing some mistakes. That is why, through you, I would like to submit to the Government once again that they should make effort afresh to maintain and restore the dignity and credibility of the institute like the AIIMS in public interest and also in the interest of the treatment of the lakhs of patients in the country.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Madam, I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity to support this landmark Amendment Bill.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGI), Chandigarh have been regulated under the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act 1956, and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Chandigarh Act 1966.

Presently, the appointment, terms and conditions of service of the Directors of the above institutions are also monitored by the above Acts and Rules made thereunder. The present Bill has been placed in pursuance of the directions of the hon. Delhi High Court dated 29th March 2007 in LPA Nos. 2045, 2046 of the year 2006.

The present Director was selected and appointed as Director AIIMS at the age of 61 years for tenure of five years. This is an illegal appointment. This is in

contradiction to all earlier appointments of AIIMS, Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh. This appointment is also in contradiction to the subsequent appointment of Director, PGI, Chandigarh in March 2004 who has also been appointed till he attains 62 years.

Delhi High Court held that the Director is an employee of the Institute but the provisions of regulations 30, which prescribe the age of superannuation for non-teaching employees as sixty years and for teaching faculty sixty two years, will not apply for the post of Director. The court held that the appointment to the Director post is a "tenure appointment" and is incapable of being curtailed except for justifiable reason and with notice to the Director, and that too in accordance with law.

Hon. High Court has also directed the Government of India and the AIIMS governing body to formulate a policy covering the various facts and conditions of service of its employees including the Director of the Institute in accordance with law. Hon. High Court further highlighted the deficiencies in the existing rules and regulations to the tenure of the Director of AIIMS, New Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh. To remove the deficiencies and to comply with the directions of the hon. High Court, this Bill is presented by Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss.

This present Bill paves way to amend Section 11 of AIIMS Act 1956 and Section 11 of PGIMS Act 1966 by including Sub Section 1A. According to sub-section 1A, the Director shall hold office for a term of 5 years from the date of appointment or until he attain the age of sixty-five years whichever is earlier.

In 2004, the total Budget of the AIIMS was around Rs. 250 crore. However, the present hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare had a vision to bring AIIMS to the level of John Hopkins and with that view, he got the Budget raised to 500 crore.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: I am speaking on the Bill. You have allowed other Members ...*(Interruptions)* Please permit me to speak for one minute more.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: For the past few months, the non-plan expenditure has increased two-fold but the

planned fund is not being used and about Rs. 200 crore is being retained.

About 104 MPs including Gandhian, Shrimati Nirmala Deshpande have submitted representation against the present Director with regard to caste based discrimination and harassment and an inquiry also was instituted against him.

The present Director has failed to conduct the Convocation and failed to award the degrees to the undergraduates. The students have started agitation and finally the hon. Minister has signed and issued the certificates.

Throughout the country, all the people are well aware of the anti-public activity of the present Director but the Government of India is not able to do anything for the removal of him. Since he is appointed for the period of five years *i.e.* up to his 66th year, he is not bothering about the welfare of the Institution and not abiding by the rules and regulations. The present Amendment Bill will solve this problem.

The UPA Government under the able administration of our hon. Prime Minister, our hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss has planned to start six world-class AIIMS like Institutions in Jodhpur, Bhubaneshwar, Rishikesh, Patna, Raipur and Bhopal before the end of 2010.

I am humbly appreciating the valuable services of our hon. Minister, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss.

On considering all these aspects, the present Bill is a welcome step taken by our hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss. I appreciate and congratulate the Minister and support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Madam, Chairman, I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this amendment Bill. First I had made up my mind not to speak on this Bill. This Bill is a very short one, but various quarters of the House participated in the discussion on this Bill and during this discussion one point is clearly evident. The prime responsibility of the House in which we are having a discussion is to ensure the compliance of the constitutional rights by the Government, the House itself and every

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

one of us. This point made me feel that perhaps through this Bill we are going to challenge the very rights provided in the Constitution. I would not like to talk about a particular person. I have been a Member of this House since the Eleventh Lok Sabha. I have never come into contact with the person about whom a mention has been made here, nor is there any possibility of my coming into contact with him in future, therefore, there is no need for me to talk about any particular individual.

I completely agree with one point and as Ram Kripal Ji was saying that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is an institute. It is also a research institution. It is an institute carrying out research in medical sciences. In almost all States politicians usually say, especially, in general meetings that there should not be any politics in the field of education. There are many such fields where politics must not be played; they should be guarded from political interference. We also toe this line and I feel that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is also a statutory institute of education. Medical institute is an institution, therefore; the autonomy of this institute must remain intact. I feel that we are deviating from the decision taken by our former leaders be they the framers of our constitution or the people who participated in the struggle for independence as there are many such institutions, which were given autonomy since independence when. First Government assumed power under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Ji till date.

17.00 hrs

That's why, I rise to speak. I have no interest in this dispute as to who the bigger and more prominent person is between the minister of the concerned department or the chief of the institute or institution under the said minister. This cannot be a matter of dispute and if it has become a dispute then that is an unfortunate thing for the democracy. We are interrupted repeatedly stating that it is against the spirit of democracy. I fail to understand as to which direction we are leading this debate in the House. I couldn't complete two-year tenure as a minister, under the leadership of Atalji and I had been Union Minister of Power for about one and a half years. You are aware that there are many big PSUs under the department of Power. All those PSUs have been given autonomy. Even if I wished, I couldn't have issued directives directly to the chairman of any PSU, I couldn't issue directives on my own, while many a time I used to

feel that something was going wrong. But had I got involved myself in that dispute I would have been fighting for it and I feel that perhaps my two years would have elapsed in the dispute itself. After going through the complete discussion it seems that the time at the disposal of our Health minister is being devoted to this dispute. Out of our country's 100 crore population, 70 percent people are living in rural areas. Necessary health facilities are not available there even today.

There was a starred question yesterday, the reply to which was given by the minister himself. It was about a survey regarding the primary health centres or sub-centres and its report was quoted in the annexure-II. The percentage of the facilities which should have been provided at our primary health centres was given in the said survey. What I read in it yesterday is not available with me today. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Geeteji, time is over.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am not mentioning any political matter *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am not talking about any political talks; I am saying that you should express your views in brief.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I will make it brief *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Bill is over and we have to take up another Bill also. You requested for time and I accepted your demand, hence please conclude your speech as quickly as possible.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Chairman, I will definitely follow your directions. I am speaking about the Bill itself. This House has been created for preserving the honour of the constitution, and while sitting in that very House, we are acting against the spirit of the Constitution, I am afraid we are doing such a thing, we should not be held as responsible for such an act, therefore, I am expressing the fear, which I have in my mind, before all of you by citing a few examples. I am citing examples because when we were given the reply yesterday we came to know that 50 per cent facilities

are not available even today at the health centres, sub centres in the rural areas. Out of all the primary health centres, only 20 per cent have telephone facilities, 80 per cent health centres do not have telephone facility which is an essential requirement today. If they want to do some constructive work, if they want to improve the health status of the people of the country, if they have concern for the health related affairs of the 70 per cent rural people, then there is enough time, chance and opportunity to make a positive impact. The manner in which the Bill was introduced in the House, the way there were newspaper reports about the dispute between the AIIMS and the minister during the last one and a half years, taking recourse to the High Court and the hon'ble Supreme Court of India by the concerned parties, after all these things, now the floor of the House is being used as a weapon which I feel is not a proper way to handle it. I wanted to say this much only.

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Madam Chairperson, I do not have a prepared printed text. So, please permit to talk from my heart.

Madam, today is a very important day for us because today, our beloved leader, Dr. Ramadoss is in the capital to raise a very important issue. The Mandal Commission was constituted in 1977. It has taken a very long staggering walk to reach this day. Since its inception, even after the Report was presented, it took six years to reach Parliament. Though it was presented in Parliament in 1983, it was implemented in 1989. It became an order in 1991. After 17 years, if you look at what it had done, you may find that in 1991, only 12.5 per cent of the Central Government jobs were occupied by OBCs. When the reservation is to be provided for 27 per cent, if you look today's statistics as submitted by the Attorney General in the Supreme Court, you may see that it is only 5.3 per cent. I was wondering at it. When the reservation is for 27 per cent, how can it decline? Now, I have understood how it can happen. It can happen when you have upper caste officer like the Director of AIIMS (*Not recorded*) Dr. Karan Singh Yadav beautifully stated how by making ad-hoc appointments, he can very carefully do away with the constitutional rights.

Sir, the main allegation of our Opposition is that this Bill seems to be punishing one person. I know that this Bill is not intended to punish a person. But if it actually does, I am very happy to welcome and in fact, I would say that it is a success of our leader who has staged a demonstration today.

