

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Twelfth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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Dated *17 Nov 2007*

*(Vol. XXX contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

Price : Rs. 80.00

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LOK SABHA

Monday, November 26, 2007/Agrahayana 5, 1929 (Saka)

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Condemning acts of terrorism and expressing condolences to bereaved families due to serial bomb blasts in Uttar Pradesh and Assam

[English]

MR. SPEAKER. Hon. Members, as you are aware, on 23rd November, 2007, serial bomb blasts rocked the court premises in the cities of Faizabad, Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh in which about 14 innocent people have lost their lives, and 59 were injured.

Further, two people have also lost their lives and 18 have been injured in blasts in Assam that took place.

The House strongly condemns these cowardly acts of terrorism and expresses its condolences to the bereaved families.

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

11.02 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, Today lawyers are on strike in entire U.P.

...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, I have given a notice of adjournment motion, please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have included Assam also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I know that you are agitated because these are serious issues, which I have mentioned. I have requested the hon. Home Minister to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): The hon. Home Minister will make a statement at 12 noon immediately after the question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: He will make a statement at 12 noon immediately after the Question Hour, and if you want a discussion to start, I will allow it. Let him make the statement. I am thankful to the hon. Home Minister that he has immediately agreed to make a statement.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, let there be a statement from the Government first.

MR. SPEAKER: I know. Let the Question Hour be there and let that important statement be there. Thank you very much for raising these issues, I appreciate it.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Discussion should start immediately after the statement.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want, I can start. I have no objection. Thank you very much, we have started well today.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 141, Shri, Srichand Kriplani.

[Translation]

Rabi and Kharif Dues

\*141. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:



(a) whether the payments due to the States, particularly to the State of Rajasthan, for procurement of Kharif Crops for the year 2005 and Rabi Crops for 2005-06 are still pending with the Union Government;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in making payments by the Government; and

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

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

For procurement of foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarsegrains) by the State Governments/Agencies for the Central Pool, the payment to the States is made by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) on delivery of the foodgrains on the basis of the claims of the State Governments at the rates of procurement incidentals fixed by the Government. Final procurement incidentals are based on audited accounts submitted by the States.

Only one proposal from Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2005-06 for coarsgrains is pending with the Govt. No other proposal for Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2005-06 and KMS 2005-06 has been received by the Govt.

However, FCI has informed that an amount of Rs. 8 crore in 2001 was paid to Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation (RSWC), an agency of State Govt. of Rajasthan, as on account payment against incidental charges for the previous years. Since RSWC failed to submit the claims against this amount, FCI adjusted the amount of Rs. 8 crore alongwith interest of Rs. 64 lakh from the incidentals of 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2005-06. RSWC has claimed an amount of Rs. 69.95 lakh from FCI for RMS 2005-06 and has filed a Writ Petition No. 4147/05 in Rajasthan High Court. The matter is now subjudice in Rajasthan High Court.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Sir, since the time Government came to power at Centre, I it is continuously

doing injustice to Rajasthan with regard to various schemes run by the Union Government, and therefore, I have tabled this question, the Union Government, and therefore, I have tabled this question, The Union Government is not releasing funds in time to the Rajasthan Government for all its Centrally Sponsored Schemes; whether it is for Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana, NFFWPS or Water Catchments Development Programme. Due to that many works of Rajasthan Government have been held up. I would like to seek information with regard to reply given by the hon'ble Minister to my question whether the Central Warehousing Corporation have formulated any policy or set any time-limit so that the farmers could to get their payments in time, because he has admitted in his reply that the dues payable to farmers for the year 2005-2006 are still outstanding? What are the reasons therefor and whether there is any time limit for this.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that no outstanding are dues payable to farmers. It is a very small thing that Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation was given advance amount, but the amount has not been accounted for and the amount remained unsettled for four years. As per Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation, there is a difference of Rs. 9 lakh in total amount and interest. Some way out can be found out by holding talks. But the Rajasthan Government or Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation has decided to take the matter to the court and they went to court. Thus the matter is sub-judice. My suggestion is that, it is not appropriate to approach the court against the Union Government for paltry sum of Rs. 8-9 lakhs. A way out can be evolved with mutual understanding. There is no other problem.

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister, as to what kind of situation has cropped up that on one side he is mentioning the amount of Rs. 8 lakh and on other, the Rajasthan Government is stated to have made a payment of as Rs.70 lakh in respect of which the High Court has

given stay. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to the time by which the payment would be made, whether any time-limit be fixed for it. The old claims have still not been settled, but such a huge difference can never occur. Therefore, I would like to ask as to the time by which payment would be made?

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied that the matter is sub-judice.

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: There is a huge difference between Rs. 8 lakh and Rs. 70 lakh. What are the reasons for this?

MR. SPEAKER: He has given the reply.

Chaudhary Lal Singh, would you want to ask question about Rajasthan.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I would like to ask a question about the country. Food Corporation of India procures paddy and wheat in the States. In my State Jammu and Kashmir, this organization exists, but it does not procure paddy and wheat from there. Do the Union Government have any proposal to arrange procurement there so that the farmers who are being exploited over there may be saved?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed you because you come from Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As far wheat and rice is concerned, the stock position is not good in the country. If any State gives a proposal to start procurement, we will start procurement without any delay.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will procurement be made from my State also?

MR. SPEAKER: What he said is right that whichever State asks for it, it would be done.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I would like to ask a specific question. FCI is procuring paddy. However, during the last couple of years, during this Government's period, there has been a lot of distress sale in KBK area of Orissa and other backward regions of the country. A lot of posts of Quality Inspectors are lying vacant in various FCI circles. Will the Government assure the House

that it would recruit staff in full so that procurement is not delayed? Secondly, as the Government has announced MSP for wheat at Rs. 1000 a quintal, will the Government announce MSP for paddy also at Rs. 100 per quintals? Most of the people in the Eastern and Southern parts of the country are dependent on rice. So, will the Government increase the MSP for paddy to Rs. 1000 a quintal or not?

MR. SPEAKER: It is beyond the question.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The question is specifically about the payment to States and particularly about Rajasthan. I expect a separate notice for this question. If I get a separate notice, I have no objection to reply...  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has offered to give you a reply. Put a question or write a letter to him.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, the question mention States in general and Rajasthan in particular. I would like to know about the other States also.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Deo, he is a very experienced and cooperating Minister and you all know that. You were referring to the procedure for procurement and you heard what he said.

#### Wages to Agricultural Labourers

+

\*142. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the extent of poverty and hunger being suffered by millions of agricultural labourers due to low wages in the country;

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

(c) the wages paid to the agricultural labourers at present in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the prevalent practice of low wages in this sector is affecting agricultural production; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) According to the information received from the Planning Commission, on separate survey has been conducted for agricultural labourers. The majority of rural population comprises persons engaged in agriculture. The percentage of rural population below poverty line in the country, on the basis of the 61st Round of the National Sample Survey Organization conducted in 2004-05, has been estimated to be 21.8%. State-wise details are at Annexure-I.

(c) Average Daily Wage paid Agricultural (Unskilled) Labourers State-wise during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is given at Annexure-II.

(d) and (e) Agricultural production depends upon many factors, other than wages, i.e; supply of inputs such as fertilizer, seeds and pesticides/insecticides, mechanization, credit flow, irrigation, rainfall and weather situation etc. There is little scope for increasing area under cultivation. The higher aggregate output levels in agriculture production would be possible through achievement of higher crop yields per hectare. So the thrust of the Government for increasing agriculture production is through more efficient use of inputs by way of implementation of various crop production programmes. These are being undertaken by the Central and State Governments.

**Annexure I**

*"Percentage of Rural population below poverty line by States-2004-05"  
(Based on MRP-Consumption)*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	%age of Rural Persons
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17.0
3.	Assam	17.0
4.	Bihar	32.9

1	2	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	31.2
6.	Delhi	0.1
7.	Goa	1.9
8.	Gujarat	13.9
9.	Haryana	9.2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	7.2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.7
12.	Jharkhand	40.2
13.	Karnataka	12.0
14.	Kerala	9.6
15.	Madhya Pradesh	29.8
16.	Maharashtra	22.2
17.	Manipur	17.0
18.	Meghalaya	17.0
19.	Mizoram	17.0
20.	Nagaland	17.0
21.	Orissa	39.8
22.	Punjab	5.9
23.	Rajasthan	14.3
24.	Sikkim	17.0
25.	Tamil Nadu	16.9
26.	Tripura	17.0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	25.3
28.	Uttarakhand	31.7
29.	West Bengal	24.2
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16.9
31.	Chandigarh	3.8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	36.0
33.	Daman and Diu	1.9
34.	Lakshadweep	9.6
35.	Puducherry	16.9
	<b>All India</b>	<b>21.8</b>

MRP consumption= Mixed Recall period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for five non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses are collected from 365-day recall period and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from 30-day recall period.

**Annexure II**

*Average Daily Agricultural Wages (Unskilled) in the country, State-wise during 2005-06 & 2006-07*

Sl.No.	State	2005-06 (P)	2006-2007 (P)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61.11	66.45
2.	Assam	64.32	NA
3.	Bihar	62.91	NA
4.	Gujarat	75.18	82.13
5.	Haryana	110.87	NA
6.	Himachal Pradesh	NA	NA
7.	Karataka	71.65	72.53
8.	Kerala	211.37	254.14
9.	Madhya Pradesh	53.00	NA
10.	Maharashtra	NA	NA
11.	Orissa	48.60	62.90
12.	Punjab	95.56	92.32
13.	Rajasthan	70.01	101.18
14.	Tamil Nadu	67.33	69.01
15.	Tripura	NA	120.00
16.	Uttar Pradesh	67.17	67.03
17.	West Bengal	NA	NA

Note: P =Provisional

NA = Not Available

Only For 17 States wage data are collected.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: The Standing Committee on Labour and Employment, in its 18th Report, which was presented in the Lok Sabha on 12th December 2006, has recommended that the Union Government

should bring out as amendment to the existing Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to define the term "minimum wages" and the criteria for fixing the minimum wages so that the employers are legally bound to pay minimum wages at the National Floor Level, that is, at Rs.68 at present. The Committee also expressed its displeasure at the reply of the Government that the system is working reasonable well in States. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation and urged that the Government to bring out an amendment in the Minimum Wages....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot read it.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: It was also mentioned in the Report that the Committee also strongly recommended that the State Governments be relentlessly persuaded to ensure that minimum wages are paid to the workers, till an amendment in the Act is carried out.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question, please.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: May I know from the Minister whether the Union Government is considering to bring out an amendment to the existing Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to define the term 'minimum wages' and the criteria for fixing the minimum wages? I would also like to know by what time this Amendment is likely to be introduced in the Parliament. Is the Union Government also considering to increase the minimum wages at the National Floor Level, which is very much low comparing to the present huge increase of essential commodities and inflation in the country?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot have all this.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: I am asking the same question. I would like to know as to when the Government is likely to arrive at a final decision in this regard.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: I am happy to mention here that in October, 2007, we had recommended to the State Governments that the National Floor Level Minimum Wage with effect from 01.09.2007 will be Rs. 80/- from the present Rs. 66/-per day. This is within the purview of the State Governments. We make the recommendations and the State Governments accept the same. As far as amendment is concerned, we are deliberating on this issue and we need time to consider this.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Sir, I would just take one or two minutes, Sir.

It has been mentioned in the said news item that the Government has decided to launch an insurance scheme on October 2, 2007. Initially, for the benefit of 1.50 lakh rural households, who do not own land, the *Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana* has been cleared by the Union Government, which would cover half of them over the next one year. It was also mentioned that under the scheme, the Government would provide the head of the family Rs. 30,000 as compensation in case of natural death, Rs. 75,000 in case of accidental death and disability.... *(Interruptions)* It is connected to the agricultural labourers... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot discuss this.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: It is connected to the question, Sir. Has the Union Government introduced this *Aam Aadmi Bima Yojan*? If yes, what are the salient features of this Yojana?

MR. SPEAKER: You are misusing this.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: I am not misusing, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, speak. But this is my view, unfortunately!

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: What are the main reasons for not introducing the Yojana? Would the Government considering to provide any fund for this Yojana? Would the Government provide the details of the total number of persons that would be covered under this Yojana?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if you have information, give it to him.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: In the first instance, we have decided to cover the poor people in the country who are below the poverty level and the poor people will be covered under the Bima Yojana. In the next round, we will cover various categories of people, who are earning wages and those who are above the poverty level, in different schemes, which are brought before the Boards. We would try to extend them to the poor people.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal—not present.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would like to draw the personal attention of the hon. Minister to a very urgent point. In Annexure-II, the average daily agricultural wages—a Table is given—in Kerala, it is Rs. 254.14 per day. The lowest is in Andhra Pradesh Rs. 61.11; it comes next to Kerala... *...(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These figures are given.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is the position. There is a difficulty of migration of workers from one State to another. Until and unless we devise a Uniform policy in the matter of wages, this will not be tolerated. This has created a very serious situation in our State also, where agricultural workers are migrating to Kerala, thereby the chances of Kerala workers are getting reduced.

In order to prevent such a contingency, I would request the hon. Minister to bring in a legislation for determining a uniform wage applicable throughout India. It is possible? Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Having a uniform wage throughout the country will be quite difficult because the conditions of work in different States are different. The conditions of work in North East are different than the condition of work in Kerala. Practically there is no worker available in Kerala because the people of Kerala are going abroad and are earning. This is the situation. So, it may be difficult for us, to have a uniform wage in one stroke. But we have issued a floor price and on the basis of that floor price, the State Governments will have to decide what wages they should have for the State.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: According to the recent data and reports, India is having fourth highest number of dollar billion years in the world, but in the human development rating, it takes 126th place. We have one lakh dollar million years, but yet 36 million of our population live on Rs. 20 per day. It is also reported, according to the NSS, which the Minister also referred to in his reply, that the monthly *per capita* expenditure of and Indian farm household is Rs. 503. The Minister while replying said that the aggregate output levels in agriculture production would be possible through achievement of higher crop yields per hectare.

MR. SPEAKER: Please formulate the question.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: After doing all those thing, whatever reply is given, after getting more yields, they

can alleviate the farm labours. But the point is they now have even the distress sales and others; and whatever they are producing, they are not getting appropriate price. In this context, my specific question to the hon. Minister is that what are the constructive steps and the measures that the Government proposes to improve the bottom-line standards of living of farmers and farm labours.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Sorry. This is for wages.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: It is about farm labour.

MR. SPEAKER: Maybe. I share your concern and I appreciate it. But there should be some relevance to the question.

MR. Minister, are you willing to answer now?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, the point is the agricultural labourers do not have work throughout the year. So, under the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, we have brought in a scheme under the Agriculture Ministry, whereby 100 days of guaranteed employment is given. With that, we are able to, to some extent help the farmers in farmers in the country and the agricultural labourers.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part (a) of the question, it was asked whether the Government have figures in regard to the extent of poverty among agricultural labourers. Sir, this question is not related to the Ministry of Labour, but the reply given by the Planning Commission is very disappointing. The Planning Commission has replied that no separate survey is conducted in regard to agricultural labourers. There is one discrepancy in it, NSS of Planning Commission conducts comprehensive survey every five years and full information about agriculture labourers is also collected in this survey, if Planning Commission goes a step ahead and assesses extent of poverty among agriculture labourers, the situation could become more clear in this regard. My only submission to the hon'ble Minister of Labour is that he should ask the Planning Commission through his Ministry to collect the figures about agricultural labour separately, while conducting survey to ascertain the extent of poverty.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action. You can note it.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: He has noted it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir several hon'ble Members have asked relevant questions as the issue of farm of farm labourers' wages is very serious. Due to wide difference between daily wages being given to them in Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh and the wages in Punjab and Haryana, thousands of farm labourers from eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar migrate to Punjab and Haryana every year and every season. As per the Minimum Wages Act, the right to fix the Minimum Wages of farm labourers have been vested with the State Governments.

I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that state wise constraints are there but the farmers of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar do not have the same paying capacity as that of the farmers belonging to Haryana and Punjab. In such a situation, will Government of India formulate a uniform policy which will be a base for fixing minimum daily wages and thus fixing uniform minimum wages for the entire country, implement it legally in principle.

*[English]*

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: As I have earlier narrated, the working condition and the situations are different in different States. We would very much like to do that but on the practical side it is very difficult. We are studying the matter and that is why we have given a fair price of Rs. 80. We have increased it recently. We will constantly monitor this issue to see that fair wages are given to the agricultural labourers.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 143 Shri Ranen Barman—  
Not Present.

It seems on Mondays there should be no Question Hour.

Shri P.S. Gadhavi: Question No. 144

**New Spectrum Policy**

\*144. SHRI P.S.GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to finalize a new Spectrum Policy;

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

(c) whether the Spectrum Allocation Procedure Committee of the DoT has announced a new policy on spectrum without waiting for the recommendations of GoM; and.

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

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

#### *Statement*

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not constituted any Group of Ministers (GoM) to finalize a new spectrum policy. However, a GoM has been constituted on "vacation of spectrum and raising resources for the purpose" under the Chairmanship of Minister of External Affairs.

(c) and (d) No "Spectrum Allocation procedure Committee" has been constituted in DoT.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir due to cartelization in Telecom Sector, all the large telecom operators increased tariff simultaneously at the cost of consumers. Government is not making any effort to build new operators, like many countries have working operators. So, through you, my question to the hon. Minister is, what is contractual agreement between Government and licence holders for allotment of spectrum and has any operator been given more than the contracted amount of spectrum; if so... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, Gadhavi how does it relate to the main Question?

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: It is there in hon. Minister's reply... *(Interruptions)* What is the contractual agreement between the Government and licence holders for allotment of spectrum and whether any operator has been given more than the contracted amount of spectrum; if so, names of such holders with reasons for excess spectrum allotted and steps being taken to withdraw excess spectrum.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, the hon. Member had asked a very specific question as to whether the

Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to finalize... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You need not read that. Please refer to his Supplementary.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: The Government has not constituted any GoM on spectrum allocation.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has asked as to whether you have given special treatment to any particular party.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: No, Government is technology-neutral. We have not given any preference to any specific operator. The matter is under TDSAT which will decide about it. We have made a commitment to the TDSAT that we will not allocate further spectrum to any particular operator before 12th December, which is the date with the TDSAT.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Till now, is there any law to see as to whether the excess... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, I may be permitted to clarify that. The hon. Member's question relates to the fact as to whether the Government is having contractual obligation towards some of the operators or what all criteria are being followed to give more spectrum to the operators. As my colleague has put it, the entire matter is before the Tribunal. However, I can share with the House and the hon. Member the facts available with me.

The movement LOI is complied with, the licence is issued to a new operator. The moment the Government receives the licence fee, the Government consider but is not duty bound to give initial spectrum. If the Government has to give more spectrum, as assured before the TDSAT, it will be done according to the criteria being devised by the Government. It has been referred by the TRAI also. TRAI gave its recommendation which has been challenged before the Court. Subject to all these things, it will be taken care of.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri B. Mahtab to ask his supplementary.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, please allow me to ask my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked two.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, I have asked only one.

MR. SPEAKER: Two Ministers have replied to your one question.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, he only supplemented to it.

MR.SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, so nice of you and so kind of you.

My second supplementary is whether the New Telecom Policy of 1999 guideline of issuing new licences subject to availability of spectrum has been superseded by the new guidelines issued to implement the Cabinet decision of October, 2003 which suggested that the Government may issue licences without any restrictions on the number of entrants for provision of universal access services in service area on all India basis. If so, why have these guidelines not been implemented and whether the Government is contemplating to issue LOI's to all applicants who have applied for licences?

MR. SPEAKER: I want a brief answer.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the hon. Member's observation is correct. It is true that earlier when the National Telecom Policy was declared in 1999, there was a categorical observation in the Policy that wherever the licenses are issued, it must be in accordance with the availability of spectrum. In other words, if the spectrum is not available, the Government should not give new licences. It was referred to the Group of Ministers in the year 2003 wherein the unified access licence policy came into existence. The paragraph 11 of the Guidelines which were approved by the Group of Ministers and were also placed before the Cabinet said that the licences shall be issued without any restrictions on the number of entrants for provisions of unified access services in the service area. The Government is sticking to it. We are going to permit the new entrants according to the new guidelines which are available with the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Both the supplementaries and answers were beyond the question. However, I appreciate that you came ready in anticipation.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I have a direct question to the Minister, through you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A direct one which has to be *via* me.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: That is what I said that a direct question to the Minister, through you, Sir.

I would like to know whether despite Telecom Engineering Committee's recommendation, over spectrum allocation has been accepted "in principle". The Government has constituted a panel to review it. Would they review the spectrum allocation criteria to licence operators based on the subscribers figure?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, it is true that the practice being adopted by the Government for allocation of spectrum is subscriber base. The matter was referred to the TRAI and it gave its recommendation. The new subscriber base was not accepted by some of the quarters from the existing operators. Notwithstanding, the TRAI recommendations, even earlier the Government directed the Telecom Engineering Centre which is available within the Ministry to assess what subscriber base can be enumerated for the operators. Fortunately or unfortunately, the TRAI recommendation itself was opposed by the operators, but the TEC report recommended higher than the TRAI recommendation. So, the existing operators went to the court saying that they are not able to accept the TEC report. Of course, TEC study has commenced before earlier TRAI recommendations came into existence. The allegation was not against the TRAI or the Government. The TRAI recommendation was not based on the scientific reasons whereas the TEC recommendations were based on the scientific reasons. In spite of that it was challenged in the TDSAT. The Cellular Operators Association represented before the Ministry saying that the calculations made by the TEC are unilateral and that their grievances were not at all ventilated before the forum. So, taking into consideration all these issues, we constituted an independent committee consisting of professors from IIT, Chennai and Kanpur. They are having unique degrees in the radio frequency. So, this independent Committee is looking into all these things notwithstanding the matter before TDSAT. After that, the matter will be decided.

#### Development of Irrigation

\*145. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of investment made so far for the development of irrigation facilities in the country during the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans;

(b) the total area brought under irrigation during the said period, especially in the drought prone areas, State-wise; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited therefrom, State-wise?



THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

During IX plan, the actual expenditure on irrigation for major and medium irrigation projects, minor irrigation schemes and command area development activities was Rs. 60147.37 crores. The expenditure during X Plan for irrigation has been estimated to be Rs. 100151.58 crores. The state-wise details are at Annexure-I & II. The Working Group has recommended a total outlay of Rs. 2,10,825.00 crores for major & medium irrigation, minor irrigation and command area development for XI Plan.

During IX Plan, irrigation potential of 7696 thousand hectares was created and for X plan, creation of irrigation potential of 8813 thousand hectares has been estimated.

This include irrigation potential of about 587 thousand hectare created through 20 completed major and medium irrigation project benefiting drought prone areas during IX Plan and that of about 562 thousand hectares of irrigation potential through 52 major and medium projects benefiting drought prone area during X plan. State-wise details of irrigation potential created are at Annexure-III. Creation of irrigation potential of 16,000 thousand hectares is envisaged during XI Plan.

As per the Agricultural Census 1995-96, the number of wholly irrigated holdings was 3.74 crores i.e. about 32.4% of total operating holdings. The 2000-01 Agricultural census indicated increase in the number of wholly irrigation holding to 3.97 crore i.e. 36.7% of the total operating holdings. The 2000-01 Agricultural census also indicates that 1.29 crores holdings are partially irrigated.

**Annexure I**

*Actual expenditure on irrigation sector during IX plan*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of States & UTs	Major & Medium	Minor irrigation	CAD	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4045.77	976.25	49.18	5071.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.73	94.62	4.99	101.34
3.	Assam	212.96	382.22	31.14	626.32
4.	Bihar	1621.94	231.56	62.66	1916.16
5.	Chhattisgarh	160.64	71.48	1.57	233.69
6.	Goa	224.22	26.68	9.70	260.60
7.	Gujarat	5298.42	933.32	61.34	6293.08
8.	Haryana	1154.41	200.90	143.03	1498.34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	65.09	232.70	4.38	302.17
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	128.52	142.86	20.58	291.96
11.	Jharkhand	167.01	39.31	0.00	206.32
12.	Karnataka	8700.51	459.03	97.90	9257.44

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Kerala	703.33	225.82	41.80	970.95
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2203.68	746.29	17.43	2967.40
15.	Maharashtra	14807.29	1348.55	219.47	16375.31
16.	Manipur	171.67	30.05	6.63	208.35
17.	Meghalaya	10.65	34.21	0.87	45.73
18.	Mizoram	0.14	26.30	0.47	26.91
19.	Nagaland	0.86	25.32	0.53	26.71
20.	Orissa	2331.23	435.70	26.53	2793.46
21.	Punjab	334.92	189.01	179.34	703.27
22.	Rajasthan	1725.41	259.48	263.35	2247.27
23.	Sikkim	2.16	19.44	1.64	23.24
24.	Tamil Nadu	1218.50	287.70	65.88	1572.08
25.	Tripura	32.44	75.27	0.04	107.75
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3014.68	361.96	155.31	3531.95
27.	Uttaranchal	60.96	19.59	0.00	80.55
28.	West Bengal	667.80	346.08	26.53	1040.41
	<b>Total States</b>	<b>49066.67</b>	<b>8221.70</b>	<b>1492.29</b>	<b>58780.66</b>
	<b>Union Territories</b>				
29.	A & N Islands	0.00	12.16	0.00	12.16
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	1.42	0.00	1.42
31.	D & N Haveli	3.38	5.13	0.78	9.29
32.	Daman & Diu	0.80	3.35	0.10	4.25
33.	Delhi	0.00	3.81	0.00	3.81
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	29.44	0.00	29.44
	<b>Total U.Ts.</b>	<b>4.18</b>	<b>55.33</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>60.39</b>
	<b>Total States &amp; Uts.</b>	<b>49070.85</b>	<b>8277.03</b>	<b>1493.17</b>	<b>58841.05</b>
	<b>Central Sector</b>	<b>218.70</b>	<b>357.96</b>	<b>729.66</b>	<b>1306.32</b>
	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>49289.55</b>	<b>8634.99</b>	<b>2222.83</b>	<b>60147.3</b>

**Annexure II***Anticipated expenditure on irrigation sector during X Plan*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of States & UTs	Major & Medium	Minor irrigation	CAD	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20865.50	1970.78	46.79	22883.07
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.08	139.39	10.40	151.87
3.	Assam	156.38	150.76	8.64	315.78
4.	Bihar	1582.81	824.90	120.16	2527.87
5.	Chhattisgarh	1845.88	1047.08	34.06	2927.02
6.	Goa	306.44	110.98	14.37	431.79
7.	Gujarat	10055.23	1789.26	16.77	11861.26
8.	Haryana	1261.24	0.00	133.06	1394.30
9.	Himachal Pradesh	105.45	347.68	10.94	464.07
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	284.97	293.40	46.06	624.43
11.	Jharkhand	1302.62	218.20	0.10	1520.92
12.	Karnataka	16592.30	1040.21	168.42	17800.93
13.	Kerala	714.81	126.05	30.79	871.65
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5586.58	1249.29	11.98	6847.85
15.	Maharashtra	8634.73	1385.94	959.80	10980.47
16.	Manipur	359.74	66.26	24.72	450.72
17.	Meghalaya	3.04	36.30	1.12	40.46
18.	Mizoram	0.10	85.12	0.70	85.92
19.	Nagaland	0.03	69.33	3.53	72.89
20.	Orissa	1936.68	380.36	514.01	2831.05
21.	Punjab	526.04	171.51	145.33	842.88
22.	Rajasthan	3041.94	521.11	215.52	3778.57
23.	Sikkim	0.00	22.09	12.05	34.14
24.	Tamil Nadu	1074.95	400.31	95.93	1571.19

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura	40.19	124.04	0.06	164.29
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5031.68	608.89	243.46	5884.03
27.	Uttaranchal	275.57	288.03	9.53	573.13
28.	West Bengal	309.01	186.38	106.29	601.68
Total States		81895.99	13653.65	2984.59	98534.23
<b>Union Territories</b>					
29.	A & N Islands	0.00	8.15	0.00	8.15
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	9.13	0.00	9.13
31.	D & N Haveli	2.66	3.45	1.17	7.28
32.	Daman & Diu	1.29	0.62	0.05	1.96
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.71
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	84.31	0.00	84.31
Total U.Ts.		3.95	106.37	1.22	111.54
Total States & UTs.		81899.94	13760.02	2985.81	98645.77
Central Sector		295.19	380.68	829.94	1505.81
Grand Total		82195.13	14140.70	3815.75	100151.58

For the terminal year 2006-07, the revised approved outlay is taken for expenditure year.  
Actual expenditure in 2006-07 would be available in 2008-09 only.

**Annexure-III****State-Wise Irrigation potential created in IX and X plan**

(In thousand hectares)

Sl.No.	Name of States & UTs	Total Irrigation Potential created during	
		IX Plan	X Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	375.71	541.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.10	19.56
3.	Assam	58.11	100.84
4.	Bihar	380.13	321.34

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	185.25	992.24
6.	Goa	9.83	18.79
7.	Gujarat	143.99	812.63
8.	Haryana	74.88	98.59
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13.42	12.19
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	13.82	29.91
11.	Jharkhand	45.91	320.94
12.	Karnataka	509.13	46.43
13.	Kerala	163.08	532.98
14.	Madhya Pradesh	118.00	177.98

1	2	3	4
15.	Maharashtra	1297.20	618.15
16.	Manipur	43.25	30.60
17.	Meghalaya	4.40	10.79
18.	Mizoram	3.96	1.39
19.	Nagaland	9.32	17.61
20.	Orissa	385.46	325.99
21.	Punjab	103.01	64.71
22.	Rajasthan	234.13	429.00
23.	Sikkim	3.44	3.76
24.	Tamil Nadu	11.96	22.85
25.	Tripura	19.67	44.13
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2635.80	2848.29
27.	Uttaranchal	14.36	24.91
28.	West Bengal	825.76	347.65
Total U.Ts		16.73	7.19
Grand Total		7695.81	8813.38

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Sir, my question had three parts. In the third part of my Question I had asked about the number of farmers who had benefited. But unfortunately, the hon. Minister has not replied to that party of my Question.

Sir, however, my supplementary is that according to the statement of the hon. Minister, the total amount spent on irrigation has gone up from Rs. 60,000 crore in the Ninth Plan to Rs. One lakh crore in the Tenth Plan. But in actual practice the area irrigated during the Ninth Plan period was 32.4 percent and the area irrigated during the Tenth Plan was 36.7 per cent. So, there has been an increase of just four per cent during these two Plan periods. Also, in the Eleventh Plan there is a proposal for an investment of Rs. Two crore for irrigation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will take a firm decision to arrive at a 10 per cent increase in irrigated land of the country per year.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister is concerned this much about increasing the irrigation potential of the country. He also has quoted some figures. Yes, a lot of funding has gone into irrigation over the years. In the Ninth Plan the investment on irrigation was Rs. 60,147 crore and in the Tenth Plan the investment on irrigation had been Rs. 1,00,151 crore and for the Eleventh Plan the Working Group of the Planning Commission has projected an investment of Rs. 2,10,825 crore. Therefore, a lot of funding as such has gone into irrigation but according to the hon. Member, the potential of irrigation has not been commensurate with the kind of investment made. My plea is that we have tremendous irrigation potential. In the Sixth Plan proper funds for irrigation was available. Thereafter there was some dwindling. I will not go into that question. But since the UPA Government came to power, irrigation has been in sharp focus Funds are available. I want to generate a situation of hope with the hon. Member and through you to the august House that upto the year 1951 the irrigation potential then was 2.26 crore hectare of land and today at the close of the Tenth Plan the irrigation potential is 10,20,00,000 hectare of land. So, it is a sizeable achievement. Although my stand is that irrigation should receive much more attention than it is receiving now. It is only last week I took up the matter with the hon. Prime Minister and he has been very kind in supporting our demand because irrigation is key to agricultural development in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: His question is, when will you reach 50 per cent?

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: So, my hope is that more money will be available and more irrigation potential will be achieved and Bharat Nirman is also in focus in the Ministry.

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Sir, in spite of the reply of the hon. Minister I am not convinced if irrigated area in the country will come even to 50 per cent of the total land holding during the Eleventh Plan period.

Sir, in my opinion, land reforms and irrigation are two very vital elements which can solve the problem of food security; the problem of drought and the problem of flood. Everything can be solved only if we go through land reforms and have proper irrigation in the country.

My second supplementary to the hon. Minister is whether the Government of India will be kind enough to allocate sufficient funds for the completion of Teesta and Damodar Projects in the State of West Bengal during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that is the only question.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a question about drought-prone areas. I want to tell him that the minor irrigation schemes from the State of West Bengal did receive our attention and we had sanctioned money in the end of October.

As regards Teesta and other projects, we must understand and appreciate the fact that water is a State subject. The Central Government comes to the help of the State Governments, earlier through loans and now through grants. Since last year, Teesta is in very sharp focus. But accounts of Teesta are not available. We took up this issue with the Government of West Bengal. You give us the utilization certificate and money would be made available to you. That is not being done. We can work on projects which are taken up with us.

Our colleagues from West Bengal, including hon. Minister, have been raising this issue. Teesta is part of the national project. The Cabinet Committee is looking into that. Teesta will be one of the national projects for 100 per cent funding from the Government of India.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

We all know very well that UPA is doing very well in the field of development of irrigation facility. The hon. Minister, in his reply, has mentioned about the expenditure on irrigation during the Ninth Plan. But there are no details about the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether there is any special scheme or proposal with the Ministry for the State of Tamil Nadu, especially with regard to its southern parts, which are really drought-prone. Our hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Kalignar Karunanidhi, had recently announced a special scheme of Rs. 616 crore to bring Cauvery water to the southern parts of Tamil Nadu, including my constituency Rameswaram.

Is the Ministry willing to help the Government of Tamil Nadu for this special scheme? Thank you.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Tamil Nadu will receive attention. The figures for Tenth Plan are available. During the Tenth Plan, the expenditure in Tamil Nadu, for raising irrigation potential was Rs.1,571 crore.

As regards the suggestion that the State of Tamil Nadu should receive the attention, I would request the Government of Tamil Nadu, through the hon. Member, that any proposal that is available with that Government should be sent to us. It will receive our attention.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that till such time Centre takes control of flood prone areas and the water under flood alongwith the river linking project, no State will be ready to release water of the rivers flowing through its territory to another State and till the times it happens water can never reach drought prone areas. He has made arrangements for making water available in about 650 thousand hectares in Rajasthan under two plans. This arrangement has been done more as a result of the efforts taken by the State Government on its own through Indira Gandhi canal. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government will provide water from rivers which witness floods every year and for which the Government spends crore rupees to.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Speaker, Sir, this query is not linked to the question but I would like to give an answer... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is giving reply to his question.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Inter-linking of rivers is not a question here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not refusing.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you are absolutely right. It is not the matter here.

*[Translation]*

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: I am replying to it. I would like to submit to the House that there is a

misunderstanding among the Members that the matter regarding the river-inter linking project has perhaps gone the back burner, but the back burner, but this is not the fact.

*[English]*

It is on the front burner. It is receiving attention.

*[Translation]*

I am giving my word that regarding the inter-linking of five rivers, the linking of Ken and Betwa river is a very arduous task. This matter is not under the Union Government. We have to coax the State Government in this regard and also submit an application.

*[English]*

Regarding Ken-Betwa, I am reporting to this House that DPR is being prepared. DPR is a very difficult situation. They want to take three years, but I am insisting that they should complete DPR in two years. But there are four to five links in very sharp focus.

Parvati-Kali Sind, Narmada-Partapi and Godvari Krishna

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: I am talking about the flood water. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please leave it.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: As regards the case of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, I would like to say that a few days ago, I have made a request to both the Chief Minister of the States through a D. O. and given them an MOU asking them to sign it, then only the said water would be released to Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and this would greatly benefit them. The Central Government is at their service, hence kindly sign the said memorandum. We will take active interest in this regard. The hon'ble Member is very right in saying that as far as possible by linking rivers we can enhance irrigation potentiality which will provide much relief.

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat. Kindly cooperate with the Chair.

*[English]*

I am finding a trouble here because the question becomes irrelevant. On any supplementary which is being

asked in the House, the hon. Ministers are obliging because they are very knowledgeable Ministers. But, I think, the relevance and brevity is also important.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the matter that the required irrigation facilities for Bodoland-Tiesta region in Anchal have till date not been provided. In the Current year that region witnessed devastating flood and two legislative segments of my Parliamentary constituency are still inundated. I had already drawn the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards this issue, but no steps have been taken so far in this regard. All the irrigation dams have been damaged. A river named Beki rises from Bhutan. This river has been posing huge problems to the people for the last two thousand and four years. In the current year also devastating flood was caused in the south east region of the river due to the breach in the embankment of the river at Narenguri. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reconstruct the Beki embankment which has been raised and moreover I would like to be apprised of the recommendations received from the Assam Government in this regard?

*[English]*

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: The proposal which the hon. Member has given, and he has also written a letter to me, is under examination and I will definitely take an action. It is a very difficult situation in Assam. I would like to report to this august House that I recently visited Majouli island which has suffered a great deal. But during the flood period, this Ministry cannot do anything because it is a situation of relief. However, I had promised the Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Tarun Gogoi, and hon. Members from that region, that I will visit Majouli. It was not that easy.

Sir, I was told and it was pleasant surprise that after late President, Dr. Fakruddin Ali Ahmed, I am the first person to go to Majouli ...*(Interruptions)*

Please listen to me. Majouli is now safe. I feel that the money available in two or three phases is not sufficient. I am examining that we shall certainly save Majouli from further incursions there. As far as other proposals are concerned, they are also receiving my attention. Your letter is with me. I will certainly invite you

further in the Ministry and will sit with you and I will respond very positively to whatever suggestions you want to give in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the matter of water comes up, we are aware that there are many rivers in the country and we get plenty of rain water but its management is not done properly. The farmers need adequate water supply for producing three crops. Today in our country we are able to provide water to only one third of the land in winter season apart from monsoon seasons, water is not available for two third areas of the land as there is shortage of water. If drip irrigation and the sprinkler system is put in place then I feel that it would not only meet the irrigation requirement in winter season but our farmers will be ready for the third crop also. A provision of only Rs. 500 crore had been made in the last budget for the sprinkler system and drip irrigation which is not sufficient. I feel that if more subsidy is provided in the budget for sprinkler system and drip irrigation, it would not only meet the irrigation requirement of the winter season but the farmers will be able to cultivate the third crop also and we can meet the shortage of foodgrains and wheat which we are confronting today. What provisions have been made by the Government for this purpose?

*[English]*

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: I am sorry, it will get a little longer reply.

MR. SPEAKER: No question of a little longer reply. You can send him the reply.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: I will be very brief because because he has talked about drip irrigation. It has a background. The hon. Prime Minister instituted what is called the Groundwater Advisory Council for Recharging Ground Water which held a congress this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question is very important.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: We have top scientists. A Committee was instituted under Dr. Swaminathan. We have produced a book that has been circulated now. Our aim in the Ministry is that ground water is very important. It is like a deposit in the bank. We can draw interest.

We cannot draw the principal amount. So, following that theory, we are trying to recharge ground water. There is, now, a situation about which we have circulated, throughout the country, to all the Chief Ministers saying that we want more crop and income per drop of water. In that situation, the sprinkler irrigation issue will also be attended to.

#### Food Security Mission

\*146. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Food Security Mission has been launched;

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

(c) when and where the implementation process of the said mission is likely to be started?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS; FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANITILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission (NFSM)" has already been launched in 305 identified districts of 16 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal from Rabi 2007-08 with an aim to achieve additional production of 10 million tones of Rice, 8 million tones of Wheat and 2 million tones of Pulses by the end of Eleventh Plan (2011-12). The total outlay of National Food Security Mission is Rs. 4882.48 crore for XI Five Year Plan.

National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has three components viz. National Food Security Mission—Rice (NSFM-Rice), National Food Security Mission—Wheat (NFSM-Wheat) and National Food Security Mission—Pulses (NFSM-Pulses). The major interventions under



NFSM are demonstrations on improved production technologies; distribution of quality seeds of high yielding varieties & hybrids; popularization of newly released varieties through seed minkits; support for micro-nutrients, gypsum, zero tillage, rotavators, conoweeders and other farm implements; integrated pest management; integrated nutrient management; water lifting and moisture saving device; training and mass media campaign including award for best performing districts etc. Besides, the pilot projects on community generators, management of blue bulls and demonstration of International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) technologies are also included. the identified districts are given flexibility to adopt the area specific technological interventions suited to their local conditions.

*[English]*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I have gone through the Statement. It is very unfortunate that several States have been included in the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme—National Food Security Mission—but not Kerala. I think we had a discussion with the hon. Minister, I think it was due to some faulty parameters or wrong information with the Ministry that this unfortunate thing has happened. The fact is that nearly 5 districts which are contiguous are the districts that are producing rice. Those districts are Palghat, Trichur, Ernakulam, Alleppey and Kottayam. If these districts are taken together, probably a good Scheme could have been implemented. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has an open mind to consider our request favourably.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): The particular Scheme was discussed in the National Development Council Meeting on 29th May last year and it was approved. We took a decision to include 16 States and 305 districts. One of the criteria was that in respect of a particular crop, at least 50 per cent area has to be under that particular crop in a particular district. Secondly, if we have to improve production and productivity, the availability of water is also should be there. So, on that basis, all the districts have been selected. There are some States which are not in a position to fulfill these criteria and that is why these States are not included at this juncture.

We have discussed Kerala in depth. We could not get a district in Kerala where such and such area is

under a particular crop, namely, paddy. The thrust of Kerala is essentially on the plantation crops. That is why, there are some problems. But, I met recently a delegation of hon. Members of Parliament from Kerala and they have given me names of three districts. There is a recommendation also from Dr. Swaminathan. On that basis, we had decided to give a second thought to this matter and give weightage to Kerala also.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, it is a very good thing that the Ministry has considered this matter favourably and given a second thought to it. Actually, there are five districts, when you consider this matter. Palghat, also known as the 'Rice Bowl of Kerala', itself has more than 550 lakh acres of land for cultivation of paddy. Its adjoining Trichur district is known for cold land cultivation. Then there are Ernakulam and Kuttanad districts. This area is spread over to two districts—Kottayam and Alleppey. So, I would like the Minister to see the recommendations made by Dr. Swaminathan and also consider the request made by Member of Parliament from Kerala and take a final decision on these districts.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have already said that we are going to consider this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao—Not present.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has informed that this scheme will be implemented in about 305 districts under the National Food Security Mission of cover he has not given the list of those districts. I hope that the hon'ble Minister would give the list also.

As you are aware, the condition of farmers is not good. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government after an agreement with the cultivators would purchase crops from them or procure their produce in the manner it is being done through the PDS and whether any specific officer would be appointed separately for this purpose? Further, I would like to know as to how the facilities, under the schemes which have been mentioned, would be provided to them?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under this scheme efforts will be made to increase production of

three crops in the country particularly pulses, rice and wheat. There is a need to increase the production of these crops to meet the next 5-10 years requirement of the country and that is why this scheme has been sanctioned. An amount of about of Rs. 5000 crore has been earmarked for this scheme. As I have said in the beginning, the names of 16 States have been included under this scheme and infact work has also started over there. The point which the hon'ble Member had raised will be explained later. He raised the question regarding the procurement policy to be adopted. I had given reply earlier also about procurement policy that be it Andhra Pradesh or any other State, wherever there is surplus food production and the farmers are willing to sell their produce to the Government at the minimum support price, we will make arrangement to procure their produce through the FCI and the agencies of State Government.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Would the Government sing an agreement with the farmers?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Please ask questions briefly. Many important issues are pending.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: I am thankful to you that you have given me an opportunity to ask question. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister about the amount being spent by the Union Government in the import of foodgrains under the National Food Security Mission and the losses thereof? We often hear that foodgrains are lying in the godowns, which could not be distributed. My question is how much loss the Government usually incur and the kind of measures that Government take to reduce the losses?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Mission is regarding increasing the production, and there is no mention of procurement in this mission.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Q.147—Shri Eknath Mahadeo Gaikwad—Not present.

Shrimati Nivedita Mane—Not present.

Q. 148 Shri N.N. Krishnadas—Not present.

Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi—Not present.

It is a very unhappy situation. We have to decide whether to have question Hour on Mondays.

Shri S. K. Kharventhan: Question No.149.

#### Foodgrains Production

+  
\*149. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the productivity of foodgrains has been steadily decreasing in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years including the current year so far;

(c) whether the production of cash crops has also been considerably decreasing during the above period;

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

(e) whether the net availability of foodgrains per capita has also declined during the last decade and the country is importing more food;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to ensure self-sufficiency in foodgrains production?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):  
(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The productivity of total foodgrains has continuously increased during the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 as can be seen from the data given in the following Table.

Crop Year	Productivity of Foodgrains (Kg/Hectare)
2004-05	1652
2005-06	1715
2006-07*	1750

\*4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007.

(c) and (d) The production of major cash crops viz., sugarcane and cotton shows continuous increase during the years 2004-05 to 2007-08. In the case of oilseeds, less area coverage has led to its lower production during 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06. However, the estimated production of Kharif oilseeds during 2007-08 (1st advance estimates) is 2.19 million tonnes more than the 13.94 million tonnes of Kharif oilseeds production during 2006-07 (4th advance estimates). Following table presents the production of oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07:

Year	Production (Million Tonnes)		
	Oilseeds	Sugarcane	Cotton#
2004-05	24.35	237.09	16.43
2005-06	27.98	281.17	18.50
2006-07*	23.88	345.31	22.70

\*4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

#Million bales of 170 Kg each.

(e) and (f) The per capita net availability of foodgrains, which was 475.2 grams per day in 1996 came down to 454.4 grams day in 2000 and further to 444.5 grams (provisional) per day in 2006.

India has been a net exporter of foodgrains during 2003-04 to 2005-06. However, during 2006-07 in order to augment the buffer stock, about 6.08 million tonnes of wheat was imported.

(g) The Integrated Cereals Development Programmes (ICDP) in rice, wheat and coarse cereals based cropping systems have been under implementation since October 2000 to promote their production. The scheme, which was subsumed under macro management mode of

agriculture, provided flexibility to the States based on local local needs. An Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under implementation with effect from April 2004 in the country, *inter-alia*, to promote production of pulses. However, in order to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses further, recently a Centrally Sponsored Scheme " National Food Security Mission" (NFSM) has also been launched in the country from 2007-08. It aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, i.e., by 2011-12 through area increase and and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase public investment in agricultural and allied sectors is launched. The RKVY aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, by ensuring a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

*[English]*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, over the years there has been huge fluctuation in the area of cultivation, production and yield of foodgrains in the country which results in the availability of foodgrains. Moreover the buffer stock of wheat and rice has gradually declined. The Government is also importing wheat at a much higher price. So, I would like to know whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the area of cultivation, production and yield of foodgrains in the coming years and whether any steps have been taken by the Government to safeguard and to protect the agricultural land from diversion to other purposes than the purpose of irrigation and to improve the productivity of foodgrains in the country.

MR.SPEAKER: You want the whole gamut of Agriculture Ministry to be discussed in Question Hour!

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important question and that is the reason why the Government took a conscious decision to introduce Food Security Mission in the country, and under the Food Security Mission, additional area will be brought under cultivation of wheat, rice and pulses. Then, planning has

also been made to see that production is improved. This particular question is mainly about how to improve productivity, what is the total requirement of production and how to fulfill that. The answer has been given.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, in recent years the farmers in some parts of our country, particularly in some segments of Tamil Nadu, have slowly been switching over to organic farming and they have stopped their dependence on imported chemicals and fertilizers which saves huge amount of money of the Government Exchequer. As a result, they gradually get high yield and the land also becomes fertile. So, I would like to know whether the Government have proposed to give financial and other forms of assistance to those farmers who have shifted to organic farming which in food grains production. I would also like to know whether there is also a proposal to educate the farmers about the usage and the benefits of organic farming.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your brief question.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, there is scheme which has been introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture to popularize organic farming. There are some incentives also and some sort of guidance is also provided to farmers under this scheme. Today, in a country like ours the main requirement is how to improve productivity. Of course organic farming is important. It has a market not only within India but also outside India and that is the reason why we are encouraging that.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, your name is there on the list. Do you want to ask a supplementary?

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Yes, Sir.