Madam, the other allegation by them was that this Bill was necessitated for only one person. It is true. The same Director, four years ago, was 62. As per the rules of AIIMS, he should be retiring at that age. He, anyway, found many ill and wounded people in the previous Government whom he was treating very well, as admitted by many Members. They all stood by him and said that they need the same doctor and so, they gave an extension of five years by passing all the rules. Hence, this Bill was necessary. It is because of such people that this Bill has become necessary today.

The other comment that they made was that this Bill should go to the Standing Committee. I want to respond to this point. I am not against the Standing Committee. But we have seen what has happened to the MCI Bill in the Standing Committee. It took years and years of time. At one time, it appeared that the Standing Committee is the bottomless pit. If you drop a Bill into it, it will never come to the surface. But finally after a long debate, the MCI Bill came up. So, I do not think taking this Bill to the Standing Committee is a good idea.

People are telling that we need autonomy.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Senthil, please speak on this Bill. Do not reply to the points of Members who have already spoken. The Minister will reply to those points. Please try to conclude in a few minutes.

DR. R. SENTHIL: The most important point is, everyone here made a point about serious SC/ST discrimination in AIIMS. I would like to draw your attention to the Thorat Committee Report mentioned by my friends as well. The Thorat Committee has very clearly stated that it is a very serious discrimination against SCs and STs. My friend also mentioned that they had the courage to burn the writings of the book, the Constitution of India, within the campus, take the video of it and circulate it among the students. Who is permitting them to do it? The video was presented to the Governing Body but the Director was not willing to take action on it. He is an autonomous person who is beyond law. He is not under the control of anybody. Such autonomy cannot be permitted.

Finally, everybody was saying that it is the dream of Pandit Nehru that has become a nightmare for India. My friend earlier mentioned about a surgeon who left a screw in the heart of a person. Let us admit that leaving a screw is a human error which can happen once in the

[Dr. R. Senthil]

life time of a surgeon. But what he did was, when the patient came back with pain; he did not care for him. He came back again for a surgery. He left him till the patient died. And here is the Director who will protect him out of the way.* Though this Bill is not intended against him, if this Bill is passed, he should be punished.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I rise to support this Bill. In my view Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, the hon. Minister is legally and professionally competent to pilot this Bill.

The primary object of this amendment is to maintain the autonomy of this Central Institution. We all know that public health is a concurrent subject according to our Constitution. So, naturally there will be State as well as Central legislations in this matter. We have come to a stage where an all-round, exhaustive Central legislation is overdue.

In our country any person with a large amount of money can start a medical college without any difficulty. He is neither concerned about medical ethics nor about the quality of education that is provided. A wealthy boy, after passing an examination, can get admission in the medical college. The medical colleges are mushrooming. That is the order of the day. This is a grave situation. It has come due to market economy. Competition is the order of the day. So, human health and human values are given a go-bye.

We are now facing a crisis. We will have to meet the situation with courage. That is what I would submit. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss is quite competent for this purpose.

I would like to point out one or two instances. There is a provision for reservation for OBCs and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students in post-graduate courses. There is a difficulty in the matter of trained doctors getting admission to the post-graduate courses. There was a provision in our State for allowing admission of experienced doctors, who have put in six or seven years of service, to the post-graduate courses. But unfortunately the Supreme Court has taken away that reservation. So, the net result is that experienced doctors do not get reservation for admission to post-graduate courses. Only raw graduates are allowed admission to the post-graduate courses. That would create a very bad situation. So, at any cost that reservation for experienced doctors, who have put in some years of service in the Department, should be restored.

If I remember correctly, for this purpose, the Kerala Legislature had passed a legislation restoring reservation for the doctors who have put in five or six years of service in the Department to the post-graduate medical courses. That is very essential because quality of education has deteriorated. We should do our utmost to see that experienced medical men come to post-graduate courses, and not just the raw graduates from these medical colleges, private as well as Government medical colleges. House surgeons may get admission, but the experienced doctors are eliminated from this process.

For this purpose, President's assent is required. So, that law passed unanimously by the Kerala Legislature be given consent to and the reservation for trained doctors be restored. It must be restored at any cost. We need reservation on professional basis, not just on the basis of community. It is highly essential. Admission to professional colleges is also a serious issue. I am not going to take a long time.

But I would request you to keep up the standard of the medical education. It has deteriorated because of the private institutions which are flourishing. It has deteriorated and the human life is in danger. As you are from this medical fraternity, I will request you in this regard. Your credentials cannot be questioned. There is no justification to challenge your credentials. You are quite competent. Dr. Venugopal or anybody else will not stand in your way. You are quite competent to go ahead and bring in the legislation. You are very competent to meet the situation. I hope you will get the support of all the reasonable people. You do not worry about Dr. Venugopal. You proceed and we will render you all help. This may be the first step, but we want a comprehensive legislation defining the uniform policy of the Central Government. That will be a help to the State legislative process also. So, you take the lead, bring in a legislation controlling the private nursing homes and also admission to private medical colleges. So, a comprehensive legislation should be brought in. ...*(Interruptions)* I hope you will hear my advice and do all that is necessary to bring such a comprehensive legislation.

Madam, with these few words, I support this Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, thank you very much. He was the last speaker. But a request from Dr. Manoj has come. So, I am allowing him to conclude his speech within two minutes.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Madam Chairperson, thank you very much.

I rise to support the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

Madam, I would not have supported this Bill if the clauses 2(1A) and 2(1B) and 3(1B) were there. Since the hon. Minister has moved a notice of amendment to omit those clauses, and if these clauses were there, it might infringe upon the autonomy of this research academic institution, since it has been removed, I support the Bill.

Madam, the AIIMS and the PGI are the two premier institutions in our country. Apart from offering state-of-the-art medical facilities to the general public, research and academic activities are also taking place in these institutions.

Madam, nobody will object that the autonomy of these institutions should be upheld. For research and academic institutions autonomy of the institutions should be there. But by the shield of this autonomy, it should not lead to autocracy. That is what is happening in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Madam, most of my colleagues have pointed out the current situation prevailing in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. No research activity is going on there. The Director and the administration is now playing politics and that too caste politics. This august House has passed the Bill for reservation for OBCs in the professional institutions. Madam, no institution in the country strikes and struggles against that law has occurred. It occurred only in the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences and that was by the support of the administration which is there. These things show the intention and the nature of the administration prevailing there. So, something should be done to correct the current administration of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Madam, the hon. Minister has rightly moved the amendments at the right time to rectify the cancer occurred to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Madam, as you know, cancer is a dreadful disease. If it occurs to any part of the body, before it spreads to other parts, the diseased part should be removed. Also, if it is occurred to the *sanyasi* or to any other person, the ill-effect of the disease will be the same.

So, when the disease goes to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, it should be rectified. The hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare, that too he is a doctor, has diagnosed the disease at the right time and given the right prescription at the right time.

So, with these words, I do support the Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb the House. Please sit down. The hon. Minister has to reply. Let him reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Madam, we very strongly oppose this Bill because instead of sending it to the Standing Committee, with its crude majority, the Government is trying to bulldoze this Bill. This Bill is meant to humiliate only one person. So, we strongly oppose it and walk out.

17.21 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kharabela Swain and some other hon. Members left the House)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Minister, are you withdrawing the Bill? ...(Interruptions) We walk out in protest since the Government is not agreeing to withdraw the Bill.

17.21½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other hon. Members left the House)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Only the hon. Minister will speak now.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not discuss it. The hon. Minister has to reply now.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to reply. I would like to

*Not recorded.

[Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss]

thank all the hon. Members of Parliament cutting across different parties for giving their opinion about this small amendment. It is a Bill for both the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the PGI Chandigarh.

I would again like to remind the hon. Members that this Bill has not only to do with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences but also the PGI Chandigarh. We are bringing forward this small amendment because the High Court has asked us to fix the tenure of the Director and that is why we are fixing the age at 65 years for the Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences as well as the PGI, Chandigarh. Whenever a new Bill for the JIPMER, Puducherry comes, the tenure of the Director will be brought to 65 years.

This amending Bill is not an issue between myself and Dr. Venugopal. Neither is it an issue between the BJP and the Government. This is a small amendment. In fact, initially when I thought of bringing forward this amendment, I wanted to say what are the issues about this Institute generally. But then a lot of hon. Members were going in-depth and making allegations saying that this has been going on all along. So, I am taking the opportunity and I would like to refute every one of the allegations. Hence, I just need a little bit of time from you.