Sir, the Union Territories, which have far-flung island, have requested the Government that they should be provided adequate quantum of foodgrains so that in case of any problem there will be no crisis for food grains in those areas. I would like to know what steps the Government have taken to ensure that.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Necessary precautions will be taken.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

### Rehabilitation Package To Farmers

\*143. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps initiated to implement the Prime Minister's Special Rehabilitation Package to mitigate agrarian distresses of the farmers;

(b) the details of the various heads under which the package has been implemented so far, State-wise; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited from the above package, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Special Rehabilitation Package announced for the six distressed districts in Vidarbha region in Maharashtra State on 1st July, 2006 and for 25 identified distressed districts covering Andhra Pradesh (16), Karnataka (6) and Kerala (3) States announced on 29th September, 2006 is implemented by the concerned implementing agencies consisting of line Departments of Central and State Governments, Banks and NABARD. For implementation of the package there are provision for State Level Coordination & Supervision Committee including representatives of the Government of India and the State Government Implementation through District Level Committee, Panchayati Raj Institution and creation of appropriate Institutional Structures and Special Purpose Cooperatives/Community Based Organizations at local level. GoI is also monitoring the progress in the implementation of the package through review meetings held periodically. While banks provide the required credit, non-credit components such as checkdams, watershed development, irrigation projects, rain water harvesting structures, etc. are implemented by State Governments by using grants provided by GoI and loans released to State Governments by NABARD out of RIDF maintained with it.

(c) Major components of the Rehabilitation Package which are individually farmer oriented are credit related measures. The progress in respect of the Credit components of the package is given below:

## (i) Debt relief &amp; Interest Waiver.

Name of the State	No. of loan accounts Rescheduled & interest waived	Overdue interest waived (Rs. in crore)
Andhra Pradesh	13,82,852	1978.11
Karnataka	2,86,549	706.35
Kerala	1,29,158	218.93
Maharashtra	9,29,020	824.98
Total	27,27,597	3728.37

## (ii) Credit Flow

Name of the State	Target 2006-07	Disbursement as On 31st March 2007	Target 2007-08	Disbursement as on 30.09.2007
Andhra Pradesh	13,817.78	12,627.23	15032.50	6991.00
Karnataka	3076.20	2962.99	3749.41	1149.57*
Kerala	1945.07	2324.30	2395.45	477.56*
Maharashtra	2583.39	2012.90	2225.35	1386.65
Total	21,422.44	19,927.42	23402.71	10004.78

\*Position as on 30.06.2007

**Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme**\*147. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme would continue during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made so far in this regard; and

(c) the funds spent during the Tenth Plan period under the said Scheme alongwith the amount earmarked for the Eleventh Plan Period, State-wise, and Year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The salient features of the modified Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), which was approved on 01.11.2007, is enclosed as statement. Since the approval was accorded by Government in November 2007, the implementation of the Scheme has just commenced. However, in its operational life span of eight years, as on 31.03.2007, the Scheme has propelled an investment of approximately Rs. 86.000 crore. The Government has till now released Rs. 3225.06 crore under this Scheme.

(c) The total subsidy disbursed under this Scheme during the Tenth Plan period was Rs.2044.18 crore. The Planning Commission has not yet communicated the total Plan allocation for the Eleventh Plan period.

**Statement****Salient features of the restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme**

(i) The rate of interest reimbursement on spinning machinery has been reduced to 4%. All the remaining sub-sectors covered under the scheme would continue to get assistance @ 5%.

- (ii) The scheme will continue to provide cover for foreign exchange rate fluctuation not exceeding 5%. However, for the spinning machinery the coverage will be 4%.
- (iii) The Scheme will now provide an additional option to the powerlooms units to avail of 20% Margin Money subsidy under TUFs in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement on investment in TUF compatible specified machinery subject to a capital ceiling of Rs. 100 lakh and ceiling on capital subsidy Rs. 20 lakh. A minimum of 15% equity contribution from beneficiaries will be ensured.
- (iv) The Scheme will now provide 15% Margin Money subsidy for SSI textile and jute sector in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement on investment in TUF compatible specified machinery subject to a capital ceiling of Rs. 100 lakh and ceiling on capital subsidy Rs.15 lakh. A minimum of 15% equity contribution from beneficiaries will be ensured.
- (v) The Scheme will continue to provide 5% interest reimbursement plus 10% capital subsidy for specified processing machinery.
- (vi) The Scheme will now provide 5% interest reimbursement plus 10% capital subsidy for specified machinery required in manufacture of technical textiles and garmenting machineries.
- (vii) The Scheme will now provide interest subsidy/capital subsidy/Margin Money subsidy on the basic value of the machineries and exclude the tax component for the purpose of valuation in view of the decision for non-subsidizing the taxes.
- (viii) The Scheme will provide 25% capital subsidy on purchase of the new machinery and equipments for the pre-loom & post-loom operations, handlooms/up-gradation of handlooms and testing & Quality Control equipments, for handlooms production units.
- (ix) The entire range of imported second hand machinery will now be ineligible under the Scheme for any benefit except automatic shuttleless looms with the value cap of Rs. 8.00 lakh per machine and 10 years' vintage and with a residual life of minimum 10 years.
- (x) Other investments such as energy saving devices effluent treatment plant, in-house R&D, IT including ERP, TQM including adoption of ISO/BIS standards, CPP etc. will now be eligible for benefits of the Scheme only upto 25% of the cost of machinery.
- (xi) Investments like land, factory building, pre-operative expenses and margin money for working capital will now be ineligible for benefit of reimbursement under the scheme except meant for apparel sector and handloom with existing 50% cap i.e. 50% of the cost of machinery and equipment.
- (xii) On loans sanctioned during 01.04.1999 and 31.3.2007, the then existing parameters and guidelines will apply.

#### Foodgrain Quota To States

\*148. SHRI N.N.KRISHNADAS:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided recently to cut short the quota of foodgrains to different States for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) card holders under Public Distribution System (PDS);

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

(c) whether any request has been received from the State Governments for restoration of the quota and also for additional quota of foodgrains for distribution under PDS; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The allocations of wheat and rice, for the APL category, have been rationalized with effect from June, 2006 and April, 2007, respectively, on the basis of the monthly offtake of previous three years for all the States/Union Territories to make them realistic and in line with availability in the Central Pool.

However, for the BPL and AAY families, the scale of issue of 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, has not been change.

The pre-revised and revised allocations for wheat & rice are given in the statement I and statement II enclosed.

(c) and (d) Requests have been received from some State Governments/UTs for increasing/restoration of the allocation of wheat/rice for Above Poverty Line (APL) category, names of which are given in statement-III enclosed.

Keeping in view the requests received from the North Eastern States & Sikkim, with special reference to their particular position, the allocation of rice for APL category in the NE States and Sikkim has been enhanced to 1.5 times of their allocation in June, 2007, subject to their entitlement, with effect from July, 2007.

Adhoc/additional allocation of wheat has been made to States and UTs, for the APL category, depending upon its availability in the Central Pool. Details of the adhoc/ additional allocations are given in statement IV enclosed.

**Statement I**

*State wise monthly allocation of Wheat under TPDS*

(In thousand tons)

Sl.No	States/UTs	Allocation prior to rationalization April, 2006	Revised allocation w.e.f. June, 06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.806	2.754
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.815	0.786
3.	Assam	22.128	18.697
4.	Bihar	201.316	69.947
5.	Chhattisgarh	28.755	5.714
6.	Delhi	68.178	28.394
7.	Goa	3.011	0.201
8.	Gujarat	190.317	37.457
9.	Haryana	79.457	29.083
10.	Himanchal Pradesh	13.971	10.858

1	2	3	4
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.45	17.136
12.	Jharkhand	34.272	26.585
13.	Karnataka	51.871	8.154
14.	Kerala	45.705	19.113
15.	Madhya Pradesh	244.688	106.497
16.	Maharashtra	392.069	122.658
17.	Manipur	1.714	0.606
18.	Meghalaya	0.648	0.43
19.	Mizoram	1.01	0.624
20.	Nagaland	2.727	2.716
21.	Orissa	24.402	7.793
22.	Punjab	98.156	11.122
23.	Rajasthan	226.34	84.104
24.	Sikkim	0.5	0.245
25.	Tamil Nadu	10	3.783
26.	Tripura	3.965	1.337
27.	Uttarakhand	13.196	7.191
28.	Uttar Pradesh	395.1	125.966
29.	West Bengal	174.287	121.514
30.	A & N Islands	0.578	0.329
31.	Chandigarh	4.511	0.018
32.	D & N Haveli	0.253	0.044
33.	Daman & Diu	0.129	0.012
34.	Lakshadweep	0.019	0.019
35.	Pondicherry	0.2	0.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>23.65.574</b>	<b>671.987</b>

**Statement II***State-wise monthly allocation of Rice under TPDS*

(In 000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allocation in March, 2007	Revised Allocation w.e.f. April, 2007
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	318.287	318.287
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.676	83.043
3.	Assam	121.71	10.676
4.	Bihar	248.354	157.194
5.	Chhattisgarh	124.031	63.766
6.	Delhi	29.18	19.864
7.	Goa	7.628	1.464
8.	Gujarat	125.533	49.734
9.	Haryana	30.56	5.810
10.	Himanchal Pradesh	22.16	20.930
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	45.931	45.931
12.	Jharkhand	71.199	59.971
13.	Karnataka	210.397	194.541
14.	Kerala	160.841	68.755
15.	Madhya Pradesh	95.254	38.814
16.	Maharashtra	248.676	114.088
17.	Manipur	8.474	7.290
18.	Meghalaya	9.509	9.509
19.	Mizoram	5.221	5.221
20.	Nagaland	7.866	7.866
21.	Orissa	198.329	146.905
22.	Punjab	43.393	6.562
23.	Rajasthan	85.518	17.940
24.	Sikkim	3.426	3.426

1	2	3	4
25.	Tamil Nadu	475.863	396.151
26.	Tripura	23.924	17.235
27.	Uttarakhand	29.47	18.325
28.	Uttar Pradesh	521.332	251.707
29.	West Bengal	337.726	116.498
30.	A & N Islands	1.927	1.927
31.	Chandigarh	2.172	0.285
32.	D & N Haveli	0.997	0.889
33.	Daman & Diu	0.826	0.188
34.	Lakshadweep	0.313	0.313
35.	Pondicherry	6.926	5.296
Total		3630.629	2266.401

**Statement-III***Requests received from the States/UTs for increase/  
restoration of foodgrains allocation under TPDS*

Sl.No	Name of States/UTs
1	2
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Assam
4.	Bihar
5.	Chhattisgarh
6.	Goa
7.	Gujarat
8.	Himachal Pradesh
9.	Jammu & Kashmir
10.	Kerala
12.	Madhya Pradesh



1	2	1	2
13.	Meghalaya	21.	Tripura
14.	Mizoram	22.	Uttarakhand
15.	Nagaland	23.	Uttar Pradesh
16.	Orissa	24.	West Bengal
17.	Punjab	25.	A & N Islands
18.	Rajasthan	26.	Chandigarh
19.	Sikkim	27.	D & N Haveli
20.	Tamil Nadu	28.	Lakshadweep

**Statement IV**

*Additional Allocation of wheat to States under APL Category for the months from September 2006 to December 2007*

Sl.No	States	Sep. 2006	Oct. 2006	Nov. 2006	Dec. 2006	Jan. 07 Mar. 07 (per month)	April- July, 07 (Per Month)	September & October 2007	November & December 2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	1377
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	300	300	300	300	300	300	NIL	266
3.	Assam	4000	4000	3000	3000	3000	3000	NIL	9349
4.	Bihar	4000	4000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	517
5.	Chhattisgarh	3000	3000	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1552
6.	Delhi	8000	8000	10000	10000	10000	5000	4000	12231
7.	Goa	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
8.	Gujarat	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	3201
9.	Haryana	2500	2500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	3711
10.	Himanchal Pradesh	3500	3500	3500	3500	6500	6500	6500	3374
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5597
12.	Jharkhand	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	1000	688
13.	Karnataka	4000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	NIL	1934

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Kerala	5000	6000	8000	8000	8000	8000	5000	5889
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	2370
16.	Maharashtra	5000	6000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	2577
17.	Manipur	300	300	300	300	300	300	NIL	250
18.	Meghalaya	300	300	300	300	300	300	NIL	215
19.	Mizoram	300	300	300	300	300	300	NIL	312
20.	Nagaland	300	300	300	300	300	300	NIL	937
21.	Orissa	4000	5000	4000	4000	4000	4000	2000	3897
22.	Punjab	2500	2500	2500	2000	12000	3000	3000	653
23.	Rajasthan	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	4000	8480
24.	Sikkim	300	300	300	300	300	300	NIL	123
25.	Tamil Nadu	4000	5000	5000	5000	6250	6250	5000	1892
26.	Tripura	800	800	800	800	800	800	NIL	669
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	4000	726
28.	Uttarakhand	5000	5000	5000	5000	10000	5000	5000	783
29.	West Bengal	10000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	NIL	24620
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	100	100	100	300	300	300	300	124
31.	D & N Haveli	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	NIL
32.	Pondicherry	100	100	150	150	150	150	150	8
33.	Chandigarh	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	NIL
34.	Lakshadweep	50	50	NIL	50	50	50	50	NIL
35.	Daman & Diu	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Total		100000	100000	100000	99750	119000	100000	73150	98771

\* One time allocation for festivals during the current year, equal to one-month's adhoc/additional allocation, has also been made.

[Translation]

#### CDMA Mobil Service

\*150. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

(BSNL) proposes to start CDMA Mobile Service in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be started;

(c) whether the spectrum allocated to the company is not as per the extant norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Sir, BSNL has submitted a request to the Government recently seeking permission to provide fully mobile services using CDMA technology in addition to the GSM technology under the existing CMTS licences in 21 service areas. Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and some of the GSM Operators have challenged the decision of Government, *inter-alia* on use of dual technology spectrum in term of TRAI's recommendations dated 28/08/2007 on "Review of license terms & conditions and capping of number of access providers" in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is sub-judice,

(c) and (d) As per DoT's existing norms, two CDMA carriers of 1.25 MHz each have been allotted for each of the licensed telcom circle of BSNL for providing fixed and limited mobile service under basic services license.

*(English)*

#### Production of Kharif Crops

\*151. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

Rice	Coarse Cereals	Total Pulse	Total Foodgrains	Total Oilseeds	Cotton#	Jute & Mesta##	Sugarcane
80.15	26.58	5.51	112.24	16.13	229.43	113.03	345.62

#Lakh bales of 170 kgs. Each    ##Lakh bales of 180 kgs. Each

(c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) does not make prediction for the production of all Kharif crops as such. However, IMD estimates yield levels of kharif rice in respect of only some of the meteorological sub-divisions using agromet modeling exercise.

(d) The crop area affected due to floods, in various States during monsoon 2007 as assessed by National Disaster Management (Min. of Home Affairs) is given in the table below:

(a) whether the Government has made any survey to assess the production of current kharif crop in the country;

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

(c) the details of prediction made by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) for Kharif production; and

(d) the details of production that suffered due to various damages to the standing crops in various States in the current kharif crop?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) (a) and (b) Four advance estimates and final estimates of area and production are being brought out periodically by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC). These estimates are compiled on the basis of information and assessments received from State Governments, National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Crop Weather Watch Group Meetings (CWWG) India Meteorological Department (IMD), Space Application Centre (SAC) and other auxiliary information. The first advance estimates of the major crops of Kharif 2007 were brought out by the DES on 19th September, 2007 as given below:

#### Crop Area Affected during Kharif 2007:

States	Cropped area affected (in hectare)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1,74,00
Arunachal Pradesh	N.R.
Assam	6,70,957

1	2
Bihar	16,62,000
Chhattisgarh	2,560
Meghalaya	90
Orissa	1,84,147
Punjab	28,134
Rajasthan	Neg.
Sikkim	
Goa	Neg.
Gujarat	4,68,342
Haryana	Nil
Himachal Pradesh	1,12,982
Jharkhand	962
J & K	Nil
Karnataka	2,37,480
Kerala	36,823
Madhya Pradesh	4239
Manipur	
Mizoram	Nil

1	2
Nagaland	Nil
Maharashtra	N.R.
Tripura	Nil
Tamil Nadu	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	1,62,566
Uttarakhand	N.R.
West Bengal	24,55,006
A & N Islands	Nil
Chandigarh	
Daman & Diu	Nil
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil
Delhi	
Lakshadweep	Nil
Pondicherry	2,15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,15,288</b>

Source: Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs (Website, dated: 15-10-2007)

However, the production of cereals, pulses oilseeds, cotton jute & Mesta during Kharif 2007 has been estimated to be more than that during Kharif 2006 season, as shown below

Year	Cereals	Pulses	Oilseeds	Sugarcane	Cotton*	Jute & mesta**
2007(1st Adv. Est.)	106.73	5.51	16.13	345.62	229.43	113.03
2006(4th Adv.Est.)	105.78	4.74	13.94	345.31	226.96	112.57

Cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds & Sugarcane in Million Tonnes

\*Lakh Bales of 170. kgs each.

\*\* Lakh Bales of 180 Kgs. each

[Translation]

#### Indo-Russian Defence Deal

\*152. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of the efforts made during the recent visits of

the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister to Russia to enhance co-operation in the matter of supply of combat equipments and weapons ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)  
Efforts to ensure supply of combat equipments and weapons is an ongoing process. An Indian delegation led by Raksha Mantri participated in the 7th meeting of the

India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) held in Moscow from 17-18th October, 2007. During the meeting, both sides reviewed progress of on-going bilateral defence cooperation and discussed various issues of mutual interest in the areas of defence and security including supply, co-development and production of defence equipment. The following documents were signed at the conclusion of the meeting:

- (i) Inter-governmental agreement for Cooperation in Development and Production of Prospective Multi Functional Fighter.
- (ii) Protocol of the Seventh meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation.

This was followed by a visit by the Prime Minister to Russia from 11-12th November, 2007 when various issues of mutual interest were discussed. An agreement was signed with Russia for Cooperation in Development and Production of Multi-role Transport Aircraft.

*[English]*

\*153. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a clinical study has discovered that the quality of sub-soil water is better than the water in the aquifers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in view of the above the Government proposes to encourage the use of sub-soil water; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (GGWB) in various part of the country reveal that the quality of sub-soil and aquifer waters varies from place to place. In some areas sub-soil water is of better quality, whereas in some areas is of better quality. The Government encourages the integrated use of water resources, based on the availability as well as quality of water.

*[Translation]*

**Poor Mobile Service of BSNL**

\*154. YOGI ADITYA NATH:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether complaints regarding failure of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide regular and good quality mobile service to its subscribers has been received recently from some of the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for failure of BSNL to upgrade its services, despite the repeated complaints from different States; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the quality of mobile service of the BSNL and to upgrade them to the international level?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is working satisfactorily and in general meeting the Quality of Service benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. However, certain complaints have been received regarding congestion, coverage, internet access, BTS(Base Transceiver Station) failures, etc.

(c) and (d) BSNL is continuously augmenting its Cellular Mobile Network progressively for enhancing coverage, Capacity and Quality of Service (QoS) and has target for providing 88.5 lakh connections in the year 2007-08. Efforts are made for speedy redressal of complaints. BSNL is optimizing its network continuously for its performance and monitoring of the network has also been strengthened to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

Presently, BSNL is providing GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), EDGE (Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution) Services over its Cellular Mobile Network, Introduction of 3G mobile services are proposed from next year subject to grant of Spectrum.

**NABARD Assistance for Irrigation Projects**

\*155. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sought assistance from National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) for the proposed irrigation schemes in the States;

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

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF.SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Several States Governments have sought assistance from National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) for irrigation schemes. NABARD has sanctioned loan of Rs. 20,379.61 crore in respect of 1,18,908 irrigation schemes of various States under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) upto March 31,2007. The State-wise details are enclosed as statement.

Loans to State Governments under RIDF are released after satisfactory completion of prescribed formalities and progress in implementation of the individual projects on a reimbursement basis. As per the approved phasing at the time of sanction of RIDF loan for the irrigation sector, all the sanctioned projects are expected to be completed in a period of 3 years.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	State	Irrigation	
		Number of Schemes	Loan Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2392	2538.07
2.	Assam	43	191.98
3.	Bihar	7976	504.92
4.	Chhattisgarh	403	787.12
5.	Goa	33	21.03
6.	Gujarat	24301	3459.76

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	268	511.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1174	337.76
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	288	194.77
10.	Jharkhand	1175	340.00
11.	Karnataka	1677	801.07
12.	Kerala	934	267.97
13.	Madhya Pradesh	701	2808.08
14.	Maharashtra	574	1416.34
15.	Manipur	225	15.27
16.	Meghalaya	26	21.28
17.	Mizoram	79	19.98
18.	Nagaland	58	18.43
19.	Orissa	43136	1216.52
20.	Punjab	120	230.14
21.	Rajasthan	2397	1279.45
22.	Sikkim	200	3.93
23.	Tamil Nadu	767	711.15
24.	Tripura	134	48.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	16950	1944.91
26.	Uttarkhand	279	159.11
27.	West Bengal	13598	531.12
Total		118908	20379.61

**Rate of Interest on EPF**

\*156 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the current rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and the increase therein demanded by the labour organisations during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for not hiking the interest rate of the EPF during the above period;

(c) whether there is big unused amount of EPF lying in many States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to revise the interest rate on EPF for the year 2006-07; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) (a) The rate of interest declared for the year 2006-07 is 8.5%. There has been demand from the employees' representatives for a higher rate of interest than what was declared by the Government.

(b) The rate of interest is declared by the Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. While determining the rate of interest, the Central Government shall satisfy itself that "there is no overdrawal on the Interest Suspense Account as a result of debit thereto of the interest credited to the accounts of members".

(c) and (d) The accounts of the Employees' Provident Fund including income and expenditure are maintained in such form as prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. All the monies are accounted in the prescribed form and invested in accordance with the pattern prescribed by the Government and as such there is no amount as 'unused amount' in the Employees' Provident Fund.

(e) No, Sir.

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

*[English]*

#### **Decline in Procurement of Wheat and Rice**

\*157 SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procurement of rice and wheat by Food Corporation of India (FCI) has declined considerably this year;

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

(c) whether the Multinational Companies are also procuring rice and wheat in the country;

(d) if so whether there is any restriction on the quantity to be procured by such companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government proposes to take such steps in the future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There was a slight decline in the procurement of rice by the Government Agencies [State Agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI)] for the Central Pool in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2006-07 (250.75 lakh tonnes as against 276.56 lakh tonnes in KMS 2005-06). However the procurement of wheat has increased from 92.25 lakh tonnes in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07 to 111.28 lakh tonnes in RMS 2007-08. Procurement of rice in KMS 2006-07 was less than KMS 2005-06 mainly on account of crop diversification and unfavourable weather conditions in some parts of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. resulting in less paddy arrivals in mandis.

(c) to (f) As per the present policy, farmers are free to sell their produce to the Government agencies at MSP, or to the private parties, including Multinational Companies as is advantageous to them. This ensures remunerative prices to the farmers. No restriction on quantity of procurement by Multinational Companies has been imposed by the Government of India. However, a notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on 1.3.2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 50,000 tonnes during 2007-08, shall furnish to the Central Government, a return indicating the name/address of the company, quantity of wheat purchased and quantity of wheat held in stock.

#### **Enhancement in Postal Technology**

\*158 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken initiatives to use the huge network of postal department in the country for other business purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has examined the need for streamlining the operation of postal department in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of the plans to invest funds for technology upgradation across the postal network to compete with the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts is providing various services other than postal services in collaboration with other Government and Non Government agencies to optimally utilize the network.

(b) These services are broadly as below:

- I. The department has started a pilot to provide financial inclusion in rural areas under the scheme of Business Correspondent in collaboration with the State Bank of India.
- II. A Pilot for extending disbursement of micro credit to self help groups has also been started in collaboration with the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.
- III. The Department has started Passenger Reservation Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways.
- IV. The Department is providing a platform to facilitate payment of various bills by the customers for telecommunication companies and other utility service providers.
- V. The Department is distributing financial instruments like Mutual Funds etc. on behalf of financial institutions like UTI, SBI Franklin Templeton, Reliance Mutual Funds etc. The Department is also distributing the Non Life products of Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.
- VI. The Department provides the facility of receiving remittances from 205 countries through the International Money Transfer Service.

VII. The Disbursement of wages to the beneficiaries of the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Act 2005, is done through the post offices in some states.

VIII. The payment of Old Age Pension under the National Social Assistance Programme is being undertaken by the Department of posts in some states.

(c) and (d) The Department of Posts has brought focus on business activities by strengthening mail business products and introducing new services in collaboration with various agencies. Setting up of Business Development and Marketing Directorate, Mail Business Centres, Rural Business Desk, Global Business Division and Logistics Post Centres is a step in this direction. The Department is consistently inducting technology in postal operations to upgrade postal services. Under the 10th Plan 8263 post offices have been computerized. During the 11th Plan the remaining 17,598 departmental post offices and 64,00 branch post offices are proposed to be computerized. During the 10th Plan, an expenditure of approx Rs. 559 Crore has been made for computerization and networking of post offices. During the 11th Plan, it is estimated that approximately Rs. 2100 crores will be invested for computerization and networking of post offices.

#### Regional EPF Appellate Tribunals

\*159. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of disposal of cases is very slow due to the inadequate number of Regional Employment Provident Funds (EPF) Appellate Tribunals;

(b) if so, the total number of cases referred to the regional EPF Appellate Tribunals for disposal and those pending during each of last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to establish Regional Benches of the EPF Appellate Tribunal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The proposal to establish additional benches is under examination.



### Verification of Subscribers

\*160. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mobile service providers are generally not complying with the requirement of subscriber verification process while enrolling a new subscriber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the mechanism that exist to check the functioning of mobile service providers in various parts of the country;

(d) the names of the service providers found violating the guidelines in this regard during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken against the service providers for violating the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) It is found during verification process that some of the subscribers have been enrolled by mobile service providers without proper verification.

(b) to (e) Detailed instructions were incorporated as license conditions, which *inter-alia* provide that the Service providers are required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber. This includes obtaining photograph and copies of prescribed documents for identity proof and address proof of the subscriber.

In April, 2006 a special drive was carried out by Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Cells of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad to check whether the service providers are fully complying with the instructions regarding verification of subscribers. Based on the observations of special drive, directions were issued to concerned service providers to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification.

As per the instructions dated 22.11.2006, service providers were required to re-verify their existing subscriber base by March, 2007 and there should not be any connection working after 31.3.2007 in the Licensee's network without having subscriber information duly verified. Special drives were conducted in April and May, 2007 to audit the status of subscriber verification carried out by

the mobile operators on sample basis. The auditing of the subscribers' identity verification is a continuous process.

Almost all access service providers including Government PSUs are not fully compliant with subscribers' verification process.

Routine checks, in this regard, are carried out by DoT through its Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cells in all the service areas. Based on their observations, 133 show cause-notices have been issued in last six months to the concerned service providers, wherever discrepancies/deficiencies were noticed, for imposition of penalty which is to be levied after following due procedure.

[Translation]

### Progress of I. T. Companies

1177. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether the IT Companies of the country are making more progress in comparison to the other IT Companies of the world; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies), in 2006 worldwide technology and related services spending increased by 7.7 percent in comparison to 2005. On the other hand, in 2006-07 the revenue (Including the domestic and exports segments) of the Indian IT-ITES sector increased by nearly 28 percent in comparison to 2005-06

### Export of Handicrafts and Handlooms Products

1178. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of each State in the export of handlooms and handicrafts products during each of the last three years, States-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the export of handicrafts and handlooms products from Tribal areas of the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government also proposes to provide proper and sufficient training and assistance for development of handicrafts and handloom products in tribal areas of the country;

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

(e) the funds allocated for the purpose during the Eleventh Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) State-wise export data on handlooms and handicrafts is not maintained as the statistical figures compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics is only on All India basis. The total export of handicrafts and hand knotted carpets during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Value of export
2004-05	Rs. 18567.76 crore
2005-06	Rs. 19267.65 crore
2006-07	Rs. 20963.00 crore

In the absence of separate ITC (HS) Codes for handloom products, the export data from April 2003 onwards is not available in respect of handloom products.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) For providing training to handicrafts artisans, adequate provisions have been made in the Human Resource Development Scheme for the Eleventh Plan period. The other schemes for development of

handicrafts in the country, including Tribal areas, include Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of craft cluster; Marketing & Support Services; Design & Technology Upgradation; Research and Development & Welfare Scheme. For development of exportable handloom products through design innovation and product diversification with proper training etc. of weavers of various handloom agencies in the country including the Tribal areas, a Scheme, namely Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme is under operation for the Eleventh Plan.

(e) A provision of Rs. 25.00 crore has been made for the Eleventh Plan under Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme for development of exportable handloom products, participation in international fairs and exhibitions etc. For handicrafts, funds are yet to be finalised.

#### Textile Workers Relief Fund Scheme

1179. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the labourers of the closed textile mills in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh provided relief under the Textile Workers Relief Fund Scheme (TWRFS) during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount of relief sanctioned and actually distributed to them during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the names and locations of the mills still awaiting the payment of relief which otherwise fulfil the eligibility criterion for availing the said relief, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The state-wise details of the textiles workers of the closed textiles mills in the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh who have been provided relief under the Textiles Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) in the last three years, are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	No. of paid workers	Amount paid	No. of paid workers	Amount paid	No. of paid workers	Amount paid
Gujarat	46	14.52	1823	410.50	1043	423.11
Madhya Pradesh	3233	779.86	1336	363.47	1665	790.00
Tamil Nadu	1	0.06	1	.39	0	0
Karnataka	18	5.41	65	25.61	530	191.89
West Bengal	0	0	0	0	95	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3298</b>	<b>799.85</b>	<b>3225</b>	<b>799.97</b>	<b>3333</b>	<b>1425.00</b>

(b) The amount of relief sanctioned and actually distributed during the last three years is given below. State-wise disbursement is given against (a) above.

Year	Amount sanctioned by Government	Amount disbursed to workers
2004-05	800.00	799.85
2005-06	800.00	799.97
2006-07	1425.00	1425.00

(c) Two mills, namely M/s. Navjyot Textiles Mills Ltd., Kadi, Mehsana District, and M/s. Maheshwari Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad, both in Gujarat State are meeting the eligibility criteria. However, details of eligible workers/individual claim application are yet to be received for making actual payment of relief.

[English]

#### Improvement in Quality of Buffaloes

1180. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an integrated Murrah Development Project to improve the quality of Murrah buffaloes has been received from Haryana for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in approval of the project; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early clearance of the project and release of funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes Sir, The proposal "Integrated Murrah Germplasm Development Project using Modern Bio-techniques" submitted by the Haryana has been included as one of the components under Phase-II of National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB).

(b) to (d) NPCBB Phase-II has been initiated from December 2006 State has been requested to submit

comprehensive revised proposal by integrating all the activities proposed to be taken up under the scheme.

[Translation]

#### Infrastructure for Soil, Seeds and Crops

1181. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the demand and supply of basic necessities like seeds treatment, farming implements, pesticides and fertilizers etc. required for nutrition and protection of soil seeds and crops; and

(b) the details of measure taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The aim of Government of India is to achieve 100% seed treatment. In the area of farming implements, no shortage has been reported. The demand for pesticides as reported by the States/Union Territories was 43,718 metric tonnes for 2006-07. The requirement of fertilizers, namely, Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) has been assessed for the Rabi season 2007-08 at 14.00 million tonnes, 4.91 million tonnes and 1.96 million tonnes, respectively.

(b) A country wide campaign for 100% seed treatment has been launched. Subsidized farming equipment is made available to the farmers on the basis of the proposal submitted by States/Union Territories. No report has been received regarding shortage of pesticides. The supply plan of the above-mentioned fertilizers has been drawn up by the Department of Fertilizers.

[English]

#### Integrated Textile Parks

1182. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme for integrated textile parks has been formulated by merging the two existing schemes viz. scheme for apparel parks of export and textile sectors infrastructure development scheme;

(b) if so, whether the new scheme is likely to benefit only garment/textile manufacturer groups or certain companies under them;

(c) if so, the reasons for depriving the Government institutions and Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) from the benefit for this scheme;

(d) whether the proposals under the old scheme received at the time of formulation of this scheme, were not considered by the Government; and

(e) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir. It has been done in 2005.

(b) No, Sir. The scheme is available to any Industry Associations/Groups of Entrepreneurs desirous of setting up of textiles units.

(c) Government institutions and Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) can have equity participation not exceeding 49% of the total equity of the Special Purpose Vehicle formed for each textiles park project.

(d) and (e) Projects sanctioned under the Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES), and Textiles Center Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS), where works had started before 31.07.2005, are continued to be eligible for Government assistance under the respective scheme. However, after merger of the APES and TCIDS, no new proposal was approved under these schemes as these schemes stand discontinued.

*[Translation]*

#### Promotion of Animal Husbandry and Poultry in Rajasthan

1183. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any plan/programme to encourage animal husbandry and poultry keeping in view the majority of dry scantily rainfall and deserted areas like Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other plan is being considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION: (a) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries is implementing a number of schemes to promote animal husbandry and poultry in the country, including in areas like Rajasthan. However, there is no separate plan/programme for such areas.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Gujarat Farmers

1184. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of Gujarat are not getting remunerative prices for their crops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide package to the farmers of Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Minimum Support Price (MSPs) are uniformly applicable throughout the country including Gujarat. MSP is in the nature of a minimum guaranteed price to the farmers for the produce in the event the market prices fall below that level. When the market prices tend to fall below the MSP, the designated agencies purchase the produce at the MSP. If the market offers higher price than MSP, the farmers are free to sell at that price.

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

*[English]***Livestock Insurance Scheme**

1185. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to existing livestock insurance scheme to 100 more districts in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details in which said scheme is implemented, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir.

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

*[Translation]***Spurious Drugs in Hospital**

1186. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether spurious and sub-standard quality drugs are being supplied to Satpula Hospital at Gun Carriage factory, Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Supply of medicines is being received mainly through Armed Forces Medical Supply (AFMS) Depot, Mumbai. Only those categories of medicines which are prescribed by the Specialist and not made available through AFMS Depot, are being purchased from authorized medical stores.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such case of supply of spurious medicine has come to notice. However, in one case a doubt has been

raised by the prescribing specialist whether the medicine is genuine. A board of Inquiry has been constituted by the General Manager of the Factory to ascertain the truth. The Inquiry Report is awaited.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Anti-Spam Law**

1187. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 80% of mail originating in the country is spam;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring a law in order to enable net users to get rid of net nuisance; and

(c) if so, the details in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per the study conducted on Internet Security by one of the international industry leader dealing in security products spam originating in India amount for 1% of all spam originating in the top 25 spam- producing countries.

(b) and (c) Sections 43 & 66 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides a legal framework to check spam and unsolicited e-mail in the country. Further a bill to amend Information Technology Act, 2000 was introduced in the Parliament on 15 December, 2006 to strengthen the legal framework and provisions pertaining to cyber crimes including spam in the principle Act.

**Increase In Bonus Limits**

1188. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has increased the bonus limit for industrial workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of additional workers likely to be benefited therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 has been promulgated on 27th October, 2007 raising the eligibility limit for payment of bonus from the salary or Rs. 3,500/- to Rs. 10,000/- per month and the calculation ceiling from Rs. 2,500/- to Rs. 3,500/ per month.

(c) Since the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 applies to every factory and every other establishment in which twenty or more persons are employed on any day during and accounting year, no such data is available.

#### Appropriate use of Fertilisers

1189. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States using large quantities of fertilizers are lagging behind in agriculture whereas the States using appropriate quantities of fertilizers have performed very well;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to educate the farmers regarding appropriate use of fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The productivity depends upon number of inputs including fertilizers. However, it is observed that States using higher quantities of fertilizer have better productivity.

(b) to (d) To educate the farmers on appropriate use of fertilizers, the Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) advocating soil test based balanced use of fertilizers in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients and bio-fertilizers.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also imparting training organizing workshop and laying field demonstrations etc. on soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers.

#### Setting up of Information Technology Institute

1190. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set an institute for Information Technology at Bhubaneswara in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds likely to be earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per the information received from Ministry of Human Resource Development—a proposal for setting up of new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in the country is under consideration of Planning Commission for their "in-principle" approval. Location of proposed IIITs will be decided, once the Planning Commission gives its "in-principle" approval.

#### Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Right at Work

1191. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Labour Organisation has recently adopted the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Right at Work; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Declaration Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work was adopted by International Labour Organisation in 1998.

(b) Under the Declaration, any member State of the ILO has the obligation arising from membership to the Organisation to promote, respect and realize the fundamental principles underlying the fundamental conventions on freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, even if one or more of these conventions have not been ratified by a member State. Union Government recognizes the spirit behind the Declaration which is reflected through various labour laws in the country. Presentations of ILO Global Reports take place in India each year in a public forum.

*[Translation]***Linking Of Military Hospitals**

1192. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process to link all military hospitals have been completed so that maximum benefit can be given to needy army personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether common people will also avail of specialist treatment in these hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) In phase-I (Pilot Project), implemented in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space, the following Service hospitals have been linked with Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantonment:

- (i) Command Hospital, Northern Command, Udhampur,
- (ii) 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar,
- (iii) 153 General Hospital, Srinagar
- (iv) 2121 Field Hospital, Kargil
- (v) 403 Field Hospital, Partapur
- (vi) INHS Dhanvantari, Port Blair (Navy)

The linking of Service hospitals is an ongoing process.

(c) and (d) Facilities at service hospitals are provided to service personnel and others as per laid down instructions.

*[English]***World Military Games**

1193. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

Year Annual Average (July-June)	Fertilizers	Electricity (irrigation)	Pesticides	Non Electrical Machinery	Tractors	Lubricants	Diesel oil (HSDO)	Diesel oil (LDO)	Fodder	Cattle Feed
2003-04	169.2	270.2	130.0	164.0	162.8	171.9	307.4	298.2	196.1	188.6
2004-05	172.0	274.8	133.3	180.3	169.2	189.9	377.3	386.3	168.1	177.8
2005-06	175.1	300.8	150.2	189.6	179.4	203.2	446.8	464.0	198.8	176.1

Source: Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(a) whether common sports enthusiasts were barred entry to the recently held World Military Games in Hyderabad citing security reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether oppressive security measures stopped athletes from venturing outdoors for sightseeing and shopping; and

(d) whether extra security measures robbed the event of much publicity?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) Security arrangements were intensified during the 4th Military World Games held at Hyderabad in the backdrop of blasts at Hyderabad on 25th September, 2007.

(c) The sightseeing and shopping was centrally organized for delegates and athletes by the 4th Military World Games Organising Committee with adequate security measures.

(d) Adequate publicity was made for the event in the print and electronic media.

*[Translation]***Agricultural Cost**

1194. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rise in agricultural input cost and its effect on the farmers during the last three years;

(b) whether the interest of farmers in Agriculture Sector is declining as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (Base 1993-94=100) for farm inputs for the last three years is as under:

Keeping in view the rise in input costs, the Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), which in turn are based on a number of important factors, *inter-alia*, cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in local and global market forces, inter-crop price parity, and parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers. No report as such on declining interest of farmers as a result of rise in input costs has been received.

The Government decides on the MSPs for various agricultural commodities keeping in view (i) the need to provide incentive to the producer for adopting improved technology and for developing a production pattern broadly in the light of national requirements; (ii) the need to ensure rational utilization of land, water and other production resources; (iii) the likely effect of the price policy on the rest of the economy, and (iv) terms of trade between agricultural sector and non-agricultural sector.

The Government of India has taken several steps to improve agricultural growth and return on investment in agriculture. These include declaration of MSPs before sowing season, measures to improve production and productivity of various agricultural commodities through ensuring easy availability of credit, irrigation facilities, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure and extension services.

[English]

#### Availability Of Certified Seeds And Fertilisers

1195. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by Chaudhary Charan Singh (CCS) Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar has brought to light that certified seeds and fertilizers are available during dry months but not available during the sowing season thereby creating artificial scarcity to hike the price;

(b) if so, whether the matter was brought to the Government by the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A study conducted by Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar, in three villages of Haryana brought out that most of the farmers were satisfied with the availability of seeds and fertilizers.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Official Language Cadre

1196. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official language cadre has been formed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as per the guidelines of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the number of officers included in the cadre and date from which they are holding their posts in the cadre;

(c) whether the council has adopted the same pay scales as prescribed by the Union Government for Hindi Officers/Assistant Directors;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether promotional avenue similar to their counterparts in the Union Government are available to Hindi Officers in the Council;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether many Hindi Officers in the Council have retired from the service while holding same post;

(h) if so, the details of such officers and the reasons therefor; and

(i) the details of number of Hindi Officers promoted during the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The sanctioned strength in the cadre is as follows:-

1. Assistant Director (Official Language)	—	32
Rs. 6500-200-10500		
2. Deputy Director (Official Language)	—	02
Rs. 10000-325-15200		
3. Director (Official Language)	—	01
Rs. 12000-375-16500		

Details of the officers holding the post is given in Annexure.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, the pay scales for the Assistant Directors under Central Secretariat Official Language Service (CSOLS) have not been adopted for ICAR as this pay scale has not been approved for Hindi staff working in offices not participating in Central Secretariat Official Language Service (CSOLS) including subordinate offices.

(d) The proposal for granting the pay scales of Rs. 7500-250-12000 in place of Rs. 6500-200-10500 to the Assistant Director (Official Language) in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at par with their



counterparts belonging to the Central Secretariat Official Languages services (CSOLS) was not agreed to by the Ministry of Finance. The reasons for not extending the revised pay scales was that the higher scale of Rs. 7500-250-12000 has been extended only to AD (Official Language) belonging to CSOLS and not elsewhere in the Central Government.

(e) and (f) ICAR has framed its own Recruitment Rules for the various posts in the Official Language cadres. As per the existing hierarchy in the cadre, Assistant Director (Official Language) of the ICAR system in the pay scale of Rs. 6500-200-10500 are eligible to be considered for promotion to the post of the Deputy Director (Official Language) in the pay scale of Rs. 10000-325-15200 after having rendered atleast eight years regular service in the grade.

Deputy Director (Official Language) of the ICAR system in the pay scale of Rs. 10000-325-15200 are eligible to be considered for promotion to the post of Director (Official Language) in the pay scale of Rs. 12000-375-16500 after having rendered atleast five years regular service in the grade.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. However, only one Assistant Director (Official Language) of ICAR Hqrs. retired from the service holding the same post.

Dr. B.P. Sharma, Assistant Director (Official Language) who was granted the pay scale of Rs. 10000-325-15200 under the Assured Career Progression Scheme retired from the Council on 30.06.2007.

Dr. Sharma's name did not figure in the zone of consideration for the post of Deputy Director (Official Language) at the time of holding the DPC for filling up the post of Deputy Director (Official Language)

(i) Shri Shyam Lal Prasad, Assistant Director (Official Language) was promoted to the post of Deputy Director (Official Language) with effect from 7.06.2006.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Incumbents Holding the Post of Official Language*

Sl.No.	Name of the Incumbent	Date of appointment to the grade
1	2	3
<b>Director (Official Language)</b>		
1.	Shri H.C. Joshi	12.09.2005
<b>Deputy Director (Official Language)</b>		
1.	Vacant	
<b>Assistant Director (Official Language)</b>		
1.	Smt. Mithlesh Kumari Saxena	10.05.1983
2.	Shri G.P. Saw	17.01.1985
3.	Dr. (Ms.) Jessy Joseph C	03.01.1986
4.	Shri Ghan Shyam Kalundia	04.04.1986

1	2	3
5.	Smt. P.J. Sheela	24.02.1988
6.	Shri S.P. Uniyal	14.04.1988
7.	Shri Parveen Chandla	10.07.1989
8.	Shri Lakshmi Kant	01.12.1989
9.	Shri R.S. Gautam	01.09.1990
10.	Smt. Sujata Jethi	08.03.1991
11.	Smt. Seema Chopra	31.08.1991
12.	Shri Rajeshwar Prasad Uniyal	20.08.1993
13.	Shri P.R. Rao	25.06.1994
14.	Smt. Sulochana	18.07.1994
15.	Dr. (Ms.) Kumudini Nautiyal	31.10.1994
16.	Shri Ch Sree Rama Rao	06.11.1996 (AN)
17.	Smt. Madhu Bala Charan	07.02.1997 (AN)
18.	Shri Sant Ram Yadav	27.03.1997
19.	Shri Keshav Dev	12.06.1997
20.	Smt. Archana Raghav	01.8.1997
21.	Shri M.L. Gupta	30.03.1998
22.	Smt. J Renuka	15.07.1998
23.	Shri S. Pradeep Singh	11.09.1998

*[Translation]*

#### **De-Classification of Past Records of Wars**

1197. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Chief of Army Staff has expressed the need to make public the classified records related to the wars fought against China in 1962 and against Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 for the purposes of study by Armed Forces planners and strategists;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make these records available to army officials for the purpose of chalking out war strategies; and

(c) the number of years after which such records can be made public?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) The then Chief of Army Staff on 27th September, 2007 had expressed the view that the histories of the Conflict with China, 1962 and the Indo-Pak Wars, 1965 and 1971 should be available to military strategists and other stakeholders to draw the right lessons from them.

(b) and (c) A Committee to review the publication of War Histories was constituted by the Government. The Committee has given its recommendations which are being considered for arriving at a final decision on this issue.

*[English]***Occupation of Land by Army**

1198. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has occupied a plot of land belonging to Kakapathar College in the Tinsukia district of Assam and is also running a transit camp of 11th Gorkha regiment adjacent to the college premises thereby jeopardizing the academic environment of the said college for the last the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this camp is likely to be closed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c) The ground lying vacant and adjacent to Kakapathar College in the Tinsukia district of Assam is occupied by part of 7/11 Gorkha Rifles, with the permission of the Principal of the College. The deployment of Battalion Head Quarters of 7/11 Gorkha Rifles is due to operational necessity. No exact time frame for vacation of the above ground by the Army can be given at this stage.

*[Translation]***Representation of Minority Communities  
In Armed Forces**

1199. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the number of recruits from minority communities in the Army;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations of Sachhar Committee have been implemented;

(c) if so, the number of personal recruited so far;

(d) whether the target fixed for the current year has been achieved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Armed Forces have a secular and apolitical character. Recruitment to the Forces is based on merit and is open to every citizen of the country, without any discrimination on the basis of their caste, creed, religion of region. All the personnel from all communities and regions work together without any distinction on the basis of caste creed or religion.

**Corporate Sector in Retail Business**

1200. SHRI PUSP JAIN:  
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:  
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether big corporate houses and MNCs have entered the retail sector of the country in a big way;

(b) if so, whether this has led to and adverse impact on the small retailers in the unorganized sector who are on a verge of losing employment; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken be the Government to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no restriction on the entry of the big corporate houses and other domestic investors into the retail sector. So far as foreign investment in the retail sector is concerned, as per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in retail trade, except in 'single' brand retail trade. The organized retail sector would reduce the cost of intermediation on account of economies of scale benefiting consumers and producers/farmers. It also helps in establishment of cost effective supply chains. Besides, the organized retailing sector would create more employment opportunities and improve the quality of employment in the long run. The share of organized retailing in the total retail trade is very small and it would not have any major adverse impact on retail outlets in the unorganized sector.

(c) No action seems to be necessary at present in view of replies to (a) and (b) above.

**Food Security**

1201. SHRI KIREN RIJUJ:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:  
SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has indicated that nearly one out of every five Indians is suffering from starvation;

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

(c) the reasons for failure of the Government to provide adequate foodgrains to the poor despite high economic growth and sufficient stocks of foodgrains in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide adequate foodgrains to the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

**Consumer Price Index**

1202. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of Consumer Price Index in each of the months during January to September 2005, 2006 and 2007 was found higher in India in comparison to other countries like America, China, Japan, Germany, France, England etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the comparative rates of Consumer Price Index during above period; and

(c) the reasons for higher rate of Consumer Price Index in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Consumer Price Index Numbers in respect of various countries like America, China, Japan, Germany,

England from January 2005 to September 2007 and the rates of inflation based on these Index Numbers are enclosed as statement I. The point to point rates of inflation based on the Index numbers of the same period of previous year in respect of various countries is in the range of (-) 0.2 to 4.3. The All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (CPNIW) on base 1982=100 from January to December 2005 and on new base 2001=100 from January to December 2006 to January to September 2007 and point to point rate of inflation is given statement II which are in the range of 3.3 to 7.3, which are higher in comparison to the inflation rates of the countries under reference.

(c) The most commonly used Consumer Price Index in India relate to Industrial Workers. The variations in the index numbers of different countries cannot be compared with that of Indian CPI (IW) because of structural differences on account of various factors like different weighting diagrams or varying consumption patterns, different base periods; differences in index methodologies used, concepts and sources of prices used, etc. in different countries.

**Statement I**

*Consumer Price Index Numbers being compiled & released through internet by various countries like U.S.A., China, Japan, Germany, France and U.K.*

Source: Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers) Base: 1982-84=100

Country: U.S.A.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
www.bls.gov	2005	190.7	191.8	193.3	194.6	194.5	195.4	195.4	196.4	198.8	199.2	197.6	196.8
	2006	198.3	198.7	199.8	201.5	202.5	202.9	203.5	203.9	202.9	201.8	201.5	201.8
	2007	202.4	203.5	205.4	206.7	207.9	208.4	208.3	207.9	208.5	208.9		
Consumer Price Index Base: The same month last year=100													Country : China
www.stats.gov.ch	2005	101.9	103.9	102.7	101.8	101.8	101.6	101.8	101.3	100.9	101.2	101.3	101.6
	2006	101.9	100.9	100.8	101.2	101.4	101.5	101.0	101.3	101.5	101.4	101.9	102.8
	2007	102.2	102.7	103.3	103.0	103.4	104.4	105.6	106.5	106.2			
General Index Time Series Base: 2005=100													Country : Japan
www.state.go.JP	2005	100.1	99.8	100.1	100.2	100.3	99.9	99.8	99.9	100.2	100.2	99.8	99.9
	2006	100.0	99.7	99.9	100.1	100.4	100.1	100.8	100.8	100.8	100.6	100.1	100.2
	2007	100.0	99.5	99.8	100.1	100.4	100.2	100.1	100.6	100.6			
Consumer Price Index (Non-adjusted value) Base: 2001=100													Country : Germany
www.destatis.ge	2005												
	2006	109.1	109.5	109.5	109.9	110.1	110.3	110.7	110.6	110.2	110.3	110.2	111.1
	2007	110.9	111.3	111.6	112.0	112.2	112.3	112.8	112.7	112.8	113.0		
Consumer Price Index Base:1998=100													Country : France
www.insee.fr	2005	110.7	111.3	112.0	112.2	112.3	112.5	112.3	112.7	113.2	113.1	112.9	113.0
	2006	112.94	113.38	113.69	114.16	114.66	114.65	114.46	114.85	114.59	114.34	114.47	114.73
	2007	114.34	114.55	115.04	115.6	115.89	116.03	115.74	116.20	116.33	116.62		
Consumer Price Index Base : 2005=100													Country : U.K.
www.statistics.gov.uk	2005	98.6	98.8	99.3	99.7	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.4	100.6	100.7	100.7	101.0
	2006	100.5	100.9	101.1	101.7	102.2	102.5	102.5	102.9	103.0	103.2	103.4	104.0
	2007	103.2	103.7	104.2	104.5	104.8	105.0	104.4	104.7	104.8	105.3		

*Point to point Rate of Inflation on Consumer Price Index Numbers being compiled & released through Internet by various countries like U.S.A., China, Japan, Germany, Finance and U.K. depicted on the formula being used in India*

Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers), Base: 1982-84=100

Country : U.S.A.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2005	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.5	2.8	2.5	3.2	3.6	4.7	4.3	3.5	3.4
2006	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.5	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.8	2.1	1.3	2.0	2.5
2007	2.1	2.4	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.0	2.8	3.5		

Consumer Price Index Base: The same Month last year=100

Country : China

2005	1.9	3.9	2.7	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.6
2006	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.9	2.8
2007	2.2	2.7	3.3	3.0	3.4	4.4	5.6	6.5	6.2			

General Index Time Series Base: 2005=100

Country : Japan

2005												
2006	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3
2007	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.2			

Consumer Price Index (Non-adjusted value) Base: 2001 = 100

Country : Germany

2005												
2006												
2007	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.4		

Consumer Price Index Base:1998=100

Country: France

2005	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.2	1.8	1.6	1.5
2006	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.5
2007	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.5	2.0		

Consumer Price Index Base: 2005=100

Country : U.K.

2005	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.9
2006	1.9	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.7	3.0
2007	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.7	1.7	2.0		

**Statement II***All-India Consumer Price Index Number for Industrial Workers*

Year/Month	Base 1982=100	Base 2001=100	
	2005	2006	2007
January	526	119	127
February	525	119	128
March	525	119	127
April	529	120	128
May	527	121	129
June	529	123	130
July	538	124	133
August	540	124	133
September	542	125	133
October	548	127	
November	553	127	
December	550	127	

*Point-to-Point Rate of Inflation*

	On Base 1982=100	On converted Index to 1982=100	On Base 2001=100
	2005	2006	2007
January	4.4	4.8	6.7
February	4.2	5.0	7.6
March	4.2	5.0	6.7
April	5.0	5.1	6.7
May	3.7	6.3	6.6
June	3.3	7.6	5.7
July	4.1	6.7	6.5
August	3.5	6.3	7.3
September	3.6	6.8	6.4
October	4.2	7.3	
November	5.3	6.3	
December	5.6	6.9	

Note: The Linking Factor for converting 2001=100 series All-India index to 1982=100 series index is 4.63.

### Rise in Price of Consumer Items

1203. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
 PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
 SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
 SHRI M. SHIVANNA:  
 SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:  
 SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:  
 SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:  
 SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M.SCINDIA:  
 SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:  
 SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
 SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:

Will the MINISTER of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the unabated increase in the prices of consumer items during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has framed any concrete policy to control the price rise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is aware of price situation of essential commodities in country. Comparison of retail prices in Delhi as on 20.11.07 and 20.5.2007 (six months back) is as under:-

Commodity	Retail Prices (20.11.07)	Retail Prices (20.05.07)	Variation (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Rice	16.00	15.00	1.00
Wheat	12.00	12.00	0.00
Atta	13.00	13.00	0.00
Gram	35.00	33.00	2.00
Tur	40.00	38.00	2.00

1	2	3	4
Sugar	17.00	17.00	0.00
Groundnut Oil*	121.00	102.00	19.00
Mustard Oil*	64.00	56.00	8.00
Vanaspati	62.00	57.00	5.00
Tea (Loose)	108.00	105.50	2.50
Milk <sup>⊙</sup>	20.00	18.00	2.00
Potato	11.00	9.00	2.00
Onion	14.00	10.00	4.00
Salt (Pack)	10.00	8.00	2.00

⊙Rs. Per litre \*refined oil

(c) and (d) Government is aware of the increase in prices of essential commodities such as wheat, pulses & edible oil and has responded by taking a series of measures such as augmenting domestic supplies of wheat and pulses through imports at reduced rates of duty, ban on exports of pulses, wheat and reduction in custom duty of edible oils.

The concrete policy measures taken by the Government are given below:

- (i) To augment availability of wheat during the current year STC in process of importing 13.06 lakh Mts (+/-5%). So far, about 4.35 lakh tonnes of wheat has arrived in India as on 14.11.2007. The balance quantity of wheat is scheduled to arrive at Indian ports from November to December 2007. Period of validity of import of wheat at zero duty was extended from 31.12.06 to 28.2.2007 and further to 31.12.07
- (ii) Export of wheat has been banned w.e.f. 09.02.2007. The ban will remain in force up to 31.12.2007.
- (iii) In order to maximize procurement of wheat and paddy, the Government has been announcing bonuses in the last 5 years. The Government has on 9.10.2007 made a decision to fix the MSP of wheat for Crop Year 2007-08 (to be marketed in RMC 2008-09) at Rs. 1000 per quintal. It also approved an incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal during the Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08 for rice. Similarly, the export of non-basmati rice below Minimum Export Price

of \$425 per MT has been banned by the Government on 25.10.07.

- (iv) Government has taken steps to insulate the poor section of society from price rise by distribution

of these commodities through PDS. The increasing trend of offtake of foodgrains year after year shows the improvement in the performance of Public Distribution System in the country.

(Lakh tonnes)

Years	Off take of foodgrains				
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto August, 07)
	239.31	293.55	311.05	313.70	138.02

- (v) Government has protected vulnerable sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). The strengthening of the TPDS to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process. The Targeted Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains, storage and their transportation upto principal distribution centres of FCI. And the state

Government are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue them ration cards and distribute foodgrains through a vast network of 4.91 lakh Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country.

- (vi) Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene oils are allocated to State Governments for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The offtake of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) has, however, been going up as shown in Table.

(in lakh tonnes)

Financial Year	TPDS		OWS	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
2002-03	97.77	105.64	10.67	17.12
2003-04	108.09	133.85	53.39	82.24
2004-05	130.31	166.21	41.24	64.85
2005-06	121.91	191.96	39.30	58.66
2006-07	103.90	212.49	12.69	38.01

- (vii) The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat for different categories is given in table below. The Central Issue Price has not been revised since 1.7.2002.

	APL	BPL	AAY
Rice	830 'A' Grade & 795 (Common)	565	300
Wheat	610	415	200

- (viii) Customs duty on import of pulses was reduced to zero on June 8, 2006 and the period of validity of import of pulses at zero duty has been extended from 31.3.07 to 1.8.2007 and further to 31.3.09
- (ix) A ban was imposed on export of pulses with effect from June 22, 2006 (except export of kabuli chana w.e.f. 7.3.07). The period of validity of prohibition on exports of pulses which was initially upto 31.3.07 was further extended upto 31.3.2008 vide DGFT Notification dated 9.3.2007
- (x) As per initiative of Government the State agencies (NAFED, PEC Ltd, MMTTC and STC) would target to import 1.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of imports of pulses. Out of the total contracts of 12.23 lakh tonnes made by these agencies 7.21 lakh tonnes have arrived up to 13.11.2007.
- (xi) Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) had been asked to import edible oils and to augment edible oils availability in the domestic market during the current festival season. So far, they have placed orders for import of 43,500 tonnes of edible oils as on 19.11.2007.
- (xii) With effect from 23.7.07 the import duty on sunflower oil, both crude and refined, has been reduced and now stands at 40% and 50% respectively. Prior to 1.3.07 they were 65% and 74% respectively.
- (xiii) With effect from 23.7.07, the import duty on palm group of oils has been further reduced by ten percentage points, making the import duty on Crude Palm Oil (CPO) at 45% and that on refined palm oil at 52.5%. The Government has also withdrawn the 4% additional countervailing duty on all edible oils. Prior to 24.1.07 these were 70% and 80% respectively.
- (xiv) With effect from 23.07.07, import duty on Soya oils has been reduced from 455 to 40%.
- (xv) To dampen the exports, NAFED has continuously monitored prices and has been fixing Minimum Export Prices (MEP) accordingly. To increase the domestic availability of onion, NAFED increased the MEP from USD 250 PMT in March/April 2007 to US\$495 PMT in October 2007. The export of onion was also put under license through designated canalizing agencies vide Notification No.22 (RE-2007)(2004-2009 dated 4th October 2007. This restriction has now been lifted w.e.f. 16.11.07 having regard to the increased availability of kharif onion.

Furthermore, Government also organized sale of onion through mobile centres operated by Delhi

Government, NAFED, Kendriya Bhandar as well as Mother Dairy. These outlets numbering around 375, sold onion at Rs. 17-18 per kg. when the outside price was Rs. 22-24 per kg.

Due to above Government efforts, today (on 21-11-07) the onion prices at Lasalgaon have come down to Rs. 775 per quintal from Rs. 1851/ quintal on 1 October 2007 and in Azadpur Mandi to Rs. 760 per quintal from Rs. 2035 per quintal. The retail prices of onion at Delhi has now stabilized at Rs. 14 per kg on 20.11.07.

- (xvi) Steps were taken by Reserve Bank of India to reduce liquidity in the system by increasing the cash reserve ratio, first to 7% w.e.f. 6 August 2007 and then to 7.5% on 30 October 2007. These have mopped up liquidity in the market by more than Rs. 30,000 crores.
- (xvii) Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has on 23.01.07, directed the three National Exchanges, namely (a) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (b) National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd., (c) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., to delist all contracts of Tur and urad and to close out all outstanding positions in all Tur and Urad contracts at the closing price on 23.01.07. FMC has also stated that no further contracts shall be launched without its prior approval and permission already granted to launch contracts in Urad and Tur stands withdrawn.
- (xviii) FMC has on, 27.2.2007, directed all the three National Exchanges that no new futures contracts in wheat and rice shares be launched. In the letter to the Exchanges, FMC has stated that permission already granted for yet to be launched contracts stands revoked and that in respect of running contracts in these commodities no new position should be allowed to be taken. Only squaring up of positions should be allowed.
- (xix) To contain volatility in the futures prices of wheat, sugar, pulses, etc. Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has taken required regulatory measures such as imposition of limits on open position, reduction in limits on daily price fluctuations and imposition of additional/special margins.
- (xx) An Expert Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Shri Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to study impact, if any, of the trading in forward markets on the prices of the commodities.
- (xxi) Keeping in view the prevailing price situation, the Central Government had issued a Central



Order dated 29.08.2006 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable the State Governments to invoke Stock Limits in respect of wheat and pulses for a period of 6 months. By virtue of this Order, the State Governments /UT Administrations have been empowered to take effective action to bring out the hoarded stock of these items to ensure their availability to the common people at reasonable prices. Government has, on 1.9.2007, extended the validity of the Central Order by another six months.

*[English]*

#### Decline in Agricultural Production

1204. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any reports from the State Governments about the decline in agricultural production and productivity attributable to diversion of Agricultural labour from fields to National Rural Employee Guarantee Programme (NREGP) works;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No such reports have been received from the State Governments. Both production and productivity of major agricultural crops in the country show increase since 2005-06 as show below:—

Crop	(Million Tonnes)	
	2005-06	2006-07*
Foodgrains	208.60	216.13
Oilseeds	27.98	23.88 <sup>⊙</sup>
Sugarcane	281.17	345.31
Cotton#	18.50	22.70

\*4th advance estimates released on 19.07. 2007

#Million bales of 170 kg each

⊙Production declined due to declined in area coverage.

(c) As such the National Rural Employee Guarantee Programme, which has been operational since February 2006 does not seem to have any adverse impact on the agricultural production and productivity.

*[Translation]*

#### Production of Milk In States

1205. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
SHRI PUSP JAIN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the milk production is declining every year in the country;

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

(c) the quantum of milk produced annually in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has any scheme to promote milk product in in the country and particularly in Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Government of India is implementing following schemes to promote milk production in the country:

(i) Integrated Dairy Development Project.

(ii) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB).

(iii) Central Cattle Breeding Farms.

(iv) Central Herd Registration Scheme for development of bovine population.

However, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is not participating in NPCBB as there is a total ban on running dairy farms in urban areas. Moreover due to urbanization, the rural area in Delhi is shrinking day by day.

**Statement****Table 1: Milk Production by States***Estimates of Milk Production—Statewise (000 tonnes)*

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Andhra Pradesh	6959	7257	7624
Arunachal Pradesh	46	48	48
Assam	727	739	747
Bihar	3180	4743	5060
Chhattisgarh	812	831	839
Goa	48	57	56
Gujarat	6421	6745	6960
Haryana	5221	5222	5299
Himanchal Pradesh	786	870	869
J & K	1414	1422	1400
Jharkhand	954	1330	1335
Karnataka	3857	3917	4022
Kerala	2111	2025	2063
Madhya Pradesh	5388	5506	6283
Maharashtra	6379	6567	6769
Manipur	71	75	77
Meghalaya	69	71	73
Mizoram	15	16	15
Nagaland	63	69	74
Orissa	997	1283	1342
Punjab	8391	8554	8909
Rajasthan	8054	8310	8713
Sikkim	48	46	48
Tamil Nadu	4752	4784	5474
Tripura	84	86	87
Uttar Pradesh	15943	16512	17356
Uttarakhand	1188	1195	1206
West Bengal	3686	3790	3891
A&N Islands	25	24	20
Chandigarh	44	43	46
D&N Haveli	8	4	5
Daman & Diu	1	1	1
Delhi	299	303	310
Lakshadweep	1	1	2
Puducherry	40	41	43
<b>All India</b>	<b>88082</b>	<b>92484</b>	<b>97066</b>

**Improvement in Agriculture Sector**

1206. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contribution of Agriculture Sector in economic development of the country has been declining;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the deteriorating condition of the Agriculture Sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) According to the data compiled by Central Statistical Organization, the share of agriculture and allied sector in the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (1999-2000) price declined from 20.2 per cent in 2004-05 to 19.7 per cent in 2005-06 and further to 18.5 per cent in 2006-07. This was mainly due to increase in the relative share of GDP in services sector which has improved from 52.7 per cent in 2004-05 to 54.1 per cent in 2005-06 and further to 54.9 per cent in 2006-07.

(c): The National Development Council (NDC) in its 52rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 reaffirmed its commitment to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in the agricultural sector during the Eleventh Plan and resolved that agricultural development strategies must be reoriented to meet the needs of farmers and urged the Central and State Governments to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. Towards improving the growth in the agriculture sector, Government has initiated the following:

Launched Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs.4880 crore for the Eleventh Plan period. It aims to add additional 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), a State Plan Scheme, with an outlay of Rs. 25000 crore aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan period, to ensure a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in Planning for rainfed areas.

Providing additional resources for irrigation.

Strategic focus on the national agriculture research effort.

*[English]*

#### **Employment Information Service**

1207. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide employment information service which is needed to be provided in the e-Governance made to support the new initiatives at providing employment guarantee in the backward districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Ministry of Rural Development has already provided information regarding National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on their web site "<http://rural.nic.in>" Ministry of Labour & Employment has also initiated a Mission Mode Project (MMP) on computerization of Employment Exchanges, under the National e-Governance Plan under which all the Employment Exchanges are proposed to be computerised and connected with a National Web Portal to facilitate dissemination of employment throughout the country.

#### **Coconut Production**

1208. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coconut recorded in the country during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) whether the coconut production is sufficient for domestic use;

(c) whether the Union Government is aware that the coconut growers in the country are facing crisis due to market fluctuations;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far in this regard;

(e) whether the amounts declared for replantation of coconut have been disbursed;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the details of the States where such disbursement have not taken place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The total production of coconut in the country was 12, 178.2 million nuts during 2003-04, 12,823.9 million nuts during 2004-05 and 14,811.1 million nuts during 2005-06. Production of coconut is sufficient for domestic use. State-wise data during the latest three years is given in statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The market prices of coconut have been showing a downward trend from the third quarter of 2005 onwards. To ensure that the coconut growers get remunerative prices for their produce, the Government of India has been fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for Milling and Ball Copra on annual basis and arranging their procurement through designated central agency namely National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED). During 2007 season, the MSP fixed for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) Milling and Ball Copra have been Rs. 3,620/- and Rs. 3,870/- per quintal respectively, and NAFED has so far procured 21,733 MTs. Of Milling Copra and 19,159 MTs of Ball Copra.

(e) to (g) The matters regarding disbursement of funds for replantation of coconut would follow with the approval of the Scheme for "Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut Gardens in Traditional States in India" by the Government.

**Statement***State-wise Production of Coconut in India for the last 3 years  
(in Million nuts)*

States/Union Territories	2003-04 (revised)	2004-05 (revised)	2005-06 (Final)
Andhra Pradesh	1,195.0	1,199.3	892.0
Assam	154.3	154.3	204.9
Goa	122.2	123.5	125.3
Gujarat	111.7	138.3	138.3
Karnataka	1,529.1	1,209.6	1,209.8
Kerala	5,484.0	5,727.0	6,326.0
Maharashtra	273.4	273.4	273.4
Nagaland	1.2	1.2	1.2
Orissa	243.4	274.8	274.4
Tamil Nadu	2,560.5	3,243.5	4,867.1
Tripura	7.0	7.0	7.0
West Bengal	317.5	310.9	323.5
A & N Islands	95.2	87.1	87.1
Lakshadweep	53.0	53.0	53.0
Pondicherry	30.7	30.0	27.9
<b>All India</b>	<b>12,178.2</b>	<b>12,832.9</b>	<b>14,811.1</b>

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

**Status of Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

1209. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the date on which the last review of these schemes was done in the State;

(c) the deficiencies that were noticed in the scheme during review; and

(d) the details of corrective measures taken, if any, with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The following Centrally Sponsored Scheme are being implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu:- (i) Macro Management of Agriculture (ii) the Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize, (iii) the National Horticulture Mission, (iv) Micro-irrigation, (v) the Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, (vi) Technology Mission on Cotton and (vii) the National Bamboo Mission. In addition, a National Food Security Mission has been launched recently. A statement on outlays and expenditure of various Schemes in 2007-08 in the State of Tamil Nadu is enclosed.

(b) The performance under these Schemes is reviewed during the meetings held from time to time. The review of the progress of the Action Plan under the National Horticulture Mission was done during September, 2006 in Tamil Nadu by a Joint Inspection Team.

(c) and (d) Corrective action is taken to remove deficiencies noticed in implementation of the schemes on

the basis of such reviews. In Tamil Nadu, it was observed that the farmers are growing only the traditional variety of Banana, namey, Poovan. Not much progress had been made, except the identification of beneficiaries, under the components such as bee keeping and water resources. The State Government has been reminded to take follow up action on the observations made during the review.

### Statement

#### *Allocation & Releases of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for Tamil Nadu under Centrally-Sponsored Schemes during 2007-08*

S. No	Name of the Scheme	Allocation 2007-08	Released 2007-08 (Till date)
1.	Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme	60.55	27.25
2.	Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC-MM-II)	3.60	2.88
3.	Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)	12.00	9.00
4.	Micro Irrigation	133.85	#
5.	National Horticulture Mission	203.05	50.76
6.	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension	11.24	6.79
7.	National Bamboo Mission	2.63	0.70
<b>Total</b>		<b>426.92</b>	<b>97.38</b>

Note # No Release

### Production of Wheat

(Million Tonnes)

1210. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made to determine the quantity of wheat India will have to produce per year so as to ensure food security in the future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) **Yes, Sir,** Following table presents the projected demand of wheat in the country for the years 2007-08 to 2011-12:

Year	Projected Demand
2007-08	71.19
2008-09	72.72
2009-10	74.26
2010-11	75.80
2011-12	77.36

Note: Projected demand is based on Behaviouristic Approach, i.e., rate of growth of per capita income, elasticity of demand and population growth rate. The rate of growth of per capita disposable income is 4.8%. Demand includes seed, feed and wastage @ 12.5% of total demand.

[*Translation*]

**Setting up of Defence Production Unit  
In Rural Area**

1211. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up any Defence production unit in tribal and rural/backward regions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to set up a small arms factory at Korwa, in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

**BSNL Tower**

1212. SHRI GHURAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (Cell One) do not work in the State of Jharkhand especially in Palamu division;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received for setting up of BSNL tower in those regions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, at few locations viz. Manjhiaon, Sultani, Panki, Patan, Lesligunj and Mahuadand in Daltongunj Secondary Switching Area (SSA) where Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) were installed in first phase, there are intermittent problems which demand frequent repairs. BSNL has initiated action for replacement of mobile equipment at these places during the current financial year with equipment having enhanced capacity and features.

(c) to (e) Requests have been received for installation of Cellphone Towers (BTS) at Meral and Karkata in Daltongunj SSA. BSNL decides rollout of GSM based mobile network *inter-alia*, based on techno-commercial viability and presently out of the said two location only Meral has been included in the GSM based mobile Network augmentation plan.

[*English*]

**Payment of Transportation Charges**

1213. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any stipulation regarding minimum distance between Food Corporation of India (FCI) Godowns or Railway stations and rice mills for payment of transportation charges to rice millers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Comptroller and Auditor General audit report No.11 of 2007 has revealed irregular and improper payment to millers in contravention of the stipulated rules;

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

(e) the steps taken to recover such improper payments and check such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Prior to Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2003-04, forwarding and transportation charges for delivery of rice by millers upto a distance of 8 kilometers were sanctioned by the Government. However, with effect from KMS 2003-04, the milling charges worked out by the Tariff Commission were allowed which includes transportation and forwarding charges of paddy/rice up 8 kilometers from the premises of the mills.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) CAG has pointed out that while fixing final rates for Custom Milled Rice, transportation charges were allowed to rice millers without considering the element of transportation charges paid alongwith provisional rates resulting in excess payment of Rs. 406.21 crore to State

Governments and their agencies during 1998-99 to 2002-03. The matter is under examination in consultation with the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(e) The Tariff Commission has been requested to conduct an indepth study for fixation of normative transportation charges for delivery of Custom Milled Rice (CMR) and levy rice by the millers beyond 8 kilometers.

*[Translation]*

#### **Modernisation of Postal Department**

1214. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernise the postal department with latest and sophisticated technical equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make it a profit earning organisation?

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

(b) In the XIth plan the Department of Posts has submitted a proposal to the Planning Commission for;

(i) computerization of 17598 Departmental Post Offices and 64,000 Branch Post Offices and Network all computerized offices

(ii) provide Automatic Mail Processing Centres

(iii) Provide Remotely managed Franking Machines and Cash Counting Machines

(iv) Provide anywhere anytime banking.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Department to enhance the revenue earning ability of the organization:

(i) Business Development and Marketing Directorate has been set up in the Department of Posts. It aims at developing new products and services and aims to make Department of Posts a customer oriented organization with business approach.

(ii) A number of business products like Speed Post, Express Parcel Post and Business Post have been introduced.

(iii) Value additions like collection from customer permises, credit facility, volume based discounts, door to door delivery, online track and trace system, pre-mailing services etc. have been introduced.

(iv) Retail network of the Department of Post has been leveraged for providing new services and generating additional revenue.

(v) The department has taken initiatives to work out various business alliances and partnership with public and private corporations for leveraging the postal network in rural as well as urban areas.

*[English]*

#### **Report of Spectrum Allocation**

1215. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accepted Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) Report of spectrum allocation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the Centre;

(c) whether the Government has formed a Committee to review the TEC recommendations; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report and a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecom Engineering Centre (TRC)'s Report, *inter-alia*, on 'Spectral Efficiency' has been accepted by the Government in-principle. GSM Subscriber Base Criterion on Spectral Efficiency as per the Report of TEC is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) On 07-11-2007, Government has constituted a Committee to recommend revised subscriber based spectrum allocation criterion for allocation of spectrum in a scientific and practicable manner. The Committee has been mandated to submit its report within three weeks. Government will take a decision in due course.

**Statement**

*GSM Subscriber Base Criterion (Subscribers in Lakhs) as per Report of Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) on Spectral Efficiency*

Sl. No.	Service Area	Category	Total Mobile subscribers supported by spectrum of				
			4.4+4.4 MHz	6.2+6.2 MHz	8.0+8.0 MHz	10.0+10.0 MHz	12.4+12.4 MHz
1.	Andhra Pradesh	A	13	42	73	103	133
2.	Gujarat	A	12	39	68	96	124
3.	Karnataka	A	9	30	52	73	95
4.	Maharashtra	A	14	42	74	105	136
5.	Tamil Nadu	A	11	36	64	90	116
6.	Haryana	B	4	12	21	30	39
7.	Kerala	B	8	25	44	62	80
8.	Madhya Pradesh	B	13	39	69	97	126
9.	Punjab	B	8	25	45	63	82
10.	Rajasthan	B	10	32	56	79	102
11.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	B	13	41	72	101	130
12.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	B	10	32	57	80	104
13.	West Bengal	B	10	31	54	77	99
14.	Assam	C	10	33	58	81	105
15.	Bihar	C	12	36	64	90	116
16.	Himachal Pradesh	C	2	7	12	17	22
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	C	2	7	13	19	25
18.	North East	C	6	19	34	48	63
19.	Orissa	C	10	31	55	77	100
20.	Delhi	A	6	19	34	48	63
21.	Mumbai	A	7	23	41	58	75
22.	Kolkata	A	6	20	36	50	65
23.	Chennai	A	5	17	31	43	56

All Mobile Subscriber Figures are In Lakhs



*[Translation]***Concession On Telecom Tariff**

1216. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has not made any announcement for giving concessions to its subscribers on the occasions of major festivals whereas the private mobile operators have announced various concession for its subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the concessions provided by the BSNL to its subscribers in the country on the occasion of important festivals during the last three years and the current financial year as on date; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL.AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. BSNL has also announced various concessions to its subscribers on the occasion of major festivals.

(b) Full talk value & extra talk value for Mobile Recharge Coupons, Waiving of installation/registration charges for new Land phone connection, discount on usage charges for post paid customers etc. are some of the promotional offers/concessions given by BSNL during festival occasions.

(c) Details of the concessions provided by BSNL and MTNL to its subscribers on the occasion of important festivals during the last three years and the current financial year as on date are given in the statement I and statement II respectively.

**Statement I***Promotional Schemes Offered during Various Festival Seasons by BSNL*

## 1. CHENNAI

Year	Occasion/Offer period	Details of Offer/Concession/Schemes
1	2	3
2004-05	Holi festival offer 10-03-2005 to 31.3.2005	Full talk value for Rs. 500 recharge coupon
	Free activation offer 1.1.2005 to 31.1.2005	Free activation for F/TV Rs.5000 & 1000 recharge coupons
2005-06	Festival Offer	Postpaid: Activation charges will be waived off on new connections booked under plan 225, 325 and 525 upto 15-10-2005 Prepaid: Full talk time for recharge coupon worth Rs. 1000 activated upto 15.9.2005.
	Promotional Offer on Holi Festive Season  (14-03-2006 to 31.3.2006)	Postpaid: Loyalty discount will be given from the date of activation instead of after six months for postpaid customers who book their connection under Plan 225, Plan 325 & Plan 525. SMS@ 0.10 per SMS within LSA in own network will be allowed to all postpaid Prepaid: (a) Full talk time for recharge coupons of Rs.300 &500 (b) 25% extra talk time for recharge coupons of Rs. 2000 & 3000 (c) Addl. Talk time of 25% on top up card of Rs.500
	Full Talk Value 27-12-2005 to 26-01-2006	Full Talk Value On Recharge Coupons

1	2	3
2006-07	<p>Full Talk Value 16-12-2005 to 31-1-2006</p> <p>Full Talk Time Bonanza 18-08-2006 to 17-09-2006</p> <p>Officer for Postpaid Customers 1.9.2006 to 31.10.2006</p>	<p>Full Talk Value for Rs.1000 Recharge Coupons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Talk time for Rs.500 &amp;Rs.1000 recharge coupons</li> <li>• 25% extra talk time for Rs. 2000 &amp; 3000 recharge coupons</li> <li>• Rs. 5000 recharge coupon, already having talk time of Rs. 6000 will have a talk time of Rs. 7500.</li> </ul> <p>Activation charges waived on all POSTPAID plans</p>
2007-08	<p>Silver Gold Platinum Offer for Excel Customers</p> <p>90 days from 25.10.2007</p>	<p>Silver:-Monthly Subscription-Rs.50 O/g Local SMS within Chennai &amp;TN-Free OG National and Roaming SMS-30 Paise Minimum Balance Required-Rs. 75</p> <p>Gold: Monthly Subscription-Rs. 70 Local calls within Chennai &amp; TN BSNL N/W (Fixed, WLL&amp; Mobile)-Rs. 0.40/60sec. Other Mobiles-Rs. 0.50/60 Sec. Other Fixed Lines/WLL-Rs. 0.70/60 sec. Minimum balance required—Rs.100</p> <p>PLATINUM: Monthly subscription—Rs.111 Local calls within Chennai &amp; TN BSNLN/W (Fixed, WLL &amp; Mobile)—Rs. 0.40/60 sec. Other Mobiles -Rs.0.50/60 sec. Other Fixed Lines/WLL -Rs.)70 / sec. O/G Local SMS within Chennai &amp; TN-Free OG National and Roaming SMS -30 Paise Minimum Balance required-Rs.125</p>
2007-08	<p>FULL TALK VALUE 16-10-2006 to 14-11-2006</p> <p>FREEDOM OFFER 13.8.2007 to 11.9.2007</p> <p>ADDL TALK VALUE &amp; FULL TALK VALUE FOR EXCEL PREPAID RECHARGE COUPONS 17.5.2007 to 15.6.2007</p>	<p>Full Talk Value for recharge coupons of denominations Rs 300, 500 and 1000</p> <p>100% Extra Talk Value for Recharge coupon of denomination Rs. 200.</p> <p>25% Extra Talk Value for Recharge coupon of denomination Rs. 2000.</p> <p>20% Extra Talk Value for Top up coupons of denomination Rs. 200 &amp; 500</p> <p>Full Talk Value on Recharge Coupons of denomination Rs. 300, 500 and 1000</p> <p>25% Addi. Talk Value for Recharge Coupons of denomination Rs.3000 &amp; 5000</p> <p>Full Tall Value for Recharge coupons of denomination Rs.500, 1000 &amp; 2500/-</p>

1	2	3
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## 2. HARYANA

## Financial Year-2006-07

Diwali Bonaza under Prepaid Cellular Mobile services from 16-19-2006 to 14-11-2006 and further extended upto 29-11-2006

Sl. No	Denomination of Recharge Coupon (Service Tax extra)	Existing Talk Time	Existing Validity	Proposed Talk Time	Proposed Validity
1.	Rs.2000/-	Rs. 2000/-	180 days	Rs. 2200/-	365 days
2.	Rs. 3000/-	Rs. 3000/-	365 days	Rs. 3750/-	365 days
3.	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 6000/-	365 days	Rs. 7500/-	365 days
4.	Rs.500/-TU	Rs. 500/-	NIL	Rs. 625/-	NIL
5.	Rs. 200/-TU	Rs. 200/-	NIL	Rs. 250/-	NIL

## 3. JHARKHAND

2004-05	(i) Raksha Bandhan Offer (29/8/04 to 6/9/04) (ii) 3+1 RCV offer (22/10/04 to 15/11/04) (iii) New year offer (upto 31/01/05)	Basic phone in name of sister-No-registration,installation charge taken  One free RCV was given for buying 3 RCVs Full Talk time on 500 & 1000 RCVs Free activation of postpaid mobile. No installation charge for Basic phone.
2005-06	i) Raksha Bandhan/Janmashtami offer (19-8-05 to 26-8-05)	Bank phone in name of sister—No registration,installation charge taken.
2006-07	i) BSNL Dushera, Eid, Guru Nanak B'day & Bada Din Offer" For a period of 4 months starting w.e.f. 01-10-06 extended upto 31-03-07.  ii) Independence day offer for three months w.e.f. 15th August  iii) Christmas and New Year 17-12-06 to 19-03-07	Landline offer for booking in Rs. 100, with excel or ITC worth Rs.100 free  Full Talk Time on RCVs of 300, 500 and 1000  Extra Talk Time on 500 & 1000, 2000,3000 & 5000 denominations
2007-08	Independence day offer-for 90 days-w.e.f. 10-08-07  Independence day offer-from 10th Aug. to 4th Sept. 07  Janmashtami offer w.e.f. 17 August '07 to 16th Sept. 07  Independence day offer-for 90 days starting from 02.10.07 to 30.12.07	Promotional scheme for Basic+WLL -Free ITC with Basic &WLL On booking of every phone & WLL connection ITC card worth Rs. 100/- given free to Cost  35% extra talk time given on RCVs of Rs. 2000/-, Rs.3000/- and Rs. 5000/-  Full talk time on RCVs of Rs. 200/- Rs.500/- and Rs.1000/  500 Balance Scheme for pre paid mobile customers. Under balanced based tariff if a general pre-paid subscriber maintains minimum balance Rs. 500, then he can enjoy intra Circle call at reduced call rate. 60 paise/min. for own n/w &90 paise/min. for other n/w.

1	2	3
	Christmas offer-from 19th Nov. 07	<p>Student's Delight" for prepaid Mobile.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The SIM card priced @ Rs.249/-(incl.Service Tax)has validity till 31-12-08 with Initial talk value of Rs. 30/-</li> <li>2. The customer will get 30 local SMS free each month (within LSA) The unutilized free SMS of a month will not be carried forward to next month</li> <li>3. The SMS charges (incl.roaming), will be @ 25 paise per SMS after free usage in the valid period.</li> <li>4. All Local calls will be charged @ 99 paise per min. within validity. Night Time call charge will be @ paise/min.</li> <li>5. Call to two BSNL numbers in Jharkhand and Bihar @50 paise will be applicable. One of the number must be BSNL Landline number in Jharkhand or Bihar.</li> <li>6. After 31/12/2008 the plan will be changed to general pre paid plan namely excel power.</li> <li>7. Value voucher can not be used under "Student's delight" scheme.</li> <li>8. Recharge vouchers &amp; Top up cards will work as general excel plan.</li> <li>9. All other facilities will be as per excel power.</li> </ol>
4. Kerala		
2004-05	Rakshabandhan-Janmashtami (29-08-04 to 6-09-04)	New telephone connection to sister of an existing land phone customer without any registration/installation charges
	Deepavali (22-10-04 to 15-11-04)	3+1 Recharge coupons for Mobile prepaid (one free RCC for purchase of 3 RCC of same denomination)
2005-06	Rakhi (19-08-05 to 26-08-05)	New telephone connection to sister of an existing land phone customer without any registration/installation charges
	X-mas, New Year	Full Talk value on Recharge Coupon of Rs.1000/ (16-12-05 to 31-01-06) 25% extra talk value for RCC 2000 & 3000 (27-12-05 to 26.01.2006)
	14-3-06 to 31-3-06	Full talk value for RCC 300/500 25% extra talk value for RCC 2000/RCC 3000 & Top up 500 Loyalty bonus from the date of activation for eligible post paid plans
	22-03-06 to 31-03-06	Double initial Talk time offer for Anant (life time prepaid)
2006-07	Onam Offer (17-08-06 to 16-09-06)	Full talk value for RCC 500 and RCC 1000 25% extra talk value on RCC 2000/ RCC 3000 &RCC 5000 Free activation for post paid Loyalty bonus from date of activation
	Diwali Offer (19-10-06 to 18-11-06)	Full talk value for RCC 300, RCC 500, RCC 1000 &RCC2500 25% extra talk value on Top up 500
	X-mas, New Year (30 days from 20-12-06)	Full talk value for RCC 500, 25% extra talk value on RCC 2500, 3000, 5000

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2007-08	Word Telecom day (17-05-07 to 15-06-07)	Full talk value for RCC 500,1000 & 2500 25% extra talk value on RCC 3000 & RCC 5000 50% concession for local &STD calls within BSNL for post paid from 15-03-07 to 12-06-07 Zero rental scheme for Plan 100 on advance payment (up to 15-7-2007)
	Onam. (30 days from 17-8-07)	Full talk value for RCC 300, 1000 & 2500 25% extra talk value on RCC 3000 & RCC 5000 25% extra talk value on Top up of Rs.100, 200 & 500 25% discount on usage charges for postpaid plan 100/140 customers till 13-11-07
5. KARNATAKA		
2006-07	New Year offer-from 01.01.2007 to 31.01.2007 New year offer-from 01.01.2007 to 31.01.2007 extended up to 14.03.2007	Full talk time for recharge coupon of Rs. 300, Rs. 500 and 1000 Extra talk value of 25% on recharge coupon of Rs. 2000, Rs.3000 and Rs.5000
	New Year offer-from 20/01/2007/ for 90 days.	Post paid connections offer to Broad band customers (a) free activation b) 200 local SMS per month free to any net work in all post paid plans.
	Maha Shivratri, Ram Navami, Mahavir Jayanti, Holi- from 02/02/2007	Waiver of ARD Charges for RH DELs
	Maha Shivratri, Ram Navami, Mahavir Jayanti, Holi-for 90 days w.e.f. 15.02.07	(i) One free SIM Card was issued to those subscribers who purchased Recharge Coupons worth Rs.2000/- (ii) Two free SIM Card were issued to those subscribers who purchased Recharge Coupons worth Rs. 3000/- (iii) Three free SIM Cards were issued to those subscribers who purchased Recharge Coupons worth Rs,5000/-
2007-08	Independence day and other festivals- from 16-07-07 for 90 days	Waiver of Installation charges for b-fones throughout Karnataka Telcome Circle in on demand areas
	Independence day and other festivals-from 08.08.07 for 90 days	Full/ Extra talk time on R/C coupons
	Deepavali-during Nov.-2007	The Customers who are under Post-paid plans of Rs.225/- and below shall be eligible for free talk time equivalent of additional calls they make during the month of November 2007 as compared to October 2007 limited to the maximum extent talk value worth of Rs.100/- Similarly the customers under pospaid plans 225/- and above shall be eligible for free talk time equivalent of additional calls they make during the month of Nov.2007 as compared to October 2007 limited to the maximum extent talk value worth of Rs,200/- Free talk time will be to BSNL Network [both Landline and Mobile N/W]

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2007-08	During Deepawali and other festivals- from 15-09-07 to 13-12-07	Khusi-Jodi: Offer of free SIM for Post paid plans 225,299, 325,525 and 725. Maha SMS:Free 5000 SMS to any network in Karnataka for additional monthly payment of Rs.50% Onde Goodina Hakkigalu: CUG connections for State Government/ Organization/Business House/Agencies etc. at Rs.249 per Connection.
6. MADHYA PRADESH INCLUDING CHHATTISGARH (Same Licence Service Area)		
2004-05	Independence Day Scheme: This scheme was launched for one month w.e.f. 15/08/2004 to 14/09/2004	(1) Sulbha plan with I/C facility only- An ITC card worth Rs. 100/- to be given as a free gift with looking of each NTC under Sulabh plan with I/C facility only. (2) Non STD NTC connection under General plan & Sulabh Plan with O/G facility An ITC card worth Rs.200/- to be given as a free gift with booking of each NTC. (3) STD/ISD NTC under any plan An ITC card worth Rs. 500/- to be given as free gift with booking of each NTC. (4) 1+1 Scheme: If a person is having BSNL telephone and having Prescribed security deposit then second telephone may be provided without any registration amount, an security deposit in the same name & same city. (6) ISDN Connection-On boking of ISDN connection an ITC of Rs. 500/- to be given free as a gift. (7) DNP Scheme Rent of intervening period in case of DNP reconnection is waived off provided customer deposits his outstanding amount.
	'Christmas & New Year scheme.	The same scheme as launched on 15.08.2004 was also launched on the occasion of Christmas for the period of one month w.e.f. 24.12.2004.
2005-06	Promotional Scheme on Independence Day-2005 Scheme period: 15/8/2005 14/09/2005	(1) Sulabh Plan with I/C facility only An ITC card worth Rs. 100 be given as a free gift with booking each NTC. (2) Pay for 10 months & enjoy the services for 12 months under Sulabh (I/C) Plan. If a customer of Sulabh plan books NTC & if he deposit 10 months rent in advance then his rent for 11th & 12th month will be waived off (Customer has to pay 10 months rent for one year of service). An ITC card worth Rs. 100 to be given as a free gift with booking of each NTC (3) Non STD NTC connection under General plan & Sulabh Plan with O/G facility (i) Sanchar net Card of 25 Hrs. as gift and an ITC card worth Rs. 100 to be given as a free gift with booking each NTC (if customer does not want Sanchar net Card, it may be exchange dwith ITC of Rs. 100 i.e. total ITC of Rs. 200 may be given). (4) STD/ISD NTC under any plan. Sanchar net Card of 25 Hrs. as gift and an ITC card worth Rs. 200 be given as a free gift iwth booking of each NTC (if customer does

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2005-06

(B) Rakshabandhan  
Janmashtmi scheme 2005  
Scheme period: August 19 to  
August 26, 2005

(C) Promotional Scheme on  
Diwali-2005

Scheme Period: 31/10/2005 to 30/11/2005

not interested in Sancharnet Card (may be exchanged with ITC of Rs. 100 i.e. total ITC of Rs. 300 may be given).

(5) 1+1 Scheme: If a person is having BSNL telephone and having prescribed security deposit then second non STD telephone may be provided in same name & same city without any registration amount and security deposit.

(6) For STD PCO: (1) On booking of new STD-PCO (landline), one local PCO may be given without any security deposit and registration charge (for Local PCO only) in same name and address.

(II) An ITC of Rs. 500 to be given free with booking of each new STD PCO.

(III) Minimum guarantee amount of Rs. 800 to be reduced to Rs. 500 for ONE YEAR ONLY. After one year normal minimum guarantee of Rs. 800 will be charged. All other conditions including commission will remain as per existing instructions.

(7) DNP Scheme

(1) Rent of interconnect period in case of DNP reconnection is waived off provided customer deposit 50% his outstanding amount. Remaining 50% is to be deposited in the next month. Connection is to be restored in within 24 Hrs. after 50% depositing.

(II) For CCB/STD-PCO connection, minimum guarantee of disconnected period is waived off provided customer deposits outstanding amount.

For B-fone

(a) No registration charges.

(b) No installation charges

(1) Sulabh Plan with I/C facility only:

An ITC card worth Rs. 100 to be given as a free gift with booking each NTC.

(2) Pay for 10 months & enjoy the services for 12 months under Sulabh (I/C) Plan.

(I) If a customer of Sulabh plan books NTC & if he deposit months rent in advance then his rent for 11th & 12th months will be waived off (Customer has to pay 10 months rent for one year service).

(II) An ITC card worth Rs. 100 to be given as a free gift with booking of each NTC

(3) Non STD NTC connection under any plan

(I) Sanchar net Card of 25 Hrs. as gift and an ITC card worth Rs. 100 to be given as a free gift with booking of each NTC (if customer does not want Sanchar net Card, it may be exchanged with ITC of Rs. 100 i.e. total ITC of Rs. 200 may be given).

(II) Rent rebate of first two months bills of Rs. 500, whichever is less may be given on this NTC.

(4) STD/ASD NTC under any plan.

(I) Rent rebate of first two months bills of Rs. 500, whichever is less may be given on his NTC.