Madam, this is not an issue between an individual—whether it is myself or Dr. Venugopal for whom I have high regards and respect. I am also a medical professional. I respect Dr. Venugopal as a professional, as a doctor, as a Padma Sri Awardee. Definitely, I have high regards and respect for him. He is one of the best doctors, best surgeons of this country. But then we have some issue about administration. A doctor could be a very good doctor but a bad administrator. I would like to go into the issue about what is going on the Institute. Initially, I was not inclined to talk about these things but then I am forced today to talk to hon. Members and to the nation as to what is happening in that Institute today. I have been very reluctantly speaking to the media for the last year and a half. I am not saying anything about the happenings in the Institute because it is our Institute. It is my own Institute. It is an Institute of the Health Ministry. So, I should not talk about that Institute. It is a premier Institute of this country. I am not a lay politician. I am a medical professional. I am a doctor. I know what is happening there. I want that Institute to move forward in a big way. I have been going to the world-famous

Institute like the John Hopkins Institute and the Harvard University. I want the AIIMS to be on the lines of those Institutes.

The Health Ministry has nearly about 30 to 40 Institutes. They have Directors under them. I do not see any problem in any of those institutes including the PGI, Chandigarh which is functioning very smoothly. It has again become one of the best Institutes in this part of the world. There is no issue about it. Only the issue of the AIIMS is there.

I would now just like to go back about five years when my predecessor Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was there. I respect her very much because I have been appreciative of her efforts when she was the Health Minister. She had brought in a number of schemes which are wonderful schemes. I have been following what she has brought about. But then about the appointment of Dr. Venugopal, I had to say this. At that point of time, the age of retirement of the Teaching Faculty in AIIMS was 62 years.

Dr. Venugopal was nearly 61 and a quarter years or 61 and a half years when he was appointed as Director for AIIMS for 5 years. I mean I do not think any Government orders are like this. His appointment states—I don't know the exact words—that Dr. Venugopal is appointed as Director of AIIMS for a tenure of five years. That's it. Whereas Dr. Talwar who is appointed as Director, PGI, Chandigarh, just after 4-6 months later, his appointment says that Dr. Talwar is appointed as Director, PGI, Chandigarh, for a period of five years or till he attains the age of 62, whichever is earlier. I don't know why 'till he attains the age of 62, whichever is earlier' was blatantly left out for reasons know to whoever it is. This appointment itself is a question mark, a huge question mark. Today, the issue of 65 years of age is there. Mrs. Maneka Gandhi had brought in so much of scathing as usual. I remember I have been seeing her for the last 3 years. Whenever she addresses Health Ministry issues, she becomes overactive. She was telling that this is an individual agenda. Definitely, it is not an individual agenda. It is a collective agenda. Every time, I see Members of Parliament, eminent scientists, doctors and public, they always ask me, "Please do one thing. Rectify All India Institute of Medical Sciences. It has just gone out of hand."

She was right from the beginning. She was telling about the guest house issue. After I took charge, nearly three and half years back, I was a first time MP. I have never been in the House. I was entitled to an

accommodation at the four star or a five star hotel and the Government to pay for this. That is why, as President of the Institute, I was staying in a guest house. It was an ordinary guest house of AIIMS in which as a member of the governing body of the Institute, anybody was allowed to stay. That became such a huge issue with the papers at that point of time. One day, I went for an inspection, may be, around 11 or 12 o'clock to Casualty Department and other Departments to see whether the doctors were there or not. Then, around 12 or 12.15, Dr. Venugopal walks in. That is something which I do not want to go into in depth. Most of Members know, most of the doctors know, at 12 o'clock, what happens?

Since then, some issues about me repeatedly had come though the media saying that they wanted me to be removed from the guest house literally. I mean, these are the things that I do not want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members. I am being very conscious about that. Today, I have been forced to say this because of so many allegations saying different things about guest house issue and other issues, allegations saying that while I was staying in the guest house, I was instigating the employees. These are allegations that are definitely not worthy. These are petty allegations to bring to the notice of anybody. 'Social divisions' is what she is talking about. I say it is absolutely right. Everybody from the Opposition was talking about this Institute only during one and a half years. What happened to the two year period before that? Was there any issue brought out? Was there any interference on my part brought out during two years before that? I have been in the Ministry for three and a half years. I mean, I am a professional. I have definitely a lot of decency and professionalism. Definitely, it will not be in my credit to do anything with autonomy. A lot of Members have been talking about autonomy. I am the one who is trying to give autonomy to JIPMER, Puducherry. Today, it is under the Health Ministry. I am saying make it autonomous. We are having a National Drug Authority and I am saying make it an autonomous body. Today, it is under the Health Ministry. As a professional, I want to professionalize the entire structure. I will be the last person to impede on the autonomy.

But then autonomy does not mean that there is no accountability to Parliament. All the hon. Members here have been talking about what is happening in that institute. Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, a member of the Governing Body, a member of the Institute Body appointed by this very House by an Act of Parliament also talked about the

happenings in this institute and I am the Head of the Governing Body. So, we have responsibilities.

Madam, if I am getting a number of representations about discrimination on caste lines and community lines in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, should I not interfere as the Head of the Governing Body? There have been so many allegations about flouting of reservation policy which is a constitutional obligation. In that case, should I not interfere as the Head of the Governing Body which is appointed by this very House? There has been complete chaos, confusion and misadministration in this institute. In this scenario, should I not interfere as the Head of the Governing Body? If there is a coterie of five or six junior doctors controlling AIIMS, should I not interfere? Being the Head of the Governing Body of this institute, should I remain as a spectator to all these wrongdoings?

Then, Shri Buta Singh, as the Chairman of the National SC/ST Commission has sent summons to Dr. Venugopal three or four times to appear before the Commission, but he has not appeared before the SC/ST Commission. The National Human Rights Commission has been asking him to appear before it. Nothing is happening. The Governing Body's and the Institute Body's recommendations are not being implemented. This is a scathing remark I am making in this House. The Governing Body's recommendations and the Institute Body's recommendations are not being implemented in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. In this situation, can we not interfere as part of fulfilling our parliamentary and constitutional obligations?

Madam, autonomy is not autocracy and nobody should say, 'I don't want to listen to anybody'. We have to work within the lines, we have to work within the rules framed by this august House and we should go forward.

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi has been talking about my Officer on Special Duty. This post of OSD is a sanctioned post. It is not a post to which I can arbitrarily appoint anyone. This post is sanctioned by the Governing Body, by the Institute Body and I can appoint anybody whom I have the confidence in. My predecessor Sushmaji appointed an OSD and he was staying in a Guest House in AIIMS. So why is there a big hue and cry about my OSD staying there in a small Guest House there? In fact, Sushmaji's OSD was having a house there, not a Guest House. This kind of petty and mean allegations coming from a person of her stature is very unfortunate.

[Dr. Ambumani Ramados]

She was saying that the file was held up. I do not know what she was talking about. These are blind allegations. She was telling about funds not being given. I do not know where she got all this information which is wrong. Shri Kharventhan was talking about funds. When I took over as the Minister, the funds of the AIIMS were approximately Rs. 250 crores and in three years I have taken it to Rs. 500 crore. Do you know any institute in this country which has a recurring expenditure, both Plan and Non-Plan put together, of Rs. 500 crore? With an amount of Rs. 500 crore, I could start three new medical colleges in every State every year and we are giving this much money to one institute. Out of Rs. 200 crore of Plan money, just before the last week of March this year, only Rs. 82 crore was spent. Where we are going? Can I not ask questions about these things as Head of the Governing Body?

She was talking about degrees and convocations. Who prevented Dr. Venugopal or the AIIMS from holding the convocation? Did I prevent them from holding the convocation for two years? No. As soon as I took over as the Minister, there was a convocation held. But what happened after that? Did I prevent anybody from holding the convocation? Definitely not. Last year, the convocation was not held because they did not want me to give the degrees and that was due to the obstacle created by a few doctors. That is a different issue. Last year I had signed the degrees of those students who wanted to go abroad. This year again I was willing to sign the degrees and give away the degrees in the convocation, but they did not move forward. It is their responsibility to hold the convocation every year under the rules of AIIMS. When the Degree Certificates were given to me, I found that those Degree Certificates were signed by one so-called Registrar who was not appointed by the Governing Body or the Institute Body. The Director himself has appointed him which he has no authority to do. I said that these are illegal certificates and I would not put my signature on illegal certificates because the Registrar was not appointed by the competent authority which is the Governing Body and the Institute Body. After that, there was a court case, the less said about it, the better. I signed the Degree Certificates and then the convocation went on. So, the allegation that I held up the Degrees and I held up the convocation from being held is completely baseless.

Then, the appointment of Dean, which the hon. Member was telling. Madam, Dr. Venugopal recommended appointment of a Dean, I could say, Dr. Sreenath Reddy.