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		<p>(II) An ITC card worth Rs. 200 to be given as a free gift with booking of each NTC.</p> <p>(5) 1+1 Scheme: If a person is having BSNL landline telephone and having prescribed security deposit then second telephone may be provided in same name &amp; same city without any registration amount and security deposit.</p> <p>(6) For STD PCO: (I) On booking of new STD-PCO (landline) one local PCO may be given without any security deposit and registration charge (for Local PCO only) in same name and address.</p> <p>(II) An ITC of Rs. 500 to be given free with booking of each new STD PCO.</p> <p>(III) Minimum guarantee amount of Rs. 800 to be reduced to Rs. 500 for ONE YEAR ONLY. After one year normal minimum guarantee of Rs. 800 will be charged.</p> <p>(7) Gift for top 10 STD PCOs of SSA-Rs. 500-ITC card will be gifted to Top 10 STD PCO (on the business given to BSNL from (Oct. 2004 to Sept. 2005) in each SSA along with one free in PCO.</p> <p>(8) DNP Scheme (for all SSAs):</p> <p>(I) Rent of intervening period in case of DNP reconnection is waived off provided customer deposit his outstanding amount.</p> <p>(II) For CCB/STD-PCO connection, minimum guarantee of disconnected period</p>
2006-07	<p>(A) World Telecom day Scheme launched w.e.f. 17.05.2006 for 60 days</p> <p>(B) Free Mein Phone scheme</p> <p>Launched on Independence day-06 for 60 days</p> <p>(C) Rakhi Scheme: launched for 30 days w.e.f. 9/8/2006</p>	<p>(i) Installation free</p> <p>(ii) Registration amount of Rs. 200 only.</p> <p>1. Booking of landline connection in Rs. 100 and free gift of ITC of Rs. 100 for customers of Rural area.</p> <p>2. Booking of landline connection in Rs. 200 and free gift of ITC of Rs. 200 for customers of Urban area.</p> <p>Existing BSNL B phone customer can gift a phone to his Sister.</p> <p>2. Free Registration</p> <p>3. Free Installation</p>
2007-08	<p>(A) Promotion schemes on World Telecom Day-07 for landline, and mobile services.</p> <p>Launched for 30 days w.e.f. 17/05/2007</p>	<p>A. Ladli Beti Scheme</p> <p>The Top up vouchers of Rs. 112 will be given free on subscription of new prepaid SIM by female customers</p> <p>B. Double Dhamaka Scheme</p> <p>1. new prepaid SIM connection will be given free as gift at the time of booking.</p> <p>2. Rebate of worth Rs. 400 in installation charges.</p> <p>C. 1+1 Scheme under postpaid mobile plan-325, Plan 525 and Plan-725.</p> <p>Under this scheme one additional rent free linked postpaid connection under Plan-325, Plan 525 and plan-725 will be provided along with the new connection (Main Connection) and also calling between these connection will be free.</p>



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	<p>(B) Independence day &amp; other festivals launched for 60 days w.e.f. 14/8.2007 Independence day Launched w.e.f. 15.8.2007</p> <p>Independence day &amp; other festivals Launched for 30 days w.e.f. 1/08/2007</p>	<p><b>Cash back offer:</b> Booking amount-Rs. 100 for Rural areas, Rs. 200 for urban areas, Security deposit in six equal installment, Total Rebate of Rs. 500 as cash back in first six bills. LO KAR LO BAAT Lo Kar Lo Baat add-on Pack-make unlimited free calls to any BSNL number starting with digit "2" in MP circle, as well as any BSNL Mobile number (starting with "94") in MP and CG circles for the month. Charges for subscription to this add-on pack will be Rs. 99 per month for customers in Special Plan &amp; Rs. 49 per month for customers in Special+, Super and Premium plan, Rs. 149 per month for customers in General Plan, Plan-150, One India, Plan-250 &amp; Plan-330.</p> <p>1. Booking amount should be Rs. 200 for urban areas &amp; Rs. 100 for Rural areas which will be adjusted in Security Deposit. 2. No Installation charge will be taken on booking of NTC by rural and urban area customers during Scheme.</p>
7.ORISSA		
2006-07	Rathayatra Festival (From 16.06.06 to 15.07.06)	(a) Full Talk value of Rs 200/- instead of Rs.50/- on activation of new SIM (b) Full talk time on RCV of Rs. 500-&25% extra talk time on RCV Rs. 2000/- and Rs.3000/-
2006-07	Rakshbandhan '06 offer (from 09.08.06 to 08.09.06)	(a) Cost of prepaid SIM reduced to Rs. 100/- (b) Activation of deactivated prepaid SIM cards
	Durga Puga offer (from 15.09.06 to 13.12.06)	Providing Anant SIM @Rs 699 instead of Rs. 949
	Durga Puja offer (from 01.10.06)	Full Talk Time on RCV 300, 500, 1000 and 25% extra on RCV 2000, 3000, 5000
	Holi Festival (02.03.07 to 30.05.07)	Full talk value on paper RCVs of Rs 1000 & 25% extra talk value on 2000, 3000 & 5000
2007-08	Raja & Car Festival (from 13.06.07 to 19.09.07)	Full talk value on Paper RCVs on 200,300 &500
	Raja & Car Festival (from 16.06.07 to 13.09.07)	Full talk value on Activation of Prepaid SIM of Rs. 100 instead of Rs.30
	Rathayatra offer promotional scheme on Land-line for Brehampur SSA (from 01.07.07 to 31.08.07)	Registration of Rs 100/-instead of original value of Rs 250/- Waiver of the installation fee of Rs, 500/-
	Rathayatra offer promotional scheme on Land-line for Rourkela SSA (from 01.07.07 to 31.08.07)	Registration of Rs 100/-instead of original value of Rs.250 waiver of the installation fee of Rs.500/-
	Rakshabandhan 07offer (from 28.08.07 to 27.10.07)	Activation of deactivated within last six months pre-paid SIM with RCV of 200
	Durgapuja offer (01.10.07 to 29.12.07)	Full talk time on RCV 1000 and 25% extra talk time on RCV 2000 3000, 5000
	Power plus Package promotional scheme (BSNL day offer) (01.10.07 to 29.12.07)	Launch of Power Plus Package Promotional scheme general prepaid & Night STD calls @ half rate for postpaid
	Diwali '07 offer (09.11.07 to 06.02..08)	Extension of Power Plus Package promotional scheme to Life time one India, Bundling schemes prepaid Unlimited calls to landline under mobile postpaid plan 725 scheme

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<b>8. PUNJAB</b>		
2005-06	Holi (From 15.3.2006 to 22.3.2006)	Promotional scheme on Recharge coupons of Rs. 1000 & 2000 Validity of recharge coupons of Rs.1000.00 & Rs.2000.00 was enhanced to 180 days and 365 days respectively.
2006-07	Baisakhi (13.4.2006 to 27.4.2006)	Promotional scheme on Recharge coupons of Rs. 200, 300 & 500 Full talk value was offered on recharge coupons of Rs. 200 Rs,500
	Baisakhi (13.4.2006 to 19.4.2006)	Promotional scheme i.e. enhance validity on Recharge coupons of Rs. 1000 & 2000 Validity of recharge coupons of Rs. 1000.00 & 200.00 was enhanced to 180 days and 365 days respectively.
	Deepavali (2.10.2006 to 15.11.2006)	Promotional scheme on Recharge coupons of Rs. 300 & 2000. Full talk value of Rs. 300 on recharge coupon of Rs. 300. Talk value of Rs. 2200.00 and validity of 365 days on recharge coupon of Rs. 2000.
	New Year 2007 (1.1.2007 to 31.3.2007)	New Year Bonanza for Land line/WLL-Fixed subscribers To new plans i.e. Plan-150 and Plan-200 were introduced with monthly free usage worth Rs. 150.00 & Rs. 200.00 respectively.
	New Year 2007 (1.1.2007 to 31.3.2007)	New Year Bonanza for cellular postpaid subscribers Two new plans i.e. "Govt. Plan" and "Plan-199" were introduced, New SMS Pack of 2000 SMS for Rs. 30.00 was also introduced.
2006-07	New Year 2007 (1.1.2007 to 31.3.2007)	New Year Bonanza for cellular prepaid subscribers Full talk value of Rs. 100.00 on Excel General SIM. Talk value of Rs. 199.00 on recharge coupon of Rs. 200. Talk value of Rs. 1000 and validity of 300 days on recharge coupon of Rs. 1000. Talk value of Rs. 3000 on recharge coupon of Rs. 2500.
2007-08	Janmashtami (1.9.2007 to 21.9.2007)	Promotional scheme on Recharge coupons of Rs. 150. Full talk value of rs. 150.00 was offered on recharge coupon of Rs. 150.00.
	Deepavali (6.10.2007 to 10.11.2007)	Promotional scheme for Landline/WLL-Fixed subscribers. Two new tariff plans for Landline/WLL-Fixed subscribers were introduced. 1. 5 Year Plan: For one time payment of Rs. 3000, a new Landline/WLL-Fixed connection for 5 years (O/G only through FLPP/ITC/CallNow, No monthly bills). 2. Chak De Punjab Plan: Monthly fixed charges of Rs. 686.00, Unlimited free calls made in Intra Circle BSNL NW, Pulse Rate as per One India.
	Deepawali (6.10.2007 to 10.11.2007)	Promotional scheme for cellular postpaid customers. A new Plan-650 was offered to cellular postpaid customers with monthly fixed charges of Rs. 650.00, free usage worth Rs. 699.00 (Rs. 325 while roaming, Rs. 325 while in home LSA and 5MB GPRS as per Option-I)

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<b>9. TAMIL NADU</b>		
2004-05	Rakshabandhan/Jenamashtami (from 29.08.04 to 06.09.04)	No registration and installation charge ARD in 10 instalments for b-fone booked for b-fone booked by a customer in his sister's name.
	Festival season Dusseera/Diwali	(from 22.10.04 to 15. 11.04) Collection of ARD in instalments Free intent card of 50 hour along with new land line phone booked. One free recharge coupon of same denomination for purchased of 3 rechargecoupons  (from 01.10.04 to 31.10.04) Offering reconnection of bfone without payment of rental for the intervening period.
	New Year 2005	Late fee waived for cellular service and surcharge for wire line service waived for up to date clearance of dues  Free talk up to 31/12/2004 between two postpaid connections (from 01.11.04 to 30.11.04)  Free ITC card on booking a new phone and waiver of installation charges free activation of postpaid connections Full talk value on Excel recharge coupons of denomination Rs.500 and Rs.1000 (from 1.01.05) (from 01.01.05 to 31.01.05)
2005-06	Rakshabandhan/Jenamashtami	No registration and installation charge, ARD in 10 instalments for bfone booked for bfone booked by a customer in his sister's name (from 19.08.05 to 26.08.05)
	Dussehra	SIM Card free for those who book postpaid mobile connection under Plan 225/325/525 (from 23/08/05 to 15/10/05)  Full talk value on Recharge coupon of Rs. 1000 (from 23.8.05 to 30.09.05)
	Durga Puja	Free ITC cards for those who purchase ITC cards of denomination Rs. 2000/ Rs. 5000 (from 03.10.05 to 04.11.05)
	Diwali	Full Talk value on Recharge coupons of denomination Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 (from 01.11.05 to 15.11.05)
	Christmas & New Year	Full talk value on Recharge coupons of denomination Rs, 1000 (from 16.12.05 to 31.01.06)  25% extra value on Recharge coupons of denomination Rs. 2000 and Rs. 3000 (from 27.12.05 to 26.01.06)
2005-06	Holi	Loyalty discount to Post paid customers from the date of activation of post paid connections under plan 225, 325 and 525 and local SMS @ 10 Paise. (from 14.03.06 to 31.03.06)  Full talk value on recharge coupons of denomination Rs. 300 and Rs. 500, 25% extra talk value on Rs. 2000 and Rs. 2000 cards, 25% additional talk value on top up cards of Rs. 500 (from 14.3.2006 to 31.3.2006)
2006-07	Christmas and New Year	Waiver of installation charges for land line connections booked (from 15.12.2006 to 15.01.2007)
	Christmas and New Year	Increased talk value for Recharge coupons of denomination Rs. 300/Rs. 2500/ Rs. 2000/Rs. 3000 and Rs. 5000 and top up cards of denomination Rs. 500 (from 20/12/06 to 18/01/07)

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2007-08	World Telecom day	Waiver of installation fee for land line/WLL bookings Increased talk value for recharge coupons of denomination Rs. 500/1000/2500/3000/5000) (14/05/07 to 10/8/07)
	Independence Day	Increased talk value for recharge coupons of denomination Rs. 300/500/1000/200/2000 (13.8.2007 to 11.9.2007)
	Deepavali/Christmas/New Year/Pongal	Waiver of installation fee for land line/WLL bookings (from 01/12/07 to 29/01/08)
		Free Excel prepaid starter pack SIM for all customers who book a new land line/WLL/Postpaid connection.
		Free Excel prepaid starter pack to all existing postpaid customers (from 100 days from 22.10.07)
		Reduction in STD/ILD tariff for calls originated from BSNL fixed line/WLL (from 8/11/2007 to 06/01/2008)
		Night speak facility during off peak hours (50% concession in tariff) for all post paid and prepaid general customers (from 90 days from 01/11/07)
10. J & K		
2005-06	Christmas & New Year 27.12.2005 to 26.01.2006	1.255 Extra talk time allowed on recharge coupon of Rs. 2000 & Rs,3000
	Holi 14.03.2006 to 31.3.2006	1. Full Talk Time on Recharge Coupons of Rs. 300, Rs. 500 2.25% Extra talk time allowed on Recharge coupons of Rs. 2000,3000 & Top up Voucher of Rs. 500
2006-07	Shree Amar Nath Ji Yatra 21.06.2006 to 20.08.2006	1. Full talk Time on Recharge Coupons of Rs.500, Rs. 1000 2. 25% Extra Talk time allowed on Recharge Coupons of Rs. 2000 3. 25%Extra Talk time on top up voucher of Rs. 500
	Navratra 23.09.2006 to 22.1.2006	With out activation charges General/Anant/ One India SIMS were reactivated whose subscription was expired during the period of promotion scheme
	Dussehra, Id-Ul-Fitr & Diwali 01.10.2006 to 30.11.2006	Full Talk time allowed on recharge coupons of Rs, 500 & 1000 2. 15%Extra & 8 months validity allowed on Recharge coupons of Rs.2000 3. 255 Extra talk time allowed on Recharge coupon of Rs,3000 4. 10%Extra talk time on top up voucher of Rs.500.
	Revised Sim Action Scheme 12.09.2006 and onwards	New Pre paid connection Activation Charges=Rs. 200 Talk Time =Rs,130 with validity of 7 days
	Cristmas & New Year 20.12.2006 to 19.12.2007 19.12.2007	1. Full Talk Time allowed on Recharge Coupons of Rs,1000 2.15%Extra & 8 months validity allowed on Recharge coupons of Rs.2000 3. 25%Extra talk time allowed on Recharge coupon of Rs 300 4. 20% Extra talk time on top up voucher of 5. Rs. 6000 talk time allowed & 3 years validity on recharge coupon of Rs,5000
	Navratra & Id-e-Milad 15.3.2007 to 1.4.2007	Increase of Talk Time from Rs,130 to Rs.200 on SIMs sold and activated during the promotional period.

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2007-08	Tourist/Festival Season promotional scheme 01.06.2007 to 31.08.2007	Recharge	Talk Time	Validity
		500	500	45 days
		1000	1100	4 months
		2000	2300	8 months
		3000	3600	1 year
		5000	6250	1 year
		Top up Voucher		
		200	230	N/A
		500	600	N/A
	BSNL Day/Festival Season 01.10.2007 to 31.12.07	Recharge	Talk Time	Validity
		500	500	60 days
		1000	1100	6 months
		2000	2300	1 year
		3000	3600	2 years
5000		6250	3 years	
		Top up Voucher		
		200	250	N/A
	500	600	N/A	

## 11. KOLKATA TELEPHONES

2004-05	Pre Puja scheme	b-fone
		(i) No down payment at the time of application for New Connection.
		(ii) The installation & security was recovered in 12 months.
		(iii) An IT card of Rs. 108/ was given free of cost each applicant under this scheme.
	Dussehra-Diwali	(i) b-fone free scheme.
		(ii) Free ITC card on payment of bill for b-fone.
		(iii) One free recharge coupon on purchase of three recharge coupons of same denomination in one instant from any BSNL's CSCs.
		(iv) Post paid Cellular (Cellone)scheme:
		(a) Free Talk between two post paid connections under Plan 525 subscribed during November 04
		(b) Free activation for post paid connection.
		(v) Following charges had been waived off for up to date clearance:
		(a) Late fee for cellular services.
		(b) Surcharge for wire line services.
	Spl.Scheme-New year'05	(i) Waival of installation charges for all New Telephone connections
		(ii) A free ITC Card of Rs 500/ was given for booking for NTC
		(iii) No activation charges was taken for the post paid connection.
		(iv) Full talk time on Recharge Coupons of Rs 1102 and Rs. 551/

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2005-06	Special Puja Offer	<p>(i) Modified pulses and time are as follows</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Calls from</th> <th>Day time (in Sec.)</th> <th>21.00 hrs. to 23.00 hrs. and 05.00 hrs. to 08.00 hrs.</th> <th>23.00 hrs. 05.00 hrs.</th> <th>Sundays National Holidays Puja</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Basic to Basic</td> <td>180</td> <td>360</td> <td>600</td> <td>600 for all days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basic to WLL-M</td> <td>90</td> <td>90</td> <td>300</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basic to Cell One</td> <td>60</td> <td>60</td> <td>180</td> <td>180</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(ii) No installation and registration charges</p> <p>(iii) Plan 140 introduced.</p> <p>(iv) Plan 100 introduced.</p>	Calls from	Day time (in Sec.)	21.00 hrs. to 23.00 hrs. and 05.00 hrs. to 08.00 hrs.	23.00 hrs. 05.00 hrs.	Sundays National Holidays Puja	Basic to Basic	180	360	600	600 for all days	Basic to WLL-M	90	90	300	300	Basic to Cell One	60	60	180	180
Calls from	Day time (in Sec.)	21.00 hrs. to 23.00 hrs. and 05.00 hrs. to 08.00 hrs.	23.00 hrs. 05.00 hrs.	Sundays National Holidays Puja																		
Basic to Basic	180	360	600	600 for all days																		
Basic to WLL-M	90	90	300	300																		
Basic to Cell One	60	60	180	180																		
	Special Puja Offer	Special Puja offer for Sr. Citizen (age 60yrs. and above). Under this offer the monthly rental of home plan 250 of Broadband was Rs,150 per month only for Sr. Citizen.																				
	Durga Puja Offer	Free ITC card of Rs. 200 and Rs. 300 to customers who purchase ITC card of denomination Rs. 2000/- and Rs. 3000/- respectively.																				
	DIWALI-BONANZA	Diwali Bonanza for all internet dial up users (free upgrade)  The waving of broadband monthly rental charges of Rs. 250/-for two months.																				
2006-07	Raksha Bandhan	Increase of Talk Time on Recharge Coupon of Rs. 200 Rs. 300 & Rs. 1000/																				
	Dussehra	Full talk time on recharge coupon of Rs. 500/-  Full talk time of Rs. 500/ and Rs. 1000/ was offered on the recharge coupons of Rs. 500/																				
2007-08	Dussehra	Full Talk time of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000/ was offered on the recharge coupons of Rs. 500/ and 1000/-																				
	Pooja	Cost of Excel Anant SIM from 495 (Including ST) To Rs. 250 (Including ST)																				
12. NE-I																						
2006-07	Christmas & New Year 15.12.2006-15.1.2007	Full talk time/more talk time offer on recharges made during the period For a recharge of Rs. 4000, talk value of Rs. 5000. For a recharge of Rs. 5000, talk value of Rs. 7000																				
	Holi 15.03.2007-31.03.2007	Installation waiver offer for Land Line Rs.500/-in Urban and Rs.300/-in Rural Areas Installation Charges wavier ITC free offer with land line connection For Rural ITC 200 and For Urban ITC500 free on festive season NPCs booked																				
	Ram Navami & Mahavir Jayanti 25.3.2007-31.3.2007	Free Excel SIM for all existing land line customers Free SIM activation charges of worth Rs. 100.																				

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2007-08	Durga puja, Janmashtami & Id-ul-Fitr. 01.09.2007-31.10.2007	Free SMS offers On RC 200 recharge 50 No. Free SMS; On of 500 recharge 150 free SMS On TU 200 topup 150 Free SMS all post paid plans 100 Free SMS during the festival season Free SIM Activation offer For all Post/pre paid general SIM activations free worth Rs.100 during the festive seasons
	Durga puja, Janmashtmi, Janmashtami, Id-ul-Fitr & Deepavali. 01.10.2007-31.12.2007	ITC free offer with land line connection For Rural ITC 200 and For Urban ITC 500 free on festive season NPCs booked
13. NE-II		
2006-07	Christmas and New Year. 25.12.2006-24.01.2007	Enhanced talk on a recharge vouchers of denomination Rs.3000/- to Rs.4000/- and Rs.5000/- to Rs.7000/-
14. A & N Islands		
2006-07	Deepavali offer for WLL WLL	No registration charges No security deposit No installation deposit Sulabh rent reduced from Rs. 120/- & Rs.50/- to Rs. 80 & Rs.30/- respectively.
15. Bihar		
2006-07	Independence Day (15 August 2006 to 15th November 2006)	Post-paid (Cell-one) & Pre-paid (Excel) a) Loyalty discount of Rs.25/75/175 shall be allowed on post-paid (Cellone) Mobile connection under plans 225/325/525 respectively from day-one itself i.e. from the date of activation itself. b) Full Talk-time equivalent to the value of re-charge Voucher (RCV) shall be allowed on recharge coupons of denomination Rs.300/-, Rs.500/- and Rs.1000/
	Navratri (from 23rd September 2006 to 8th November 06)	Basic Telephone Service & Pre-paid (Excel)/ITC The Registration amount for a new Basic phone connection, during the offer period, shall be reduced to Rs. 250/- (Security deposit & installation charges payable in six instalments in the subsequent bills) Besides, at the time of registration, the customer shall be offered a) One prepaid SIM card free of cost b) One ITC of Rs. 100/- free of cost
	Special Pooja Offer 5th October 2006 to 4th December 2006	Excel Pre-paid connection disconnected due to discontinuing recharge The Excel Prepaid connection disconnected due to discontinuing recharge within the prescribed additional grace period may be reconnected again on customer's request (in a prescribed mandate form). The customer has to purchase a recharge voucher of Rs. 300 or above and he will get a new SIM with free talk time worth Rs. 30.
	Special Offer	Pre-paid(excel) Mobile Service a) Full Talk-time equivalent to the value of Re-Charge Voucher (RCV) may be allowed on recharge coupons of denomination Rs.500/- & Rs.100/- b) Talk-time equivalent to the 15% extra value of Re-charge voucher (RCV) of denomination Rs. 2000/ and Rs. 3000 and 35% extra value of Recharge Voucher (RCV) of denomination Rs 500/- may be allowed on recharge coupons
	Christmas & Bakrid 20th December 2006 to 18th January 2007	

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2006-07	Holi 19th Jan. 2007 to 19th March 2007	Pre-paid (Excel) Mobile Service Extension of promotional schemes for Pre-paid (Excel) Mobil Service. Of SSI no. 4
	Holi & Ramnavi 15th Feb. 2007 to 31st March 2007	For GSM PCO Bundling of GSM PCO with terminal in Rs. 1800
	Holi & Ramnavi 1st March 2007 to 31 August 2007	b-tone (LKLB Scheme) in Bihar unlimited calls within the Bihar circle in our own network @Rs. 121 per month (Excluding Taxes).
2007-08	Independence day & other festival 6th August 2007 to 04th September 2007	BSNL Monsoon Dhamaka Offer Pre-paid (Excel) Mobile Service Talk-time equivalent to the 35% extra value of Re-Charge Voucher (RCV) of denomination Rs. 2000/-Rs. 3000/ and Rs. 5000/ may be allowed on recharge coupons.
	Independence Day 15th august 2007 to 13th September	Pre-paid (Excel) Mobile Service Full Talk-time on re-charge Voucher (RCV) of denomination Rs. 200/- Rs. 300/ Rs. 500 and Rs.1000/may be allowed on recharge coupons
	Gandhi Jayanti 02.10.2007 to 30.12.2007	Pre-paid (Excel) Mobile Service Under balance based tariff if a general prepaid subscriber maintains minimum balance Rs. 500, then he can enjoy Intra Circle call at reduced call rate.
	BSNL festive offer 1.11.2007 to 29.1.2008-08-27	Pre-paid (Excel) Mobile Service, Magic Voucher." It is a special tariff voucher, which reduces the call rates only for 30 days. It allows free calls on BSNL network, both mobile & fixed, within LSA (Bihar and Jharkhand) from 11.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m.
	BSNL festive offer 12.10.2007 to 31.12.2007	GSM PCO The validity of Card Value of Rs. 100 increased from 15 days to 30 days
	BSNL festive offer 12.10.2007 to 31.12.2007	For Basic Phone  (a) Initial registration fee fixed Rs. 100 instead of Rs. 500 (b) remaining charges and ARD may be collected in three bimonthly installments in subsequent bills
16. Andhra Pradesh		
2004-05	Special schemes for Dussera and Diwali	NTC for Rs. 1/- with no installation charges. Free IT card of different values on payment of different bill amounts. Pre paid post paid cellular schemes are also included.
	Raksha Bandhan Janmashtami Scheme Special schemes for New Year Concession for Haj pilgrims Special schemes for Holi	Phone can be booked in the name of sister w/o regn. & installation charges. Waival of installation charges and free ITC card worth Rs. 500/- with NPCs Provision of free local phones with 95 facilityat Haj terminals for Haj pilgrims a. Free ITC card on purchase of higher denomination of ITC card b. Free ITC card of Rs. 500/- on booking NTC
	Promotional scheme on every major festival	On every purchase of three coupons, one recharge coupon is free



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2005-06	Raksha Bandhan Janmashtami Scheme	Phones can be booked in the name of sister w/o Regn. & installation charges. ARD in 10 installments.
	Durga Puja festival	Free ITC of Rs. 200/- on Purchase of ITC worth Rs. 2000/-Free ITC of Rs. 500/ on purchase of ITC worth Rs. 5000/-
	Special schemes for Haj Pilgrims	Provision of two free local phones with 95 facility at Haj terminal for Haj pilgrims.
	Promotional scheme on every major festival	Full talk time on recharge coupons
2006-07	Raksha Bandhan Scheme	Free ITC with Rs. 500/- NPCs booked
	Dussehra, Diwali & Ramzan scheme	Rental waiver for 1st & 6th months for NPCs
	Christmas, New Year & Sankranti	Rebate of Rs. 100/- in 5 alternate months
	Ugadi scheme	a. Bofone connection for plan 249 (Rebate of Rs. 500/- in 2 consecutive monthly bills in internet usage) b. Free SIM with new Bfone connection-Bundling offer
	Special concession for Haj Pilgrims	Provision of two free local phones with 95 facility at Haj Terminal for Haj pilgrims
	Promotional scheme	Full talk on RCs and 25% extra talk time for higher denominations (twice in year)
2007-08	Introduction of unlimited plans on world telecom day	Introduction of Plan 399, 599 & 899 involving unlimited free calls within BSNL network
	Promotional tariff for reduction in ILD Tariff for calls originated from BSNL fixed/WLL during festival season	a. Call rates to USA Canada reduced from Rs. 7.20 to Rs. 6.00 per min b. Call rates to Saudi Arab, Iraq and Yemen reduced from Rs. 12/-Min to Rs. 9.60 per min.
	Promotional Tariff for revision in intra circle call charges during festival season	c. A. Fixed to Fixed and Fixed to Cellular (Own network) Intra Circle calls reduced from Rs.1.20 per min to Rs. 0.80 per 90 seconds
	Raksha Bandhan Scheme	Waiver of installation charges for NPCs
	Dussehra, Diwali & Ramazan scheme	Waiver of installation charges for NPCs
	Christmas, New Year & Sankranti	Waiver of installation charges for NPCs
17. Gujarat		
2004-05	Independence day	Rent Rs.500/- Free calls-455
2006-07	Independence day	Rent Rs. 1000/- Free calls-200 Rent Rs. 225/- Free calls-225 Rent Rs. 325/- Free calls-325 Rent Rs. 525/-Free calls-525
	Holi	One free SIM with post paid 525 & 325 plan Rent Rs. 125/- call @ 0.30 to BSNL mobiles and call @ 0.60 to all other in Gujarat.
2007-08	Independence day	Recharge coupon of Rs. 1400/- validity 120 days Top up Rs. 1000/- validity-0 days Recharge coupon of Rs.300/- validity 30 days

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18. Assam		
2004-05	Bihu festival offer	Reconnection of land line connection without any arrears rental payment after disconnection No additional down load charges for Data one broadband service
	Durga Puja festival & Diwali	Cellone plan 100
2005-06	Diwali & New Year event 16.12.05 to 31.01.06	Full talk time of Rs. 1000/- Recharge coupon of sale value Rs. 1102/- 2000 message free for just Rs. 99/- only one India event during Bihu offer
2006-07	Puja, Diwali & New year	Reconnection for long standing due of disconnected mobile & landline. All calls & SMS free to BSNL mobiles in Assam presenting cellone plan 275 for puja and Diwali offer
	Bihu festival up to 30 April, 2007.	Get disconnected cellone Reconnected without rental arrears without rental arrears for disconnection period offer during Free Excel connection for all BSNL Landline customers.
19. Himachal Pradesh		
2006-07	Independence Day, Raksha Bandhan	Normal free paid SIM cost Rs. 200+Tax, Talk time Rs. 200/- in place of Rs 50/ validity 30 days with additional grace period of 15 days in place
	Dussehra, Deepavali 15/08/2006 to 20/11/2006	Of Existing 7 Days. 30+15 Days.
	Raksha Bandhan, Ganesh Chaturthi 21/10/2006 to 20/09/2006	Scheme on RC vouchers 500/- 1000/- Talk time increased to Rs. 500/- & Rs. 1000/- instead of existing Talk time 361/- & 822/-
	Gandhi Jayanti, Dussehra 01/10/2006 to 20/11/2006	Reactivation of Pre-paid SIM cards deactivated w.e.f. 01/06/2006.
	Gandhi Jayanti, Dussehra	Scheme on RC 300 & RC 500. Revised talk time of Rs 300/- & Rs. 500/- in place of Rs. 175 & Rs. 361/- validity no change.
	Guru Gobind Singh Birth day, Ram Navami, Holi 05/02/2007 to 27/03/2007	On normal pre-paid SIM of Rs. 100/- Talk time Rs. 100/- Validity 200 days.
	Guru Gobind Singh Birth day, Ram Navami, Holi 05/02/2007 to 16/04/2007	RC-300 Validity increased from 30 days 365 days. RC-500 Validity increased from 45 days to 365 days & Talk time increased from 822 to 1000/= RC-1000 Validity increased from 120 days to 456 days & Talk time increased from 822 to 1000 RC-2000 Validity increased from 180 days to 560 days. RC-300 Validity increased from 365 days to 600 days/

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2007-08	<p>Budha Purnima (09/05/2007 to 29/05/2007)</p> <p>Janmashtmi 30/08/2007 to 13/09/2007</p> <p>Janmashtmi, Ganesh Chaturthi &amp; Gandhi Jayanti</p> <p>(01/09/2007 to 15/09/2007 &amp; 20/09/2007 to 04/10/2007)</p> <p>Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi &amp; Gandhi Jayanti, Dussehra 01/09/2007 to 31/10/2007</p> <p>Gandhi Jayanti, Dussehra 01/10/2007 to 30/10/2007</p> <p>Deepavali (07/11/2007 to 25/12/2007)</p> <p>Deepavali &amp; Christmas (07/11/2007 to 25/12/2007)</p>	<p>On Normal pre-paid &amp; Excel Anant. Talk value increased in Recharge Voucher of Rs. 300 Rs. 2000, Rs. 3000</p> <p>Triple 1000 schemes on normal pre-paid validity increased from 7 days to 100 days in entire circle and talk time from Rs. 30/- to Rs 100/- in Solan &amp; Rural Area of scheme SSA</p> <p>Scheme on RC-100 and RC-3000 on Normal pre-paid &amp; Excel and No charge in validity talk time increased from Rs. 822/- to Rs/- to Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 3000/- To 3500/- respectively.</p> <p>Scheme on RC-200 on Normal &amp; Excel No charge in talk time validity increased from 30 days to 45 days.</p> <p>New Validity Coupon (Through Electronic Recharge only) Denomination RC-30, RC-50, RC-100 with Talk time zero and validity 21 Days, 45 days and 120 days respectively.</p> <p>New Scheme on Post-paid Plan 2999.</p> <p>Scheme on recharge coupons talk value increased in recharge coupon denomination RC 1000, RC 500 RC 200 to Rs. 1200, Rs. 550 &amp; Rs. 200 Respectively.</p> <p>New Broadband Connection. Rebate of Rs. 500/- After Usage of six months.</p>
20. Rajasthan		
2006-07	<p>Promotional Scheme</p> <p>Christams and New Year promotional scheme 16.12.06 to 10.3.07</p> <p>Dushera festival (14.10.2006 to 15.11.06)</p> <p>Gandhi Jayanti, Ganesh Chaturthi &amp; Janmashtmi. (21.09.06 to 26.10.06)</p>	<p>On activation of new SIM talk value Rs. 50/- &amp; validity 60 days instead of Rs. 30/- and Validity of 7 days.</p> <p>1. R/C of Rs. 5000/- &amp; validity 2 years instead of one year. 2. R/C Rs. 500/- validity 90 days instead of 45 days 3. Anant SIM Initial talk value Rs.399/- instead of Rs. 199/-</p> <p>R/C of Rs. 5000/- talk value Rs.6500/- instead of Rs. 6000 R/C of Rs. 3000/ Talk value Rs 3300/- &amp; validity 15 months instead of Rs. 3000 &amp; 12 months R/C of Rs. 2000/ validity 9 months instead of six months. Top-up Rs. 500/ Talk value Rs. 550/ instead of Rs.500/-</p> <p>R/Cs Rs. 500/- Rs 1000/- Rs. 2500/- full talk time instead of Rs.361 Rs. 822/ &amp; Rs. 2000/ respectively.</p>
2007-08	<p>Diwali Dhamaka contest (15.10.2007 to 24.11.07)</p> <p>Poora Paisa Vassol (Dushera festival) (01.09.07 to 24.10.07)</p> <p>Dushera festival Promotional Scheme (17.08.2007 to 12.11.07)</p>	<p>Waiver of one month fixed charges of Rs. 20/- for new customers registering Tone</p> <p>Rs. 2500/- talk time Rs. 2809/- Instead of Rs. 2000/-</p> <p>On activation of new SIM talk value Rs. 50/- &amp; validity 30 days instead of Rs. 30/- and Validity of 7 days.</p>

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<b>21. Maharashtra</b>		
2004-05	Independence DAY & 28.07.2004	New Tariff Packages for Bfone plan 240 plan 490 plan 990 pain 1490 Introduced for Bfone subscribers
2006-07	HOLI & 15.03.2007	Waival of insurance, Installation charges and security deposit.
2007-08	Independence DAY & 13.08.2007	Promotional scheme on recharge coupons of Rs. 100, Rs. 300 and Top-up of Rs. 500 R/C Rs. 1000-Talk Time -Rs 1400 R/C Rs. 300- Talk Time- Rs. 300 Top-up Rs. 500- Talk Time - Rs. 1000
	Raksha Bhandhan & 25.08.2007	Promotional scheme on Excel Anant Lifetime Prepaid Cards-Raksha Bandhan Special Offer. Extra talk time activation of Excel Anant Rs. 495 Cards 28.8.2007 to 31.8.2007-Rs. 251-Talk time 01.09.2007 to 07.09.2007- Rs 151- Talktime.
	Raksha Bhandhan & 03.09.2007	Extension of Promotional scheme on Excel Anant Lifetime Prepaid Cards—Raksha bandhan Special Offer.  Extra talk time on activation of Excel Anant Rs. 495 Cards 04.09.2007 to 07.09.2007—Rs. 151-Talktime.
	BSNL DAY & 29.09.2007	Provision of both the add-on Facility YNA & MGU together on a single telephone number
	BSNL DAY & 10.10.2007	Promotional scheme for GPRS and MMS in Maharashtra Telcome Circle. Volume based usage charge within LSA is reduced from 2 Paise per KB to 1 Paise per KB MMS facility is made Free
	Dushera & 19.10.2007	Re-launch of Excel Lifetime prepaid ANANT Rs. 495 Plan Excel Anant Rs. 495 Plan with minimum Rs. 50 recharge every six months. BSNL Mobile to BSNL Mobile call @Rs. 0.60 per minute.
	Dushera & 19.10.2007	Re-launch of Promotional scheme in BSNL Prepaid Mobile starter Pack Increase of Validity of Excel Prepaid Mobile Starter Pack from 7 days to 30 days.
<b>22. West Bengal</b>		
2006-07	Independence day 15.8.06 to 31.8.2006	Independence Utsav special free calls of Rs. 175 for postpaid plans- 225, 325 & 525
	Puja Offer 25.08.06 to 13.10.2006	Full talk value for RV of Rs. 500/-
	Puja offer w.e.f. 01.09.06	Three offers from corporate office 1. Postpaid plan 725 2. Reduction on activation charge 3. Free calls extended
	Puja offer 25.08.06 to 13.10.2006	Talk value increased for RV Rs. 200/- 300/- & 1000/-
	Puja offer 18.10.06 to 14.11.2007	More free talk time for Postpaid plan 325 & 525

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2007-08	<p>Puja offer 18.10 to 16.11.06</p> <p>X-mas &amp; New Year 18.12.2006 to 1.1.2007</p> <p>Puja offer (29.08.07 to 26.11.07)</p>	<p>New pre-paid connection with free activation for RV of Rs.500/-</p> <p>Full talk value for RV of Rs.300/-, 2500/- &amp; 5000/-</p> <p>Summer Excel Full talk value for RV of Rs. 500/ Summer Excel Reduced call charges on Excel General i.e. Rs.0.70 instead of Rs.0.90 per minute. Revival of old Excel General connection if RV of Rs.500/-+ other charge is purchased Reduced local call charges Rs. 0.70 instead of Rs. 1.00 for all &amp; new Cellone Plan 100 connection, Excel power facility for 3 Nos. (Minimum 2 fixed lines)</p>
2007-08	<p>Puja offer (01.09.07 to 29.11.07)</p> <p>Festive offer from 01.11.07</p> <p>Festive offer from 13.10.07</p>	<p>Promotional schemes on Location Based Services: In case of Advertisement: Rental of Rs.300/-is waived, 600 free SMS and further SMS will be charged (a) Rs. 0.50per PUSH. In case of Chatting (Deting Service): SMS will be charged ..Rs.0.30 per SMS in place of Rs 1/-per SMS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan-525: Free Talk Value of Rs.500/-(in place of Rs.300/-)</li> <li>• Plan-325: Free Talk Value of Rs. 225/-(in place of Rs.100/-)</li> <li>• Plan-100: Local call charge (other M/W) reduced to Rs.1.20 from Rs.1.40.</li> <li>• Excel-P for three no., min. two L.L., for post-paid plan 100 scheme.</li> </ul> <p>-MAGIC voucher of denomination of Rs.49/- &amp; Rs.89/- inclusive of all Taxes with reduced call charges. Revival Voucher of Rs.55</p>
23. UTTAR PRADESH (EAST)		
2006-07	<p>Deepavali/Dussehra</p> <p>Holi</p>	<p>Denomination in Rs. &amp; talk value offered</p> <p>300-full 500—full 2000-2500 3000-3750 5000-7500</p> <p>Waiver of activation charges to CUG customers on all the postpaid plans for the period of 90 days wef. 19 Oct.'2006 Vanity numbers offered free of charge for the period of 90 days w.e.f 19 Oct., 2006</p> <p>Denomination in Rs. &amp; Talk value offered</p> <p>200-Full 300-full 500-525 1000-1100 2000-2200 3000-3300 5000-6600</p>

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	Holi	Denomination in Rs. 200-200 300-320 500-550 2000-2500 2500-2500 3000-3750 50007-7500
<b>24. Uttar Pradesh (West) including Uttaranchal (Same LSA)</b>		
2004-06	Raksha Bandhan & Janmashtmi Deepavali Gift	Free-b-fone connection to sister. 100 Rs. per month rent on cellone connection, Rs. 99/- per month student power scheme.
	Independence Day Raksha Bandhan & Janmashtmi	Broadband internet scheme B-fone offer
2005-06	Deepawali New Year Tohra	Cellphone connection in Rs. 100/- per month for Govt. employees. 100% talk time and recharge coupon of Rs. 1000/- to 3000/- extra talk time of Rs. 1000/- on new coupons of Rs. 5000.
	Independence Day Dussehra	Call rate 10 paise/ minute Extra talk time on recharge coupon & reactivation of closed mobile
2006-07	Deepavali New Year 2007 Holi Special World Telecom Day (17.05.2007)	Rent scheme of basic phone, excel student power, post plan 140. Tariff Voucher Extra talk time and validity scheme. Triple 100 offer & 100% talk time on different RC.
	Independence Day Raksha Bandhan	One post paid/pre paid connections on land line Excel Student Power plan 50% extra talk time & increased validity on recharge coupons 25% Extra talk time
2007-08 (up to 20.11.2007)	Id Mubarak Deepawali Offer	New top-up voucher of Rs 10/- & Rs. 20/- SMS voucher and time validity Extra talk time and increased validity. STD Voucher. Magic Voucher. Balanced based tariff scheme. Extra talk time on 1st recharge on new connection.
<b>25. Corporate Office Promotional Schemes</b>		
<p>Apart from the promotional schemes launched by different circles, corporate office has also offered various promotional schemes during festival occasions. The details of promotional schemes offered by Corporate office are as under:-</p>		
2003-2004	Haj Pilgrimage from  6.1.2004 to 1.3.2004	Reduction in ILD Call charges for Saudi Arabia to Rs. 1800/min. from Rs. 24/ min.
2004-05	New Year Season-from 1.1.05 to 31.1.05	- Free ITC on booking of new Telephone Connection (NTC) waiver of installation charges. - Free activation on Cellone & Full talk time on Excel recharge coupons of Rs. 1102 & 551 in areas of spare capacity

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2004-2005-2006	Haj Season - in 2004, 2005 & 2006	Special concessional free telephone calls with 95 facility offered to pilgrims at all International / National Aripports in India at Haj terminals both arrival and departure. Again offered 'two free local telephones with 95 facility'.
2004-05	Holi Sesason- from 10-3-05 to 31-33-05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free ITC Cards worth Rs. 500 &amp; Rs. 200 offered to customers buying ITC cards of denomination of Rs. 5000 &amp; 2000 respectively</li> <li>- Free ITC of Rs. 500 was also made applicable to Sulabh connections during the above period.</li> </ul>
2004-05	Dussehra & Diwali Seasen—From 22.10.2004 to 30-11-2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No installation charges on booking bfone (local/STD/Sulabh) and free Internet card of 50 hours with each new connection.</li> <li>- Free ITC cards of different denominations to the customers making timely payment of bills.</li> <li>- 3+1 free Excel Festival offer. Free talk time on calls between 2 Cellone connections booked during the period.</li> <li>- No activation charges on Cellone booked during the period.</li> </ul>
2004-2005	Pilgrimage Season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Pilgrimage Calling Cards (PCC) for pilgrims visiting various shrines in India at denomination of Rs. 100/Rs. 200 flat rate at prevailing call rates introduced upto 30.6.2007.</li> <li>— Powers delegated to CGMs for launching PCC twice a year for max. period of total 6 weeks.</li> </ul>
2004-05	West Bengal Offers Durga Puja Season From 1-9-04 to 22-11-04	— Special scheme for bfone during pre-puja offered in Kolkata/ WB.
2005-06	West Bengal Offers Durga Puja Festival from 3.10.06 to 4.11.05	— Offer of free ITC worth Rs. 200 and Rs. 500 on purchase of ITC of denomination of Rs. 2000 and Rs. 5000 respectively.
2005-06	Rakahabandhan/Dussehra 23-08-2005 to 15-10-2005	<p>Post paid SIM card will be offered free of cost to the customer who activate new connection under plan-225, 325 and 525</p> <p>Pre paid—Full talk time of Rs. 1000/- may be offered on recharge of coupon of Rs. 1000/- activated up to 07-10-2005.</p>
	Rakaha Bandhan/Dussehra 30-08-2005 to 30-09-2005	Pre paid—Full talk time of Rs. 500 may be offered on recharge of coupon of Rs. 500/- activated up to 30-09-2005.
	Christmas/New Year 16-12-2005 to 31-01-2006	Pre paid- full talk time of Rs. 1000/- may be offered on recharge of coupon of Rs. 1000/= activated from 16-12-2005 to 31-01-2006
	Holi 14-03-2006 to 31-03-2006	<p>Post paid-the loyalty discount allowed from the date of activation instead of after six months for paid customers who book their connection during the period from 14-03-2006 to 31-03-2006 under plan 225,325 and 525</p> <p>SMS @ Rs. 0.10 per SMS within LSA in own network allowed for all post paid customers during the period from 14-03-2006 to 31-03-2006</p> <p>Prepaid full talk time allowed on recharge coupon of Rs. 300/ &amp; Rs. 500 activated during the period from 04-03-2006 to 31-03-2006</p> <p>Under prepaid service 25% extra talk time allowed for customers who activate during the offer period.</p> <p>Additional talk time of 25% allowed on top up card of Rs. 500 for customers who activate during the offer period.</p>

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2006-07	Summer vacation	No charge for incoming calls is to be levied for the post paid customers under plan 325,525 and One India while roaming in other LSAs during the offer period. Local National and Roving SMS terminating in BSNL network is to be charged @ Rs 0.10 per SMS under plan 325, 325 and One India
2007-08	Dewali & Christmas from 08.11.2007 to 06.01.2008	Reduction in intra circle call charges within BSNL network during Peak/off peak hours pulse of 60 sec. to 120/90 sec. respectively. Reduction in ILD call charge for US, Canada and Saudi Arab, Iraq, Yeman from Rs 7.20 & 12 to Rs6.00 & 9.60 respectively.

**Statement II****Promotional Schemes Offered During Various festival Seasons By MTNL****Delhi****In 2004**

- Reduction in cost of Garuda WLL (M) for two months from 13.9.2004 to 12.11.2004

**In 2005**

- Promotional Plan for Landline service from 1.11.2005.

**In 2006**

- Modem Security Charges waived off from 16.10.2006 to 15.11.2006 for booking in plan TriB phone Combo plan.
- Launching of Garuda/ Promotional "Unlimited MTNL local network plan from 16.10.2006 for a period of 3 months upto 15.1.2007.
- Calls for Garuda Mobile of MTNL Delhi to Garuda Mobile, Garuda fixed & landline of MTNL Mumbai shall be charged @ Rs 1.20/- 3 minute.
- BB-On booking of new BB conn. Initial one time charges of Rs. 1300/-is waived off.
- Dolphin—Activation charges Rs. 500/- waived off.
- Garuda Activation charges Rs. 300 waived off.
- Reduction of security deposit in case of FPS from 23.10.2006 for 15 days.
- Relaunching of Basic plan Plan-99 w.e.f. 1.11.2006.

**In 2007**

- Promotional offer for IPTC & VoLP services from 24.10.2007 to 1.11.2007.
- Launch of Unlimited (own network) calling plan within MTNL/ Delhi from 25.10.2007.
- Launch of FW Super Economy Plan in Garuda from 29.10.2007.
- Revised internet tariff for MTNL CDMA Delhi network.
- Launch of Pre-paid Garuda Mobile "Jeevan Saathi" (Life- time) Plan in CDMA from 1.11.2007.
- Promotional offer for giving free Trump conn. to high end users of Local line phones of MTNL.

**Mumbai****Landline, Broad Band & CDMA****In 2004**

- CIP Tariff Plan 1500 & 2000 to Land line Customers in 2004.

**In 2005**

- Waiving of Registration charge of Rs. 500/- for Broad Band Customers in 2005.
- Only incoming plan 150 for Land line customers in 2005.

**In 2006**

- Reduction in GARUDA tariff on 28.08.2006
- IPTV launched (Triband) on 28.10.2006.
- Monthly rental of One India plan is reduced from Rs.299/ to 180 w.e.f. 1.11.2006.
- Re-launching of only incoming plan 150 for Landline on regular basis.



- Unlimited internet usage to CDMA on 20.10.2006
- Tariff from landline & WLL to MTNL own network has been made local with Rs. 1.20/180 sec.
- Tariff from landline/WLL to MTNL Delhi landline WLL has been reduced from Rs. 1.20/30 sec. to 1.20/180 sec.
- STD tariff of landline/WLL has been reduced from Rs. 2.40/Minute to Rs. 200/Minute.
- Calls within CDMA 2000 1 x system has been reduced to Rs.0.10 Minute,
- By paying Rs. 299 customers of 2000 1x network were given unlimited use of internet w.e.f. 19.10.2007.

**In 2007**

- Ajeevan Garuda FW at Rs. 699 only on 12.09.2007
- Modification of 'One Minute Landline Plan' from 21.10.2007.
- 2 Months free view+one silver coin for IPTV booking up to 14.11.2007.

**GSM Mobile****In 2005**

- Lowest prepaid recharge coupon to TRUMP customer on 19.10.2005.

**In 2006**

- New Tariff to Garuda Mobile customers on 29.08.2006.
- Unlimited SMS on MTNL mobile network with a monthly rent of Rs. 30 per month on 20.10.2006.

**In 2007**

- The call charges are being reduced regularly based on prevailing market conditions. Recently, the Dolphin call charges have been reduced in various plan. Roving call charges have been reduced on 15.02.2007, as per TRAI guidelines.
- Free TRUMP SIM card worth Rs. 150 with every new Landline or GARUDA booking on 15.09.2007

- Increased 25% talk value on existing TRUMP coupons on 15.09.2007.
- UNLIMITED DOLPHIN calls MTNL network at Rs. 499 (exclusive of tax) per month on 15.09.2007.
- Talk more on Trump at 30 paise/ Min. in MTNL Network from 07.11.2007.

*[English]***Safety of Dams**

1217. SHRI. P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has some proposals to reconstruct or provide aid to State Governments for reconstruction of old Dams which are in dangerous position;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala has made any proposal in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Dams safety is being monitored by any authority in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the check of inter-state Dams alongwith the steps taken to resolve the issues;

(g) whether a dam in Kerala from which water is being taken to Tamil Nadu in Idukki District, Kerala is allegedly to be unsafe; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken with regard to the controversy, if any, between Tamil Nadu and Kerala in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has no proposal to reconstruct or aid the State Government for reconstruction of old dams. Government of India has framed Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) with the aim to improve safety and optimum sustainable performance of the dams. Proposals from 13 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat,

Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have been received under DRIP for dam safety and rehabilitation and has been posed for World Bank assistance.

(c) and (d) Proposal for Basic Dam Safety facilities and Remedial Measures for 31 dams has been submitted by the Government of Kerala. The list of dams is enclosed as Statement I.

(e) and (f) The States are the owners of the dams within their territories, and hence States are responsible for the dam safety and any remedial measures. However, a Dams Safety Organization (DSO) has been created at the Centre in Central Water Commission (CWC) in 1979. The objective of the DSO is to perform a coordinative and advisory role for the State Governments and to lay down guidelines, compile technical literature, organize trainings etc, and in general to take steps to create awareness in the States about the dam safety and thereafter assist in setting up infrastructure for the same. A Standing Committee on Dam Safety has been constituted in 1982 comprising members from the Centre and State Governments to meet periodically and discuss dam safety issues. This Committee meets regularly to discuss issues on dam safety with a view to oversee dam safety activities in various States/ Organizations and suggest improvements to bring these in line with the latest state-of-art consistent with the Indian conditions. Besides, the Committee also monitors follow-up action on the recommendations of the "Report on Dam Safety Procedure" published in July 1986.

(g) and (h) A note on the safety of the Mulla Periyar dam and the steps taken to resolve the controversy is enclosed in the statement II

**Statement I**

*Kerala Irrigation Department (19 dams) Names of the dams proposed for DRIP*

Sl. No.	Basic Dam Safety Facilities and Remedial Measures
1	2
1.	Chimni Project
2.	Gayathry Project Stage I-Meenkara

1	2
3.	Gayathry Project Stage II- Chulliyar
4.	Kallada Irrigation Project
5.	Kahirapuzha Irrigation Project
6.	Kuttiyadi Irrigation Project
7.	Malampuzha Irrigation Project
8.	Mangalam dam
9.	Moolathara Regulator (Chitturpuzha Irrigation Project)
10.	Muvattupuzha Irrigation Project
11.	Neyyar Irrigation Project
12.	Pampa Irrigation Project
13.	Pazhassi Irrigation Project
14.	Peechi Irrigation Project
15.	Periyar Valley Irrigation Project
16.	Pothundy Irrigation Project
17.	Sirveani
18.	Vazhani Irrigation Project
19.	Walayar Irrigation Project

*Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) (12dams) Names of the dams proposed for DRIP*

Sl.No.	Basic Dam Safety Facilities and Remedial Measures
1	2
1.	Idkki Hydro Electric Project
2.	Sabarigiri Hydro Electric Project
3.	Idemalayar Hydro Electric Project
4.	Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project
5.	Sengulam Hydro Electric Project
6.	Panniar Hydro Electric Project
7.	Neriamangalam Hydro Electric Project

1	2
8.	Proingalkuthu Hydro Electric Project
9.	Sholayar Hydro Electric Project
10.	Kuttiyadi Hydro Electric Project
11.	Lower Perriyar Hydro Electric Project
12.	Kakkad Hydro Electric Project.