In fact, his seniority was 19th in the line. Dr. Sreenath Reddy is a very eminent cardiologist. Dr. Venugopal recommended that Dr. Sreenath Reddy be appointed as the Dean. I know Dr. Sreenath Reddy and when we asked him whether he wanted to be the Dean, he said, 'No, Sir, I do not want to be a Dean because I am going to take charge of the Public Health Foundation of India and by holding dual charge, I will not be able to discharge my duties fully.' So, he said blatantly that he did not want to be the Dean. Then, we saw the panel and we appointed the Dean, Mr. Deka, who was 24th in the line. Earlier there have been a lot of instances and Dr. Deka is having more faculty experience more seniority. In fact, Dr. Deka has appeared in the interview for the post of Director of AIIMS five years ago. So, such a man of competence he is. Then, we appointed him. I am nobody to appoint him, Madam. The appointing body is the governing body, the instituted body. I have to go through all the formalities of an instituted body, the governing body. I am just an individual there. I have nothing. It is a collective responsibility. When you say Dr. Ramados, it does not mean Dr. Ramados. It is a governing body instituted which appoints them and he has accepted that.

An hon. Member has talked about the agitation on reservation. She was telling that Dr. Venugopal has taken so many steps and measures to quell the agitation and so on and so forth. We all know what has happened during the agitation. This premium institute of the country was the hub of anti-reservation agitation. Immediately, I call all the officers, including the officers, of Safdarjang Hospital, PGI, Chandigarh, RML Hospital and AIIMS and said, 'at no point of time the patient care should be affected. These patients are coming from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and from far flung areas and they are poor patients and that at no point of time their services should be affected. I do not know what you do, these services have to be maintained'. This is the only thing I told them. I do not know what happened, all hell broke loose after that. Time and again we requested the AIIMS administration to quell this. But for 17 days the agitation went on.

Madam, prior to this agitation, in fact, there was an agitation by the employees and Supreme Court has very rightly said that there should not be any agitation in AIIMS in the future and if anybody wants to agitate he can do so 500 meters away from AIIMS. So, when the employees had agitated much before this agitation of reservation, the same Director, Dr. Venugopal, went to the Supreme Court or High Court and said that this was blatant and

all that and he suspended and dismissed some employees. Why did he not go to the court during the 17 days' agitation? He says that he has written some letters to the police. You will be surprised to know that tents were there, water was provided through water coolers to the agitators. I would like to inform you, Madam, that some doctors, professors personally came to me and said that they wanted to work but they were prevented to work. I do not want to go on any lines and I will be the last person to go on any lines of division.

This Institute is a great institution and it will not happen that there is going to be a division. We will take all steps possible and we are not going to penalise anybody. We will take all steps to have a harmony. But when this Institute is right under our nose, in the capital of the country, and things are happening and the hon. Members of Parliament have been saying so many things about discrimination of SCs/STs, then that has also to be taken care of. Mrs. Nirmala Deshpande had sent a letter signed by 104 Members of Parliament saying that there is an SC/ST discrimination in AIIMS to the Prime Minister. The PMO asked me what is happening and directed me to look into the issue of discrimination in the Institute.

That is why, we appointed a Thorat Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Thorat, Chairman of UGS. Time and again, he was asking for assistance from AIIMS administration, which his committee did not get at all. They did not get any support. They had put notice board and asked anybody to come regarding the AIIMS issue and tell them what was happening. Anybody has a right to go and talk to the committee, whatever the grievances are whether they are against or for or anything.

When the students come with crying eyes, it is really disheartening for me. As a younger generation, as a professional, as a doctor they come, cry and say: "We are discriminated and we cannot be in the hostel. We are shunted out. We are not allowed to play cricket and basket ball; we can play only football and volley ball." Is this what we are moving forward? We are 60 years post-Independence. This is the premier-most Institute of our country, and they blatantly flay the law there. We will definitely rectify the situation. It has to be rectified. But it cannot be just done in a haphazard manner or bulldozing. Everybody has to be brought into a system. Everybody who is affected whether he is SC/ST or OBC or other, everybody has to be brought into the system and there has to be a slow process.

Coming to the reservation issue which the Members of Parliament have been talking about that it was flouted, recently there was an appointment of Residents. I do not remember the number; I think, about 93-odd Residents have been appointed. According to the policy, for SCs/STs and OBCs, there has to be job opportunity. The entire reservation policy was flouted. Then there were so much representations from the doctors who came to me. I had to interfere as the President of the Institute. As a President of the Institute Body and the Governing Body, it is my Constitutional obligation to interfere when reservation policies are being seriously flouted in the Institute. Then I set up a Commission under my Health Secretary, Mr. Naresh Dayal, to look into this issue, and a Core Group under the Governing Body. The Secretary, Health and Family Welfare has been asking about the marks, has been asking for papers about the exam conducted. Till date, we have not got it. Is this autonomy? That is why we were constrained to suspend one doctor, Dr. Dogra. He was the Dean (Exam.). He did not give papers. The Members of the Governing Body were asking him to do these things. Then the Members speak that this guy goes on suspending the faculty. Why?

Dr. Karan Singh Yadav was saying, Dr. Bisoy had operated on a patient and he left a screw on the perichord into the heart. The patient died after a few days. This happens. I do not say that this does not happen; this happens. But, then the same doctor after a few days or few weeks put a patient on anaesthesia saying that he will come for operation. He is an Additional Professor of Cardiology. Then the Anaesthetist intimates the patient and put him on anaesthesia. For three hours, he did not turn up. For three hours the patient was on operation table under general anaesthesia without being operated on waiting for Dr. Bisoy to come for operation. After three hours, he said; "I do not have time; you ask someone else to operate." He did not go there. On that day, there was a Resident agitation going on. As the President of the Institute, I had suspended him. I had brought it to a Committee to look into the issue and give the recommendations. Dr. Venugopal, one week later, revoked the suspension. He has no authority to do that. Suspension, revocation, everything could be done by the Governing Body. Is this the functioning of the Institute? As people say I am trespassing into the autonomy of the Institute; it is definitely not that. I want to rectify this Institute. There is a long way to go.

Dr. Manoj was right in saying as to what has happened to research. It is put on the backburner. So

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much of funds have been given. There was a mention about Senior Financial Officer. These are all petty things but I am constraint to answer to these. There was a Senior Financial officer called Mayank Sharma. He was a junior officer. He was, in fact, the *de facto* Director. At that point of time when he was the Senior Financial Officer, he was taking care of all. The same doctors who are agitating today; the same Resident doctors, the same faculty members, all of them are bunching out letters saying: "President of AIIMS, please remove Mayank Sharma." They say that Mayank Sharma is a *de facto* Director. The same people have written to the Prime Minister today, and they are all going to the media saying they will all do this and do that. The same Residents Association, Employees Association, they have given bunches of letters saying, please remove Dr. Venugopal.

This was before the anti-reservation agitation. Just before the anti-reservation agitation, all of them wanted to sack Dr. Venugopal because of his inaccessibility, autocratic behaviour and dictatorship. All these words were mentioned in their letters of communication. Madam, just one agitation turned the entire thing, top-seater. Immediately, a lot of things were happening.

Madam, I do not want the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to be turned into the All India Institute of Political Sciences. Definitely not, politics should not happen there. In this Institute, public money is there, and this Institute should moved forward in a big way. I am nobody. Today I may be in this position and tomorrow I will be nobody and nothing. The Institute goes along. The Institute should move improve and forward in a big way.

Madam, she was talking about the Sub-Dean and the women media. The lesser said about it is the better for me because I do not think that these are the things which need mentioning. ...*(Interruptions)*

She was telling that the Institute Body had sacked the Director, I mean, I had sacked. The Institute Body termed it in the services of the Director at that point of time by a voting of 12 to three. Twelve people supported and three objected. That is how, there was an objection of Mr. Malhotra, who was a member of the IB. This is the status.

Again, she was telling that the Director was made to sit on a bench. Definitely not, Madam. He was a part of the IB. Till his agenda had come up, he was inside the

room, and when his agenda came up and at that point of time he was asked to go and sit in my Private Secretary's room. He refused and, I think, he sat outside. The media people were there. These things were going on.

She was talking about the Registrar of AIIMS. In fact, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav had talked about what had happened to the Registrar. He was the one who appointed him, and what happened in between them, we do not know. Suddenly, he says: "He is a corrupt guy and all these things." We conducted an inquiry. He has no authority to remove him. This is the whole problem. He has no authority to remove him. Nor do I have any authority to remove him. The Governing Body has an authority to remove him. That is why, the Governing Body is there.

Madam, she talked about paying the fees of the lawyers. I do not have money to pay for lawyers where cases were filed by AIIMS. As the President of the Institute and as the Minister definitely, I have all the rights and legalities that the Institute or the Government to pay the fees of the lawyers, which everybody is doing. That is the norm of the day. I do not know how such a senior Member could go about these things.

Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, in fact, has been involved and he has been very pained as a doctor. He himself is a cardiologist, and he does not know what is happening there. He is a member of the Governing Body, the Institute Body. In fact, Shri R.K. Dhawan is also a member of the Governing Body. In one interview, Shri Dhawan has said: "Let us wind up the Governing Body, the Institute Body because we do not have any say here. Why should we sit and waste the time? When the administration is not listening to the Governing Body, let us wind it up." So, this is the functioning of the administration of the AIIMS.

Dr. Venugopal would have been a competent person earlier but today he is 66 years old. When I say 'old', he is really old. He is not in a position to physically even walk properly. I am not demeaning or denigrating him. I am just telling the facts.

Today, this Institute is run by a coterie of junior doctors. Today, Dr. Venugopal has no clue of what is happening in AIIMS. This is the sorry state of affairs of the Institute. The doctors are threatened by people. He was telling '*goondalism*' and 'locking of the rooms of the senior faculty professors.' Is this the All India Institute? I am constrained to bring these things because these are

all petty things which I should not. For the last one and a half years, I have not been going to the media and not bringing the facts because this is our own Institute, I respect this Institute and I want this Institute to improve and move forward in a big way.

About the Thorat Committee Report, I think, I will try to table it after getting due permission. I would like the Members to go through the Thorat Committee Report also.

Madam, we have Trauma Centres. We are spending so much on these Trauma Centres and the Cancer Block. All these are not functional now. These Trauma Centres are beautiful centres. Not many patients are going there today. Why are they made not functional? We are putting up whatever faculty they wanted. We have given everything to them.

Most of the hon. Members have said about the same issues. I do not want to repeat them. In fact, Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav had said about Laluji's visit to the AIIMS. He has stopped short of telling a lot more things because that was the evening at 5 o'clock; I do not know at that time what state he was in. Lesser said the better of that also. This is very, very disheartening. As a youngster, as a professional, as a doctor, it is really disheartening. I just wanted to go about it.

Mr. Braja Kishore Tripathy was telling about disrespect. I would be the last person to disrespect anybody, leave alone the eminent person like Dr. Venugopal. As a professional, as a doctor, definitely I have a lot of respect for Dr. Venugopal. This is an allegation and I am really pained to answer all these things.

They have been telling about to concentrate on the national programmes. Definitely. My time, my energy, my focus, and the revenues of the Ministry are on the National Rural Health Mission. We are doing a lot on the National Rural Health Mission. I am spending 80 per cent of my time on the National Rural Health Mission. This is the Mission set up by my Prime Minister for the upliftment of the rural healthcare infrastructure, which has come down and down. Consciously, we are trying to do so many new programmes. There have been so much of appreciations about them except by my friends in the Media here. But otherwise, nationally and internationally, there have been so many people appreciating the efforts of the Health Ministry. The UN bodies, WHO and all the Associations globally have been very appreciative of our

efforts. In fact, this is the first time that so many programmes are being done by the Health Ministry. I do not know, Mr. Dasgupta may contradict that.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI LURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): I am only saying that you may have great love for international appreciation instead of having domestic appreciation.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I do not have any 'love' or 'not love' for international or national appreciation. But the fact of the matter is that I want this great nation of ours to move forward in a big way. I want the social sectors to compete with the economic sectors; I want the education, health, agriculture, poverty, drinking water and all to reach India and make it a developed nation by 2020. I want to eradicate undernourishment by 2015. These are the things, which we want to do, and we are trying to do them.

Madam, he was talking about the HRD Ministry that it has given the age limit as 70. It is about re-employment after 65. They said that anybody could be re-employed after 65. So, that is not that the HRD has said it as 70.

Mr. Rajiv Ranjan was telling about ego. I do not have any ego. I do not have ego among all these things. He was telling that the Government is interfering etc. or controlling it. There is no point in having the Government control. We are all functioning together as a cohesive unit. I get files from the AIIMS for sanction of leave, for deputation, for projects and for disciplinary action. So, where is the question of controlling? It is a cohesive unit, and we need to move forward. We have to keep the distance and we have to move forward. That is what we want to.

Madam, I would like to assure you that we definitely would not interfere into any autonomous functioning of the Institutions. On the contrary, as a professional, I would; we would; and the Government would like to give more autonomy to the Institutions. But these Institutions have to have their constitutional obligations, have to have the obligations of the Parliament. This very House, which is there to enact all these Acts.

With these words, I would once again request all the hon. Members to support this Amendment Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Now, Motion for consideration of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Madam, I just have a small clarification.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No. The Minister has replied to the debate.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956 and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Amendment of Section 11 of Act 25 of 1956

Amendment made:

Page 2, omit lines 11 to 15, (1)

(Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

Amendment of Section 11 of Act 50 of 1966

Amendment made:

Page 2, omit lines 29 to 33. (2)

(Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Madam, the hon. Minister said that at 6 o'clock, the 'Zero hour' matters would be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)* That is what he said.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is still five minutes' times. We will just start this Bill.

17.58 hrs.

TYRE CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED (DISINVESTMENT OF OWNERSHIP) BILL, 2007

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for disinvestment of Government's equity in the Tyre Corporation of India Limited and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Madam, this Bill has been recommended by the Cabinet and after it came from BIFR and there are three amendments which have been made by the Standing Committee and all the three amendments have been accepted by the Government. So, there should not be any problem for anybody to accept it. I recommend to the House that since we have accepted all the three amendments, and this is concerning about eight hundred employees, the House may kindly pass it today.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for disinvestment of Government's equity in the Tyre Corporation of India Limited and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Thank you Madam. ...*(Interruptions)* If the Government will be happy that I should support this Bill, I am supporting this Bill.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Thank you very much.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam, I am very happy that the hon. Minister of Finance is here. He knows that I will definitely support this Bill because this is one of the subjects which was very dear to the NDA. Because of this reason also, this process of disinvestment was initiated by us and it was very dear to us. We never fell back to the blackmail of the Left at that time. ...*(Interruptions)* We never did it. This was one of the reasons for which also we lost the election. But still we were not covered by the pressure exerted on us by the Left. They always talk in very twisted and forked tongues, something in West Bengal and something here.

18.00 hrs.

Now you will see that they will say so many things when they start deliberating on this subject, but I, as a matter of principle, support this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Madam, it is 6 o'clock. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yes, now it is 6 o'clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, it would be better if we conclude debate on this Bill and then take 'Zero hour'. ...*(Interruptions)* It will take only ten minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I will speak for 15 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You want to speak for 15 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now it is 6 o'clock. Shri Swain will continue next time.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, we take matters of urgent public importance.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Madam Chairman, I would like to express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh and its senior officers show their reluctance in utilizing the funds released under the MPLAD scheme in the State. I would like to draw your attention to several pending projects in my parliamentary constituency for which funds have been provided from the MPLAD fund and these projects are incomplete because perhaps, sufficient funds have not been provided to the Work Commissioning Department as a result of which even the workers have not been made full and final payments. I have written several times to the local administration in this regard and would like to bring it to the knowledge of the Government today that whenever the District Magistrate or the Development officers of various departments or officer of any Department is approached, one receives a standard reply that the Government's scheme of Ambedkar village or the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is in the offing which has to be completed. They are busy in implementing these schemes, how can they pay attention to the Members of Parliament? This is a very serious issue. The Government should take cognizance of it and issue necessary directions to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Chief Secretary and the officers of the concerned departments that MPLAD fund is an important fund in itself. It should be appropriately used in a time bound manner.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Sir, today I would like to raise a very important issue regarding setting up of a Milk Chilling Centre in my constituency.

Sir, my district Chamrajanagar has been carved out from the Mysore district in the year 1998. Even after a decade there is no sign of development in the district. It is a hilly region 70% people are dependent on agriculture. Since it is a hilly region people here are carrying on agriculture related activities like dairy farming and others. About 1 lakh and 30 thousand litres of milk is produced in my district everyday. Therefore, I request the Government to take necessary steps to set up a Milk Chilling Centre. The estimated cost of this is about Rs. 6 lakh. I have taken up with the Minister for Rural Development when he visited my constituency and I have

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

raised it several times earlier also. Already there is a small chilling centre in my district. But it is not sufficient to make use of the surplus milk produced. It is not adequate to produce milk by-products. Under these circumstances it would be a great help if the Government takes immediate steps to set up a big Milk Chilling Centre that may also help to increase job opportunities there. With this I conclude my speech. Thank you, Sir.

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Thank you, Madam.

The women Members of Parliament are staging a *dharma* in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi outside the Parliament House demanding introduction of the Women's Reservation Bill.