### *Statement II*

A dam on the river Periyar situated in Tekkadi in Kerala known as Mulla Periyar dam was constructed during 1887-1895. It is operated by the Government of Tamil Nadu as per a long term (999 Years) lease deed between the Maharaja of Travancore and erstwhile Government of Madras.

In 1979 reports appeared in the Kerala press about the safety of the dam. As a result, the Government of Kerala addressed Government of Tamil Nadu to take immediate steps to strengthen the dam and simultaneously requested the centre to send a team from the centre to inspect the dam and suggest remedial measures. The team inspected the dam and suggested remedial measures which were executed by the Government of Tamil Nadu, except raising the parapet wall of the main dam by 2 ft. Upto EL 160 ft. for a 20 m stretch and strengthening the Baby dam including earthen bund by providing toe filter and toe drain due to denial of permission by Government of Kerala. The safety of the dam became a matter of dispute between the two States resulting in restricting the level of the reservoir upto EL 136 ft. as against the FRL of EL 152 ft.

A number of writ petitions were filed in the Kerala High Court as well as Madras High Court for and against raising of water level in the Mulla Periyar reservoir and on the safety of the dam. These petitions were transferred to the Hon'ble Supreme Court after the transfer petition filed by Shri Subramanian Swamy in 1998.

On 27.2.2006 the Hon'ble Supreme Court has give on its verdict on the issue and directed the Government of Kerala to raise the water level from EL 136ft.to EL 142ft. For the present. The State of Tamil Nadu has been permitted to carry out futher strengthening measures as suggested by CWC. The Kerala Government filed a petition seeking review of the verdict which was dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 27.7.2006.

In the meantime, a bill was passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly, which received the assent of the Governor on 18 March 2006 and " The Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2006" was published in the Kerala Gazette. Under the provisions of the act, Mulla Periyar dam has been declared as an endangered dam and Full Reservoir Level (FRL) has been fixed at EL 136 ft.(41.45 m.)

Government of Tamil Nadu had filed a suit (Original Suit No.3 of 2006) in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in March 2006 praying for declaring the Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act 2006 passed by the Kerala Legislature as unconstitutional in its application to and effect on the Mulla Periyar dam so as to carry out the repair works as per the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.2.2006. The Hon'ble Supreme Court directed in its order dated 26.9.2006 that "the two State Governments independently or with the intervention of the Union of India, may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute." Accordingly, the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu on 29.11.2006 and a meeting of the Hon'ble Ministers of Water Resources/PWD of Kerala and Tamil Nadu on 18.12.2006 to sort out the issue. No consensus could be reached regarding a solution acceptable to both States in these meetings.

*[Translation]*

### **Upliftment of Silk Producers**

1218. SHRI RAJNARYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for upliftment of Silk Producers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated, released and utilised on upliftment of silk producers during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the purpose during the Eleventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To boost the production of quality silk in the Country, the Government of India through CSB implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Catalytic

Development Programme (CDP) during X Plan in all sericulture practicing States in collaboration with the respective State Governments by giving greater thrust to Bivoltine Sericulture and market orientation to non-mulberry sector. A proposal to continue the scheme with certain modifications and additional inputs during the XI Plan is under consideration.

(c) The details of the funds allocated, released, and

utilized for implementation of various components under CDP in the country, during the last three years (2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07), State wise is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) A proposal for continuation of the Catalytic Development Scheme with a contribution of Rs. 661.62 crores as Central share is under consideration of Government.

**Statement**

*Details of State-wise funds allocated/released, viz spent/utilised by States under CDP during last three years (from 2004-05 to 2006-07)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05 (**)		2005-06 (**)		2006-07 (**)	
		Funds allocated/ released by CSB	Funds spent/ utilised by States	Funds allocated/ released by CSB	Funds spent/ utilised by States	Funds allocated/ released by CSB	Funds spent/ utilised by States
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Karnataka	825.38	825.38	1212.43	1212.43	1153.24	1044.93
2.	Tamil Nadu	166.58	166.58	269.42	269.42	594.67	538.42
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	262.84	262.84	594.79	523.85	297.32	274.47
4.	Andhra Pradesh	1203.59	1203.59	1658.04	1658.04	1315.31	1256.69
5.	West Bengal	112.83	112.63	133.97	118.47	154.45	17.58
6.	Maharashtra	50.80	50.82	48.83	48.83	177.92	84.57
7.	Madhya Pradesh	79.65	79.65	187.04	187.04	343.17	230.25
8.	Orissa	24.32	24.32	154.49	123.17	133.26	52.94
9.	Bihar	88.99	88.99	161.79	161.79	14.88	1.42
10.	Uttar Pradesh	92.05	92.05	60.24	60.24	153.02	150.83
11.	Kerala	106.32	106.32	34.32	34.32	23.94	23.94
12.	Punjab	0.39	0.39	0.00	0	17.25	0.00
13.	Himachal Pradesh	308.41	308.41	17.91	17.91	49.47	10.44
14.	Chhattisgarh	156.35	156.35	128.55	128.55	154.69	81.19
15.	Jharkhand			100.84	90.04	189.08	1.39
16.	Uttaranchal	117.43	117.43	178.38	178.38	208.64	208.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Sikkim	43.47	43.47	25.51	25.51	54.01	21.49
18.	Assam	442.21	442.21	922.53	836.09	611.95	157.60
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	88.63	88.63	54.19	54.19	61.58	26.76
20.	Manipur	67.24	67.24	80.25	80.25	62.89	62.89
21.	Meghalaya	173.19	173.19	183.49	183.49	142.88	12.76
22.	Mizoram	141.71	141.71	367.91	367.91	182.71	118.47
23.	Nagaland	106.45	106.45	151.59	151.59	127.77	126.88
24.	Tripura	185.73	185.73	130.43	130.43	198.13	114.13
Total		4844.16	4844.16	6856.94	6641.94	6422.43	4618.88

\*\*The amount allocated released also includes the amount directly spent by CSB under certain components.

[English]

#### Special Credit Cards to Farmers

1219. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has decided to issue special cards to the farmers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the impact on the farmers of such special credit card have been assessed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Rise in Prices of Edible Oil

1220. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of groundnut and sunflower oil shot up steeply during the recent festival season leading to cascading effect on other edible oil;

(b) if so, the reasons for sudden spurt in prices of these oil;

(c) whether the Government proposes to import edible oil on a large scale to meet the current shortage and to stabilise the prices of edible oil in the country; and

(d) if so, the quantity of oil proposed to be imported and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The prices of groundnut oil and sunflower oil have increased marginally during the recent festival season i.e. by about 4% in the last one month. However, groundnut oil prices have declined by about 10% whereas sunflower oil prices have gone up by about 15% in the last three months.

(b) The rise in prices may be due to the following reasons:—

(i) Increase in the prices of edible oils in the international market.

(ii) Low estimated production of oilseeds in the oil year 2006-07 (Nov.-Oct.) as compared to production of previous year.

(c) and (d) Government have no plans to import edible oils on a large scale. Import of oilseeds/ edible oils except copra/coconut oil has been allowed on Open General Licence (OGL) and import duty have been adjusted to ensure adequate availability and stabilize prices of edible oil in the country.

[*Translation*]

### Cultivation of Vegetables

1221. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of vegetable in the country is very low due to the lack of interest of the farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Government has launched any programme for giving support to farmers to grow vegetables; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. India is the second largest producer of vegetables in the world. Total production of vegetables is estimated at 108.20 million metric tonnes from an area of 7.05 million ha during 2005-06.

(b) and (c) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, namely Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States (TMNE) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM), aim at increasing the production and productivity of horticultural crops including vegetables. Under these Schemes, assistance is provided to the farmers for quality planting material of elite cultivars, adoption of new technologies, integrated pest and disease management, integrated nutrient management and farm mechanization. Besides, National Horticulture Board is also implementing schemes which provide assistance for production vegetables such as tomato, capsicum, etc. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Micro-irrigation provides assistance to farmers for efficient use of water. These measures are expected to enhance the productivity of horticultural crops including vegetable crops to reduce their cost of production and increase the supply to meet around the year demand of these food items. A statement showing the details of area, production & productivity of vegetable crops during 2003-04 to 2005-06 enclosed.

### Statement

#### *Area, Production and Productivity of Vegetable Crops*

Area (000ha.); Production (000mt); (T/ha)

Crops	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
	Area	Production	Productivity	Area	Production	Productivity	Area	Production	Productivity
Potato	1484.7	27925.8	18.8	1523.9	28287.7	18.9	1550.2	29093.7	18.8
Onion	553.8	6267.6	11.3	613.8	7760.6	12.7	695.1	9248.4	13.3
Tomato	502.8	8125.6	16.2	497.6	8637.7	17.4	534.5	9361.8	17.5
Peas	285.2	1901.2	6.7	276.7	1971.8	7.1	314.0	2298.7	7.3
Cauliflower	267.9	4940.2	18.5	238.2	4507.9	18.9	291.8	5260.1	18.0
Cabbage	255.1	5594.6	21.7	290.3	6147.7	21.2	267.4	5921.6	22.1
Brinjal	516.4	8477.3	16.4	530.3	8703.8	16.4	553.3	9136.3	16.5
Okra	353.1	3631.4	10.3	358.3	3524.9	9.8	376.1	3684.0	9.8

Source: National Horticulture Board

**Package For Sugar**

1222. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sought a relief package of Rs. 13,000 crores for increasing sugar production in view of the large scale consumption of sugar in the State;

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

(c) the time by which the approval is likely to be given to the scheme providing a subsidy of Rs. 550 crores to sugar mills for promotion of sugar export from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Department of Food and Public Distribution, the administrative Department dealing with sugar matter, has not received any such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 have been amended vide notification G.S.R. No. 697 (E) to include a new Rule 20 A for procedure and requirements/eligibility for settlement of claims of sugar mills for export incentives on exports of sugar on or after 19.04.2007 up to 18.04.2008. The notification has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, on 07.11.2007.

*[English]*

**Lifting of Ban on Rice Export**

1223. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:  
SHRI KIREN RIJUJ:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban on export of nonbasmati rice has led to huge losses to rice traders due to cancellation of their orders;

(b) if so, whether the ban has received all round condemnation for being a retrograde step;

(c) if so, whether recommendations have been received from various quarters for lifting of the ban; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Rice traders have, reportedly, incurred losses owing to the ban on export of basmati rice. The Government has made no assessment of these losses.

(b) to (d) The Government had imposed a ban on export on non-basmati rice in order to maximize procurement of rice for meeting the requirements of targeted Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes. In the wake of representations from various stakeholder against a complete ban on export of this commodity, the Government has now allowed the export of non-basmati rice whose Minimum Export Price is more than US\$ 425 per ton.

**Loans by NABARD**

1224. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of increase in Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) every year, there is a continuous decline in the disbursement of loans by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the financial assistance provided to Bihar by NABARD during each of the last three years;

(d) whether Government of Bihar has submitted any proposal for seeking loans/financial projects from NABARD in the recent past; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The disbursement of loans under RIDF to Government of Bihar has gradually increased from Rs. 16.28 crore in 2002-03 to 201.13 crore in 2006-07.

(c) The details of financial assistance sanctioned to Government of Bihar by NABARD under RIDF during the past three years is as under:

Sl.No	Year	Amount of RIDF loan sanctioned	Refinance assistance to Banks
1.	2004-05	290.91	176.45
2.	2005-06	459.41	117.21
3.	2006-07	589.80	168.06

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. NABARD has allocated Rs. 584 crore to Government of Bihar for availing of loans out of RIDF-XIII during the Year 2007-08. Out of which Rs. 233.47 crore have already been sanctioned for 6 projects containing barge lift irrigation projects, rural roads and food protection projects.

#### **National Steering Committee**

1225. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a National Steering Committee (NSC) for guiding and Monitoring the implementation of the upgradation Scheme for industrial Training Institutes (ITIs); and

(b) if so, the details and composition of the Steering Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes Sir. National Steering Committees (NSC) have been formed by the Government for guiding and monitoring the implementation of the following two schemes for upgradation of Government industrial Training Institutes.

(i) Upgradation of 400 ITIs with World Bank Assistance; and

(ii) Upgradation of 1396 Government ITIs through Public Private Partnership

(b) The composition and functions of these Committees are enclosed as statement.

#### **Statement**

#### *The details and composition of National Steering Committees*

(i) For Upgradation of 400 ITIs with World Bank Assistance:

**Composition:-** The National Steering Committee (NSC) has nine members as follows:

- The Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment as the Chairperson,
- Three members nominated by CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM,
- Three members nominated by the Government of India with particular expertise and interest in vocational training,
- The Financial Advisor to Ministry of Labour & Employment (or his nominee) as member; and
- The Director General of Employment & Training as *ex-officio* member Secretary of the Committee.

#### **Functions:**

- Guiding the work of the National Project Implementation Unit (NPIU)
- Reviewing and approving the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) of the NPIU.
- Reviewing implementation progress periodically.
- Overseeing operational activities of State Steering Committees.
- Considering recommendations put forward by State Steering Committees for financing proposals in IDPs.
- Considering proposals for the Incentive and Innovations Funds and deciding on proposals that are to be financed.



- Appraising proposals from MoLE for policy development activities and suggesting areas for policy development to be taken up by NIPU.
- Scrutinizing and approving proposals for foreign training and study tours.

**(ii) For Upgradation of 1396 Government ITIs Through Public Private Partnership:**

**Composition:** The National Steering Committee (NSC) has 12 members as follows:

- The Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, as the Chairperson,
- The Director General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour & Employment as the *ex-officio* member Secretary,
- The Financial Advisor, Ministry of Labour & Employments member,
- Three representatives nominated by Industry Associations namely, CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM,
- Three representatives nominated by the Central Government; and
- Three representatives of State Governments (by rotation)

**Functions:**

- Guiding the overall implementation and monitoring of the scheme,
- Guiding the work of the National implementation Cell (NIC)
- Reviewing progress of implementation of the scheme and taking corrective measures for improvement,
- Scrutinising cases of default in repayment of loan under the scheme and imposing penalty or take any other action deemed fit,
- Suggesting areas for policy development to be taken up by National implementation Cell,
- Any other issues considered necessary for the effective implementation of the scheme.

*[Translation]*

**Anti-terrorism Training to Foreign Armies**

1226. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests to impart anti-terrorism training to Foreign Armies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of countries in which the said training will be imparted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) Amongst other courses, Indian Army has provided training to individual officers as well as groups from friendly foreign countries at the Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare (CIJW) School, Vairangate. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) There is no proposal at present to impart the said training abroad.

**Statement**

The Number of vacancies availed by friendly foreing countries at the Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare (CIJW) School, Vairangate are as under:—

(a) Training Year 2005-2006:

(i) Bhutan	06
(ii) Nepal	05
(iii) Sri Lanka	08
(iv) Tajikistan	01
(v) Kazakhstan	01
(vi) Seychelles	01
(vii) Vietnam	01

(b) Training Year 2006-2007:

(i) Bhutan	03
(ii) Sri Lanka	08

(iii) Nepal	02
(iv) Afghanistan	01
(v) Mauritius	01
(c) Training Year 2007-08 (To be availed):	
(i) Nepal	04
(ii) Bhutan	10
(iii) Sri Lanka	14
(iv) Tajikistan	01
(v) Kazakhstan	01
(vi) Botswana	01
(vii) Afghanistan	01
(viii) Thailand	01
(ix) Indonesia	01
(x) Tanzania	01
(xi) Myanmar	02

During the last three years, group training of Armies of the following friendly foreign countries has also been conducted at the CIJW School:—

- (a) **Uzbekistan:** 30 personnel from Uzbekistan underwent training from 2nd January to 14th January 2006.
- (b) **Nigeria:** A 30 member team from Nigeria underwent training on Counter Insurgency (CI) Counter Terrorism (CT) aspects from 22nd January to 25th February, 2007.
- (c) **Indonesia:** 10 trainees from Indonesia were trained from 6th March to 27th March, 2007. A two member team from the Indian Army also conducted a CI/CT Cadre for the Indonesian Staff College in Indonesia from 18th February to 3rd March, 2007.
- (d) **Maldives:** Training of a 25 member team from Maldives is being conducted from 5th November, 2007 to 2nd December, 2007.
- (e) **Cambodia:** Training of a 13 member team from Cambodian Army is scheduled at School from 17th December 2007 to 12th January 2008.

[English]

#### Gosikhurd Irrigation Project

1227. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is providing central assistance to Gosikhurd Irrigation Project in Bhandra district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project cost is escalating since its inception in 1984;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for the project delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes. Sir,

(b) Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 241.3157 crore as loan/grant has been provided for Gosikhurd Project in Bhandra district so far.

(c) and (d) Gosikhurd Project was administratively approved by the Government of Maharashtra for Rs. 372.22 crore in March 1983. The Planning Commission had accorded investment clearance to the project for Rs. 461.19 crore on 2.11.1995. The latest estimated cost of the project as informed by the project authorities is Rs. 5659.097 crore.

(e) As informed by the project authorities, the delay in completion of project is due to paucity of funds with State Government and due to Resettlement & Rehabilitation problems of project affected persons.

#### Local Seeds

1228. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:  
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the research findings and impact of Genetically Modified (GM) seeds in production of crops and vegetables;

(b) the reaction of farmers from different States in favour or against GM technology and steps taken to educate farmers about the new technology;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allow trials of GM food and vegetable production with adequate safeguards and take steps to study and generate data on socio-economic impact of large scale production of GM crops, food and vegetables by taking farmers and consumers into confidence;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the farmers are being discouraged to use the local seeds and to exchange them with other farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to preserve all varieties of local seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Bt cotton, the first Genetically Modified (GM) seed has been made available to Indian farmers since 2002. Visible impact of Bt cotton has been observed in terms of its inbuilt potentiality to resist target insect pest, diseases and imparting other nutritional qualities and thereby increasing the productivity. The performance of Bt cotton hybrids tested in All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Programme were found superior to non- Bt cotton hybrids.

(b) The area under Bt. Cotton has increased in the country to 34.67 lakh hectare in Kharif 2006 from 29073 hectare in Kharif 2002 after release which helped to increase the production and productivity in the country. Following steps have been taken to educate farmers about the new technology:—

(i) The Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India has provided financial assistance to Biotech Consortium India Ltd. New Delhi during 2006-07 to organize awareness workshops in nine States on the issues related to Genetically Modified Crops with a focus on post released monitoring of Bt. Cotton.

(ii) The transgenic cotton seed growers organize farmers' awareness camps/days to educate farmers about the new technology.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The field trials of GM crops are permitted by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment and Forests on the recommendation of Review Committee of Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) Department of Bio-technology (DBT) of Ministry of Science and Technology subject to the following conditions:-

(i) The applicant should maintain an isolation distance of 200 m and where the Indian Minimum Seed Standards certification mandates a higher distance, the same shall be complied with.

(ii) The applicant should submit a validated event specific test protocol before undertaking the trials.

(iii) The applicant should submit the name of the lead scientist who would be responsible for conducting the trial.

(iv) Multi-Location Research Trials (MLRT) for new events should not be conducted in the farmer's field. MLRT should be undertaken by the Companies/Institutions either in their own premises, research farms, long leased land (minimum of 3 years) or at the SAU/ICAR institutions.

(e) Seeds Act, 1966, Seed Rules, 1968 and Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001 do not restrict farmers to use and exchange local seeds among them for sowing purposes. Farmers/farming communities are/shall be recognized in respect of their contribution for conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of new plant varieties under the provisions of PPV & FR Act, 2001. Improved varieties/hybrids of crops are being promoted to get the higher yield, better resistance quality in different crops for the benefit of the farming community.

(f) The National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi is collecting, conserving and documenting the germplasm of crop plants including seeds of local landraces/farmer's varieties etc. in National Genebank. The National Genebank presently holds more than 3.50 lakh accessions of over 1,200 crop/plant species.

#### NAFED

1229. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal for entry of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) in to the seed business;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) the details of Infrastructure set up by NAFED for seed business; and

(d) the details of infrastructure set up by NAFED in this regard during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) NAFED has initiated seed business through the process of seed production and marketing activities since 1966. Besides, Government has also included NAFED in the list of approved institutions eligible for seed production, marketing and other subsidies under the Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm & Maize (ISOPOM) w.e.f. 21.08.2007 during the current year.

(c) NAFED is undertaking seed production through contract farming mode in Uttarkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Goa and is in the process of extending it to other States like Gujarat and Rajasthan. NAFED has two plants one each in Maharashtra and Uttarakhand for seed processing, grading and packing and is in the process of setting up two plants in Madhya Pradesh.

(d) NAFED has fixed Rs. 69 crore target for seed business during the current financial year.

*[Translation]*

#### **Penalty on Telecom Company**

1230. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:  
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

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

(a) whether the penalty has been imposed on various Telecom Companies;

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

(c) whether the penalty has not been recovered so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the action taken/being by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be recovered?

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

#### **Workers of Closed Industrial Units In Delhi**

1231. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken so far to safeguard the interests of the labourers working in the industrial units to be closed in Delhi in the wake of the direction issued by the Supreme Court in this regard;

(b) whether the Union Government has constituted any committee to safeguard the interests of the labourers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said committee has since submitted its report to the Union Government;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per the report received from the Government of NCT of Delhi, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has ordered for closure of all industrial units that have come up in residential/non-conforming areas on or after 01.08.1990 and impermissible house hold industries in Delhi. The State Government of NCT of Delhi has taken the following steps to safeguard the interest of labourers working in the industries:

(i) 22749 industries operating in residential/non-conforming areas have been given allotment of alternate industrial plots/flats in conforming areas developed by the Government of Delhi in Bawana, Narela, Badli and Jhilmil industrial areas.

(ii) Approximately 475 hectares of land is likely to be acquired for development of industrial plots for relocating other eligible industrial units.

(iii) Under Master Plan for Delhi-2021, clusters of industrial concentration of maximum 4 hectares of contiguous area, having more than 70% plots within cluster under manufacturing and industrial activities, can be considered for redevelopment on the basis of surveys. Notification in respect of 19 such clusters which qualify for redevelopment has been issued.

(iv) As per Master Plan for Delhi- 202,51 more items have been added in the list of household industries.

The above steps would ensure minimum dislocation of industries and the labourers employed thereon. The Government of NCT of Delhi is the appropriate authority in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Licences to New Operators**

1232. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received several applications for mobile telephone licences in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the companies who have applied for such licences as on October 1st, 2007;

(c) the policy of the Government with regard to grant of such licences to new operators;

(d) whether some foreign companies have also applied for such licences; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Government has received several applications for new Unified Access Services (USA) Licences for 22 service areas.

(b) Names of the companies who have applied for new UAS Licence(s) as on 1st October, 2007 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The Government has decided to grant new USA Licences as per the existing policy.

(d) No, Sir.

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

**Statement**

*Names of Applicant companies for new USA Licences as on 1st October, 2007*

Sl.No.	Names of Applicant Companies
1	2
1.	ACME Tele Power Ltd.
2.	Adonis Projects Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Allianz infratech (P) Ltd.
4.	Anjney Loys Pvt. Ltd.
5.	Aska Projects Ltd.
6.	AT &T Global Network Services India Pvt. Ltd.
7.	Avnija Properties Ltd.
8.	Azare Properties Ltd.
9.	Balasore Alloys Ltd.
10.	Bhubaneshwar I.T. Park Developers Ltd.
11.	BPTP Ltd.
12.	ByCell Telecomm India Pvt.Ltd.
13.	Cellebrum.Com Pvt. Ltd.
14.	Cheetah Corporate Services Pvt. Ltd.
15.	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
16.	Electrotherm (India) Ltd.

1	2
17.	Gontermann-Peipers (India) Ltd.
18.	HFCL Infotel Ltd.
19.	HTMT Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
20.	Hudson Properties Ltd.
21.	Idea Cellular Ltd.
22.	Ispat Industry Ltd.
23.	JSW Power Trading Company Ltd.
24.	Meta Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
25.	Moser Baer Infrastructure Ltd.
26.	Nahan Properties Pvt. Ltd.
27.	Next Generation Telecommunications (Pvt.) Ltd.
28.	Ortel Communications Ltd.
29.	Parsvnath Developers Ltd.
30.	Prithvi Information Solutions Ltd.
31.	RSK Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
32.	S Tel Ltd.
33.	Satvik Hightech Builders Pvt. Ltd.
34.	Selene Infrastructure Private Ltd.
35.	Shippingstop Dot Com (India) Private Ltd.
36.	Shyam Telelink Ltd.
37.	Silicon Infoways Pvt. Ltd.
38.	Spice Communications Pvt. Ltd.
39.	Sterlite Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.
40.	Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
41.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.
42.	Tulip IT Services Ltd.
43.	Unitech Builders & Estates Pvt. Ltd.
44.	Unitech Infrastructures Pvt. Ltd.
45.	Videocon Industries Ltd.
46.	Volga Properties Pvt.Ltd.

*[Translation]***Benefits to Drought Prone Areas**

1233. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has executed/proposes to execute any work through rivers and channels for the drought affected areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Irrigation is a State subject and Planning execution, priority of execution as well as funding of irrigation projects is within the purview of the respective State Governments. Government of India provides Central Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme to eligible major/medium irrigation projects and surface water minor irrigation schemes on the basis of proposals to avail Central assistance under AIBP received from respective State Governments and in accordance with guidelines of the AIBP in force.

As per prevailing guidelines, surface water minor irrigation schemes of special category States and drought/prone/tribal area of non special category States are eligible for 90% grant of the project cost included in the AIBP. The major and medium irrigation projects benefiting drought prone/tribal areas are also eligible for grant up to 90% of project cost included in the AIBP. The extent of grant provided is based on the drought prone/tribal areas benefited from the project and such areas included in the AIBP.

*[English]***Price of Foodgrains Under MDM Scheme**

1234. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of issues involved in increasing the price of wheat and rice supplied under Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme to provide nutritional to lakhs of primary school children; and

(b) the reasons for charging economic rate of grains affecting 100% increase in cost of Mid-day Meal to school children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme foodgrains are supplied free of cost to the school children covered under the scheme. Foodgrains are being issued by Food Corporation of India (FCI) to the State Governments/UTs as per the allocation made by Department of Elementary Education and Literacy at BPL rates.

Due to inadequate budget provisions under food subsidy bill, Department of Food & Public Distribution has proposed that the foodgrains under all welfare schemes including Mid Day Meal scheme may be allotted at economic cost and the expenditure may be reflected in the budget of concerned Department, rather than as food subsidy. This will not have any cost implication for school children covered under the scheme.

**Technological Obsolescence In Textile Sector**

1235. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry is facing technological obsolescence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether research is being carried out to remove the technological obsolescence in the industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the scheme formulated/proposed to be formulated to remove the technological obsolescence; and

(e) the funds allocated for the purpose during the Eleventh Plan period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (e) The Indian textiles industry does not have the same technological edge as the textiles industry in developed countries. This is mainly in the weaving and processing segments. In April 1999, Government introduced the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) which provides interest and or capital subsidy on the purchase of modern machinery. In its eight years of operation so far, as on 31.03.2007. The Scheme has propelled an

investment of approximately Rs. 86,000 crore. The Government has till now released Rs. 3225.06 crore under this Scheme. The Planning Commission has not yet communicated the total Plan allocation for the Eleventh Plan period.

### Production of Cotton

1236. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has become second in the world, by surpassing USA in the production of cotton in 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is on its way to maintain its second position in cotton production in the world during 2007;

(d) the extent to which the Bt. Cotton seeds have contributed in this regard;

(e) whether cotton production has increased by 65% since 2003; and

(f) if so, the details of cotton production during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per the Report of "World Agricultural Production" for November 2007, the production of cotton in the top three cotton producing countries for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is as presented in the table below:

(Million Bales)			
Country	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Projected)
China	29.50	35.50	35.50
India	19.05	21.80	23.50
USA	23.89	21.59	18.86

Note: Production in Million Bales of 480 pounds or 217.73 kg each.

Source: 'World Agricultural Production' (Nov. 2007) brought out by the United States Department of Agriculture and accessed on the website on 22.11.2007.

Production of cotton in India was marginally more than that in USA in 2006-07 and the production in 2007-08 is projected to be significantly higher than USA.

(d) The area under Bt. Cotton was 34.67 lakh hectares, which is 38% of the total area under cotton cultivation in 2006-07 in the country.

(e) and (f) The cotton production in India has increased by about 67% since 2003-04 from 13.73 million bales to 22.94 million bales in 2007-08 are given below:

('000 Bales of 170 kg each)

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Andhra Pradesh	2108.0	2127.0	2097.0
Assam	0.6	1.0	1.0
Chhattisgarh	0.4	0.0	0.0
Gujarat	6772.0	8787.0	9000.0
Haryana	1499.0	1814.0	1912.0
Karnataka	554.0	440.0	258.0
Kerala	3.5	2.0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	745.1	829.0	425.0
Maharashtra	3160.0	4950.0	58.5.0
Orissa	144.8	108.0	146.0
Punjab	2395.00	2678.0	2440.0
Rajasthan	880.5	747.0	763.0
Tamil Nadu	213.3	174.0	82.0
Uttar Pradesh	5.2	1.0	0.0
West Bengal	6.0	23.0	0.0
Others	11.6	15.0	14.0
<b>All-India</b>	<b>18499.0</b>	<b>22696.0</b>	<b>22943.0</b>

\*4th Advance Estimates released on 19.07.2007

#1st Advance Estimates released on 19.09.2007

Others Includes Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Pondicherry.

*[Translation]***Non Procurement of Levy Sugar**1237. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has failed to procure its quota of levy sugar during the current year from the sugar mills in some States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the officers held responsible for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not procure levy sugar mills. The levy sugar is requisitioned from the sugar mills in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3(2) (f) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The levy sugar so requisitioned is allotted to State Governments/Food Corporation of India/Union Territories as per the fixed levy quotas. Hence, there is no question of failure of procurement of levy sugar from sugar mills in some States.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Unavailability of Seeds**

1238. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that farmers in the country are not getting certified seeds and fertilizers at a proper price;

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

(c) whether the seeds available in the markets are of poor germination, poor quality and are often over priced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of certified seeds to farmers at an affordable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) 194.31 lakh quintals of seeds of different crops is available in 2007-08 against the requirement of 179.84 lakh quintals as reported by States in Zonal Input Conference. Seed production of quality seed in the country has increased by about 46.13 lakh quintals during 2006-07. The Seeds Act 1966, Seeds Rules 1968 and Seed (Control) Order 1983 provide adequate provision to curtail supply of substandard seed to the farmers.

The requirement/demand of Urea, (131.66 lakh tons) Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) (40.08 lakh tons) and Muriate of Potash (MoP) (1862 lakh tons) for Rabi 2007-08 has been assessed by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in consultation with State Governments, Industry and Department of Fertilizers. The Department of Fertilizers has drawn up requisite supply plan of these fertilizers to ensure that these are available to farmers at the price fixed by the Government of India. The States have been informed accordingly.

(e) The details of assistance provided under various scheme to ensure availability of certified seeds to farmers at an affordable price are given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement***Details of Assistance Provided under Various Scheme for Promotion of Seeds of High Yielding Varieties.*

Scheme/Component	Crop	Scale of Assistance
1	2	3
Macro Management Mode of Agriculture—State Work Plan	Rice and Wheat, Bajra, Jowar, Ragi and Barley	(i) Rs. 200/- per quintal for certified seed distribution. (ii) Rs. 400/- per quintal for certified seed distribution of varieties. (iii) Rs. 1000/- per quintals for certified seed distribution of hybrid of bajra and jowar.



1	2	3
Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, pulses, Oilpalm and Maize	All Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize	(i) Rs. 500/- per quintal for foundation and certified seed production
	Oil Palm Sprouts	(ii) Rs.800/- per quintal or 25% of Seeds cost whichever is less for certified seed distribution. 75% of the cost with a ceiling of Rs. 7500/- ha. for entire land holding of farmers.
Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta	Jute and Mesta	(i) 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 300/- per quintal for foundation seed production. (ii) 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 700/- per quintal for certified seed production. (iii) 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 2000/- per quintal for certified seed distribution.
Technology Mission on Cotton	Cotton Seed	(i) 50% of the cost or Rs. 50%/- per K.g. whichever is less for foundation seed production. (ii) 25% of the cost or Rs. 15/- per Kg. whichever is less for certified seed production. (iii) Rs. 20/- per Kg. for certified seed distribution. (iv) 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 40%/- per Kg. for seed treatment.
Transport subsidy on Movement of Seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal & Hill areas of West Bengal	All certified seeds excluding potato	(i) 100% difference between road and rail transportation charge is being reimbursed to implementing States/Agencies for movement of seeds produced from out side the State to the identified State Capital/District Headquarter. (ii) Actual cost restricted to maximum limit of Rs. 60/-per quintals whichever is less for movement of seeds transported within the State from State Capital/District Headquarter to sale outlets.sale couters is being reimbursed.
Seed Village Programme	All Agriculture Crop	(i) To upgrads the quality of farmer saved seed financial assistance for distribution foundation/certified seed at 50% cost of the seed for production of quality seed. (ii) Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ Rs. 1500/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.
National Food Security Mission	Rice	(i) Rs. 1000 per quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed production. (ii) Rs. 2000 per quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified hibrid rice seed Distribution. (iii) Rs. 5 per Kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution. (iv) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties.
	Wheat	(i) Rs. 5 per Kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution. (ii) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties
	Pulses	(i) Rs. 1000 per quintal for foundation and certified seeds production. (ii) Rs. 1200 per quintal or 50% of the cost whichever is less for certified seed distribution (iii) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties.

[*Translation*]

**Technical Feasibility for Telecom Facility**

1239. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to technical feasibility there are some regions in the country where telecommunications facility is not met according to the demand;

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

(c) the techniques which Government have considered regarding technical feasibility to provide telecommunications facility to these regions; and

(d) the extent to which these techniques have been implemented?

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

(b) Most of the region of the country are technically feasible for provision of telcom facilities on demand. Some of the regions viz. North East, certain pockets of Tribal and Rural areas are technically non-feasible due to difficult terrain.

(c) BSNL has made plans to make all such areas technically feasible by using Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Satellite techniques to provide telecom facility in such regions.

(d) All Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in BSNL network have been planned to be provided with minimum 3 Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) of WLL to give umbrella coverage on all India basis in the areas of operation of BSNL.

[*English*]

**Loss of Land Due to Soil Erosion**

1240. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute has warned of the dangers of rapid loss of prime agricultural land due to soil erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Nearly 44% of the total area in the country has erosion rates more than the permissible limit of 10 tonnes/ha/year. Accordingly, over 5.3 billion tonnes of soil and around 8.4 million tonnes of plant nutrients are lost every year through water erosion. Rough estimates show agricultural loss from soil erosion to the tune of Rs. 5200-8400 crores per annum.

(c) The Government is implementing location specific erosion control measures developed by Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun through different integrated watershed management programmes run by various agencies.

**Foodgrain Policy**

1241. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to review the comprehensive National Foodgrains Policy (NEP) for setting up of high-tech godowns as part of measures to decentralize food storage;

(b) if so, whether any Committee has been constituted to go into the entire gamut of food security and buffer stock;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps are being taken by the Government to make NFP more effective and result oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Decrease in Export of STPI**

1242. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) units has been decreasing the recent past;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) The Software export through Software Technology Park of India (STPI) units has been growing and export for last four years are as follows:

Financial Year	In Rs. crores
2003-04	51,458.00
2004-05	74,019.00
2005-06	1,00,965.00
2006-07	1,44,214.00

**Use of Chemical Fertilisers**

1243. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether continuous use of chemical fertilizers has a deleterious effects on soil fertility;

(b) whether to increase the foodgrain production, the farmers are using excess of nitrogenous fertilizers causing damage to agriculture;

(c) if so, steps taken to educate the farmers about judicious uses of chemical fertilizers;

(d) whether organic food has good nutrient value;

(e) if so, measures taken to make farmers aware of the use of organic nutrients to produce nutrient food;

(f) whether any research has been conducted by Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) regarding soil fertility; and

(g) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country during 2005-06 is 105 Kg. There is no scientific evidence of declining soil fertility due to use of chemical fertilizers.

(b) Use of nitrogenous fertilizers alone may create deficiencies of other nutrients affecting soil health and crop productivity. Excess use of nitrogenous fertilizers may cause imbalance of nutrients. Therefore, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recommends Nitrogen, Phosphorous & Potash in the ratio of 4:21: at the Macro Level.

(c) To educate the farmers about the judicious use of chemical fertilizers ICAR is imparting training, organizing workshops and lying field demonstration etc. on INM.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) advocating soil test based Balanced Use of Fertilizers in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients like compost, vermin compost, farm yard manure, green manuring etc. and bio fertilizers.

(f) and (g) ICAR through its All India Coordinated Research Projects on (i) 'Macro & Secondary nutrients' (ii) Soil Test Crop Response and (iii) Long Term Fertilizer Experiments is giving due attention towards soil fertility related issues.

*[Translation]*

**Basic Numbers in Mobile Phones**

1244. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mobile service providers are not providing the facility of basic numbers such as 100, 101 and 102 to the mobile subscribers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints from the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, all the mobile service providing the facility of basic numbers such as 100, 1001 and 102 to the mobile subscribers.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

[*English*]

#### Shortage of Foodgrains

1245. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has indicated that there is no shortage of essential commodities in the country and the production is more than the consumption;

(b) if so, the details and findings of the survey;

(c) whether in view of the above the Government has instituted any study to find out the reasons behind the shortage and price rise of essential commodities during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Prices of Agro Products

1246. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

PROF. M. RAMDASS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Board/Committee to determine prices of various agro-products during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether representatives of the farmers have also been included in the said Board/Committee;

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

(d) the criteria laid down for determining the prices of the agro-products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No such Board/Committee has been set up recently. The Agricultural Prices Commission, precursor to the present Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), was set up in 1965. CACP, while formulating its recommendations on price policy, considers a number of important factors, *inter-alia*, which include cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in domestic and global market forces, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on cost of living, and parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers.

The cost of cultivation/production taken into account includes all paid out costs, such as those incurred on account of hired human labour bullock labour/machine labour (both hired and owned) and rent paid for leased in land besides cash and kind expenses on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges including cost of diesel/electricity for operation of pump sets, etc. Besides, cost of production includes imputed value of wages of family labour and rent for owned land. The cost also covers depreciation of farm machinery and buildings.

The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices is a seven Member Commission consisting of a Chairman, Member Secretary and 5 Members (2 official and 3 non-official). The non-official members represent the farming community.

#### **Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme**

1247. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme offered by National Textile Corporation (NTC) alongwith the number of persons availing the said scheme;

(b) whether the employment opportunities have been created in the revived/modernized NTC mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions stipulated for recruitment in these mills;

(d) whether the Government proposes to give priority in employment to the children of retrenched workers of closed mills; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA). (a) As on 01.11.2007, total 55726 employees have opted for Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) and an amount of Rs. 1955.23 crores has been paid to them as compensation copy of the Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) Employment opportunities will be created in the revived/modernized mills as per work load norms of Textile Research Associations and demand of textile industry.

(d) and (e) There is no provision in the approved revival scheme for giving priority in employment to the children of retrenched workers of closed mills. The mills have been closed under Industrial Disputes (ID) Act and all the employees who have gone under MVRS have been given attractive extra compensation.

#### **Statement**

*National Textile Corporation Limited (Holding Company) Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS)*

#### **1.0 SCHEME, SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY**

##### **SCHEME**

1.1 In supersession of Revised Voluntary Retirement Scheme circulated vide letter No. NTC/VRS/15/2000 dated 19th June, 2001, a Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme Vide DEPE's OM No.2 (32) 97-DPE(WC/GLL-VI) dated 6th November, 2001 and with the approval of MOT vide letter No. 18011/7/94 dated 14/12/2001 is introduced to rationalize surplus manpower and reduce its losses.

1.2 The Scheme has been categorized as Modified Voluntary Scheme (MVRS). The scope eligibility benefits, etc given hereunder.

##### **SCOPE**

1.3 The scheme shall apply to all regular/permanent employees, badli/substitute/temporary/casual workers (by whatever name called) who are within the sanctioned strength and whose names appear in the muster roll of 39 mills as per Annexure II in the phase I 21 mills as per Annexure III in the phase II. However the scheme will be extended only in 20 mills as per Annexure-1 immediately and the date of applicability in other mills will be notified in due course.

##### **ELIGIBILITY**

#### **1.4 MODIFIED VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT SCHEME (MVRS)**

Regular/Permanent employees, Badli/Substitute Temporary/ casual workers by whatever name called and are being paid regular wages within the sanctioned strength and whose name appear in the muster roll of NTC Mills as indicated in para 1.3 above are eligible to opt for voluntary retirement by tendering resignation from the post held in NTC in the prescribed form. The benefits under the Scheme are given at para. 3.1. The Trainees under any scheme are not eligible for MVRS.

1.5 The age of superannuation/retirement shall be treated as 58 years as applicable or as specifically provided for in the Certified Standing Orders/Agreements/ Awards

by the Company which are legally enforceable. Retirement benefits under this scheme shall be calculated and paid as per the original declaration/evidence of date of birth furnished in original Provident Funds records, whichever is earlier.

1.6 The management reserves the right to refuse a MVRS application without assigning any reasons. Further application for MVRS in respect of the 1.6.1. & 1.6.2 may be put up before Board of Director for consideration.

1.6.1 Where disciplinary proceedings are either pending or are contemplated against the employee concerned for imposition of major penalty;

1.6.2 Where prosecution in a Criminal Court is contemplated or may have already been launched in any Court of Law; and

1.6.3 Employees who resign from the service of the Company in a normal manner are not entitled to MVRS.

## 2.0 COMPETENT AUTHORITY

2.1 The Competent Authority for accepting and employees offer for MVRS as applicable, shall be the appointing authority. In the case of workmen working in a mill, General Manager (Head of the mill unit when no General Manager is appointed) of the mill shall be the Competent Authority except in the cases referred at 1.6.1 & 1.6.2 above in whose case acceptance or otherwise shall be Board of Director.

## 3.0 BENEFITS UNDER THE SCHEME

An employee whose offer for Modified Voluntary Retirement is accepted shall be entitled to compensation, details of which are given in the succeeding paragraphs.

### MODIFIED VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT SCHEME (MVRS)

3.1.1 Ex. gratia payment equivalent to 35 days for every completed year of service and 25 days for the balance of service left until superannuation. The compensation will be subject of a minimum salary that the employee would draw at the prevailing level for the balance of the period left before superannuation.

3.1.2 The additional ex-gratia compensation payable to an employee shall be as under:

- (i) Where there was no wage revision after 01.01.1987 additional compensation of 100% of the eligible ex-gratia amount as per para 3.1.1.
- (ii) Where there was no wage revision after 01.01.1992 additional compensation of 50% of the eligible ex-gratia amount as per para 3.1.1.

3.1.3 Salary for purpose of VRS will consist of Basic Pay +HRA only. Any amount of adhoc award will not be taken into account for this purpose.

3.1.4. Arrears of salary wages paid due to revision etc. will be included in computing the eligible amount and difference would be paid.

3.15 Payment of Bonus as per provisions in the Act.

3.1.6. For the purpose of reckoning a month while calculating ex-gratia amount if shall be reckoned as 30 days in a month further compensation for proportional month is also to be taken into account for calculate for the ex-gratia.

3.17 in the case of Badli workers compensation will be paid for every completed year and compensation for the remaining service irrespective of minimum requirement of 240 days service in year (as in the case of permanent employees) once their names are bore on the muster roll of the mill.

## 4.0 OTHER TERMINAL BENEFITS UNDER THE SCHEME

4.1 Balance in the provident funds accounts payable as per Employees Provident Fund Act and rules made thereunder.

4.2 Cash equivalent of accumulated earned leave/ privilege leave as per the rules of the mills/office. concerned.

4.3 Gratuity as per payment of Gratuity Act or the Gratuity Scheme; if any.

## 5.0 PROCEDURE

5.1 An eligible employee may submit an application in the prescribed form for voluntary retirement under the scheme by tendering resignation from the post held and service in NTC to the Competent Authority. The post falling vacant as a result of an employee's voluntary retirement under the scheme shall in all case stand abolished simultaneously while accepting resignation and order to that effect issued simultaneously before disbursing retirement benefits to employees under this scheme and no person (permanent/Badli/Substitute/Temporary,etc) shall be engaged in his/her place.

5.2 The abolition of a vacant post shall not be treated as a substitute for abolition of an occupied post. In exceptional case and for reasons to be recorded in writing a corresponding manned post (not vacant post) can also

be abolished. Orders to this effect shall be issued before accepting resignation and disbursing retirement benefits.

5.3 An employee retiring under this scheme shall not be eligible for appointment in any Mills/office/retail Showroom etc. of NTC Group in any capacity, whatsoever.

5.4 The existing permanency level shall not be increased and no badli/temporary/casual converted into permanent.

5.5 All payments under this scheme shall be made by crossed Account Payee cheque only in favour of the retiring employee. The cheque shall be handed over to the retiring employee only after he/she affixes his signature thumb impression in token of its receipt, which shall be countersigned by at least two witnesses. In the case of workmen in the mills Labour Welfare Officer and the Security Officer of the mills concerned shall also countersign.

5.6 The period of any training e.g. Management Trainees, Trainee Supervisors or Company Trainee like apprentice training before being absorbed in regular grade in continuation of training will not be taken into account for reckoning the length of service in the Company.

5.7 In the case of show-room employees of Retail Marketing Division the calculation of compensation/*ex-gratia* will be on the basis of their salary plus average of incentive/commission earned by them over a period of best five years.

5.8 The Modified voluntary Retirement scheme is also applicable to casual/Temporary (by whatever name called) workers of NTC mill provided they had worked for minimum 240 days in a year.

5.9 Payment under the scheme is subject to employee's vacating Company's accommodation or leased accommodation, returning of all Company's properties held by him/her and payment of all outstanding dues to the Company.

5.10 Once an employee avails himself/herself of voluntary retirement from a PSU he/she shall not be allowed to take up employment in any other PSU. If he/she desires to do so, he/she shall have to return the VRS compensation received by him/her to the PSU concerned. Where the compensation was paid out of a

Government grant, the PSU concerned shall remit the amount of the Government in case the PSU is already closed/marged, the VRS compensation shall be returned directly to the Government.

#### 6.0 METHOD OF CALCULATION OF GRATUITY

6.1 GRATUITY:-Gratuity shall be calculated as per provisions contained in the Payment of Gratuity Act. 1972 as amended from time to time.

#### 7.0 AMENDMENTS

7.1 CMD of NTC (Holding Company) shall be competent to modify/alter/amend the said scheme.

#### Krishi Vigyan Kendra

1248. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR:  
SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has approached the Union Government for financial assistance to set up Eleven Krishi Vigyan Kendra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has also requested for financial support to set up Agricultural Colleges in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) All the 26 rural districts of Karnataka have a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in line with the Government decision to establish a KVK in each of the 589 rural districts in the country. Recently, the Karnataka Government has approached the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to set up KVKs in Ramanagaram and Chikkaballapur districts, created after bifurcating the erstwhile two districts, viz, Bangalore Rural and Kolar respectively.

(c) and (d) The Government of Karnataka has already established eight Colleges of Agriculture under its State Agricultural Universities. Establishment of new colleges does not come under the purview of ICAR and the Council has not received any such request from the State Government.

#### **Setting up of Cyber Cafes**

1249. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up one lakh village cyber cafes in two years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cyber cafes set up so far; and

(c) the type of facilities is likely to be made available in such cyber cafes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Government has approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled kiosks termed as common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These centres would be opened in the ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 census villages in a State. These Centres would provide a mix of Government and Private services in rural areas. The Scheme is expected to facilitate the delivery of enabled Government services at the doorstep of the citizen. Further, since these centers would also be providing private services, a large insurance, entertainment etc. are also expected to be provided by the operators through these CSCs. People in villages would also be able to surf the internet through these CSCs. The scheme is to be implemented in a public private partnership. The full details of the scheme are available in the CSC guidelines which are accessible at [www.mit.gov.in](http://www.mit.gov.in).

#### **Distribution Under PDS**

1250. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortage of foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS) in some States whereas a surplus is present in other States;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for optimum and adequate distribution in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of India allocates foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to States and Union Territories based on certain uniformly applicable norms. For making these allocations, procurement of foodgrains is done by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State procurement agencies. FCI and State Government agencies store the procured quantities of foodgrains. As per the allocations, concerned State and UT Government lift the foodgrains from FCI godowns and godowns of States agencies. Movement of foodgrains from godowns of FCI and State agencies is planned and executed by them to ensure that the monthly allocations reach all the States and Union Territories in time. This is a continuous process which is monitored regularly.

Since procurement of rice and wheat takes place only in major rice and wheat producing States, more quantities of rice and wheat are stored in the storage facilities in those States. Therefore, at a particular point in time, the quantities of rice and wheat stored in major procurement States are more. They get moved as per requirement to the deficit States as per the allocations made. Since existence of higher quantities of rice and wheat in the procurement States are part of management of storage, it cannot be interpreted to mean that surplus or deficit of foodgrains are there under TDPS.

#### **Law Relating to Internet Service Provider**

1251. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government proposes to make the laws relating to the Internet Service Providers more stringent in respect of third party contents;



(b) if so, whether it is being taken on the report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications & Information Technology;

(c) if so, whether the Government has received any request or object's from Service Providers of interest for dropping of any such amendment making service providers for any unlawful exchange of information by individuals or organisations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Government had introduced a Bill on 15.12.2006. in Lok Sabha to amend Information Technology Act, 2000. The Bill *inter alia* proposes to insert a provision for exemption of intermediaries from liabilities in certain circumstances, subject to stipulated conditions and observation of such other guidelines as may be prescribed by the Government. The Bill was referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology. The Committee has made recommendations on the said provisions in the Bill, which are being processed for further submission before the Parliament.

(c) and (d) Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMI) has submitted their views and feedback on the recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006. IAMI has elicited the support of the Government in making amendments more favourable to legitimate service providers from what they are in the present form.

### **Credit for Farmers**

1252. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments are demanding more credit for the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has examined their demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Demands for more credit to the farmers have been coming from time-to-time from various quarters including the States Governments. In addition to more credit, the demands primarily consists of:

- (i) Credit flow to farmers in hassle free manner;
- (ii) Expanding the outreach of formal credit system to reach more number of farmers; and
- (iii) Reducing rate of interest on farm loans.

(c) and (d) The Union Government in consultation with Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development has taken several steps for improving credit flow to the farmers. Details of these measures are enclosed as statement.

### **Statement**

#### **Steps For Improving Credit Flow to The Farmers**

The Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and NABARD has initiated several measures for improving credit to the farmers. Some of the important measures are given below:

1. To accelerate the flow of credit to agriculture and allied activities, the Government had announced on 18 June, 2004, a comprehensive Farm Credit Package envisaging, *inter alia*, a 30% growth in credit to agriculture and allied sector and doubling it over the next three years beginning from 2004-05 taking 2003-04 as base year. The credit package also envisaged to finance 50 lakh new farmers each year by Commercial Banks including RRBs. The ground level agricultural credit flow during the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 and coverage of new agriculture accounts opened by Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and RRBs during last three years is given below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Agency	Credit Flow (Base 2003-04 year)	Target 2004-05	Achvt. as on 31.03.2005	Target 2005-06	Achvt. as on 31.03.2006	Target 2006-07	Achvt. as on 31.03.2007	Target 2007-08	Achvt. as on 30.09.2007
Comm. Banks	52441	57000	81481	87200	125477	119000	140382	150000	60770
Coop. Banks	26959	39000	31424	38600	39786	41000	42480	52000	27719
RRBs	7581	8500	12404	15200	15223	15000	20434	23000	12532
<b>Total</b>	<b>86981</b>	<b>104500</b>	<b>125309</b>	<b>141000</b>	<b>180486</b>	<b>175000</b>	<b>203296</b>	<b>225000</b>	<b>101021</b>

Source: NABARD

*Coverage of new farmers by Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks & RRBs*

(Accounts in lakh)

Sr.No.	Year	Target	No. of Accounts
1.	2004-05	50	79
2.	2005-06	50	79
3.	2006-07	50	83

Source: NABARD

2. In order to strengthen the Cooperative Credit Institutions, a Package of measures, as recommended by the Vaidyanathan Committee, is under implementation. So far, 18 States and 1 Union Territory have conveyed their acceptance of the package. The package includes financial support, human resource skill improvement and systems upgradation, associated with legal reforms.

3. Banks have been advised to simplify the procedure of documentation for agricultural loans;

4. Loans upto Rs. 50,000/ have been made collateral and margin free;

5. Effective from Kharif 2006-07 the Government has lowered the interest rates on crop loans to 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakhs on the principal amount. It has been decided to continue this policy for the year 2007-08 also;

6. Banks have been advised to provide all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards to enable them to have hassle free access to credit.

7. To improve the outreach among the poor and the informal sector, the SHG-Bank linkage programme was intensified, particularly in 13 priority States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal with vast majority of the rural poor. Banks have also been advised to finance Joint Liability Groups and Tenant Groups and Tenant Farmers' Groups;

8. As part of the measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India for financial inclusion, banks have been advised to open "No Firls" accounts and issue simple overdraft facility against such accounts. Banks have also been advised to issue General Credit Cards upto Rs. 25,000/- without insisting on security and end use of funds;

9. Banks have been advised to undertake, on a pilot basis, 100% financial inclusion in at least one district in each State. Based on the success of the pilot, the State Level Bankers Committee in the States will draw a time bound plan for achieving 100% financial inclusion in other districts of the State;

10. To improve the financial outreach, detailed guidelines for Banking Correspondent/ Banking Facilitator Models have been provided to banks;

11. Government has announced creation of two funds, i.e. Financial Inclusion Fund and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund in the Union Budget for 2007-08.

#### Poor Quality Seeds

1253. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are being repeatedly deceived with the supply of poor quality of seeds, insecticides, pesticides and fertilizer; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the farmers to achieve higher production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) 194.31 lakh quintals of seeds of different crops is available in 2007-08 against the requirement of 179.84 lakh quintals as reported by States in Zonal Input

Conference. Seed production of quality seed in the country has increased by about 46/13 lakh quintals during 2006-07. The requirement/demand of Urea, (131.66 lakh tons) Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) (40.08 lakh tons) and Muriate of Potash (MoP) (18.62 lakh tons) for Rabi 2007-08 has been assessed by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in consultaion with State Governments, Industry and Department of Fertilizers. The Department of Fertilizers has drawn up requisite supply plan of these fertilizers to ensure that these are available to farmers at the price fixed by the Government of India. The States have been informed accordingly.

To regulate the quality of seeds insecticides, pesticides and fertilizer, mechanisms are in place under Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rules 1968, Seed (Control) Order 1983, Insecticides Act, 1968, Insecticides Rules 1971, Essential Commodity Act, 1955 and Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 as amended from time to time. Enforcement of these legal instruments is vested with the State Governments/ Union Territories. Inspectors notified under these legal instruments are empowered to draw the samples, seize the stock, issue stop sale order in case the commodities under reference contravene these Acts, Rules and Orders.

The details of assistance provided under various scheme to ensure availability of certified seeds to farmers at an affordable price are given in the Statement enclosed.

#### Statement

##### *Details of Assistance Provided under Various Scheme for Promotion of Seeds of High Yielding Varieties.*

Scheme/Component	Crop	Scale of Assistance
1	2	3
Macro Mangement Mode of Agriculture—State Work Plan	Rice and Wheat, Bajra, Ragi and barley	(i) Rs. 200/- per quintal for certified seed distribution. (ii) Rs. 400/- per quintal for certified seed distribution of varieties. (iii) Rs. 1000/- per quintals for certified seed distribution of hybrid of bajra and jowar.
Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, pulses, oilpalm and Maize	All Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize production  Oil Palm Sprouts	(i) Rs. 500/- per quintal for foundation and certified seed production. (ii) Rs.800/- per quintal or 25% of Seeds cost whichever is less for certified seed distribution. 75% of the cost with a ceiling of Rs. 7500/- ha. for entire land holding of farmers

1	2	3
Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta	Jute and Mesta	(i) 50% if the cost limited to Rs. 300/- per quintal for foundation seed production. (ii) 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 700/- per quintal for certified seed production. (iii) 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 2000/- per quintal for certified seed distribution.
Technology Mission on Cotton	Cotton Seed	(i) 50% of the cost or Rs. 50/- per K.g. whichever is less for foundation seed production. (ii) 25% of the cost or Rs. 15/- per Kg. whichever is less for certified seed production. (iii) Rs. 20/- per Kg. for certified seed distribution. (iv) 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 40/- per Kg. for seed treatment.
Transport subsidy on Movement of seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal & Hill areas of West Bengal	All certified seeds excluding potato	(i) 100% difference between road and rail transportation charge is being reimburse to implementing States/Agencies for movement of seeds produced from out side the State to the identified State Capital/District Headquarter. (ii) Actual cost restricted to maximum limit of Rs. 60/-per quintals whichever is less for movement of seeds transported within the State from State Capital/District Headquarter to sale outlets.sale couters is being reimbursed.
Seed Village Programme	All Agriculture Crop	(i) To upgrade the quality of farmer saved seed financial assistance for distribution foundation/certified seed at 50% cost of the seed for production of quality seed. (ii) Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ Rs. 1500/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.
National Food Security Mission	Rice	(i) Rs. 1000 per quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed production. (ii) Rs. 2000 per quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified hibrid rice seed Distribution. (iii) Rs. 5 per Kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution. (iv) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties.
	Wheat	(i) Rs. 5 per Kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution. (ii) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties
	Pulses	(i) Rs. 1000 per quintal for foundation and certified seeds production. (ii) Rs. 1200 per quintal or 50% of the cost whichever is less for certified seed distribution (iii) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties.

**Privatisation of Water Sector**

1254. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Water Bodies/Rivers in the country have been sold or given on lease to private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating the number of water bodies sold/leased;

(c) whether there has been protests by the local people against this action alongwith the steps taken to resolve the same;

(d) whether the Government has made any scientific study about the impact of such commercial sale of water on the people, the bio-diversity and the aquifer; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken to resolve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No. Sir. State Governments have not informed about selling or giving of the water bodies or the rivers as such in the country to private sector. However, some of the States have provided information about private sector participation in the utilization of water resources for various purposes such as hydropower, industrial uses and for drinking purposes, etc.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Withdrawal of MSP**

1255. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank (WB) has suggested to withdraw the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) in Agriculture Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard to the suggestions put forward by the WB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a)

to (c) The World Bank has not recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) be removed.

**Budget for AAY**

1256. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the budget provided for the Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) during 2007-08, State-wise; and

(b) the States that failed to utilise the budget provided under AAY for each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) and (b): As one segment to Targeted Public Distribution System, Antyodaya Anna Yojana is being implemented since December, 2000. Under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Government makes allocation of foodgrains to States and Union Territories for AAY families identified by them @ 35 kg. per family per month. State-wise details of AAY families are given in the statement I enclosed.

Budget Provision for AAY is included as part of subsidy on foodgrains. Budget provision is not made in terms of funds separately for AAY.

Allocations and offtake of rice and wheat under AAY during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and current year in statement II enclosed. The overall offtake of rice and wheat of rice and wheat under the AAY is 92-93%.

**Statement I***AAY Households Identified for which Foodgrains are Allocated under TDPS*

Sl.No	States/UTs	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.578
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.380
3.	Assam	7.040

1	2	3	1	2	3
4.	Bihar	24.285	21.	Orissa	12.645
5.	Chhattisgarh	7.189	22.	Punjab	1.794
6.	Delhi	0.985	23.	Rajasthan	9.321
7.	Goa	0.145	24.	Sikkim	0.165
8.	Gujarat	8.098	25.	Tamil Nadu	18.646
9.	Haryana	2.924	26.	Tripura	1.131
10.	Himachal	1.971	27.	Uttar Pradesh	40.945
11.	J &K	2.557	28.	Uttarakhand	1.512
12.	Jharkhand	9.179	29.	West Bengal	14.799
13.	Karnataka	11.997	30.	A & N Islands	0.043
14.	Kerala	5.958	31.	Chandigarh	0.021
15.	Madhya Pradesh	15.816	32.	D & N Haveli	0.052
16.	Maharashtra	24.100	33.	Daman & Diu	0.015
17.	Manipur	0.504	34.	Lakshadweep	0.012
18.	Meghalaya	0.702	35.	Pondicherry	0.322
19.	Mizoram	0.261			
20.	Nagaland	0.475		Total	241.567

**Statement II**

*Allocation and Offtake of Rice & Wheat for AAY families during the Years 2004-05 to 2007-08 (upto Sept., 07) under TPDS*

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
		Allocation	Offtake	%Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	%Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	%Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	%Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	AP	476.248	456.115	95.77	620.247	608.56	98.12	654.288	656.771	100.38	327.144	326.957	99.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.816	8.861	88.23	12.936	12.4	95.86	15.972	9.069	56.78	7.986	2.875	36.00
3.	Assam	150.088	139.178	92.73	175.104	181.09	103.42	294.16	272.045	92.46	147.6	151.848	102.88
4.	Bihar	420	382.079	90.97	472.533	421.06	89.11	682.091	586.332	85.54	509.994	434.115	85.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7.	Goa	4.112	5.04	122.57	5.739	2.447	42.64	6.108	30.94	64.51	3.54	2.496	81.73
8.	Gujarat	167.081	114.301	68.41	258.785	192.34	74.32	310.848	259.993	86.64	170.04	147.895	86.86
9.	Haryana	71.532	65.097	91.00	86.058	76.89	89.35	109.394	102.921	94.08	61.41	58.254	94.86
10.	Himachal Pradesh	44.116	41.755	94.65	62.284	55.6	89.27	76.806	77.244	100.57	41.37	37.803	91.38
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	66.076	43.508	65.85	88.749	73.9	82.36	104.007	98.433	94.64	53.694	53.678	99.97
12.	Jharkhand	204.38	167.666	82.04	305.268	282.63	92.58	305.268	299.266	98.03	159.323	150.144	94.24
13.	Karnataka	326.463	300.882	92.16	407.752	378.35	92.79	491.35	465.2	94.68	251.946	241.121	95.70
14.	Kerala	156.56	156.714	94.66	207.088	200.722	96.93	248.331	249.313	100.40	125.13	125.038	99.93
15.	Madhya Pradesh	406.254	380.325	93.82	534.141	509.58	95.40	650.16	603.987	92.90	331.532	318.241	95.99
16.	Maharashtra	674.467	598.26	88.70	829.836	736.41	88.74	833.22	696.753	83.86	506.118	417.561	82.50
17.	Manipur	11.93	8.631	72.35	21.864	13.96	63.85	21.18	18.411	86.93	10.59	11.462	108.23
18.	Meghalaya	16.708	16.119	96.47	23.292	22.72	97.54	23.352	23.352	100.00	14.742	14.746	100.03
19.	Mizoram	7.439	7.098	95.42	10.401	10.01	96.24	10.82	11.246	102.99	5.46	5.46	100.00
20.	Nagaland	12.551	11.922	94.99	16.263	16.44	101.09	19.968	22.976	115.06	9.984	10.597	106.14
21.	Orissa	260.604	240.04	92.11	434.785	504.493	103.61	530.716	433.288	81.64	285.56	210.654	79.32
22.	Punjab	30.12	22.786	75.58	32.469	18.24	56.18	58.308	33.563	57.56	29.154	14.861	50.97
23.	Rajasthan	251.672	230.951	91.77	340.018	300.57	88.40	385.714	348.024	90.23	195.744	180.735	92.33
24.	Sikkim	4.164	4.058	97.45	4.164	4.32	103.75	6.474	6.474	100.00	3.468	3.472	100.12
25.	Tamil Nadu	434.011	424.791	97.88	644.897	657.63	102.01	783.144	775.366	99.01	391.572	394.003	100.62
26.	Tripura	22.971	21.376	93.06	28.536	28.53	99.98	28.536	25.458	89.21	22.178	19.302	87.03
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1,169.14	1,126.056	96.32	1,539.69	1,438.289	93.41	1,720.01	1,692.331	98.39	859.74	846.155	98.42
28.	Uttaranchal	32.052	41.62	129.85	46.759	34.615	74.03	59.667	47.404	79.46	31.758	30.24	95.22
29.	West Bengal	391.595	280.473	66.52	562.571	454.3	80.75	621.684	515.641	82.94	310.842	268.357	85.69
30.	A & N Islands	1.8	0	0.00	1.8	0.53	29.44	1.8	0.82	45.56	0.9	0.641	71.22
31.	Chandigarh	0.888	0.191	21.51	0.888	0	0.00	0.888	0.07	7.88	0.444	0.954	214.86
32.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1.176	0	0.00	1.528	0.72	47.12	1.772	0.38	21.44	1.098	0.15	13.66
33.	Daman & Diu	0.252	0	0.00	0.444	0.22	49.55	0.636	0.37	58.18	0.318	0.04	12.58
34.	Lakshadweep	0.168	0	0.00	0.168	0.33	196.43	0.161	0.16	99.38	0.218	0.14	64.22
35.	Pondicherry	6.874	1.235	17.97	12.25	7.91	64.57	13.548	7.14	52.70	6.774	3.814	56.30
Total		6,059.81	5,471.29	90.29	8,067.22	7,442.34	92.25	9,369.10	8,661.68	92.45	5,024.03	4,653.47	92.62

**Sona Masoori Rice**

1257. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Sona Masoori (SM) Rice exported to other countries every year;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the expense incurred in growing SM rice is Rs. 15,000 per year; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not fixing Minimum Support Prices of this variety of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The International trade data compiled by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is based on the Harmonised System (HS) code for commodity classification. As there is no separate code for Sona Masoori Rice, the export data of Sona Masoori rice is not available. However, India's total export of Rice during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 was 40.88 million tonnes and 4.747 million respectively.

(b) and (c) The cost of cultivation of Sona Masoori rice is not collected separately and hence not available.

The Government fixes MSP of common paddy and Grade 'A' paddy only on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP). As such, MSP of paddy is not fixed variety-wise and, therefore, no MSP is fixed for Sona Masoori Rice.

**National Floor Level Minimum Wages**

1258. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recommended an increase in the National Floor Level Minimum Wages;

(b) if so, the details of minimum wages recommended by the Union Government;

(c) the instruction issued to States in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the increased minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Floor Level Minimum Wages has been revised from Rs. 66/- to Rs. 80/- per day with effect from 01.09.2007

(c) and (d) The revision of National Floor Level Minimum Wages by the Government is a non-statutory measure. Thus the States/UT Governments have been requested to revise the minimum wages upwards so as to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments; the minimum wages are less than the national floor level minimum wages of Rs. 80/- per day.

**Construction of Roads along Mansarovar Route**

1259. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is planning to construct roads for Mansarovar Yatra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which roads would be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ghatiabagrh- Lipulekh road (75.54 km) in Uttarakhand along Mansarovar Yatra route is to be constructed by Border Roads Organization by 2012.

**Second Green Revolution**

1260. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a paper compiled by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has recommended that second green revolution is called for to produce high yielding variety of pulses to enhance their annual production and to meet their growing demand thereby containing rising prices;



(b) If so, whether Government has studied the strategy suggested by the ASSOCHAM;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the production of pulses; and

(d) the research that has been done in the country to develop the high yielding variety of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Government is aware of issues highlighted by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). The strategies such as productivity enhancement, improving the efficiency of resources/inputs, processing and value addition and genomics enabled crop improvement are being implemented for enhancing the production of pulses. Basic, strategic applied and anticipatory research on different aspects of pulses have been strengthened under National Agriculture Innovative Project, Strategic Research Network Projects on Priority Areas and Indo-US Knowledge initiatives.

Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) for increasing production and productivity of pulses in 14 major pulse growing States. Further, with a view to enhancing the production of pulses in the country and achieve self-sufficiency. Government has approved the implementation of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) comprising rice, wheat and pulses in identified states/districts during XI Plan. Area expansion of 4.47 million hectares through intercropping and utilization of rice fallows and productivity enhancement have been targeted during XI Five Year Plan under NFSM-Pulses.

In order to develop high yielding varieties of pulses, research on improved plant type, multiple disease resistance, biotic and abiotic stresses, genomics enabled pulses improvement transgenics for gram pod borer in chickpea and pigeonpea and Cytoplasmic Male Sterility (CMS) based hybrids in pigeonpea, introgression of genes from wild relatives and widening of genetic base of improved varieties is under way.

*[Translation]*

#### **Khesari Dal**

1261. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to allow the use of Khesari Dal in view of shortage of pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any report from committee constituted on Khesari Dal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Agriculture Commissioner, Government of India, to study the issue connected with the ban on Khesari Dal has not submitted its report. Therefore, no decision has been taken on lifting of ban on Khesari Dal.

*[English]*

#### **Closure of Ordnance Factories**

1262. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to shut down the ageing and non-revivable Ordnance Factories/Plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to absorb labourers/workers of such Ordnance Factories in other plants or offer them Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal with Government to shut down of the Ordnance Factories.

(c) Does not arise.

**Indo-US Agri Knowledge Initiative**

1263. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture scientists, environmental and social activists and farmers have demand a review of the Indo-US agricultural knowledge initiative, as it will severely affect farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has considered their view points; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Some suggestions have been received from various sources seeking a review of indo US Agricultural Knowledge Initiative (AKI) for addressing farmers' interests.

(c) and (d) AKI focuses on (i) education, learning resources, curriculum development and training; (ii) food processing and use of by products and bio-fuels; (iii) biotechnology and (iv) water management. The activities under the AKI pertain to training of scientists, joint workshops and collaborative research projects. The joint deliverables under the focus area are decided and are periodically and regularly reviewed by the Indo-US AKI Board.

**Consolidated Dairy Development Plan**

1264. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objectives and genesis of Consolidated Dairy Development Plan;

(b) the number of proposals received from various States including Rajasthan and Karnataka;

(c) the targets fixed for various States including Rajasthan and Karnataka;

(d) the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(e) the time by which the approval is to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir this Department is not implementing any Consolidated Dairy Development Plan.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) the question does not arise.

**Exploitation of Employees in Unorganised Sectors**

1265. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether so many industries in the unorganised sector do not issue appointment letter to its employees;

(b) if so, whether this result in denial of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees States Insurance (ESI) benefits to large sections of working people; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interests of the workers in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is an established practice in organized sector to issue appointment letters to workman. But many establishments in unorganised sector are not following this established practice. However, under Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act it is the statutory responsibility of the employers to issue employment cards to Contract Labours. Wherever violation are detected, efforts are made to rectify the irregularities failing which prosecution cases are launched against defaulting employers.

*[Translation]*

**Decrease in GSM Subscribers**

1266. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) users of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is decreasing continuously;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of GSM users at present, company-wise and State-wise;

(e) whether the existing equipments are being updated in proportion to the increasing number of users; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

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

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

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

(d) Details regarding total number of Global Service for Mobile Communications (GSM) users, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has set a target of 8.85 million subscribers for the year 2007-08. Details regarding targets is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

**Statement I**

*The GSM Mobile connections details of PSU as on 31.10.2007*

Sl.No	Name of Circle	Total GSM Mobile Connection
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	48106
2.	Assam	557946
3.	Bihar	769766
4.	Jharkhand	482199
5.	North East I (Including) Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram	209728
6.	North East II (Including Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh Nagaland)	294852
7.	Orissa	858967

1	2	3
8.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	1855204
9.	Chhattisgarh	442690
10.	Gujarat	1680725
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1031868
12.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	2614665
13.	Haryana	1179422
14.	Himachal Pradesh	517019
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	794790
16.	Punjab	1490886
17.	Rajasthan	2171884
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4667008
19.	Uttaranchal	556448
20.	Andhra Pradesh	2066121
21.	Karnataka	1683531
22.	Kerala	2086142
23.	Tamil Nadu	2976361
	Total (BSNL)	31034328
24.	Delhi	1274453
25.	Mumbai	1551406
	Total (MTNL)	2825859
	Total (PSU)	33860187

**Statement II**

*MOU targets for the year 2007-08 of cellular connections*

Sl.No	Name of Circle	Connections targets of F.Y. 2007-08
1	2	3
	<b>East Zone</b>	
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13000
2.	Assam	243000
3.	Bihar	270000

1	2	3
4.	Jharkhand	216000
5.	North East I (Including Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram)	81000
6.	North East II (Including Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland)	81000
7.	Orissa	216000
8.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim)	540000
	Sub Total	1660000
	West Zone	
1.	Chhattisgarh	270000
2.	Gujarat	432000
3.	Madhya Pradesh	432000
4.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	755000
	Sub Total	1889000
	North Zone	
1.	Haryana	378000
2.	Himachal Pradesh	189000
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	216000
4.	Punjab	594000
5.	Rajasthan	647000
6.	Uttar Pradesh	863000
6.	Uttaranchal	108000
	Sub total	2995000
	South Zone	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	594000
2.	Karnataka	539000
3.	Kerala	458000
4.	Tamil Nadu	715000
	Sub total	2306000
	Total	8850000

**Expansion and Development Plan for  
Telecom Services**

1267. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA:  
SHRI V. K. THUMMAR  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the mobile service in rural areas of the country specially in Gujarat and Jharkhand, Bangalore city is very poor and unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of places where the service is poor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of mobile service in the said States alongwith the expansion and development plan;

(d) the number of towers installed in the country specially in Gujarat during the last three years, location-wise;

(e) the population and area of Jharkhand covered by Mobile Telephone Service;

(f) whether any review has been conducted regarding working of officials of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL); and

(g) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir Mobile services of BSNL in rural areas of the country including Gujarat, Jharkhand and Karnataka are satisfactory in general. As on 31.10.2007, BSNL has provided mobile services in rural areas covering around 12,703 villages having population more than 5000. In addition the mobile system of the Highways/Railway route is providing incidental coverage to a number of rural areas falling en-route. As a result, 213749 villages are already getting covered by mobile communication. BSNL is now expanding its network progressively to cover all the remaining villages having population greater than 5000 on priority. BSNL has also envisaged to cover all the villages having population greater than 1000 in the coming years.

(c) BSNL is augmenting its mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage capacity and Quality of Service (QoS) Target for augmentation of the mobile network during the year 2007-08 in the following States is as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of State	Target
1.	Gujarat	432000
2.	Jharkhand	216000
3.	Karnataka	539000

BSNL is also optimizing its network for its performance continuously and monitoring of the network has been strengthened to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

(d) Number of BTS cell sites for GSM based cellular mobile service of BSNL commissioned during last 3 years (Circle-wise) is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) As on 31.10.2007 BSNL has provided mobile services covering a round 93.5 lakh population spread in around 10552 sq. kms area in the State of Jharkhand.

(f) and (g) Regular review about the working of all officials of BSNL at all levels is undertaken and based on yearly performance, Annual confidential report is also written as per prescribed procedure.

#### **Statement**

*Number of BTS cell sites for GSM based cellular mobile service of BSNL commissioned during last 3 years (Circle-Wise)*

Sl.No	Name of Circle	No. of BTS commissioned between November 2004 to October 2007
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	41
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1185
3.	Assam	453
4.	Bihar	628
5.	Chhattisgarh	373
6.	Chennai District Metro City Service Area	502
7.	Gujarat	1599

1	2	3
8.	Haryana	774
9.	Himachal Pradesh	384
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	399
11.	Jharkhand	336
12.	Karnataka	986
13.	Kerala	1300
14.	Kolkata Telephones	610
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1048
16.	Maharashtra (Including Goa)	2061
17.	North East-I & II	356
18.	Orissa	652
19.	Punjab	1052
20.	Rajasthan	1653
21.	Tamil Nadu	1310
22.	Uttar Pradesh	2091
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	895
24.	Uttaranchal	326
25.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim)	864
Total		21878

#### **Judicious use of Defence Lands**

1268. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Board or Committee to look after the land acquisition activities for cantonment and other related defence purposes in a judicious manner so that the acquired lands do not go unutilised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) As and when the need arises for acquisition of land for defence purposes Board of Officers is convened to consider the acquisition, as per laid down norms.

**Incentives to Defence Institutions**

1269. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to introduce any incentive scheme by with holding over-time allowance in defence institutions;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to ensure that this scheme proves to be an alternative measure in meeting the production targets on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Facilities to Beedi Workers**

1270. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the number of beedi workers at present in the country particularly in Rajasthan;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide health, education and housing facilities for beedi workers during each of the last three years;

(d) whether beedi workers working in beedi factories are being severely exploited by the factory owners and contractors;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government propose to provide the provident fund facility to beedi workers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Survey has been conducted in some States. A survey with the assistance of State Government of Rajasthan was conducted for identification of beedi workers and issue of the identity cards to them.

(b) The survey of beedi workers in Rajasthan was conducted between 20th April 2005 and May, 2005. In the survey, 31736 beedi workers were identified. Similarly, survey of beedi workers in the State of West Bengal was carried out in the year 2006, in which 13, 91,510 workers were identified. Survey work in Bihar and Jharkhand was initiated in the month of April, 2007, and the work is still in progress. In the State of Madhya Pradesh, the survey of beedi workers was conducted in the year 1994-95. The remaining State Governments have been requested to conduct fresh survey of beedi workers and issue of the identity cards.

(c) Statement is enclosed.

(d) No such incidence has been reported so far.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, is applicable to the beedi workers also.

(g) Under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 24,57,330 beedi workers are getting benefits as on 31.3.2007.

*[English]*

**Subsidy on Rice**

1271. SHRI RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requesting the Union Government to reduce subsidy on rice given to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families since the State is not able to shoulder the same;

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

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also been requesting to increase the quantity of rice given to the State; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in acceding to the request of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

**PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Armed Forces Medical College in Orissa**

**1272. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a medical college in Orissa on the lines of Armed Forces Medical College, Pune; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):**

(a) and (b) There is no proposal to open any Armed Forces Medical College in Orissa on the lines of the Armed College, Pune.

#### **Bilateral Cooperation**

**1273. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to initiate bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture with Canada; and

(b) if so, the details of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed or proposed to be signed for the purpose?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for the MoU is still under discussion with the Canadian side. However, tentatively, the Indian side has proposed cooperation with Canada for joint projects in areas of mutual interest on applied research, Agricultural Marketing and Technology Management, Animal Development and Protection and Fisheries etc., if mutually agreed.

*[Translation]*

#### **Assistance to Carpet Industry**

**1274. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of carpet industry in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to carpet manufacturers for development and promotion of carpet industry;

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

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the Plan period, State-wise and Year-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to provide financial assistance under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana for setting up Facility Centres; under Design Technology Upgradation Scheme for executing Product Development Programme & Integrated Design Development Programme; under Marketing Support & Services Scheme for participation in international events, etc. to carpet manufacturers for development and promotion of Carpet Industry. Further, carpet manufacturers/exports are also entitled to avail benefits of duty drawback on export grants under MDA Scheme for participation in international fairs, exhibitions, study tours, publicity, etc.

(d) Allocation of funds for the 11th Five Year Plan has not been finalized. Also funds for the schemes are not allocated State-wise.

*[English]*

#### **New Godowns in Orissa**

**1275. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:** Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the current storage capacity for foodgrains in Orissa under various agencies;

(b) whether in view of the increased procurement of paddy in Orissa the State Government has requested the Union Government to augment storage capacity for paddy in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto indicating the extent of additional capacity sought; and

(d) the time by which the additional capacity is likely to be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 1.11.2007 the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) in Orissa Region are holding total storage capacity as under:—

1.	FCI	6.01 Lakh MT
2.	CWC	3.40 Lakh MT

(b) to (d) No, Sir, However, keeping in view the trend of increased procurement of paddy in Orissa, FCI has proposed to construct additional storage capacity of 57,500 MT in the State during the XIth Five Year Plan (2007-12) at the following centers subject to availability of adequate fund and suitable land:-

Mancheswar	10,000 MT
Jaganathpur	20,000 MT
Dungrapalli	10,000 MT
Deogarh	2,500 MT
Chandbali	5,000 MT
Baripeda	10,000 MT
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,500 MT</b>

Out of the above centers, 3 centres namely Dungrapalli Mancheswar and Baripeda are proposed to be taken up in Annual Plan 2007-08, subject to sanction of Plan scheme by Government.

#### **Procurement of Aircraft for Indian Navy**

1276. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planing to phase out/ upgrade the existing Sea Harrier Aircraft of Indian Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Navy has procured MIG-29 series of Naval Aircraft from Russian;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to upgrade the facilites at Naval Aircraft Yard at Kochi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Contract for limited upgrade of Sea Harrier aircraft was concluded with M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. in March 2005. The limited upgrade is expected to be completed by September 2008.

(c) and (d) Contract for procurement of MiG 29K and KUB aircraft was concluded with FSUE RAC MIG Russia in January 2004. The aircraft are expected to be delivered by November 2008.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **New Developmental Schemes for Empowerment of SCs/STs**

1277. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details the new developmental schemes and programmes being formulated by the Government during the Eleventh Five Year Plan in addition to the ongoing schemes for empowerment of SCs and STs in the field of Agriculture, specifying the nature/scope and target groups of such schemes and programmes;

(b) the amount of funds requisitioned/proposed to be requisitioned during the Eleventh Plan from the Planning Commission for such schemes/programmes; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated for such schemes/programmes in the Tenth Plan period and success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):(a)



The aim of developmental schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is to increase agricultural production and productivity for the farmers in the country including SC/ST farmers. 16% of the total allocation has been earmarked for implementation of the Scheduled Caste sub plan for SC farmers and 8% for the Tribal Sub Plan for ST farmers. There are provisions for higher subsidy/assistance for SC/ST farmers in the case of beneficiary oriented components in certain schemes. Under the newly lauched National Food Security Mission, allocation to SC/ST farmers will be made proportionate to their population in the identified districts.

(b) An amount of Rs. 54.277 crores has been proposed during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to the Planning Commission for the schemes/programmes.

(c) During the Tenth Plan Period an allocation of Rs. 16,093 crore was made for various schemes/programmes against which an amount of Rs. 14,947 crore (Provisional) was utilized.

#### **Assistance for IT Companies**

1278. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to assist the Information Technology (IT) Companies for their innovative ideas for value addition of their products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Scheme entitled "Support International Patent Protection in Electronics & IT (SIP-EIT) has been formulated with an objective to support International Patent Protection in Electronics & IT by SMEs and Technology Start-UP so as to encourage indigenous innovation and to recognize the value and capabilities of global IP and capture growth opportunities in the area of information technology and electronics. The details are available at DIT website [www.mit.gov.in](http://www.mit.gov.in).

[Translation]

#### **Development of Grazing land**

1279. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing any scheme for earning livelihood from the works relating to integrated grazing land development in the country, particularly in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chhattisgarh Government has forwarded any proposal in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme, which includes a component of grassland development. However, no scheme for earning livelihood from the works relating to integrated grazing land development in the country is being implemented.

(b) The above mentioned component for grassland development seeks to improve degraded grassland and provide vegetation cover on problematic soils. Financial assistance up to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs for a 10 ha. unit of land is made available.

(c) No proposal has been received from the Chhattisgarh Government.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Share of Rajasthan Under Baidyanathan Revival Package**

1280. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the release of the due share to Rajasthan under Baidyanathan Revival Package by the Union Government is pending;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) time by which the amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The release of due share is pending due to non-amending of State Cooperative Societies Act as per the terms of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Government of India NABARD in November, 2006.

(c) The amount will be released as soon as the State Government amends the Cooperative Societies Act and releases its own liability.

*[English]*

#### **Indian Share in World Handicraft Market**

1281. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the place and share of India in the total trade of handicraft items in the world;

(b) whether the share of India in the trade of handicraft items in the world is less as compared to the ratio of handicraft items produced in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of handicraft items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) As per the recent study conducted by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, the share of exports of Indian Handicrafts in world export is less than 2% and its place in world market is 7th.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The reason for low share of exports of Indian handicrafts is due to the fact that the products are mainly handcrafted and exemplify a high degree of craftsmanship leading to lower production capacities and weaker supply chain management. Other reasons in the regard include: non-existence of distribution network in target markets; insufficient showrooms in foreign countries and advertisement in print and electronic media abroad, etc.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to handicrafts include: participation in exhibitions/fairs, organising Indian

Handicrafts & Gifts fair twice a year organising thematic exhibitions, development of innovative value added product Development programme, organising programmes for packaging and export procedure, etc.

#### **Cultivation of BT. Rice**

1282. SHRI N.N.KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some private companies have proposed to start cultivation of Bio-Technology/ BT rice in certain parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any private company has got the necessary approval to start the cultivation of Bio-Technology/BT rice in any parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d) No private company has been allowed by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) the competent authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to start the commercial cultivation of BT rice in the country. However, GEAC has permitted experimental field trials on BT rice at 11 locations during Rabi 2007 to M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Ltd. (MAHYCO) to generate bio-Safety and other related data.

#### **Establishment of Sainik Schools**

1283. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for setting up of Sainik Schools in the States;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to open at least one Sainik School in each State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):**

(a) Sainik Schools are established on receipt of a specific request from a State Government agreeing to provide land alongwith funds for the creation and maintenance of basic infrastructure, equipment and facilities besides scholarships for the cadets of the States

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government.

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

*[Translation]*

**Exploitation of Employees by Banking and Insurance Companies**

**1284. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic, foreign banking and insurance companies are hiring the people without any contact and thus exploiting them;

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

(c) whether the such employees engaged in marketing of their products are covered under the purview of labour laws;

(d) if so, the details of the banking and in companies found guilty of exploiting of such employees; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):** (a) to (e) As the report received from Ministry of Finance, only licensed intermediaries like agents and brokers can deal with canvassing and sale of insurance products. Some banks also have been licensed as Corporate (Insurance) Agents. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) takes cognizance of any complaints against insurance companies for use of unlicensed intermediaries and takes appropriate action. So far, there has not been any established instance of any insurance entity licensed by IRDA of being found guilty of exploiting customers by use unlicensed intermediaries.

**Funds for National Water Development Agency**

**1285. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has sought Rs. 250 crore for implementing its scheme during Eleventh Five Year plan;

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

(c) the details of the viability reports presented by the agency; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated and utilized by NWDA during each of the last three Years?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)**

(a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 241 crore has been sought for the continuation of NWDA during Eleventh Five Year Plan. Out of this an amount of Rs. 50 crore has been kept towards Detailed Project Report (DPR) of new links, Rs. 42.80 crore towards Feasibility Reports. Pre Feasibility Reports (FRs/PFRs) of Intra-State links and DPR of Ken-Betwa Link and Rs. 45.20 crores towards land buildings & T&P. The balance amount has been kept for establishment cost. Working Group constituted by Planning Commission for the purpose has recommended Rs. 290 crore for investigation of Water Resources Development Scheme by Central Water Commission (CWC) and studies of inter basin transfer of water by NWDA.

(c) NWDA after carrying out various studies has identified 30 links (16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan) under National Perspective Plan (NPP) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs) Out of these Feasibility Reports of 14 links under Peninsular Component & 2 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Components have already been completed. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) The details of Grant in aid released to NWDA and expenditure incurred by them during the last three years is given below:

Year	Grants-in-aid Released to NWDA (Rs. Crore)	Expenditure by NWDA (Rs. Crore)
2004-05	21.10	21.30
2005-06	17.00	17.00
2006-07	18.77	19.11

+Difference is on account of Miscellaneous receipts due to Bank interest and other revenues.

#### **Statement**

*List of Water Transfer Links Identified for Preparation of Feasibility Reports by NWDA*

#### **Peninsular Rivers Development Component**

1. Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link#
2. Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link\*#
3. Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Pulichintala) link#
4. Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link#
5. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link#
6. Krishna (Srisailem)-Pennar link#
7. Krishna (Almatti)-Pennar link#
8. Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link#
9. Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link#
10. Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link\*#
11. Damanganga-Pinjal link\*#
12. Par-Tapi-Narmada link\*#
13. Ken-Betwa link\*#
14. Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link#
15. Netravati-Hemavati Link
16. Bedti-Varda link

#### **Himalayan Rivers Development Component**

1. Kosi-Mechi link
2. Kosi-Ghaghra link
3. Gandak-Ganga link

4. Ghaghra-Yamuna link# (Indian Portion)
5. Sarda-Yamuna link# (Indian Portion)
6. Yamuna-Rajasthan link
7. Rajasthan-Sabarmati link
8. Chunar-Sone Barrage link
9. Sone Dam-Southern Tributaries of Ganga link
10. Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link
11. Joglighopa-Tista-Farakka (Alternate to M-S-T-G) link
12. Farakka-Sunderbans link
13. Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha link
14. Subernarekha-Mahanadi link

\*Priority links #FR completed.

*[English]*

#### **Conversion of Telephone Exchanges**

1286. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) the number of electronic telephone exchanges set up in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges in the country, as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Government during the current financial year in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of electronic telephone exchanges set up by BSNL and MTNL as on 31-10-2007 is 38,478. The details of electronic telephone exchanges is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) All the telephone exchanges have already been converted into electronic exchanges by BSNL and MTNL.

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

**Statement**

*Circle-wise details of electronic exchanges in the country as on 31-10-2007*

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Number of telephone exchanges set up
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	49
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3795
3.	Assam	597
4.	Bihar	1209
5.	Chhattisgarh	617
6.	Gujarat	3220
7.	Haryana	1231
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1036
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	370
10.	Jharkhand	478
11.	Karnataka	2719
12.	Kerala	1238
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2776
14.	Maharashtra	4944
15.	North East-I	328
16.	North East-II	221
17.	Orissa	1157
18.	Punjab	1547
19.	Rajasthan	2337
20.	Tamil Nadu	2085
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	2298
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	972
23.	Uttaranchal	455
24.	West Bengal	1385

1	2	3
25.	Kolkata	551
26.	Chennai	321
27.	Delhi	339
28.	Mumbai	203
Total		38478

[Translation]

**Waiting List of Telephone Connections**

1287. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections in the country as on date, State-wise and circle-wise; and

(b) the time by which the Government proposes to provide connections to the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections (in BSNL and MTNL) in the country as on 31st October 2007, State-wise/circle-wise are given in the enclosed statement

(b) The pending waiting list for mobile is only in NE II circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) which is expected to be cleared by January 2008. Most of the pending waiting list for fixed line telephones including WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) is expected to be cleared by BSNL by the end of September 2008 progressively subject to the availability of equipment.

**Statement**

*Waiting list for telephone connections in BSNL/MTNL as on 31st October 2007*

Sl.No	Name of Circle	Land line	WLL	GSM	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	347	0	0	347
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10,355	10,311	0	20,666
3.	Assam	2,328	3,543	0	5,871

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	61,317	0	0	61,317
5.	Chhattisgarh	154	4,026	0	4,180
6.	Gujarat	29,208	0	0	29,208
7.	Haryana	3,780	0	0	3,780
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17,203	0	0	17,203
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	12,069	0	0	12,069
10.	Jharkhand	1,736	0	0	1,736
11.	Karnataka	32,679	15,532	0	48,211
12.	Kerala	100,238	3,400	0	103,638
13.	Madhya Pradesh	10,388	62,840	0	73,228
14.	Maharashtra (Mumbai)	46,945	84,826	0	131,771
15.	North East-I	566	130	0	696
16.	North East-II	1,077	0	4,694	5,771
17.	Orissa	7,954	16,822	0	24,776
18.	Punjab	232	1,022	0	1,254
19.	Rajasthan	35,087	0	0	35,087
20.	Tamil Nadu (Chennai)	20,094	0	0	20,094
21.	Uttarakhand	208	7,481	0	7,689
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	18,934	4	0	18,938
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	2,767	0	0	2,767
24.	West Bengal (Kolkata)	64,637	2,939	0	67,576
25.	Kolkata	0	0	0	0
26.	Chennai	803	0	0	803
27.	Delhi	0	0	0	0
28.	Mumbai	0	0	0	0
Total		481,106	212,876	4,694	698,676

*(English)***Swasthya Bima Yojana for Unorganised Workers**

1288. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
 SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:  
 SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:  
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
 SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:  
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO  
 SHRI K. C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is providing medical facilities to workers of organised sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to extend ESIC facilities to the workers engaged in unorganised sector under Swasthya Bima Yojana;

(c) if so, the details thereof and guidelines issued to ESIC in this regard;

(d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Government has received any complaints/suggestions regarding inadequate medical facilities available in the ESI hospitals/dispensaries in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The Employees' State Corporation is providing medical facilities to workers earning wages upto Rs. 10,000/- per month in the organized sector.

(b) to (d) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation in its 140th Meeting held on 11.10.2007 has approved the participation of Employees' State Insurance Corporation in the Health Insurance Scheme for workers in the unorganized sector and amendment in Section 59(1) of Employees' State Insurance Act enabling opening of facilities in Hospitals to non-insured persons on payment of user charges. Under this Scheme, Employees' State Insurance Corporation has identified 90 hospitals all over the country (Where there is under utilized capacity), which will be made available to the workers in the unorganized sector under the Health Insurance Scheme. Action will be taken only on receipt of specific proposals from the State Government who will be implementing the Scheme and would like the Employees State Insurance Hospitals falling in the area to act as a health service provider.

(e) to (g) Some complaints/suggestions for improvement in the medical facilities are received from time to time. The action taken for improvement of medical facilities in Employees' State Insurance Hospitals are as under:

- (i) Modernization & upgradation of hospitals by providing modern equipments for diagnostic and clinical services. To facilitate early sanction of equipments for hospitals, Sr. State Medical Commissioners/State Medical Commissioners have been delegated powers to sanction equipments up to Rs. 15 lacs per unit at the State level itself.
- (ii) Employees' State Insurance Corporation has increased the ceiling for providing medical care from Rs. 900/- to Rs 1,000/- per Insured Person family unit per annum w.e.f. 01.04.2007 to facilitate State Governments with more funds to improve medical services in ESI Hospitals. Besides this an additional incentive of Rs. 50 per Insured Person per family unit will be given to the State Government on fulfilling stipulated terms and conditions for improvement of medical scheme.
- (iii) Employees' State Insurance Corporation is incurring total expenditure on construction/repair and maintenance of hospital buildings at its sole cost and sharing expenditure on equipments costing above Rs. 25000/- per unit outside the ceiling.

- (iv) Employees' State Insurance Corporation has introduced the Scheme of Revolving Fund for providing advance/reimbursement for super speciality/speciality treatment, purchase & repair & maintenance of equipments.
- (v) Tie up arrangements have been made with other reputed Government/Non Government Hospitals for providing super speciality services, which are not available in SEI Hospitals.
- (vi) Employees' State Insurance Corporation has got seven ESIC Hospitals graded by professional agencies and the process for grading of other ESIC Hospitals has been initiated.
- (vii) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation is in the process of getting hospital ISO 9001-2000 certification. One ESI Hospital and one ESI Dispensary in Delhi have already been granted ISO certification.
- (viii) Employees' State Insurance Corporation is encouraging computerization and incurs total expenditure on provision of computers to ESI Hospitals.

#### Excess Withdrawal of Foodgrains

1289. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have drawn foodgrain from Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns on the basis of the enrolment reported instead of the actual enrolment resulting in excess withdrawal of foodgrains amounting to crores of rupees during the last five years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any enquiry into the matter;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Report No. 11 of 2007 of Comptroller and Auditor General of India has reported excess issue of foodgrains under Mid-day Meal Scheme in Andhra Pradesh. On this report, the Ministry of Human Resource Development being the nodal Ministry for the Mid-day Meal Scheme has been requested to submit a report on the findings of the Audit. Response of Ministry of Human Resource and Development is awaited.

**Research on Livestock and Fisheries by ICAR**

1290. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Aricultural Research (ICAR) has recommended fast tracking critical research on crops, livestock and fisheries to counter disturbing phenomenon impact on Farm Sector;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the ICAR;

(c) whether impact of climate change on crops has been undertaken by ICAR in its report to the Government; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and future strategy chalked out by the Government on the recommendations of ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendations by ICAR are:—

1. Strengthening research on impact assessment of climate change on crops, livestock, fisheries, and microbes using field and controlled environmental facilities and simulation models.
2. Developing new genotypes tolerant to abiotic and biotic stresses.
3. Identifying cost-effective mitigation strategies for reducing emissions of green house gases including Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Preliminary studies indicate that increase in temperature and decrease in precipitation due to climate change will impact adversely the foodgrain production in the country.

ICARR has already established a network project on "Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of India Agriculture to Climate Change" during X plan for detailed studies on the impact of climate change on agriculture. The National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) has also identified climate change as a thrust area of research.

[*Translation*]

**Non-Issue of SIM**

1291. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of connections issued and withdrawn since the direction issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on April 1, 2007 in regard to non-issue of pre-activated SIM without submitting identity proof of subscribers;

(b) if so, whether any service provider has violated the directions of TRAI to achieve the target of issuing maximum number of connections;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) No such direction was issued by TRAI in this regard. However, it is found during verification process that some of the subscribers have been enrolled by mobile service providers without proper verification.

Detailed instructions were incorporated as license conditions, which *inter-alia* provide that the Service providers are required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customers before enrolling him as a subscriber. This includes obtaining photograph and copies of prescribed documents for identity proof and address proof of the subscribers.