The women in the country for long have been demanding one-third reservation in the State Assemblies, and in the Parliament. All political parties also promise to bring necessary legislation to this effect during every election time. But from the experience that we have gained in all these years we find that they take an elusive stand when it comes to implementing the promise into practice. The Women's Reservation Bill that was promised is pending for over a decade now. The BJP-led NDA Government deliberately delayed the introduction of this Bill on the pretext of 'consensus', even though the Parliament had the requisite number for passing the proposed Bill. All the major political parties including the Left Parties, the BJP and the Congress are openly extending their support to it. But the UPA Government is also trying to follow the same tactics. The present Government had assured the nation, through the Common Minimum Programme, the introduction of this Bill. But even after completing more than three and a half years in office, so far, no steps have been taken in this regard.

It is a shame that even after nearly six decades of nation's Independence, 50 per cent of the population is kept out of Parliamentary or Legislative processes, which is putting question marks on our democratic system itself.

The hon. Prime Minister and the UPA Chairperson have assured the representatives of women's organizations long back that the Bill would be introduced in the Parliament. But the issue has not figured in the agenda so far. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to include this matter in the agenda for the present Session, and

introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in the present Session itself and keep the promise given to the nation and the women of this country.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I also associate myself with this issue raised by the hon. Member. The names of the following hon. Members may also be recorded as having associated themselves with this issue.

Dr. K.S. Manoj
Shrimati P. Satheedevi
Shri A.V. Bellarmin
Shri Pannian Ravindran
Shri P. Karunakaran
Shri C.K. Chandrappan
Shri N.N. Krishnadas
Shri K. Francis George
Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Baleasore): Madam, the National Executive of BJP has passed a resolution to give 33 percent reservation to women in our Party posts. Therefore, we have made a beginning.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Our Party has also done it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Let the Communist Party also start like this instead of giving this type of lip service.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Please do not waste the time of the House as it is your Party matter.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. This is your Party matter, and do not discuss it here. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. It is your Party matter. Do not discuss it here.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): We have already completed the 60th Anniversary of our Independence. We have been ruled by various Governments, and our Constitution talks about equality. Now, we are in the fourth year, since the time the UPA

*Not recorded.

Government came to power. The UPA Government made an assurance in the Common Minimum Programme that within five years, they would be providing for 33 per cent reservation for women of our country in all the decision-making bodies. In the last AICC Conference, the UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi expressed her dissatisfaction over the situation wherein the UPA allies and the Opposition parties are not allowing this Bill to be brought before this august House.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The matter has already been raised.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: I urge upon the Government to place the Bill before the august House and let the face of the political parties who are opposing it be revealed before the world. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt her.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It is the RJD and the SP which are opposing it, and we are not opposing it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: During the five-and-a-half years rule of the NDA Government, you have not dared to bring that Bill before the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now. Those Members who want to associate with this matter should send their names written on a slip and give it at the Table.

*...(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Madam Archana Nayak, if you want to associate, you kindly send your name on a slip.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: I urge upon the Government to bring the Bill before the House and let the face of the political parties, who are standing in the way, who are against women's rights and who are against women's equality, be revealed before the world.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Madam, I would like to urge upon the Government the need for bringing the Women's Reservation Bill in the Parliament.

Equal status for women in the highest decision-making institution of the nation is still a dream for the people of our country. Whenever attempts were made for bringing Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament, it was denied on one pretext or another. There seems to be near total unanimity among most of the political parties on somehow stalling the Bill as long as possible. It is really strange to note that while we could introduce 33 per cent reservation of seats in the Panchayats, we are failing to introduce the same in our Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies. In Lok Sabha, there are only 48 women Members out of the total strength of 545 Members. If the Government is really serious about passing the Women's Reservation Bill, it will have to bring the Bill and adopt the majority route instead of the consensus route.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to bring the Bill seeking to provide for 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies and get the same passed in this Winter Session.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Fast moving trains are the need of the day. In fact, very fast moving trains are possible if new tracks are made. In several countries, there are trains which go at a speed of 200 km to 300 km. If we introduce fast moving trains, we can save a lot of time and also efficiency can be increased. For this purpose, new tracks are necessary. Just like the industrial corridor from Mumbai to Delhi, which has been declared, I would suggest and humbly request the Railway Ministry, through you, as a first step, to take up a pilot project of laying a track on which trains can move at a faster speed from Mumbai to Kanyakumari.

In fact, Members of Parliament from Kerala have already requested for such a track running the North to the South of Kerala. The hon. Minister of Railways had agreed with us and assured us that a package would be declared for the State in which we have included this also. Thank you.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Madam, farmers of Tamil Nadu, particularly of my Erode District, depend upon milk and milk products for their livelihood. They have a large number of cows, buffaloes, goats and other cattle. More than 500 cattle had died within a month in Periyapuliyoore and Palayakottai villages in Erode District due to foot and mouth diseases. The District Collector has sent four medical teams to the affected areas. However, it has not been possible to control the disease so far. Farmers there are badly affected as they lost their

*Not recorded.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

cattle due to the sudden outbreak of this killer disease. The disease is spreading now throughout Tamil Nadu. Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to take urgent steps to control this killer disease and provide compensation to the affected farmers.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Madam, Haveri and Gadag districts of Karnataka have not been included in the National Horticulture Mission. Thirteen districts of Karnataka are already a part of this Mission. While five to six other districts have been identified for inclusion in the Mission now, Haveri and Gadag districts have not been considered for inclusion. Haveri district is located on National Highway 4 between Pune and Bangalore abutting Western Ghats. Out of the seven *talukas* of Haveri district, four *talukas* have been included in Malanad Area Development Board of Karnataka where mango is grown in abundance. Chilli is also grown in abundance in this area. Byadgi chilli, the variety grown in Haveri district, has high demand in international markets. People from other countries come to Byadgi chillies. MDH masala manufacturing company also uses Byadgi chillies in their products which are exported. People from Kerala have put up Oleo Resin factory in Kerala as well as in Haveri district of Karnataka as it has got good demand not only within the country but also abroad. I raised this issue a couple of years back also. I wrote to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar also and he was kind enough to reply to me stating that Haveri district would be included in the Mission during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan period. However, though 11th Five-Year Plan period has already started, Haveri district has not been given a place in the National Horticulture Mission yet. Farmers of Haveri and Gadag districts are agitated over the neglect they have been subjected to. Fruits like mango and commercial crops like chillies and other horticulture crops like coconut are grown in abundance in these two districts. There are about four rivers – Kumudwati, Tungabhadra, Varada, Dharma – flowing through Haveri district. These two districts are situated adjacent to the Western Ghats. While the neighbouring districts of North Kanara and South Kanara have been included in the Mission, these two districts have not been given that advantage. I, therefore, would like to urge this august House and the concerned Minister to include these two districts in the National Horticulture Mission on top priority as it is in the interest of the farmers of the area. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Madam Chairman, floods are a perennial phenomenon in my state

and this time the fury of floods was so intense that roads have become miserably dilapidated. The condition of roads is such that one has to search for roads in the mushroomed potholes dotting the national highway or the state highways, which has rendered commuting extremely difficult. The condition of both the highways is simply dilapidated. The National Highway is 3629 kilometre long and the length of State Highway is 2455 kilometre. The Central Government has not provided any funds for its repair whereas the State Government has sought funds for the repair of both the highways. I think the repair work cannot be carried out owing to lack of funds. Roads should be in proper condition for the development of any State.

I feel it is futile to have a dream of development in a State where the roads are not properly maintained. Through you, I would request the hon. Minister to allocate funds for the repair and maintenance of national highway so that the condition of roads could be improved. Life has become difficult for the common man since traffic has been completely disrupted. The Government should immediately allocate funds so as to rid the people of this problem.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Madam Chairman, not even a single Minister is present in the House. There is thin attendance in the House.

Zero Hour is a very important hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister has left just now. He will be back in a short while. Do you mind waiting for him?

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: The hon. Members raise very important questions but there is nobody to listen to them. ...*(interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Everything is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Madam Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fierce floods afflicting the common people of Bihar this year and causing damage to the infrastructure. This is a matter of urgent public importance. Through you, I would like to raise a few points before the Government in this regard. This year, floods have broken the past 60-years' record in Bihar. 17 districts have been affected by floods there. Dams at approximately

22 places have developed breaches in these 17 districts. Owing to the cracks developed in dams the river water submerged a large area for almost two months displacing lakhs of people. Those people had to live at such places for months together where there was no roof to provide cover. The people lived in a miserable condition. The arrangements made by the Government of Bihar were totally inadequate. No measures were taken in the name of flood fighting and disaster management. The work was going on at a snail's pace. I would like to submit that the State Government of Bihar floated tender in December 2006 for the repair of dams, which was submitted in March 2007 whereas the work should have been commenced by that time. The repair work of dams was scheduled to be completed by June 2007. The floods affected Bihar by the end of August but the tender had not been floated by then. Surprisingly, that tender has not been opened as on date. I would like to submit that 15 lakh people got displaced only in a particular district. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude in one line.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: This is a very important issue. It is very important to raise this issue in the House since it is not going to be solved by a single Government and a single Minister. This is a very large area. There are seven rivers flowing in only one district. These include Neel, Baya, Bagmati, Ganga, Budhigandak, Kamlabalan etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please demand in a line whatever you want from the Central Government.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: I am saying only that. The Central Government is requested to formulate a scheme for the dredging of these rivers. The depth of the riverbed should be increased by dredging sand from the bottom so as to rein in the scourge of floods in the coming years. There is a need to put a check on the Government of Bihar to ensure that arrangements are made for the repair of those dams at the earliest.

[English]

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Thank you, Madam Chairman. I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance regarding undertaking of fresh shipbuilding orders by the Hindustan Shipyard,

Visakhapatnam. As we all know, HSL is a premier, pioneer shipbuilding yard of our country. Since its inception in 1941, HSL has made rapid strides in the ship building, ship repairs, refit and modernization of submarines, construction and repair of off-shore platforms, oil rigs, during the last six decades. The House will be glad to know that HSL has so far constructed and delivered about 150 vessels and repaired over 1700 vessels of all sizes and types, including hi-tech vessels.

HSL is presently having 19 vessels under construction and refit of a submarine worth about Rs. 2,000 crore. During the last three or four years, HSL has been consistently improving its performance.

With regard to HSL, the proposal of financial restructuring is pending for a long time.

Secondly, a decision on whether HSL should be under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways or of the Ministry of Defence as a PSU is pending. An immediate decision by the Government on this would remove ambiguity/apprehensions from the minds of employees. The HSL was advised by the GoM not to take up fresh shipbuilding orders, with the result, the HSL cannot participate in tender notices and secure further orders. This is resulting in making HSL a sick company and thus further complicating the revival process. About 10,000 families both directly and indirectly depend on this PSU. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to allow the HSL to undertake fresh shipbuilding orders immediately to make it viable and complete in the market.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the discriminatory utilization of central funds under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

As you know, in Assam, there are many public schools and colleges which are established by the public and they are recognized by the Government. They are rendering their services for the last 20 years. So far, these institutions are neither supported by the Government of Assam nor the Central grant is allotted to them. More than 50 per cent of the formal education in Assam is being covered by these public institutions which are not Government institutes. So, it is a clear discrimination. The performance of these schools and colleges is far more better than others. These are various level institutes like lower primary level, middle level, high school, higher secondary, junior colleges and degree colleges.

[Shri Arun Kumar Sarma]

Therefore, I demand from the Government that all these educational institutions should be covered by the Central funds under various schemes like Sarva-Siksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, etc. They should also get the University Grants Commission funds because these colleges are also deprived of these grants. The Union Government should draw up a special scheme to fund these institutes which are really supplementing the efforts for fulfilling the constitutional obligation of the Government of India as also the Government of Assam of rendering free education to all.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter. A policy of the Government is badly affecting around 8 million fishing workers and also about 4 million coconut growers in the country. Recently, our hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry visited Brussels, Belgium for negotiations on broad-based bilateral trade and investment agreement between India and European Union. Now the fishermen in the country are facing crisis because of the liberal policy adopted by the previous Government. They were allowing licence for the fishing trawler and because of that fish-catch is gradually diminishing. Moreover, as per Free Trade Agreement around 40 varieties of fishes will be imported from the European Union. Out of this category, most of the fishes are similar to the fishes caught by the traditional fishermen. Out of these 40 categories, around six to eight varieties are used in European Union as chicken feed.

But these varieties are going to be imported to India. When these imported fishes come to the local market, the fishes caught by the traditional fishermen would not get remunerative prices for their catches. In accordance with the recent policy of the Government, palm oil is being imported from foreign countries. Recently, 15 MT of palm has been imported at Cochin port. The coconut growers in Kerala primarily depend on the prices of coconut and palm oil. If palm oil is imported, then the prices of coconut will get reduced. This is a very serious problem in Kerala. All this is due to the Exim Policy of the Government. I would like to request the Government to re-visit the Exim policy so that the interest of the traditional fishermen and the coconut growers are not affected and are well protected.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): The other day our hon. Prime Minister was in Singapore to finalise discussions on the Indo-Asian Free Trade Agreement. It has been reported that India has offered to lower tariffs

on highly sensitive items like pepper, palm oil, tea etc. When we began negotiations the tariffs on these items were 80 to 100 per cent. Now the demand from the ASEAN countries has been that we should reduce it to 30 per cent. It has been reported that we have agreed to reduce it to 45 per cent. Needless to say that this will push down the prices of these items. The prices of these items already are low in the country. This will result in financial losses and further misery to the small and medium farmers who grow these items in our country.

Just now a mention was made about the import of palm oil. It has been reported that the Government is planning to reduce the import duty of crude palm oil by 50 per cent and refined palm oil by 60 per cent. This will push down the prices of the coconut and it is going to adversely affect millions of coconut growers in the country. There is a ban on the import of palm oil through the Southern ports, especially through ports in Kerala. But in the guise of a stay by the High Court, large scale import of palm oil is taking place and consequently the price of coconut is getting drastically reduced. The income of the coconut growers is getting reduced pushing them into terrible misery. The Government should take stringent measures to ban this import of palm oil through the Southern ports. The Government should consult those States which would be affected by this Free Trade Agreement. The hon. Prime Minister has directed the Ministry of Commerce to scale down the negative list under the SAFTA. All these are going to create a surge of imports of cash crops and spices into our country. I would like to request the Government to consult the States, especially States like Kerala before entering into this Agreement so that the interest of our farmers are well protected and economy of the State also is well protected.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the serious situation prevailing among the fishermen due to lack of sufficient quantity of kerosene. Kerala is one State where a better PDS is functioning. In 2000-01, allotment of kerosene to the State was 25,775 tonnes. I am sad to say that in the coming years, it was gradually decreasing. In 2005-06, it has reduced to 18,206 tonnes. In 2006-07, again it has reduced to 16,500 tonnes. It means for the last five or six years, there is a reduction of 8000 tonnes of kerosene. As a result, it is difficult for the Government of Kerala to give sufficient kerosene to the fishermen, to the agricultural farmers and also the households. There is no reason for this drastic reduction.

As you know, Kerala has a rare geographical feature of two-thirds of the total State lying along the coastal line. It provides large facilities for fishing and massive export of marine products. So, lakhs of fishermen are really depending on fishing. This drastic reduction is really difficult for them to face.

So, I urge upon the Government to at least retain or restore the earlier quota that the Government has already agreed, that is 25,775 tonnes, as in 2001. Therefore, I request the Government to maintain it.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Madam, I would like to thank you for providing an opportunity to a BJP Member to speak.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have been allowed on your turn.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Madam, I have noticed that you were not looking in this direction. I would like to submit about Gowari Caste of Maharashtra.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please speak only on one subject.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Madam, I would like to submit about the Gowari caste that from the economic and education point of view, it is a very backward caste. The people of this caste have been demanding for many years to include them in the list of scheduled tribes. During the British period, the said caste was included in the list of tribal castes. The people of Gowari Caste have been agitating for many years for this demand. Some 13 years back the people of Gowari Caste had staged a demonstration at the time of propagation of Legislative Assembly and on account of use of force and police brutality, 114 people lost their lives. Tomorrow, it is going to be 13 years since the incident took place. I would like to raise this issue before you for the reason that the proposal in this regard is lying pending with the Central Government. The then Government had introduced a Bill in Lok Sabha in 1967 in this regard, however, due to some technical hitches the discussion could not be held on this issue. As discussion could not be held on this subject, this caste could not be included in the list of the scheduled tribes. Maharashtra Cabinet twice passed the resolution and expressed its consent to include this caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Despite this, the Central

Government and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have kept this Bill in abeyance.

I would like to request the Central Government that it should take a decision in this regard at the earliest and should introduce and pass a Bill to include this caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Maharashtra.

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Madam, I wish to mention a matter of serious public importance which is regarding the power cut in Tamil Nadu.

Undeclared power cuts and load shedding for the past two months have paralysed normal life in Tamil Nadu. Load shedding for a minimum period of two hours in urban and semi-urban areas of Tamil Nadu have caused unbearable hardships in the routine life of the people. It is more miserable in rural areas. University and schools examinations are going on and the students find it unmanageably difficult due to load shedding and power cuts which are undeclared and not uniform.