In April 2006, a special drive was carried out by Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Cells of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad to check whether the service providers are fully complying with the instructions regarding verification of subscribers. It was observed that all the operators in these cities are not fully complying with the instructions issued in regard to verification of subscribers. Based on the observations of special drive, directions were issued to concerned service providers to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification.

As per the instructions dated 22.11.2006, service providers were required to re-verify their existing subscriber base by March 2007 and there shall not be any connection working after 31.03.2007 in the Licensee's network without having subscriber information duly verified. As per reports received from mobile service providers and their Associations, 9.46 lakhs (approx.) telephones have been disconnected on this account.



Special drivers were conducted in April and May 2007 to audit the status of subscriber verification carried out by the mobile operators on sample basis. The auditing of the subscribers' identity verification is a continuous process.

Routine checks, in this, regard, are carried out by DOT through its Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Calls in all Service areas. Based on their observations, 133 show cause notices have been issued in six months to the concerned service providers, wherever discrepancies/deficiencies were noticed, for imposition of penalty which is to be levied after following due procedure.

*[English]*

#### **Food Security Scheme**

1292. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes to ensure food security in India;

(b) whether some districts have been identified for special relief under food security mission;

(c) whether none of the districts in Kerala have been found to be eligible for Central help under the said scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government of Kerala has made special requests for including some districts for special consideration in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission (NFSM)" has been launched in 305 identified districts of 16 States from Rabi 2007-08 with an aim to achieve additional production of 10 million tonnes of Rice, 8 million tonnes of Wheat and 2 million tonnes of Pulses by the end of Eleventh Plan (2011-12)

(c) and (d) In Kerala only on district viz. Palakkad was found to be eligible for inclusion under NFSM-Rice.

However, due to administrative reasons those States in which less than five districts were qualifying the criteria, have not been included under National Food Security Mission, as it would require creation/identification of autonomous agency, project management team and related formalities.

(e) and (f) The Government of Kerala has requested for inclusion of the State under NFSM.

*[Translation]*

#### **Utilisation of Water Reservoirs**

1293. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many water reservoirs in the country are not being used for the last decade;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to utilize water reservoirs alongwith the success achieved during the last three years as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Mostly, the water reservoirs are owned by the State Governments and maintenance and operation of reservoir is within the purview of Government/reservoir owners. However, Central Water Commission monitors storage position of 81 important reservoirs in the country on weekly basis.

Numerous small water bodies such as lakes, ponds and similar structures have fallen into disuse over the years due to various reasons. For revival of these small water bodies, Ministry of Water Resources in January 2005 approved a pilot Scheme "National Project for Repair" Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies Directly Linked to Agriculture" for implementation during the remaining part of Xth plan. Under the scheme, works in 1908 water bodies have been taken up 26 districts in 15 States a Cost of Rs. 299.92 crore.

*[English]***Shortage of Foodgrains**

1294. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the findings of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), that the world will face a severe shortage of foodgrains due to lower foodgrains production in 2008 and that India would be worst affected;

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

(c) the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In the Food outlook brought out in early November 2007, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has forecasted among other things that the global cereal stocks by the close of the seasons ending in 2008 are expected to remain at 427 million tonnes. With regard to India, FAO has stated that among various countries, the inventories of wheat are anticipated to increase in only a few cases, notably in India. This is mainly due to a rise in this year's production and large imports before the start of the season. With regard to paddy, FAO has forecasted large absolute gains in production in countries like India.

(c) To increase production of rice, wheat and pulses, initiatives have been taken by launching National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase public investment in agriculture & allied sectors. Under NFSM, it is proposed to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10 million, 8 million and 2 million tonnes respectively by 20011-12

**Scarcity of Water**

1295. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute water shortage in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra and particularly in more than 500 villages in Nagpur district;

(b) whether this problem of water shortage is likely to turn worse during the coming summer;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to improve the situation of water supply thereon war footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As per the available information in respect of the reservoirs being monitored by Central Water Commission, the position in respect of two reservoirs, namely Yeldari and Pench (Totladoh) located in Vidarbha region indicates that the total storage in the two reservoirs, as on 15.11.2007 is about 1.12 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) which is about 92.58% of the average of last ten years. Water being a state subject, appropriate measures relating to water management are undertaken by the respective State Government agencies.

**Research on Food Products for Jawans**

1296. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has made research in production of protein rich food for the Jawans posted in remote parts of the country;

(b) if so, the types of various food products developed by the DRDO from 2006-07 onwards;

(c) the details of various food production units existing in various parts of the country as on date; and

(d) the funds allocated for such research work to DRDO during 2006-07 and 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) Yes Sir. Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL) a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) located at Mysore, has developed protein rich food products for Jwans posted in remote parts of the country.

(b) Types of various food products developed by DRDO from 2006-07 onwards are:

Protein rich instant Pulav (17.2% protein)

Protein rich instant Khichdi (18.8% protein)

Protein rich instant Upma (16% protein)

Protein rich instant Sooji Halwa 8.5% protein)

(c) Technology for production of protein rich product "Nutri Food Bar" (protein 16%) has been transferred to M/s Yamuna Roller Flour Mills, Trichur, Kerala and M/s India Sweet Co., Chennai, whereas, technology for production of "Egg protein rich biscuits" (protein 20%) has been transferred to M/s Oster Foods Pvt. Ltd. Trichur, Kerala.

(d) A total of Rs. 15 lakh was allocated during 2006-07 and 2007-08 for the research work on production of protein rich food.

[Translation]

### Cattle Survey

1297. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government conducts livestock census on regular basis;

(b) if so, the year in which livestock census was last conducted;

(c) the number of cattle especially milch and cross breed recorded in the country; State-wise;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the number of livestock and also to improve their breed; and

(e) the time by which the next census is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The last livestock census was conducted in the year 2007 with reference date as 15th October, 2007.

(c) Compilation of the data of Livestock Census 2007 is under process. Provisional results on number of livestock from this census will be available during the year 2008. However, State-wise number of cattle, crossbred and milch in the country as per the Census conducted in 2003 is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Apart from the scheme being implemented by the respective State Governments, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairing and Fisheries has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by way of the following schemes for increasing livestock numbers and also to improve their breed:

(i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

(ii) Intensive Dairy Development Programme.

(iii) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.

(iv) Livestock Insurance Scheme.

(v) Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds.

(e) The next census is likely to be conducted during the year 2012.

### Statement

*Total Number of Cattle, Crossbred & milch Cattle as per 2003 Census-State-wise*

Sl.No	States/UTs	Cattle		
		Total	Crossbred	Milch
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9300	1107	2409
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	458	13	116
3.	Assam	8440	440	2195
4.	Bihar	11729	1274	3408

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgrh	8882	253	2379
6.	Goa	76	12	23
7.	Gujarat	7424	639	2437
8.	Haryana	1540	573	572
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2236	677	812
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3084	1320	1141
11.	Jharkhand	7659	145	1899
12.	Karnataka	9539	1602	3404
13.	Kerala	2122	1735	943
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18913	317	5840
15.	Maharashtra	16302	2776	4921
16.	Manipur	418	69	101
17.	Meghalaya	767	23	229
18.	Mizoram	36	9	11
19.	Nagaland	451	243	137
20.	Orissa	13903	1063	3621
21.	Punjab	2039	1531	864
22.	Rajasthan	10854	464	4483
23.	Sikkim	159	80	60
24.	Tamil Nadu	9141	5140	3694
25.	Tripura	759	57	240
26.	Uttar Pradesh	18511	1634	5544
27.	Uttaranchal	2188	228	694
28.	West Bengal	18913	1119	5782
29.	A & N Islands	64	13	21
30.	Chandigarh	6	5	4
31.	D & N Haveli	50	1	11
32.	Daman & Diu	4	0	1
33.	Delhi	92	58	54
34.	Lakshdweep	4	2	2
35.	Pondicherry	78	63	35
All India		185181	24686	58087

Note:-1. Totals may not tally due to rounding up of figures in thousand.

Source: Census results received from the State Governments.

**Loans to Weavers**

1298. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided low interest loan facilities to weavers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of loan amount provided to weavers during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(d) whether the targeted beneficiaries are facing difficulties in availing these loans;

(e) if so, whether any complaints regarding discrimination in providing loan to weavers have also been received by the Government during the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Working capital and term loans outstanding of Cooperative Banks and RRBs against handloom weavers and Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies a (state-wise) are given in statements I & II respectively.

(d) to (f) Handloom Cooperative Society suffer from two problems in accessing credits. Firstly, the cost of credit is on the higher side. Secondly, credit to handloom cooperatives have been chalked because of debt overhead. Availability of adequate credit flow is critical for the survival of handloom sector. Consequently, a Draft Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure (CNE) note has been prepared which is consideration of the Government.

**Statement I***Working Capital and Term Loans (outstanding) Co-op banks (as on 31.3.2007)*

Sl.No	Name of the State	Working	Term	Total	Working	Term	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Maharashtra	10.88	0.00	10.88	859.82	1.28	861.10
2.	Chhattisgarh	158.78	0.00	158.78	152.96	0.00	1052.96
3.	Haryana		165.87	165.87	0.00		0.00
4.	Gujarat	72.57	0.19	72.76	156.43	16.45	172.88
5.	Mizoram	0.00	100.12	100.12	0.00		0.00
6.	Kerala			0.00	15581.64	359.69	15941.33
7.	Jammu & Kashmir		16.56	16.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	New Delhi			0.00	356.25	0.51	356.76
9.	Orissa	0.00	167.70	167.70	12303.74	0.00	12302.74
10.	Tamil Nadu				26837.23	430.93	27268.16
11.	Pondichery				307.08	22.24	392.32
12.	West Bengal				7693.69	158.32	7852.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Assam#			0.00	62.50		62.50
14.	Bihar#			0.00	208.51		208.51
15.	Punjab#	11.02		11.02	33.51	5.45	38.96
16.	Nagaland#	0.94	15.42	16.36	8.72	29.00	37.72
17.	Meghalaya#		12.11	12.11			0.00
18.	Manipur#		31.35	31.35	49.88		49.88
19.	Uttaranchal#	0.04		0.04			0.00
20.	Karnataka#	522.12	0.59	522.71	172.19		172.19
21.	Andhra Pradesh#			0.00	18679.77		18679.77
22.	Tripura#			0.00	15.09		15.09
23.	Madhya Pradesh#			0.00	251.88		251.88
24.	Himachal Pradesh#	18.00		18.00	461.64	17.80	479.44
25.	Rajasthan#	6.90		6.90	11.71	0.07	11.78
26.	Uttar Pradesh#			0.00	2847.82		2847.82
	Total	801.05	509.91	1310.96	87951.06	1041.74	88992.80

# Data relate to 31.03.2006

**Statement II***Working Capital and Term Loans (outstanding)—RRBs (as on 31.3.2007)*

Sr. No	Name of the state	Handloom weavers			Primary weavers co-op societies		
		Working Capital Loans o/s as on 31.3.2007	Term loan o/s as on 31.3.2007	Total	Working Capital loans o/s as on 31.3.2007	Total loan o/s as on 31.3.2007	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Gujarat	7.91	17.66	25.57			Nil
2.	Kerala	9.11	1.41	10.52			Nil
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.41	0.41			Nil
4.	Andhra Pradesh	12.39	67.08	79.47			Nil
5.	Assam	76.98	419.67	496.65			Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Karnataka	413.52	698.12	1111.64			Nil
7.	Orissa	16.69	9.85	26.54			Nil
8.	West Bengal	234.78	165.45	400.23			Nil
9.	Chhattisgarh#	16.57	0.22	16.79			Nil
10.	Bihar#	46.88	93.06	139.92			Nil
11.	Punjab#		35.14	35.14			Nil
12.	Nagaland#	2.27	3.41	5.68			Nil
13.	Manipur#	14.80		14.80			Nil
14.	Uttaranchal#		2.98	2.98			Nil
15.	Himachal Pradesh#		90.83	90.83			Nil
16.	Rajasthan#	32.75	191.44	224.19			Nil
17.	Mizoram#	6.37	35.54	42.27			Nil
18.	Uttar Pradesh#		1.27	1.27			Nil
<b>Total</b>		<b>891.16</b>	<b>1833.54</b>	<b>2724.70</b>			<b>Nil</b>

# Data relate to 31.03.2006.

**[English]**

**Transfer of EPF Share**

1299. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees quitting one company to join other companies find it difficult to transfer their Employees Provident Fund (EPF) share in another account due to non-cooperation by the companies they quit; and

(b) if so, the mechanism available to redress their grievance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):(a) and (b) Transfer of Provident Fund amount of a member is effected in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952.

On joining a new establishment a member is required to submit an application to the present employer in

prescribed form for transfer of balance of Provident Fund who will submit the same to the Regional Commissioner under whose jurisdiction the previous establishment is situated. In other words, the transfer application form is to be submitted to the present employer for onward transmission to the Commissioner by whom the transfer is to be effected.

A Public Grievance Handling Machinery exists at Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. On receipt of any grievance, appropriate action is taken for redressal thereof.

**[Translation]**

**Agricultural Land**

1300. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:  
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:  
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:  
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average agricultural land holding has been on a constant decline in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether increasing urbanization has posed the crisis of non-availability of cultivable land in the country;

(d) whether starvation like situation is arising for the farmers due to increasing commercial activities on the cultivable land in the country particularly in West Bengal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to save the cultivable land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per available estimates, the average size of operational land holding has reduced from 1.41 ha in 1995-96 to 1.32 ha. In 200-01 in the country. The availability of agricultural land is decreasing mainly due to increase in population and diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc.

(d) and (e) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land falls under the purview of State Government. No report from the States is received regarding starvation like situation arising for the farmers due to increasing commercial activities on the cultivable land. State Government of West of Bengal have specially reported that there is no starvation like situation in the State arising for the farmers due to increasing commercial activities on the cultivable land.

(f) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Programme of State Land Use Boards (SLUBs) through Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). Under this programme, SLUB has been constituted in each State and State Governments have been advised to take appropriate steps for scientific use of land and also to ensure prevention of diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. In case of West Bengal, there is restriction of conversion of agricultural land under West Bengal Land Reform Act, 1955.

Government of India is also implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (1) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded lands in the Catchments of Rivers Valley Project and Floor Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS) (iv) Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP) (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of degraded lands in the country. Under these programmes, since inception upto X Five Year Plan, an area of about 50.83 million ha. of degraded lands have been developed. Parts of such developed lands are also brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses.

*[English]*

#### **Boost in Outsourcing**

1301. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hyderabad is the second most outsourcing destination in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the areas of outsourcing from Hyderabad;

(c) whether the Government is giving to further boost the outsourcing from Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) As per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Hyderabad is considered on among the most attractive outsourcing destinations, the outsourcing areas include offshore development. BPO, KPO, Animation Gaming & Engineering Design.

(c) and (d) To further boost the outsourcing revenue across the country. Government of India under STP scheme is giving the incentives which include. tax holiday duty exemption for procurement of capital goods, reimbursement of Central Sale Tax (CST).



**Increase in Tele-Density**

1302. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the tele-density of each of the four mega cities as compared to the other similarly placed cities as well as the position of India vis-a-vis other countries of the world;

(b) whether in some countries local calls are not charged;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the tele-density?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The tele-density of India and each of its four mega cities, as on 31st October 2007, is as follows.

All India	22.52%		
Delhi	100.73%	Chennai	91.13%
Mumbai	74.65%	Kolkata	54.77%

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) does not maintain city-level tele-density data. However, as per ITUs statistics report of December 2006 (latest available) the tele-density in some of the countries of world is as given below:

Pakistan	25.32%
Sri Lanka	34.89%
China	62.62%
South Africa	81.57%
Brazil	67.63%
Bangladesh	14.03%
Maldives	98.76%
Indonesia	34.87%
Egypt	38.19%
Russia	111.57%

(b) and (c) No such Instance has been found.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to increase the tele-density are as follows:

- (i) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to provide support for expansion of telecommunication services in rural and remote areas. Both public and private sectors licensees are eligible for such support.
- (ii) A scheme has recently been launched by USO Fund to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) spread over 500 districts in 27 States. About 2 lakh villages are likely to be covered under this scheme.
- (iii) Large-scale deployment of WLL network in the country has been planned by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)
- (iv) BSNL is now laying cables upto 5 Kms of exchanges against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms.
- (v) BSNL is expanding its GSM network to provide cellular connections.
- (vi) In addition private operators are also providing telephones in the country.

**Cost of Cotton Products**

1303. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the cost of cotton products to make them competitive in the world market; and

(b) the cost of different cotton products like yarn cloth and garments in comparison to world producers of different countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVARAN): (a) The important steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of cotton products to make them competitive in the world market are furnished in the statement enclosed.

(b) Government does not maintain this information.

**Statement***Important steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of cotton products*

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textiles products, Government launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) The Mission has achieved success in increasing productivity and reducing contamination through the upgradation of cotton market yards and the modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textiles industry in the organised and unorganized sectors. The Scheme was further fine-tuned to attract rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textiles industry. The cost of machinery was sought to be brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports
- (iii) For the speedy modernisation of the textiles processing sector, Government introduced, w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (iv) To provide the textiles industry with world-class infrastructure facilities to set up their textiles units that would meet international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park(SITP)" was introduced in August 2005
- (v) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textiles sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn, was provided optional exemption from excise duty.
- (vi) To facilitate the import of state of the art machinery to make Indian products internationally competitive in the post quota regime, in the Budget for 2005-06, the customs duty on textiles machinery was brought down to 10% . Only 23 machinery items appear in List 49, which attract a Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues on most machinery items.
- (vii) In the Budget for 2005-06, 30 knitting and knitwear items were de-reserved. This would facilitate the setting up of large sized modernized units to meet the international competition.

(viii) Government launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sep., 2003 with the principal objective of permitting banks to lend to the textiles sector at an 8-9% rate of interest.

(ix) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textiles sector under the automatic route.

(x) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector so that large scale investment is encouraged in these sectors.

**National Bamboo Mission**

1304. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of National Bamboo Mission in the country with special reference to the North Eastern Region; and

(b) the target set for its implementation in Assam during the Eleventh Plan period indicating the location-wise Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Government agencies short listed for execution of the mission's programme alongwith specific work assigned to them and amount sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):(a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India, is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Bamboo Mission in the country, including North Eastern Region.

(b) A statement showing physical and financial targets approved under National Bamboo Mission for implementation in Assam during 2007-08 of the Eleventh Plan period is enclosed. The programme will be implemented by the State Government through its Forest Development Agencies (FDA) in the forest area whereas the Bamboo Development Agencies (BDA) will implement the programme in non-forest area.

In addition, an amount of Rs. 149.38 lakhs has been approved for the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre, Guwahati, an NGO, (a designated agency for Bamboo Technical Support Group), under the National Bamboo Mission, for carrying out Mission's activities such as imparting of training to farmers/field functionaries/entrepreneurs, certification of planting material, participation in Trade Fairs and innovation interventions in plantation/handicrafts sector.

**Statement***Physical and Financial Targets Approved for the State of Assam  
under National Bamboo Mission during 2007-08*

Sl.No	Components	Rate (Rs. /Ha./No.)	Physical Target	Financial Target
1.	Centralized Nurseries in public sector (in nos)	27.3	4	10.92
2.	Centralized Nurseries in private sector (in nos)	0.68	2	1.36
3.	Kisan Nurseries in public sector (in nos.)	0.065		
4.	Kisan Nurseries in private sector (in nos.)	0.065	10	0.65
5.	Mahila Nurseries in public sector (in nos.)	0.065		
6.	Mahila Nurseries in private sector (in nos.)	0.065	10	0.65
7.	Tissue Culture units in public sector (in nos)	21.00		
8.	Tissue Culture units in private sector (in nos)	10.50		
9.	Certification of planting material (in nos)	PB		
10.	Plantation in forest areas (in ha.)	0.25	2200	275.00(50%)
11.	Plantation in non-forest areas (in ha.)	0.08	1000	40.00(50%)
12.	Improvement of existing stock (in ha)	0.08	1580	126.40
13.	Training of farmers within states (in ha)	0.0152	1200	18.75
14.	Training of farmers outside states (in nos.)	0.025	400	10.00
15.	Training of field functionaries (in nos)	0.08	350	28.00
16.	Demonstration of Technology (in nos)	0.10	80	8.00
17.	National Level (in nos)	5.00		
18.	State level (in nos)	3	1	3.00
19.	District level (in nos)	1.0	27	27.00
20.	Pest and Disease Management (in ha)	0.002	500	0.92
21.	Micro-Irrigation (in ha)	0.20		
22.	Post Harvest Storage & Treatment Facilities (in nos)	PB*	1	20.00**
23.	Participation in Domestic Trade Fairs (in nos)	PB	2	7.50
24.	Participation in International Trade Fairs (in nos)	7.5		
25.	Innovation Interventions, (in nos)	PB		
26.	Market Survey			
27.	Bamboo Wholesale & Retail Markets	PB*	1	5.33**
28.	Evaluation and Monitoring	PB*		9.00**
	Sub-Total			592.48
29.	Consultancy Services	1.5%		8.88
	<b>Total</b>			601.36 (-) ** 34.84 <b>566.52</b>

\*Approved Subject to Submission of detailed Proposals.

\*\*The amount will be released on receipt of respective proposals of the State.

**Promotion of Agricultural Growth**

1305. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in several States the contribution of agriculture to Gross Domestic Products (GDP) growth in negative or near zero;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to promote agricultural growth in all the States in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the data compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the State-wise percentage share of agriculture and allied sector in the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) as well as the growth in percentage share of agriculture & allied sectors in GSDP for the last three years is given in the table below:

State-wise Percentage share of Agriculture & Allied Sector in GSDP and Growth in share of Agri. & Allied Sectors of GSDP.

At Constant Prices (at 1999-2000 prices)

Sl.No	States/UTs	%Share of Agriculture & Allied Sector in GSDP			Growth in % share of Agri. & Allied Sectors in GSDP		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26.76	26.11	25.80	5.37	-2.41	-1.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	26.99	23.42	22.96	-6.22	-13.23	-1.96
3.	Assam	29.70	28.92	29.21	-4.25	-2.62	0.98
4.	Bihar	32.09	32.82	29.38	-12.61	2.27	-10.47
5.	Jharkhand	16.94	15.60	15.33	-4.04	-7.91	-1.71
6.	Goa	10.67	9.61	9.53	4.16	-9.96	-0.80
7.	Gujarat	18.96	16.19	18.27	21.88	-14.65	12.87
8.	Haryana	26.62	25.32	22.88	-0.55	-4.85	-9.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	25.68	25.28	23.91	3.17	-1.58	-5.43
10.	J & K	31.56	30.36	N.A	3.52	-3.79	N.A
11.	Karnataka	18.37	19.88	19.48	-15.51	8.26	-2.03
12.	Kerala	17.56	16.94	15.81	-7.30	-3.50	-6.69
13.	Madhya Pradesh	26.26	26.21	26.23	22.73	-7.27	0.09
14.	Chhattisgarh	23.46	20.49	22.74	20.03	-12.66	10.98
15.	Maharashtra	14.91	13.02	12.71	1.12	12.64	-2.38
16.	Manipur	29.22	25.70	23.78	3.72	-12.03	-7.48
17.	Meghalaya	21.41	20.55	21.00	-4.84	4.01	2.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Mizoram	16.96	16.99	N.A	-4.38	0.19	N.A
19.	Nagaland	32.59	N.A	N.A	-0.60	N.A	N.A
20.	Orissa	27.84	25.54	N.A	7.05	-8.27	N.A
21.	Punjab	34.85	33.93	33.02	0.57	-2.65	-2.67
22.	Rajasthan	33.74	29.83	26.12	40.94	-11.58	-12.45
23.	Sikkim	21.21	20.71	20.13	-0.11	-2.35	-2.83
24.	Tamil Nadu	12.25	12.80	13.26	-7.42	4.51	3.52
25.	Tripura	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
26.	Uttar Pradesh	32.11	30.90	29.93	-1.64	-3.78	-3.13
27.	Uttaranchal	23.33	22.65	20.96	-1.95	-2.91	-7.92
28.	West Bengal	27.23	26.08	24.66	-2.09	-4.20	-5.46
29.	A & N islands	26.80	21.71	20.15	-9.50	-18.96	-7.23
30.	Chandigarh	0.91	0.76	0.71	-4.99	-16.41	-6.41
31.	Delhi	1.11	1.01	0.83	-5.16	-8.75	-17.50
32.	Pondicherry	5.18	5.38	5.09	-0.80	3.82	-5.45

N.A Not Available

(c): The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 reaffirmed its commitment to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in the agricultural sector during the Eleventh Plan and resolved that agricultural development strategies must be reoriented to meet the needs of farmers and urged the Central and State Governments to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. Towards improving the growth in the agriculture sector, Government has initiated, *inter-alia* the following:

Launching of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with an outlay of Rs. 4, 880 crore for the Eleventh Plan period. It aims to add additional 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), a State Plan Scheme, with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan period, to ensure a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in planning for rainfed areas.

Providing additional resources for irrigation.

Strategic focus on the national agriculture research effort.

#### Money Order Service

1306. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

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

(a) the number of users of money order service during the last three years as on date;

(b) whether complaints about the non-delivery of money orders in time are on increase;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received from July 1, 2001 to December 31, 2002;

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to put the entire money order service through satellite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, data regarding the number of users of Money Order Service is not maintained. However the data regarding the number of Money Orders issued during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 is given below:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
No. of Money Orders issued	101597840	95790257	99099859

(b) No, Sir. The details of complaints regarding non-delivery of money orders in time are given below:

Category	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Total number of Money Order complaints relating to delay	129876	178239	171073
Total Money Order traffic (in lakhs)	1586	1377	1016

(c) The number of Complaints received from July 1, 2001 to December 31, 2002 is given below:

Quarter	No. of Money Order complaints received
July 1- September 30, 2001	128101
October 1- December 31, 2001	146773
January 1- March 31, 2002	139789
April 1- June 30, 2002	103658
July 1- September 30, 2002	229807
October 1- December 31, 2002	179266
<b>Total</b>	<b>927394</b>

(d) All complaints regarding non-delivery of money orders in time are looked into the Department at all levels. While specific instances are resolved individually, system defects that come to notice are rectified to avoid recurrence of such instances. An enquiry is initiated on receipt of a complaint regarding non-delivery of a money order and if no confirmation about its payment is received, a duplicate money order is issued and payment effected immediately. Enquiries have revealed that the reasons for non-delivery of money orders in time include cancellation/late running of trains/airlines/buses, incomplete and wrong addresses on the money orders, non-use of Postal Index Number (PIN) Code, growth of unplanned colonies in some areas, heavy seasonal workload during

wage period and festival time, non-availability of addresses, change in address without intimation to the concerned Postmaster etc. If the delay in payment is seen to have occurred due to improper conduct of an employee, action under Departmental rules is taken against the employee at fault. Investigation and settlement of complaints is an ongoing process. There is a continuous review and monitoring of the money order service to improve its efficiency for timely payment.

(e) No steps are being taken to put the money order service through satellite; however instant Money Order Service has been introduced w.e.f. 20-01-2006 which is a web based service.

**Harm in Health For Use of Mobile Phones**

1307. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientific studies suggested that long term use of cell phone affects the health of users;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to discourage the use of mobile phones in view of health hazard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The latest World Health Organisation (WHO) fact Sheet No. 304 of May, 2006 States that the radiations from mobile base stations and wireless networks are far below the permitted levels and also the research results collected to date, confirm that there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless network cause adverse health effects. Further, a committee was constituted under Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (CMR) to study the effects of radiations from mobile phone towers and related aspects. The report of the Committee indicates that overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from mobile base stations.

*[Translation]*

**Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers**

1308. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bonded labourers in the country as on date particularly in tribal areas, State-wise;

(b) the number of bonded labourers freed and rehabilitated especially in tribal areas of the country during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated, released and utilized by the Union and State Governments for the purpose during the said period separately;

(d) whether any new schme/plan has been formulated/proposed to be formulated to free and rehabilitate them;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any Committee/Study Group has been constituted/proposed to be constituted to identify, free and rehabilitate the bonded labourers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) Date on release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers in tribal areas is not maintained separately.

The total number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated as on, state-wise are as under:

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers	
	Identified and Released	Rehabilitated
Andhra Pradesh	37,988	31,534
Arunchal Pradesh	3,526	2992
Bihar	13,792	12,974
Chhattisgarh	124	124
Gujarat	64	64
Haryana	582	80
Jharkhand	196	196
Karnataka	63,437	57,185
Kerala	823	710
Madhya Pradesh	13,125	12,200
Maharashtra	1,404	1,325
Orissa	50,029	46,901
Punjab	69	69
Rajasthan	7498	6331
Tamil Nadu	65,573	65,573
Uttar Pradesh	28,489	28489
Uttaranchal	5	5
West Bengal	213	213
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,86,927*</b>	<b>2,66,965</b>

\*19962 Bonded Labourers are not available for rehabilitation either they have died or left the place without leaving their addresses.

(b) and (c) Number of Bonded Labourers released and rehabilitated and funds released during each of the

last three years and thereafter, State-wise are as under:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Name of the State	No. of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated	Amount released
2004-05	Bihar	281	28.10
	Jharkhand	196	19.60
	Karnataka	64	6.40
	Madhya Pradesh	265	16.91
	Orissa	19	1.90
2005-06	Uttar Pradesh	41	4.05
	Bihar	141	14.10
	Haryana	31	3.10
	Madhya Pradesh	38	1.23
	Maharashtra	6	0.55
	Uttar Pradesh	149	15.00
2006-07	West Bengal	32	3.20
	Uttar Pradesh	104	10.40
	West Bengal	93	3.01
2007-08 (up to 31.10.2007)	West Bengal	88	8.80

Grants are released to the State Governments for rehabilitations of Bonded Labour, on receipt of complete proposals and release of equal share of amount by the State Government concerned.

(d) to (g) No proposal for formulating any new scheme or constituting Committee/Study Group to identify, free and rehabilitate the bonded labourers, is under consideration of the Government.

*[English]*

**Proposals for Jammu and Kashmir for Welfare of Fishermen**

1309. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to effectively implement the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen (NSWF) in consultation with the State Governments to provide land and ensure construction of houses for fisherman in the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) the number of houses constructed under the NSWF Scheme in the country during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Under the Development of Model Fishermen Villages component of "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen" there is a



provision for construction of houses for fishermen. The unit cost of a house is Rs. 40,000 which is shared on 50:50 basis between the Centre & the States and in case of Union Territories, 100% cost is borne by the Centre. The Scheme is in operation in all the States including Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territories. Being a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, it is implemented by the States/UT Governments.

(b) State-wise number of houses constructed under NSWF Scheme during the last three years in the country is given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*State-wise number of houses constructed under the NSWF Scheme during the last three years in the country under Centrally Sponsored 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen'*

S.No	States/UTs	2004-05 to 2006-07 Houses
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	480
3.	Assam	113
4.	Bihar	754
5.	Chhatisgarh	338
6.	Daman & Diu	75
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	500
8.	Jharkhand	3300
9.	Karnataka	5000
10.	Kerala	1485
11.	Manipur	239
12.	Maharashtra	546
13.	Madhya Pradesh	180
14.	Nagaland	800
15.	Orissa	1526
16.	Pondichery	1000

1	2	3
17.	Rajasthan	300
18.	Tamil Nadu	4000
19.	Tripura	150
20.	Uttar Pradesh	12130
21.	Uttaranchal	2968
22.	West Bengal	2968
<b>Total</b>		<b>36944</b>

**NTC Mills Under Joint Venture**

1310. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to run some mills of National Textiles Corporation on a joint venture basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of the partners finalized by the Government;

(c) the terms and conditions envisaged in the proposed joint venture;

(d) the percentage share to be held by the Government and the private entrepreneurs respectively; and

(e) the extent and value of land held by the National Textile Corporation mills proposed to be run under the joint venture alongwith the condition for the value determination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b): Government has decided to run some of the mills of National Textile Corporation (NTC) through joint venture route. The proposal for Joint Venture has been approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and Group of Ministers (GoM) as a part of the Revival Scheme for NTC. The details of mills to be modernized under the JV route are given in the statement I enclosed. Private partners to run five of these mills have been finalized as per in details given in the statement II enclosed.

(c) to (e) As per Broad terms and conditions for joint venture, the private partners will hold 49% share as against of 51% share held by NTC. Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) will be offered to all the employees of these mills and willing employees will be given retirement under this scheme. The JV company will offer employment to the existing employees on 1st priority basis at the fresh employment terms, in case any employee is willing to join new company.

The Board of Directors of the JV Companies will have 5 Directors from NTC and 3 from the JV partner, while the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be the

nominee of the JV partner but he will not have voting rights in the Board. The entire land of the mills will be offered to JV Companies with a right to use of the land and assets, preferably for textile related activities apart from the main textile unit, initially for a period of 33 years. The private partner of the JV will make the entire investment for the modernization of the mills as well as give upfront payment to NTV for relinquishing its 49% shareholding. The land and assets offered for running of the mill will constitute NTC's 51% share. However, the ownership of land will continue to vest with NTC. The details of extent and value of land held by the five NTC mills for which private partners have been finalized are given in the statement III enclosed.

**Statement I**

*Details of NTC Mills to be modernised through J.V Route*

S.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Mills	Location
1	2	3	4
	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
1.		Tirupathi Mills	Renigunta
	<b>Kerala</b>		
2.		Prarvathi Mills	Quilon
	<b>Maharashtra</b>		
3.		Indu Mills No. 1	Mumbai
4.		R.B.B.A Mills	Hinganghat
5.		Savatram, Akola	Akola
6.		Apollo Mills	Mumbai
7.		Dhule Mills	Dhule
8.		Nanded Mills	Nanded
9.		Gold Mohur Mills	Mumbai
10.		New city Mills	Mumbai
11.		Aurangabad Mills	Aurangabad
12.		Chalisgaon Mills	Chalisgaon
	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		
13.		Swadeshi Mills, Mau	Maunathbhanjan

1	2	3	4
		Orissa Cotton Mills	Bhagatpur
15.	West Bengal	Laxmi Narayan	Rishra
16.		Sodepore Mills	Sodepur
	Tamil Nadu		
17.		Sri Sarda Mills	Combatore
18.		Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills.	Coimbatore

**Statement II**

*Private partners finalized to run five NTC mills in joint venture*

Name of the mill	Private partners identified
India United Mill No.1	Bhaskar Industries Limited
New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	M/s Alok Industries Limited
Aurangabad Textile Mills	M/s Alok Industries Limited
Gold Mohur Textile Mills	M/s Pantaloom Retail (India) Ltd. (Consortium)
Apollo Textile Mills	M/s Panatloon Retail (India) Ltd. (Consortium)

**Statement III**

*Details of extent and value of land held by the five NTC mills for which Private partners have been finalized*

Sl.No	Name of the Unit	Total available areas as per RFP (in Area)	Book value as per Balance Sheet (Rs. Crores)	As per assets valuation report taking into a/c DTR 58 (2) read with DCR 58 (1) (Crore)*
1.	India United No. 1	21.28	2.83	321.92
2.	New City of Bombay	6.70	0.01	128.71
3.	Aurangabad Textile	26.38	0.0001	101.59
4.	Gold Mohur Textile Mills	7.05	0.01	78.80
5.	Apollo Textile Mills	5.19	0.02	123.82

\*Mill land -Industrial Rate  
Surplus land Commercial Rate

**Setting up of Handicrafts Complexes**

1311. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:  
SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided any financial assistance for setting up of handicrafts complexes in the country for the promotion of handicrafts, particularly in Karnataka;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal from Karnataka in

this regard is pending with the Union Government;

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

(e) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) There is no scheme for providing financial assistance for setting of Handicrafts Complexes in the country. However, support is provided for establishing Urban Haats. Under the scheme for setting up of Urban Haat financial assistance has been provided in current financial year to different State agencies, including in the State of Karnataka, as per details given below:—

S.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Organization	Urban Haat	Amount Released
1.	Karnataka	J.S.S. Maha Vidyapeeth, Mysore	Mysore	Rs. 17,15,000/-
2.	Madhya Pradesh	M.P. Hastship Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam, Bhopal	Indore	Rs. 35,00,000/-
3.	Rajasthan	Udhyan Protshan Sansthan Jaipur	Jodhpur	Rs. 17,50,000/-

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Minimum Support Prices**

1312. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI MOHD. THIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agricultural produces for which the Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs);

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure stability in the prices of agricultural produces for which MSP are not fixed;

(c) whether the farmers are facing problems in selling their crops at MSP;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the present status of remuneration to farmers on each crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 25 crops namely Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar (Tur), Moong, Urad, Cotton, Groundnut-in-shell, Sunflower seed, Soyabean, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Wheat, Barley Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustard, Safflower, Toria, Copra, Jute and Tobacco and Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for Sugarcane.

In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on the request of a State/UT Government for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of the commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). However, the amount of

loss to be shared between Central Government and the concerned State Government is restricted to 25% of value of procurement. Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.

Appropriat Procurement arrangements are made by the designated agencies to buy agricultural produce at MSP in different States. Further, with the amendment of

the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, the farmers now have more options to sell their produce to the prospective buyers. If the market price is more than the MSP fixed by the Government, Farmer are free to sell their produce in the open market.

A statement indicating the MSPs announced in recent years is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Minimum Support Prices*

(Rs. per quintal)

SI.No	Commodity	Variety	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Paddy	Common	580 <sup>^</sup>	645\$\$
		Grade 'A'	610 <sup>^</sup>	675\$\$
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	540	600
		Maldandi	555	620
3.	Bajra		540	600
4.	Maize		540	620
5.	Ragi		540	600
6.	Arhar(Tur)		1410	1550 <sup>^^</sup>
7.	Moong		1520	1700 <sup>^^</sup>
8.	Urad		1520	1700 <sup>^^</sup>
9.	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34	1770 <sup>*</sup>	1800 <sup>*</sup>
		H-4	1990 <sup>**</sup>	2030 <sup>**</sup>
10.	Groundnut in Shell		1520	1550
11.	Sunflower Seed		1500	1510
12.	Soyabean	Black	900	910
		Yellow	1020	1050
13.	Sesamum		1560	1580
14.	Nigerseed		1220	1240
	<b>Rabi crops</b>			
15.	Wheat		750\$\$	1000
16.	Barley		565	650
17.	Gram		1445	1600

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Masur (Lentil)		1545	1700
19.	Rapeseed/Mustard		1715	1800
20.	Safflower		1565	1650
21.	Toria		1680	
	Other Crops			
22.	Copra	Milling	3590	3620
	(calender Year)	Ball	3840	3870
23.	Jute		1000	1055
24.	Sugarcane ●		80.25	81.18
25.	Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil (F2 Gr)	32.00	32.00
	(Rs. per kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Gr)	34.00	34.00

- SMP is linked to a basic recovery of 9.0%
- \*\* An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal was payable over the Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- ^ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal was payable between 1.10.2006 to 31.03.2007. In case of Bihar and Kerala additional incentive bonus extended upto 31.5.2007 and in case of A.P Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal additional incentive bonus extended upto 30.9.2007.
- Medium Staple.
- \*\* Long Staple.
- ^^ A bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable over & above the MSP

#### Pllight of Onion Growers

1313. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the onion growers all over the country, especially in Karnataka are facing a deep crisis due to fall of wholesale onion prices;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received requests from respective States for increase in the minimum support price of onions;

(c) whether the Government has put a ban on export of onion as a measure to bring down retail price of onion;

(d) if so, the whether this has led to further decline in wholesale prices; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):(a) The prices of onion in the country, measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) had declined in the week ending 3rd November 2007 by 1.19% over the previous week. But it was higher by 2.72% when compared with the previous month and higher by 19.43% over the period of one year from 3rd November 2007. The month-end wholesale prices of local onion at Mysore and Bellibebur markets in Karnataka which had been in the range of Rs. 300-Rs. 425 per quintal in September, 2006 ruled in the range of Rs. 650 -Rs. 950 per quintal in September, 2007 indicating buoyancy in prices of onion.

(b) No, Sir. Government has not received any request from States for increasing the prices of onion.

(c) to (e) The market prices of onion having ruled very high in the recent past, the Government took measures to make additional quantities of onion available

in the domestic markets by bringing onion under the Restricted List of Items of export for a limited period. As such, export of onion was not banned.

#### Wage Parity

1314. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of men and women workers working in organised and unorganised sectors, State, Sector, Rural and Urban-wise;

(b) whether there is wage parity between men and women workers in the said sectors;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government for the compliance of the rule/laws related to wage parity; and

(d) the details of gender specific labour laws in the country indicating the level of implementation of the said laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The total number of men and women working in organized and unorganized sectors are 2, 64,58,400 and 43, 30, 00, 000 as 31.03.2005 respectively. The state-wise detail of labour force in organized sectors is as per statement enclosed. The sector and state-wise details regarding men and women employed in unorganized sectors are not maintained.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is wage parity between men and women workers in so far as the organized sectors are concerned. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remuneration without discrimination between men and women workers in respect of wages and other amenities.

(d) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 are the gender specific labour laws in the country. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 is being implemented by the respective State Government in the State Sphere and the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in the Central Sphere. Action is initiated under various provisions of the Act as and when violations are reported by the concerned enforcement agencies. Under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, women employer are entitled to maternity benefit at the rate of average daily wage for the period of their actual absence upto 12 weeks due to delivery.

Under various other labour laws, protective provisions are available for women workers. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Building and Other Construction Workers Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, etc., which provide *inter alia*, creche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding children during working hours, provision of maternity leaves and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace. The various State Governments are the appropriate agencies for enforcing these laws.

#### Statement

##### *State-wise employment in the Organised Sector as on 31.03.2005*

(in thousands)

Sl.No	State/Union Territory	Employment in Public Sector	Employment in Private Sector	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	531.5	580.6	1112.2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1395.8	647.0	2042.8
3.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	35.0	2.7	37.7
4.	Bihar	494.7	32.5	527.1

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chandigarh	60.50	28.50	89.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	307.30	31.70	339.00
7.	Delhi	614.90	216.20	831.20
8.	Daman & Diu	2.0	12.5	14.5
9.	Goa	70.0	41.9	111.9
10.	Gujarat	832.1	861.4	1693.6
11.	Haryana	389.90	258.00	647.90
12.	Himachal Pradesh	258.40	58.90	317.30
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	199.6	10.5	210.1
14.	Jharkhand	891.7	150.3	1042.0
15.	Karnataka	1059.3	802.8	1862.1
16.	Kerala	614.9	524.9	1139.8
17.	Meghalaya	72.6	9.3	81.9
18.	Manipur	77.9	2.7	80.6
19.	Mizoram	40.1	1.4	41.5
20.	Maharashtra	2137.6	1403.3	3540.9
21.	Madhya Pradesh	915.3	155.7	1071.1
22.	Nagaland	68.2	4.1	72.3
23.	Orissa	659.9	902.2	750.1
24.	Punjab	520.0	253.1	773.10
25.	Rajasthan	932.8	247.7	1180.5
26.	Tripura	110.4	12.9	123.3
27.	Pondichery	40.4	17.6	58.0
28.	Tamil Nadu	1512.8	765.9	2278.7
29.	Uttar Pradesh	1650.4	437.5	2087.9
30.	Uttaranchal	224.0	37.30	261.3
31.	West Bengal	1286.4	752.4	2038.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18006.6</b>	<b>8451.8</b>	<b>26458.4</b>



**Delays in Project at MDL**

1315. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crucial projects to build stealth frigates and missile destroyers at Mazgaon Dock Limited are running way behind schedule;

(b) if so, the time when the construction of frigates at Mazgaon Dock was approved and the original time schedule of the project;

(c) the reasons for delay in building stealth frigates and missile destroyers; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to speed up the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Project for construction of three stealth frigates at MDL was sanctioned in 1998 with scheduled delivery as December 2005, December 2006 & December 2007 for the three ships. However, the schedule was revised both for stealth frigates and missile destroyers. Now, these projects are progressing as per the revised schedule of delivery without slippage.

(c) The major reasons for the delays are:—

- (i) Concurrent design and construction of warships;
- (ii) Delay in finalization of system and system interfaces for development equipment;
- (iii) Delay in ordering of some Weapon Systems;
- (iv) Non performance of some of the indigenous vendors.

(d) Important steps taken by the Government were having stringent monitoring mechanism on half yearly basis by Apex Steering Committee under Secretary (Defence Production) and quarterly review by Controller of Warship Production and Acquisitions, half yearly review at Inter Government level for Russian equipment and delegation of enhanced financial power to MDL.

**Field Hospitals of Army**

1316. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army field hospitals are facing acute shortage of doctors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to transfer surplus medical officers/doctors from command hospitals to field units in order to meet the shortage in operational areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) There is no acute shortage of doctors in the field medical units against the existing authorization.

(c) The deployment in Command hospitals is commensurate to the workload at these hospitals. Appropriate arrangements for helath care of troops in operational areas are always ensured by the Services.

**Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana**

1317. SHRI G. KARUNKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts covered under Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana in the country particularly in Karnataka, State-wise;

(b) whether the said scheme has been closed down; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) A statement containing the details of districts under Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana in the country is enclosed. There are two districts namely Dharwad and Raichur in Klamataka State.

(b) and (c) The scheme was started in July, 2001 on pilot basis for a period of three years and was closed down in February, 2004. The workers already registered under the scheme would be receiving the benefits of the scheme. The scheme is being run by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for a period of nine years or

till all registered members become eligible for pension benefits which starts after 10 years of entry.

**Statement***List of districts covered under Krishi Sramik Samajik Yojana*

S.No.	States/U.Ts.	No. of District selected	Name of the District
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Guntur East Godavari West Godavari Krishna
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	East Siang
3.	Assam	1	Nagaon
4.	Bihar	3	Madhepura Gaya Saharsa
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	Raipur Bilaspur
6.	Gujarat	2	Kheda Surat
7.	Haryana	1	Hissar
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Kangara
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Jammu
10.	Jharkhand	2	Palamau Singhbhum West
11.	Karnataka	2	Dharwad Raichur
12.	Kerala	1	Palakkad
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3	West Nimar

1	2	3	4
			Jabalpur
			Ujjain
14.	Maharashtra	4	Jaigaon Yavatmal Solapur Dhule
15.	Manipur	1	Imphal
16.	Meghalaya	1	East Khasi Hills
17.	Nagaland	1	Kohima
18.	Orissa	2	Koraput Samabalpur
19.	Punjab	1	Amritsar
20.	Rajasthan	2	Sriganganagar Udaipur
21.	Sikkim	1	East Sikkim
22.	Tamil Nadu	4	Cuddalore Thanjavur Trichirappalli Madurai
23.	Tripura	1	West Tripura
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Allahabad Badaun
25.	Uttaranchal	2	Nainital Dehradun
26.	West Bengal	2	Medinipur Bardhaman
27.	Goa	1	North Goa
28.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal
Total		50	

[*Translation*]

### Training for Cyber Crime Cases

1318. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance and training to the Government agencies namely CBI, police etc. for imparting them better training in order to deal with the cyber crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present laws are being amended in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any scheme has been formulated regarding the usefulness of information Technology in view of the changed circumstances in the investigation of other crimes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Department of Information Technology has received a proposal entitled "Cyber/Hi-Tech Crime Investigation and Training" for funding from CBI/CBI Academy, Ghaziabad, for setting up investigation and training facilities for cyber crime investigations with an outlay of Rs. 363 lakhs for a duration of one year.

(c) and (d) A Bill to amend IT Act, 2000 was introduced in the Parliament which *inter alia* provides for:

New forms of crimes, like publishing of material containing sexually explicit act in electronic form, video voyeurism, breach of confidentiality and leakage of data by service providers, e-commerce frauds through impersonation commonly known as phishing, identity theft and offensive messages through communication service.

(e) and (f) No Sir.

### Setting up of STPI

1319. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has established in 1991 with a view to promote the export of Software;

(b) if so, whether the STPI is setting up Software Parks at various places in collaboration with the State Governments;

(c) if so, the name of the States where such Parks have been set up;

(d) whether the various States especially Himachal Pradesh Government expressed their desire for setting up of Software Parks or have sent any proposal for the setting up such Parks;

(e) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be set up and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government proposes to set up one more Software Park in Himachal Pradesh in view of the favorable climate and circumstances of the State for setting up Software Parks; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) is having 48 centers across the country. The state-wise details of the centers is enclosed as statement.

(d) to (h) As per STPI, setting up of STPI facility at 11 locations in various states is under consideration. STPI has not received any proposal for setting up new center in the State of Himachal Pradesh, though STPI has not center in Shimla.

As per the current policy for setting up of new STPI center, the State Government has to make available 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq. ft of built up space and grant-in aid of Rs. 1 crore to STPI, and Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology provides the seed money of Rs. 50 lakhs for implementation of the project. A feasibility study has to be conducted by STPI jointly with State

Government to evaluate export potential and the commercial viability of the proposal.