The State Government came out with a statement that 380 megawatts of power was not available from the Centre and that steps are being taken to get the State's full share of power from the Centre. It is surprising to note that despite abundant seasonal rainfall in almost all the States, there is shortfall in the generation of power at hydro stations and there are disruptions in the power production of Neyveli, Ramagundam and Kalpakkam plants. The sale of power to other States and above all, establishment of new industries in Tamil Nadu, has added to the woes of power shortage of the State. The slow down in west breeze and east breeze has resulted in loss of power from wind mills.

I would request the Central Government to ensure that the State of Tamil Nadu gets its full share of power and, if possible, to compensate the shortfall in power generation at some hydro, thermal and nuclear stations so that the power situation in the State may be improved.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Madam Chairman, I would like to raise a very important issue concerning the farmers of the entire country and draw the attention of the Government in this regard. The farmers of the country are forced to commit

[Shri Chandra Kant Khairu]

suicide due to various reasons like non supply of power, occurrence of floods and lack of irrigation facilities for their fields. I would like to submit that hundreds of people, especially in the Vidarbha region of Marathwada have committed suicide.

[English]

One of the major causes of farmers committing suicide is indebtedness by way of loss which they are unable to repay.

[Translation]

It is on account of this that many farmers are committing suicide as they are very much disturbed. Hundreds of people in Vidarbha and Marathwada have committed suicide and as I have said that the main cause of suicide is the burden of loans on them. So, their loan should be waived off. I have been demanding this for several years, it has not been met as yet. Presently, the session of the Legislative Assembly is going on in Nagpur. Shiv Sena MLA Hon'ble Diwakarji alongwith several thousand farmers covered 300 kms on foot and gave a memorandum to the Chief Minister and the Chief Minister said that the subject comes under the purview of the Central Government and the Central Government will take steps in this direction. Through you, I would like to request the Government that it should waive off the loans of those who are burdened with loans and are on the verge of committing suicide and of those who have committed suicide because of the indebtedness. This will save people in future from committing suicide. My request is that their outstanding loans must be waived off. On behalf of our party Shiv Sena, Hon'ble Manohar Joshi has given memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and it is imperative that the Hon'ble Prime Minister ponders over it because the farmers will not be forced to commit suicide only when they are not burdened with loans.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Madam Chairman, I may please be permitted to speak from this seat.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, I come from the northern part of Karnataka In my constituency, onion is grown in large quantity. I am sorry to say that onion

growers are not getting remunerative prices. They are getting less than Rs. 5 per kg. that too only for the good quality onions.

Unfortunately, I found here in Delhi and in other metros, the price of onion per kg. is more than Rs. 25 and sometimes it touches Rs. 30. Even the Government has lost power because of high onion price in Delhi. It is unfortunate that farmers are suffering and they have to sell the onions at Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per kg. They are demanding MSP.

I came to know that the Central Government has banned the export of onion indirectly because the end user, that is the consumer, is not getting onions at affordable prices in the Metros. The farmers are on strike and they are on the streets demanding remunerative price. They are getting less than Rs. 5 for their onions, but here it is selling at the rate of Rs. 30 per kg.

So, in such a situation, I would urge upon the Central Government to give proper attention and intervene in this matter. I would also urge upon the Central Government to see that whatever restrictions have been put for the export of onion should be withdrawn. Minimum Export fee has been increased. I would also urge that more encouragement should be given for exports.

Secondly, the Central Government should also see that they should arrange to transport all those onions from Karnataka. I heard that there is a problem in Maharashtra also to send it to the other metro cities where the prices are too much for the end users. By that, you can give a remunerative price to the farmers also and you can give good price to the end users also. So, I once again urge upon the Government to take care of it.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum): Madam, I would like to associate with him.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can associate with him.

[Translation]

*SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN (Thiruvananthapuram): The Airport Authority of India is handing over the autonomy of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport to Chennai Division. This step needs to be opposed.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

The Thiruvananthapuram Airport was declared as an International Airport in 1991. It is functioning with a high level of proficiency. The respected Minister had said that we have increased the number of flight services by 150 percentage. So the airport had attained a prominent status in the country. Now the Airport Authority is handing over the autonomy of an airport that has been functioning for the last 16 years as an International Airport to Chennai Division.

Presently a lot of developmental activities are taking place in the airport. The decision of the Airport Authority will hamper all these activities. Therefore, the Centre should immediately halt all attempts to change the administrative autonomy of the Thiruvananthapuram Airport and let it function as an autonomous proficient airport.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Madam, I want to associate with him.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Madam, I also want to associate with him.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yes, hon. members, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Shri P. Karunakaran, Shrimati P. Sathedevevi, Shrimati C.S. Sujatha, are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Pannian Ravindran.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Madam, Chairman, our country is celebrating 150th anniversary of first war of independence. The first war of independence of the country was fought in 1857 in Jhansi of Bundelkhand region under the leadership of Maharani Lakshmbai. Jhalakari Bai, who was a look-alike and friend of Maharani Lakshmbai played an important role in the first war of Independence because when Rani Jhansi was surrounded by the British army, Jhalakari Bai played an important role to save Maharani Lakshmbai. Jhalakari Bai belonged to the Kori community of the Scheduled Castes. Today, her birthday is being celebrated all over the country. So, today I am paying tribute to her and demand from the Central Government that Jhalakari Bai should be included in the curriculum of primary classes, so that they may know that the scheduled caste women of the country like Jhalakari Bai fought the war of independence and sacrificed her life for the country. Besides, an inscription containing her life story should be placed at the India Gate and her statue should be installed somewhere in Lok Sabha.

Madam, I would like to especially submit that one medical college is being set up on Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh. I would like to request the Central Government that that medical college should be named after Jhalakari Bai as the Jhalakari Bai Medical College, because she fought the war under the leadership of Maharani Lakshmbai. Presently, there is a Maharani Lakshmbai Medical College in Jhansi. So, the Medical College which is being set up in Jalaun district should be name as Jhalakari Bai Medical College. With these words, I conclude, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

[English]

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Madam, I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture for the Minimum Support Price for paddy.

Madam, Andhra Pradesh is a major paddy producing State. It yield is more than the national average in some of the districts. Now, those peasants who are growing paddy are on agitation. Actually, yesterday, they observed a peaceful bandh all over the State. Our State Assembly which concluded its Session last week also resolved to request the Central Government to give the Minimum Support Price for paddy at Rs. 1000 per quintal. Previously, a proposal was sent suggesting Rs. 1088 per quintal for Grade-I variety of paddy and Rs. 990 per quintal for the common variety. It is very to pitiable that when the neighbouring States like Maharashtra and Karnataka are getting about Rs. 950 per quintal, in my State they are getting only Rs. 600 to Rs. 625 per quintal. The input costs of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides have all gone up. The paddy growers are in trouble. Hence I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to enhance the Minimum Support Price up to Rs. 1000 per quintal.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Madam Chairman, Dr. Sir Hari Singh University, Sagar is a very old and important educational institution of Madhya Pradesh. A number of alumni of this University are holding important posts in several countries of the world and are bringing laurels to the country. Central University status for this university is being demanded for a long time by the students, people and intellectuals. A few days back, the Prime Minister of the country had announced that one Central University will be set up each of the State which has no central university. I would like to submit in this regard that the Union Minister of Human Resource

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

Development had come to participate in the diamond jubilee celebration of the Sagar University on 17th July, 2006 and had given assurance to give Central University status to the Sagar University. One Committee has been constituted for the grading of the university which toured Madhya Pradesh a few days back. That Committee awarded A+ grade to the Sagar University and made a comment that Dr. Sir Hari Singh University should be upgraded to the Central University. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has also sent a proposal to the Union Government in this regard. Through you, I would like to request the Government that Dr. Sir Hari Singh University should be made a Central University and Danveer Bhama Shah who founded this university should be awarded Bharat Ratna.

[English]

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (Katwa): Madam, I want to raise a very burning problem.

With reference to my letter of 17th September, 2007 addressed to the hon. Railway Minister and the hon. Minister of Water Resources regarding the vulnerable condition of the Samudragarh and Kalinagar railway stations on the Bandel-Katwa railway of West Bengal and taking urgent necessary steps, I want to draw the attention of the House with grave concern that these two stations

are only 40 metres away from the mighty Ganga while five years ago, the Ganga was two kilometres away from these stations.

I raised the serious concern during all the Sessions, namely, on 09.12.2006, 13.08.2007 and 14.08.2007 and also again I draw the attention of the House today for giving immediate importance to the gravity of the situation since it goes out of the hands.

It is a matter of great regret that neither the Railway Department nor the Water Resources Department has taken any steps regarding the same till day.

Now, again I solemnly demand the Ministry of Railways as well as the Ministry of Water Resources to take all steps to save the two stations as well as Bandel-Katwa railway without further delay.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 23rd November, 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

18.55 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Friday, the 23rd November, 2007/
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