**Statement**

*Software technology parks of India*

Sl.No.	States	STPI Centers
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.		Thirupati
3.		Vijayawada
4.		Vizag
5.		Warangal
6.		Kakinada
7.	Assam	Guwahati
8.	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai
9.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
12.		Jammu
13.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
14.	Karnataka	Bangalore
15.		Hubli
16.		Mangalore
17.		Manipal
18.		Mysore
19.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
21.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad
22.		Nagpur
23.		Nasik
24.		Navi Mumbai

1	2	3
25.		Kolhapur
26.		Pune
27.	Manipur	Imphal
28.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
29.		Rourkela
30.	Pondicherry	Pandicherry
31.	Punjab	Mohali
32.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
33.		Jodhour
34.	Sikkim	Gangtok
35.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
36.		Coimbatore
37.		Madurai
38.		Thirunavelli
39.		Trichy
40.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
41.		Lucknow
42.		Noida
43.		Allahabad
44.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
45.	West Bengal	Kolkata
46.		Durgapur
47.		Khargapur
48.		Siliguri

[English]

**Stagnation in Defence Services**

1320. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing stagnation in the three services of Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to end the backlog in Armed Forces;

(d) whether Ajay Vikram Singh Committee's Report has been implemented; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (e) Review of the creation of posts and restructuring of the cadres in forces is and ongoing and continuous process. Mechanisms exist in all the three Services to address issues of stagnation.

In May 2001, Army Hqrs. had forwarded a paper to the Ministry of Defence drawing attention to certain shortcomings and imbalances in the organizational structure of the officers cadre with the aim of achieving optimal combat effectiveness by bringing down age profile of Battalions/Brigade Commanders and to make the organization more effective in fulfilling individual career aspirations of the officers.

Ministry of Defence had set up a committee to examine proposals of Army Hqrs. on 16th July 2001, under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Vikram Singh, the then Special Secretary with representatives of all the three Services. The Committee (AVSC) submitted its report in January 2003. The Raksha Mantri gave in principle' approval to the recommendation of the Committee in September 2003. The Committee identified two interrelated issues viz., high age profile and career stagnation. The Committee made recommendations encompassing both short term and long term measures. Certain recommendations pertaining to non-select ranks have already been implemented with effect from December 2004.

AVSC has recommended a multi-pronged of approach comprising the pull and peel factors, which include a strategy to bring down the age profile through a lasting solution and also short term measures to provide some immediate relief.

*[Translation]*

#### **Research Centre in Ordnance Factory**

1321. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme for establishing modern research centre in Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur;

(b) the role likely to be played by this centre in the manufacturing of modern weapons;

(c) whether the production target of this factory is likely to be enhanced with the establishment of this centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) A Laboratory is being created at Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur for taking up development of new products, up-gradation of existing products and facilitating easy absorption of technology.

(c) and (d) Government has recently decided to place a greater focus on R & D work in Ordnance Factories, and the laboratory is being set up for this purpose. Development of new products or upgrades takes considerable time; as such, it may not be possible at this stage to know details of the products that would be developed, or the possibility for increasing production targets.

*[English]*

#### **Allocation of 2G Spectrum**

1322. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether new set guidelines have been issued by the Government for allocation of 2G spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the procedure and guidelines that was being followed for allocation of 2G spectrum till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A Committee has been set up to recommend the revised subscriber based spectrum allocation criteria for allotment of 2G Spectrum. However, the matter is sub-judice in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

(c) the initial spectrum for 2G is allotted to the mobile telecom operators in accordance with the relevant provisions of their Service License Agreement. With growth of service and increased subscriber base, additional spectrum is allotted as per their request and taking into account the subscriber based eligibility criteria and subject to availability of spectrum in a telecom service area.

#### **Prawn Culture**

1323. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote prawn culture in Orissa;

(b) if so, the Central assistance provided during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether prawn growers are being given any assistance or subsidies for that purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. "Development of Inland Fisheries and

Aquaculture" is provided to all the States. Details of funds released during the last three years under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme, State-wise, is given in the statement enclosed. It includes funds provided for various other components also besides Freshwater Prawn Culture and Brackishwater Shrimp Culture.

(c) and (d) Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (FFDAs) and Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (BFDAs) set up in the country provide a package of technical, financial and extension support to prawn/shrimp farmers for production of freshwater prawn (scampi) as well as brackishwater shrimp. Financial assistance in the form of subsidy is provided to the beneficiaries for construction of ponds, cost of inputs and for establishment of freshwater prawn seed hatchery through these agencies to undertake prawn/shrimp culture activities.

#### Statement

#### *Release of Funds During 2004-05 to 2006-07 under Centrally Sponsored Scheme Development of Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture (in Lakhs)*

S.No.	Name of State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.00	20.00	363
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	43.19	24
3.	Assam	86.00	0.00	40
4.	Bihar	25.00	0.00	40
5.	Chhattisgarh	95.00	70.00	80
6.	Goa	0.00	5.27	0.00
7.	Gujarat	30.00	57.34	0.00
8.	Haryana	23.03	143.50	20.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	86.31	58.50	20.00
10.	J & K	189.00	225.13	0.00
11.	Jharhand	45.70	74.35	0.00
12.	Karnataka	52.50	52.82	165.60
13.	Kerala	0.00	319.08	50.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	250.00	150.00	160.00
15.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	23
16.	Manipur	83.85	0.00	75
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	37.50	139.00	61

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Nagaland	113.25	166.06	90
20.	Orissa	165.99	134.47	200
21.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	5
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	6.75	3.75	44.05
24.	Sikkim	4.50	4.50	30
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	20.00	50
26.	Tripura	41.80	58.75	40
27.	Uttar Pradesh	240.85	400.945	250
28.	Uttaranchal	80.00	28.275	20
29.	West Bengal	315.67	390.22	225
<b>Total</b>		<b>2111.90</b>	<b>2565.50</b>	<b>2075.65</b>

*[Translation]*

**PCO Connection at Panchayat Level**

1324. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the difficulties are being faced in the rural areas to get connection and to get PCO connection at Panchayati;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether telephone sets being given with the new connection are of sub-standard and poor quality;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Non-availability of cable pairs and non/poor availability of WLL signals in remote areas are the main reasons.

The measures such as laying of underground cables, erection of overhead lines and installation of BTSs etc. are being taken to provide telephone connections and PCOs in rural areas.

(c) No, Sir.

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

*[English]*

**Induction of AJT In Air Force**

1325. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) has inducted Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTs) to train rookie pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the twin seater AJT Hawks; and

(d) the extent to which IAF will be benefited after the induction of AJT?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Government have approved induction of 66 Hawk Advanced JetTrainer(AJTT) aircraft from M/s. BAE Systems of the United Kingdom. Twenty four such aircraft will be supplied by BAE systems in Flyway condition and the remaining 42 aircraft will be licensed manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Four aircraft have been delivered by M/s. BAE Systems in the United Kingdom. Out of these, two aircraft have reached Air Force Station Bidar on 12.11.2007.

(c) The twin seater Hawk AJT is a transonic, ground attack/trainer aircraft, powered by a single Rolls Royce

Adour Mk 871turbo fan engine. It provides basic, advanced and weapons training. The aircraft is equipped with modern avionics.

(d) The induction of Advanced Jet Trainer will help IAF to ensure safe and smooth transition of young trainee pilots to high performance/technology aircraft in front line fighter squadrons.

#### **Seed Insurance**

1326. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seed producing companies have requested the Union Government to introduce seed insurance cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Sharing of River Water by Rajasthan and Haryana**

1327. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:  
SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Haryana is drawing certain amount of water of its share from the Bhakra main line fed by water from Ravi and Beas and is violating the terms of Bhakra-Nagal Agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any directions to the Haryana Government to stop drawing a share from Ravi-Beas water from the Bhakra main line;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) On 13.1.1959 the Governors of the erstwhile States of Punjab and Rajasthan entered into the Bhakra Nangal Agreement, 1959 to collaborate in the construction of a dam across the river Sutlej at Bhakra and other ancillary works executed under the Bhakra Nangal Project on the terms and conditions given in the Agreement. As per the Agreement, the benefits were to be shared by the Partner States in accordance with the sharing of the cost of the project and accordingly, the stored water supplies were distributed between the erstwhile States of Punjab and Rajasthan. Subsequent to the Reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Punjab in 1966, the share of the erstwhile State of Punjab in Sutlej waters was distributed between Punjab and Haryana in a meeting held on 19.12.1966.

Rivers Ravi and Beas are connected by Madhopur Beas link. At Bhakra reservoir, water diverted from river Beas to river Sutlej through Beas Sutlej Link also become available, besides the waters of river Sutlej. With an agreement among Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan signed in 1981 on the sharing of surplus Ravi-Beas waters, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), in which the three States are represented, makes the periodical allocations of Ravi-Beas waters also. The distribution of this water amongst the Partner States is being done by BBMB in accordance with an ad hoc interim arrangement approved by BBMB in its 105th meeting held on 03.12.1982. Accordingly, Haryana has been drawing certain amount of surplus Ravi-Beas waters as per the ad hoc arrangement, as agreeable to all the Partner States.

Punjab and Rajasthan have recently filed Suits in the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding construction by Haryana of "Bhakra Main Line-Hansi Branch-Butana Branch Multipurpose Link Channel" proposed to off take from BML and use a part of the Ravi-Beas waters being drawn from BML at the other existing off-take location in BML, for equitable distribution of water within the State. In its Suit, State of Rajasthan has mentioned that Haryana's not entitled to carry Ravi-Beas water through BML. Carrying of Ravi-Beas waters through BML for Haryana's proposed channel is an inter-state matter and consent of partner States is required as per the Bhakra



Nangal Agreement. Further, the only Ravi-Beas water that can be carried through BML is 0.17 MAF water for Nohar Sidhmukh project of Rajasthan. State of Punjab, in its Suit, has mentioned that Bhakra Nangal Project has been constructed to harness the waters of the river Sutlej. Haryana has unilaterally undertaken the project to irrigate its areas lying in the neighbouring Yamuna basin, which areas are also not part of areas identified for irrigation in the Bhakra Nangal Agreement including the Bhakra Nangal Project Report.

(c) to (e) Does not arise. Haryana presently gets Ravi-Beas waters as agreeable to all the Partner States as informed by BBMB.

*[English]*

**Special Package/Subsidy to Sericulture**

1328. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give special package/subsidy to sericulture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose during the Eleventh Plan period;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from various State Governments for providing special package/subsidy;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has approved three schemes namely seed organization and HRD with an outlay of Rs. 46.50 crores, Quality certification systems with an outlay of Rs. 13.66 crores, Research, Development, training and IT initiatives with an outlay of Rs. 94.71 crores for implementation during XIth plan. Government is considering a proposal for continuation of the flagship programme of sericulture Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) during the XIth plan. The scheme will be implemented through Central Silk Board in a project mode in the form of packages mainly under three sectors viz. Seed, cocoon and post-cocoon sectors supported by the service sector for achieving the targets and the objectives of the XI Plan.

(c) to (e) All the Government of the States practising Sericulture have been requested to submit proposals under the modified Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) and the scheme will be implemented, once it is approved.

**Opening of New Fashion and Textile Technology Institutes**

1329. SHRI N.N KRISHNADAS:  
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to open new Fashion and Textile Technology Institutes during the Eleventh Plan Period;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Governments particularly from Orissa for opening such institutes;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K. S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. New Centres of National Institute of Fashion Technology are being set up subject to the conditions that the State Government is willing to provide land and financial support and fulfillment of feasibility conditions. Decisions about the new centres are taken by NIFT Board, a Statutory body under Ministry of Textiles, as and when the proposals from State Governments are received.

(c) and (d) Proposals have been received from Government of Bihar and Government of Kerala for setting up NIFT Centre in their States. No formal proposal has been received from Government of Orissa.

(e) Proposal for setting up of NIFT Centre in Bihar has been approved by NIFT Board and the matter has been taken up with State Government for allotment of land and funding support.

Proposal for setting up of NIFT Centre in Kannur, Kerala will be placed for consideration of the Board in its next meeting.

#### Cultivation in Vidharbha

1330. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct soil tests in all districts of Vidharbha so that cultivation can be done according to properties of soil of that particular region and yield per acre can be increased; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done in the Vidharbha region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, soil tests are conducted in all districts in Vidharbha. As per the analysis of soil samples farmers are advised to apply manures and fertilizers for their crops. Also as per soil survey reports, farmers are advised to grow crops, according to properties of soil of a particular region to increase the yield per acre.

*[Translation]*

#### Stock of Wheat

1331. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total stock of wheat held by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on date:

(b) the total quantity of wheat allocated every month by FCI for various foodgrain based schemes; and

(c) the estimated additional demand of wheat by March, 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD

SINGH): (a) Total stock of wheat in Central Pool as on 1.11.2007 is 90.25 lakh tons.

(b) The monthly allocation of wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System and various welfare schemes is 10.12 lakh Tons (November 2007).

(c) The initial estimated annual requirement of wheat for TPDS and welfare schemes during 2007-08 is 140 lakh tons. However, requests have been received from the States and UT Governments for TPDS and nodal and nodal Ministers for other welfare schemes for additional allocation of 7.16 lakh tons wheat per month, which is under scrutiny.

*[English]*

#### White Paper on Availability of Water

1332. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL  
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the adverse affects of change in hydrological cycle due to climatic change the Government has formed an Advisory Council to prepare a White Paper;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms of reference of the said Advisory Council;

(c) whether the Council has made any observations/recommendations, so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken for their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources has not formed an Advisory Council to prepare a white paper on the adverse affects of change in hydrological cycle due to climatic change.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Unemployment in Agriculture**

1333. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of agricultural produces have risen upto three times during the last five years resulting in high unemployment rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the farmers who have quit agriculture during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the data of Directorate General of Foreign

Trade, the import of agricultural produces has increased from Rs. 16,063.38 crore in 2002-03 to 28,062.94 crore in 2006-07. However, this increase did not result in high unemployment rate. As per the two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on Employment and Unemployment, the employment on Usual Status basis in agriculture sector was 239.73 million persons in 1999-2000 (55th round) which has gone up to 258.59 million persons in 2004-05 (61st round).

(c) Information on farmers quitting agriculture are not maintained. However, the number of operational holdings, as per the latest available Agricultural Census Report, had increased by 4.54 per cent in the country between 1995-96 and 2000-01 indicating an increase in agricultural activities. In a few States, the number of holdings decreased during this period. Statewise number of operational holdings is given in the enclosed statement

**Statement***Statewise Total Number of Operational Holdings*

(In '000)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2000-01	1995-96	%Variation*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11532	10603	8.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	107	104	2.94
3.	Assam	2603	2683	-2.97
4.	Bihar#	11547	14155	NA
5.	Chhattisgarh	3255	NA	NA
6.	Goa	64	70	-9.00
7.	Gujarat	4134	3781	9.34
8.	Haryana	1528	1728	-11.59
9.	Himachal Pradesh	914	863	5.91
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1443	1336	8.02
11.	Jharkhand	NA	NA	NA
12.	Karnataka	7079	6221	13.80

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Kerala	6657	6298	5.69
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7360	NA	NA
	M.P +Chhattisgarh	10615	9603	10.54
15.	Maharashtra	13258	10653	24.46
16.	Manipur	149	143	4.60
17.	Meghalaya	214	160	33.53
18.	Mizoram	76	66	14.57
19.	Nagaland	144	149	-3.61
20.	Orissa	4067	3966	2.54
21.	Punjab	997	1093	-8.76
22.	Rajasthan	5819	5364	8.50
23.	Sikkim	51	44	15.80
24.	Tamil Nadu	7859	8012	-1.91
25.	Tripura	479	301	59.26
26.	Uttaranchal	891	NA	NA
27.	Uttar pradesh	21668	NA	NA
	UP+ Uttaranchal	22559	21529	4.78
28.	West Bengal	6790	6547	3.71
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	11	10	12.70
30.	Chandigarh	1	2	-32.37
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	14	14	0.00
32.	Daman & Diu	6	3	81.79
33.	Delhi	28	35	-20.93
34.	Lakshadweep	10	9	9.24
35.	Pondicherry	38	34	11.59
Total		12,08,22	11,55,80	4.54

\* Based on actual figures.

# 1995-96 Number figures include Jharkhand also.

## Data for the Year 200-01 not collected. NA= Not Available.

*[English]***Hoarding of Wheat**

1334. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of large-scale hoarding of wheat by traders and millers has been received by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government has decided to intervene by effecting a duty cut on wheat flour;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps Government proposes to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No such complaints of large scale hoarding have been received.

(b) No such decision has been taken.

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

(d) Vide Central Order dated 29.08.2006 States/UT Governments have been empowered to impose stock limits in respect of wheat. All the States/UTs have also been advised to take effective action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1995 to bring out the hoarded stocks, if any, into the open market.

Central Government have also taken a number of other measures to augment domestic availability of wheat, some of which are as follows:

- (i) Import by State Agencies;
- (ii) Permitting private imports at zero duty;
- (iii) Banning exports;
- (iv) Fixation of a higher Maximum Support price (MSP) to maximize procurement.

*[Translation]***Foot and Mouth Diseases**

1335. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of animals have died of foot and mouth diseases in various States during the last three years;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to protect the animals from the said diseases;

(d) whether the Government is conducting any research in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION: (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Foot and Mouth Disease is reported sporadically in the country and death due to this disease is negligible. The mortality due to this disease during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are 294, 2797 and 428 respectively. The State-wise figures are enclosed as statement.

(c) To protect animals from Foot and Mouth Disease, the Union Government is implementing an Intensive Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) in 54 specified districts of the country. Vaccination against FMD in remaining areas is undertaken by States under another programme called Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The research programmes on epidemiology including molecular epidemiology, antigenic analysis and assessment of immune status in different livestock in the country is being carried out by Project Directorate on Foot and Mouth Diseases (PD-FMD) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The details of the outcome are as follows:-

Uniform diagnosis of FMD using sandwich Enzyme Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay (ELISA) for type identification has resulted into specificity, reliability and uniformity in the diagnosis of the disease.

Molecular epidemiological studies revealed endemicity of the distribution of different antigenic serotypes and also the antigenicity.

Genotype differentiating ELISA and RT-PCR has been developed to distinguish between genotypes VI and VII of serotype A.

**Statement**

*State-wise Statement of mortality due to Foot-and Mouth Disease in India during 2004, 2005 & 2006*

Sl.No	State	Species	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Bov	95	1954	112
		buf.	0	0	0
		ovi/cap.	2	45	5
		sui	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	bov.	33	0	0
		buf.	0	0	0
		ovi/cap	0	0	0
		sui	0	0	0
3.	Assam	bov	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	bov	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	bov	0	0	0
6.	Goa	bov	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	bov	0	17	0
		buf	10	3	0
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	bov	6	18	1
		buf.	10	0	32
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0
		sui	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	bov	0	11	6
		buf	0	0	2
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	bov	0	7	11
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	bov	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	bov	42	151	116
		buf	12	14	25
		ovi/cap.	16	293	15
		sui	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	bov	0	3	0
		sui	0	59	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	bov	1	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	bov	0	2	0
16.	Manipur	bov	0	10	1
		buf	0	0	0
		buf	0	0	0
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0
		sui	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	bov	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	bov	1	0	8
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0
		sui	22	6	1
19.	Nagaland	bov	1	0	0
20.	Orissa	bov	1	5	13
		ovi/cap	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	bov	5	0	0
		buf	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	bov	26	23	0
		buf	5	66	0
		ovi/cap	0	75	68
		sui	0	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Sikkim	bov	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	bov	2	7	6
		ovi/cap	0	3	0
25.	Tripura	bov	4	0	0
		sui	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	bov	0	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	bov	0	0	0
		buf	0	0	0
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	bov	0	24	6
29.	A & N Islands	bov	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	bov	0	0	0
31.	D & N Haveli	bov	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	bov	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	bov	0	0	0
		ovi/cap	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	bov	0	0	0
		ovi/cap	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	bov	0	0	0
		ovi/cap	0	0	0
		sui	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		bov	<b>227</b>	<b>2232</b>	<b>280</b>
		buf	<b>27</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>59</b>
		ovi/cap	<b>18</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>88</b>
		sui	<b>22</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>294</b>	<b>2797</b>	<b>428</b>

bov. : Bovine (Cattle)  
 buf : Buffalo  
 ovi/cap : Ovine/Caprine  
 sui : Swine



**Hydrology Project II**

1336. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing assistance for the Hydrology Project II

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions laid down for this assistance; and

(c) the status of said project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank supported Hydrology Project Phase II (HP-II) is an extension of the earlier Hydrology Project Phase-I (HP-I) and taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India w.e.f. April 5, 2006. The duration of the HP-II is six years. The total cost of the project including taxes, duties, physical & price contingencies is Rs. 631. 83 crore. After negotiation with the World Bank a loan of US\$ 104.98 Million was approved by World Bank as IBRD Loan. The balance amount will be funded by Government of India. The Project has been accepted by the World Bank on usual terms and conditions of World Bank funding and the principal amount of the loan is to be repaid in accordance with the Loan Agreement. The objective of the project is to extend and promote the sustained and effective use of the Hydrology Information System (HIS) by the implementing agencies concerned with water resources planning and management in the 13 States and 8 Central agencies. The project is being implemented in the States namely: Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab & Tamil Nadu and Central agencies namely: Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), Central Water Commission (CWC), India Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Bhakra Management Board (BBMB), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and Central Water & Power Research Station (CWPRS).

(c) In order to manage & monitor the project effectively, all the central and State implementing agencies have constituted the steering Committees and Coordination

Committees which have started functioning. As the part of Institutional Strengthening, a number of Officers from different implementing agencies engaged in the implementation of the project have been trained in various aspects of Hydrological Information System. Workshops have been conducted by central agencies i.e. MOWR, CWC, CGWB, NIH & BBMB for the officers of the implementing agencies on technical, financial and procurement aspects of implementation of the project. In addition to the above, implementing agencies have taken steps in the strengthening of infrastructure like office & training equipments, upgradation & procurement of computers & accessories. The actions for setting up of Hydrological Observation Networks in the new state implementing agencies is under progress. Procurement of three key consultancies namely: Implementation Support (Technical & Management), Decision Support System (Real Time and Decision Support System (Planning) are under advanced stage as Requests For Proposal (RFP) have been issued to the shortlisted firms.

**Benefits to Drought Areas Due to  
Sardar Sarovar Project**

1337. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:\

(a) whether drought affected areas of many of the States are expected to be benefited by Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the implementation of this project is being delayed without any reason due to which the estimated cost of this project is over running;

(d) if so, the initial estimated cost of this project alongwith the cost thereof at present; and

(e) the names of States that have requested for the implementation of the said project and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Drought affected areas of the Gujarat and Rajasthan are to get irrigation facilities from Sardar Sarovar Project.

(c) Implementation of the project has been delayed primarily due to suspension of the work from 1995 to 2000 during the pendency of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319/1994 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court filed by Narmada Bachao Andolan and due to slow progress of Resettlement & Rehabilitation of the project affected persons.

(d) The initial estimated cost of this project was Rs. 6406.04 crore at 1986-87 price level as per investment clearance granted by the Planning Commission in October 1988. Recently, the Government of Gujarat has submitted the revised estimate of the Sardar Sarovar (Narmada) Project at 2005-06 price level costing Rs. 35045.75 crore for approval.

(e) Irrigation is a State subject and planning, funding execution of project as well as priority of execution of the project is within the purview of the concerned State Government. The project is being implemented by the State Governments of Gujara, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

*[English]*

#### **Telecom Facilities in Villages**

1338. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in country especially in Maharashtra where Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) service have been provided;

(b) the number of villages in the country where no telecom facilities are available; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 5,55,532 villages in the country have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VTPs) facility, out of these 3,19,970 are through Wireless in Local Loop (WLL). In the State of Maharashtra, 36,918 villages have been provided with VPT facility, out of these 14,218 villages are having VPT facility through Wireless in Local Loop (WLL).

(b) and (c) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar

Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VTPs) in remaining 66,822 uncovered villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas, etc. As on 30.9.2007, 50,520 VTPs have been provided in the country including 5,612 villages of Maharashtra. Remaining 16,302 uncovered villages are likely to be provided with VPT facility progressively by June, 2008.

*[Translation]*

#### **Loans by Cooperative Banks**

1339. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of cooperative banks in providing loans for agriculture and related sectors has been declining continuously;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of loans available for agriculture during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has identified the obstacles in providing easy loan facilities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The share of Cooperative Banks to total agri-credit flow has declined from 33.97% in 2002-03 to 20.90% during 2006-07.

The share of Cooperative Banks has been declining due to the rapid growth in credit flow achieved by the Commercial Banks and RRBs. Besides, the Cooperatives, over the years, have developed a number of structural, organizational, managerial and financial weaknesses which have hampered their capacity to purvey ground level credit. Some of the reasons are enumerated below:-

(i) As on 31 March, 2007, 7 SCBs and 127 DCCBs were not complying with the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the B.R.Act 1949 and 8 SCARDB &

458 PACRDBs were running in losses during the 2004-05.

(ii) The Cooperatives do not have much financial resources of their own and depend on the higher tiers including NABARD for supplementing their resources.

(iii) High levels of overdues affects the recycling of funds and, as such, translates into lesser quantum of funds available for lending. The waiver of loans/interest by State Governments vitiates the recovery climate and prevents Cooperatives from recovering loans and recycling credit.

(c) The details of loans available for agriculture during the last three years is as under

(Rs. in Crore)			
Agency	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Comm. Banks	81481	125477	140382
Coop.Banks	31424	39786	42480
RRBs	12404	15223	20434
<b>Total</b>	<b>125309</b>	<b>180486</b>	<b>203296</b>

(d) and (e): Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Government for ensuring enhanced credit disbursement for agriculture are enclosed as statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *Steps taken by the Government for ensuring enhanced credit disbursement for agriculture*

The Government of India has, in recent years, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and NABARD, initiated several measures for providing loans to farmers. Some of the important measures are given below:

1 On 18 June, 2004 GOI announced a comprehensive Farm Credit package, which covered Debt Relief Measures for farmers in distress and farmers in arrears. One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for small and marginal farmers and relief to farmers indebted to institutional lenders, such as money lenders.

2 Commercial Banks and RRBs have advised to finance 50 Lakh new farmers during the year.

3. In order to review the Cooperatives, a Package of measures, as recommended by the Vaidyanthan Committee, is under implementation. So far, 18 States and 1 Union Territory have conveyed their acceptance of the Package which includes financial support, human resource skill improvement and systems upgradation, associated with legal reforms.

4. Banks have been advised to simplify the procedure for documentation for agricultural loans;

5. Effective from Kharif 2006-07, the Government has lowered the interest rates on crop loans to 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakhs on the principal amount. It has been decided to continue this policy for the year 2007-08 also.

6. Loans upto Rs. 50,000/- have been made collateral and margin free;

7. Banks have been advised to provide all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards to enable them to have hassle free access to credit.

8. Under Agri Clinic and Agri Business Centre Scheme, credit linked capital subsidy @ 25% of the capital cost of the project is funded through banks. The scheme has been envisaged with a view to provide extension and other services to farmers on payment basis. The subsidy would be 33.33% in respect of candidates belonging to SC/ST, women and other disadvantaged sections and those from North Eastern and Hill States.

9. To improve the outreach among the poor and the informal sector, the SHG-Bank linkage programme was intensified, particularly in 13 priority States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal with vast majority of the rural poor. Banks have also been advised to finance joint Liability Groups and Tenant Farmers' Groups;

10. As part of the measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India for financial inclusion, banks have been advised to open "No Frills"

accounts and issue simple overdraft facility against such accounts. Banks have also been advised to issue General Credit Cards upto Rs. 25,000/- without insisting on security and end use of funds:

11. Banks have been advised to undertake, on a pilot basis, 100% financial inclusion in at least one district in each State. Based on the success of the pilot, the State Level Bankers Committee in the States will draw a time bound plan for achieving 100% financial inclusion in other districts of the State;
12. To improve the financial outreach, detailed guidelines for Banking Correspondent/Banking Facilitator models have been provided to banks;
13. In order to examine the issue of financial exclusion in greater depth and to suggest measures for promoting financial inclusion, the Government of India had appointed a Committee on Financial Inclusion under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan. Based on the interim recommendations of the Committee, Government has announced creation of two funds, i.e. Financial Inclusion Fund and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund in the Union Budget for 2007-08.

*[English]*

#### **Assistance for Sugar Mills**

1340. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has recently forwarded a proposal to the Union Government seeking assistance for implementation of a programme for encouraging sugar mills and sugarcane production in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department of Food & Public Distribution and the Department of Agriculture and

Cooperation, the concerned administrative Departments for implementation of programmes relating to sugar and sugarcane respectively, have not received any such proposal recently from the Government of Orissa. However, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Marco Management of Agriculture is being implemented on the basis of the Work Plan prepared by the State Governments and approved by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during 2007-08. The Government of Orissa has proposed an outlay of Rs. 23.50 lakhs under Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based System (SUBACS) and the same has been approved for Seed Cane Multiplication, Inter Cropping demonstrations/Training and for conducting Farmer's Field School (FFS) on Sugarcane.

*(Translation)*

#### **Technology Mission for Livestock Development**

1341. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch any technological mission for livestock development in Maharashtra and various parts especially tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which administrative approval is likely to be accorded to the mission; and

(d) the funds to be provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. However Government is implementing the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) for development of bovine population in all districts of participating States, including tribal areas. Maharashtra is participating under the scheme since 2003-04 and central assistance to the tune of Rs. 1360.00 lakh has been released to the State for implementation of the project.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Difference in Retail and Wholesale Price**

1342. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the per kilogram difference between existing wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued in relation to maximum permissible difference between wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government monitors the prices, especially the retail prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The per kilogram difference between existing wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities in the metropolitan cities is given in the table below:

Commodity	Retail Price	Wholesale Price	Variation
1	2	3	4
<b>Centre</b>	14.11.07	14.11.2007	
<b>Rice</b>			
Chennai	14.00	12.00	2.00
Delhi	16.00	13.90	2.10
Kolkata	13.00	12.00	1.00
Mumbai	14.25	12.75	1.50
<b>Wheat</b>			
Chennai	16.00	15.50	0.50
Delhi	12.00	10.30	1.70
Kolkata	Nt		
Mumbai	14.50	12.75	1.75
<b>Atta</b>			
Chennai	18.00	17.00	1.00
Delhi	13.00	11.65	1.35
Kolkata	14.00	12.20	1.80
Mumbai	15.50	14.00	1.50

1	2	3	4
<b>Gram</b>			
Chennai	36.00	32.80	3.20
Delhi	35.00	30.25	4.75
Kolkata	32.00	30.00	2.00
Mumbai	34.00	33.00	1.00
<b>Tur</b>			
Chennai	44.00	42.00	2.00
Delhi	40.00	35.75	4.25
Kolkata	38.00	36.00	2.00
Mumbai	44.00	39.00	5.00
<b>Sugar</b>			
Chennai	14.00	13.50	0.50
Delhi	17.00	14.15	2.85
Kolkata	16.00	15.10	0.90
Mumbai	17.50	14.48	3.02
<b>Gur</b>			
Chennai	14.00	12.50	1.50
Delhi	18.00	15.75	2.25
Kolkata	16.00	12.50	3.50
Mumbai	20.00	16.50	3.50
<b>Groundnut Oil</b>			
Chennai	70.00	60.50	9.50
Delhi	120.00	113.55	6.45
Kolkata	86.00	83.50	2.50
Mumbai	95.00	90.00	5.00
<b>Mustard Oil</b>			
Chennai	Nt	Nt	
Delhi	64.00	57.50	6.50

1	2	3	4
Kolkata	60.00	57.50	2.50
Mumbai	64.00	62.66	1.34
<b>Vanaspati</b>			
Chennai	66.00	65.00	1.00
Delhi	62.00	58.04	5.96
Kolkata	55.00	52.50	2.50
Mumbai	64.00	60.66	3.34
<b>Tea (loose)</b>			
Chennai	Nr	Nr	
Delhi	108.00	92.85	15.15
Kolkata	100.00	80.00	20.00
Mumbai	144.00	65.00	79.00
<b>Milk*</b>			
Chennai	15.50	.	
Delhi	20.00	.	
Kolkata	29.00	.	
Mumbai	18.00	.	
<b>Potato</b>			
Chennai	15.00	12.00	3.00
Delhi	13.00	6.25	-6.75
Kolkata	9.00	8.00	1.00
Mumbai	13.00	10.50	2.50
<b>Onion</b>			
Chennai	14.00	10.00	4.00
Delhi	15.00	7.75	7.25
Kolkata	18.00	15.00	3.00
Mumbai	16.50	10.00	6.50

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments. NR- Not Reported  
NT- Not Traded.

\*There are no wholesale prices for Milk.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Wholesale and retail prices are mainly determined by market forces of supply and demand. There are no specific guidelines issued by Government for maximum difference permissible between wholesale and retail prices. However, for those essential commodities, which are supplied through Public Distribution System (PDS), issue prices are prescribed by the Government.

(d) Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) in the Department of Consumer Affairs regularly monitors on a daily basis the retail prices of 14 essential commodities, viz., rice, wheat, atta, gram, tur/arhar, tea, milk, sugar, vanaspati, mustard oil, groundnut oil, potato, onion and salt. For monitoring of prices, information on daily retail prices of 14 essential commodities from 18 centres and wholesale prices on weekly basis from 37 centres spread all over the country are collected from the Civil Supplies Departments of State Governments /UT Administrations. The retail prices of essential commodities are updated daily in the website of the Department of Consumer Affairs: <http://fcamin.nic.in>

[Translation]

#### Norms for NAIS

1343. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down for coverage under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS);

(b) whether the said norms are being followed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the funds released under the scheme during each of the last three years State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is under implementation in the country at present, is available to all the farmers-loanee and non-loanee - irrespective of their size of holdings. All the farmers growing notified crops and availing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) loans from financial institutions (i.e. loanee farmers) are compulsorily covered under the scheme. Whereas scheme is voluntary for other farmers (i.e. non-loanee farmers).

Under the scheme, all food crops (cereals, millets, pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops can be covered subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The crop(s) intended to be covered should be annual in nature.
- (ii) The State Level Coordination Committee for Crop Insurance (SLCCCI) should select and notify the crops and areas in the State to be covered under the scheme during the season,
- (iii) There should be sufficient area under the crop so that requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) can be conducted as per provision of the scheme. The CCEs should be part of the General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES).
- (iv) The State Government should furnish 10 years' yield data based on CCEs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) State-wise funds are not released under the scheme. Funds are released to the Implementing Agency i.e. Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) who in turn settles the admissible claims of farmers. Details of funds released to AIC by the Central Government during last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Funds Released by Central Government
2005-06	749.55
2006-07	634.37
2007-08	500.00*

\*Till 22.11.2007

[English].

#### Assistance to Poultry Farms

1344. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented Assistance to State Poultry Farms scheme;

(b) if so, the assistance provided under the above scheme for strengthening hatcheries, brooding and rearing houses, feed mill, in-house disease diagnostic facilities etc., to hatcheries of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) since its inception, Year-wise;

(c) whether the Central Poultry Development Organisation (CPDO) has provided any training to farmers, women, poultry units in A. P.; and

(d) if so, the details of training provided to (CPDO) during the last three years, Year-wise and District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Assistance released to the State of Andhra Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms" was Rs. 47.92 lakhs, Rs. 54.20 lakhs and Rs. 34.00 lakhs during 2004-05, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively on the basis of proposals received from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of training provided by CPDO, Bangalore for the farmer's of State of Andhra Pradesh is as under:-

Year	Period	Women	Men	Total
2004-05		-	-	Nil
2005-06	11.07.05-16.07.05	30	-	30
2006-07	04.09.06 - 09.09.06	90	-	90
	30.10.06-04.11.06	10	22	32
	06.11.06-11.11.06	28	05	33
Total		158	27	185

#### Red Flag Exercise with US

1345. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:  
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Force has sought permission for red flag exercise with United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the implications for the said exercise;

(c) the significance and utility of such exercises; and

(d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred and borne by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Red Flag Exercise is to be held at Nellis Air Force Base, USA in August 2008. In this exercise Air Forces of various countries participate with their aircraft. This exercise would give an opportunity to the Indian Air Force (IAF) to gain knowledge in the area of state-of-art technology, ground handling and logistic support. Besides, this would given an exposure the IAF to witness some of the best practices followed by other Air Forces in the world.

(d) The likely expenditure on participation in this exercise is expected to be around Rs. 80 crores.

#### Development of Dibrugarh Airport

1346. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 420 dated March 1, 2007 regarding Runway Extension Programme of Dibrugarh Airport, Assam and state:

(a) whether the Ministry has handed over the requisite Defence land to Airport Authority of India for development of the Dibrugarh Airport;

(b) if so, the date of its actual transfer;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor stating the time required for completion of each formality from the date of its initiation;

(d) whether the Ministry has completed the process for obtaining alternative land from Assam Government pursuant to the decision taken in the meeting chaired by Minister of State, Defence on September, 11, 2007; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (e) No, Sir. The requisite Defence land has not been handed over to Airport Authority of India for development of the Dibrugarh Airport as the process relating to agreement on the terms and conditions of transfer of land with the Airports Authority of India has not been completed. There is also no offer as yet from the State Government of Assam on the alternative land to be exchanged in lieu of the defence land.

#### World Bank Study on River Development

1347. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank Study has suggested setting up of River Basin Development Authority and upstream storage of water to overcome growing problem of silt in Himalayan Rivers;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) River Basin Development Optimization Study has been carried out by the World Bank at the request of Government of Himachal Pradesh and Government of Uttarakhand. The draft recommendations of the Study include numerous recommendations and suggestions to enable hydropower development in India to move towards river basin level planning design operation. The concerned State Governments have not sent their views on the report to Ministry of Water Resources.

#### Encroachment of Defence Lands

1348. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence lands have been encroached upon at several places in different States;

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



(c) whether the Government is making sincere efforts to get these land vacated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the matters pending in the courts pertaining to encroachment on Defence lands?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**Self Employment Credit Card Scheme**

1349. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated, released and utilized under Self-Employment Credit Card Scheme for artisans, craftsmen and weaver during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(b) the number of artisans, craftsmen and weavers benefited during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any targets to provide financial assistance to artisans, craftsmen and weavers there said Scheme during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(d) the names of schemes proposed to be formulated for the development and welfare of artisans, craftsmen and weavers during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) There is no scheme in the name of Self-Employment Credit Card for artisans and weavers. However for handicrafts artisans there is a scheme named Artisan Credit Card (ACC) which is being implemented through banks to facilitate credit flow to handicrafts artisans. Another scheme titled Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) is being implemented through National Agriculture Bank for Rural Development (NABARD) under which handloom weavers can also avail credit. No state-wise funds are allocated under these schemes.

(b) The number of artisans benefited under ACC, as reported by banks in the country, is 1,03,842 during the last three years. As regards Handloom weavers, the SCC schemes cover other vocations also and segregated figures of number of weavers benefited are not available.

(c) Under ACC, a target of issuing 1,36,000 cards to handicrafts artisans has been proposed for the 11th Plan. No target for weavers has been fixed under SCC.

(d) The schemes proposed for development and welfare of handicrafts artisan include: Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of selected craft clusters: Human Resource Development; Marketing & Support Services; Design & Technology up gradation, Research & Development; Welfare Scheme and Integrated Handloom Development Scheme; Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme; Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme; Mill Gate Price Scheme & Diversified Handloom Development Scheme for weavers.

*[English]*

**Utilisation of Excess Water from Nepal**

1350. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified that surplus water of rivers flowing from Nepal to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar can be utilized optimally;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has any proposal/scheme to utilize the said surplus water from this source; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) after carrying out Preliminary Water Balance Studies of Kosi, Sarda (At Poomagiri), Ghagra (At Chisapani) and Gandak (at proposed dam in Nepal) has identified that these rivers flowing from Nepal to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have surplus water which can be optimally utilized. Under National Perspective Plan (NPP) for water resources development, NWDA has identified five link canal proposals, namely (i) Sarda-Yamuna,

(ii) Ghaghra-Yamuna, (iii) Gandak-Ganga, (iv) Kosi-Ghaghra, and (v) Kosi-Mechi for utilization of surplus water of rivers flowing from Nepal to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Feasibility Reports of Sarda-Yamuna and Ghaghra-Yamuna link proposals in India portion have been completed.

The implementation of these link proposals depends upon the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreements with the neighbouring countries.

#### Subsidy on Seeds

1351. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate new schemes to ensure that subsidies on seeds benefit the farmers and not the industry or the intermediaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) & (b) The details of assistance provided for production and distribution of seeds under existing schemes for the benefit of the farmers are given in statement enclosed.

Scheme/Component	Crop	Scale of Assistance
1	2	3
Macro Management Mode of Agriculture—State Work Plan	Rice and Wheat, Bajra, Jowar, Ragi and Barley	(i) Rs. 200/- per quintal for certified seed distribution. (ii) Rs. 400/- per quintal for certified seed distribution of varieties. (iii) Rs. 1000/- per quintals for certified seed distribution of hybrid of bajra and jowar.
Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize	All Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize production  Oil Palm Sprouts	(i) Rs. 500/- per quintal for foundation and certified seed production  (ii) Rs. 800/- per quintal or 25% of Seeds cost whichever is less for certified seed distribution. 75% of the cost with a ceiling of Rs. 7500/- ha. for entire land holding of farmers
Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta	Jute Mesta	(i) 50% if the cost limited to Rs. 3000/- per quintal for foundation seed production. (ii) 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 700/- per quintal for certified seed production. (iii) 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 2000/- per quintal for certified seed distribution.
Technology Mission on Cotton	Cotton Seed	(i) 50% of the cost or Rs. 50/- per K.g. whichever is less for foundation seed production. (ii) 25% of the cost or Rs. 15/- per Kg. whichever is less for certified seed production. (iii) Rs. 20/- per Kg. for certified seed distribution. (iv) 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 40/- per Kg. for seed treatment
Transport subsidy on Movement of seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal & Hill areas of West Bengal	All certified seeds excluding potato	(i) 100% difference between road and rail transportation charge is being reimburse to implementing States/Agencies for movement of seeds produced from out side the State to the identified State Capital/District Headquarter. (ii) Actual cost restricted to maximum limit of Rs. 60/- per quintals whichever is less for movement of seeds transported within the State from State Capital/District Headquarter to sale outlets. sale couters is being reimbursed.

1	2	3
Seed Village Programme	All Agriculture Crop	(i) To upgrade the quality of farmer saved seed financial assistance for distribution foundation/certified seed at 50% cost of the seed for production of quality seed. (ii) Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ Rs. 1500/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.
National Food Security Mission	Rice	(i) Rs. 1000 per quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed production. (ii) Rs. 2000 per quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed Distribution. (iii) Rs. 5 per Kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution. (iv) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties.
	Wheat	(i) Rs. 5 per Kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution. (ii) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties
	Pulses	(i) Rs. 1000 per quintal for foundation and certified seeds production (ii) Rs. 1200 per quintal or 50% of the cost whichever is less for certified seed distribution (iii) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties.

#### Survey on Farmer Profile

1352. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the age and gender profile of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether youths are attracting to farming;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and steps taken to attract youth to agriculture,

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up farm schools and extend support to States to establish the same;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to introduce awards to motivate farmers for their achievements; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has not conducted any specific survey to assess the age and gender profile of farmers as such. However, according to the data released in the National Sample Survey (NSS)'59th round (January-December 2003) for the Situation Assessment Survey of Indian Farmers, age and sex-wise composition of farmers per thousand farmers is as under:

#### *All-India Age-Sex wise Distribution of Farmers*

Age group	No. per 1000 farmers		
	Male	Female	All
1	2	3	4
0-4	0	0	0
5-9	1	1	2
9-14	13	11	24
15-19	56	31	88

1	2	3	4
20-24	69	44	113
25-29	68	61	119
30-34	64	53	117
35-39	67	53	120
40-44	58	45	102
45-49	54	37	91
50-54	43	28	71
55-59	33	21	55
60 and above	70	28	98
All	598	402	1000

(c) and (d) No data on this aspect has been compiled in the Report.

(e) and (f) Setting up of Farm Schools, as per the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, has been made an eligible activity in 2007-08 under the Scheme 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms', based on Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) model. Farm Schools can be set up by the outstanding farmers and the participants would normally be leaders of farmers' groups producing the same agricultural commodities.

(g) and (h) 'Farmer awards' at block, district and state levels have been added in 2007-08 as an eligible activity under the scheme 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms'. In addition, awards could also be given under this scheme to 'farmers groups' and 'best performing ATMA district.

[*Translation*]

#### Survey on Endangered Species

1353. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether no authentic data base has been prepared so far on the endangered species of animals (livestock) even after lapse of four years of the implementation of scheme relating to the protection of endangered species of animals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the work done under the above scheme during the last four years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prepare an authenticated data base in this regard by conducting a survey in time bound manner in respect of the endangered species of animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Small Ruminants, Pigs, Pack Animal and Equines' does not provide for compilation of a data base of the endangered species of animals.

(c) A total of 22 projects for conservation of threatened breeds of aforementioned categories of livestock have been sanctioned under the scheme in the last four years and an amount of Rs. 1226.10 lakh released for the purpose during the same period.

(d) The 18th quinquennial livestock census currently in hand, *inter alia*, envisages compilation of breed-wise data of livestock.

[*English*]

#### Funds for Schemes

1354. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds provided and utilized under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes by the States particularly Karnataka during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the funds were utilized for the purpose they were provided to State Governments; and

(c) if not, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Department of Consumer Affairs is not administering any Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Telecom Facility**

[*Translation*]

**Brahmos Missile**

1355. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Brahmos Missile cannot be fitted in the fighter aircraft;

(b) if so., the details thereof and corrective measures taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has made efforts to modify/re-design the missile so as to make it compatible for the aircraft; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the schedule of its testing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) 'Brahmos Supersonic cruise missile has been successfully developed for Indian Navy and Indian Army as a joint effort with Russia. Development of air version has also been sanctioned and is progressing for integration with SU-30 MKI for the Indian Air Force.

(c) and (d) The re-design and development of the air launched version of missile has been completed and missile is ready for testing. Suitable universal launcher for different types of aircraft has also been designed. The tests would be carried out in 2009.

1356. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any particular project to provide proper telecom services to strengthen the existing telecom framework in the tribal areas of the country specially in Himachal Pradesh District Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti, Pangi and Bharmor mandals of Chamba;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. BSNL already has a special plan under the head 'Tribal Sub-Plan' which is a component of the Main Plan formulated on financial year basis. Physical targets of BSNL for Tribal Areas across the country and the status as on 30.09.07 are given in statement I enclosed.

Details of the targets planned specially in Himachal Pradesh Telecom Circle for the districts Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti, Pangi and Bharmor Mandals of Chamba are given in statement II enclosed.

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

**Statement I**

*Target for Tribal Area for 2007-08*

Sl.No.	Development Parameters	Target for the Year 2007-08	Achievement during 2007-08 (Upto 30.09.2007)	Status On 30.09.2007
1.	Telephone Exchange (Nos.)	6	10	3,847
2.	Switching Capacity (Lines)	10,00,000	369,476	6,527,906
3.	DELS (Nos.)	6,00,000	252,163	5,147,747
4.	Broadband Connections(Nos.)	113,500	8,922	36,951
5.	VPTs (Nos.)	3,000	2,332	99,927
6.	OFC(RKMs)	1,000	178	37,714

**Statement II**

*Places where WLL and GSM BTS are planned and Cities where Broadband services are planned during 2007-08*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Places where WLL BTSs are planned	Name of Places where GSM BTSs are planned	Name of Cities/location where Broadband is planned
1.	Kinnaur	Katgaon Kilba Nichar Ralli Kalpa Sangla Kanam Moorang Pooh Rarang	Asrang Akpa Dabing Thangi Chansadhar Lippa Pangi Powari Raksham Runag Sapni	Barang Bhawanagar Chowing Kalpa Karchham Katgaon Nichar Pangi Reckongpeo Sangla Tapri Chango Glabong Moorang Pooh Rarang Ribba Spillo
2.	Chamba	Garolla Chhatrari Ruhnu Kothi Kodla Killar Chaloff Kothi Kuthal Leo Mindal Rai Saichu Udin	Holi Kharanukh Garolla Kodla Thalla Tindi Purthi Darwas	Bharmour
3.	Lahul Spiti	Rangrik Kolang Shansha Gondla Chimret Tingrit	Darcha Kardang Barring Tingrit Tirlokmath Kaza Tabo	Kaza Keylong Udaipur

**Closure of Military Dairy Farm**

1357. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to close down the Jabalpur based military dairy farm; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to close down Military Dairy Farm, Jabalpur.

*[English]*

**Target for Telephone Subscribers**

1358. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a), whether the target of 250 million telephone subscribers has been achieved well before the target date of December, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target of 500 million telephone subscribed by 2010 as envisaged in National Telecom

Policy is not ambitious and can be achieved well before time;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the overall tele-density achieved as of October, 2007;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the progress of tele-density in rural areas during the last three years as on date, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 31st October, 2007, the number of subscribers is 256.55 million.

(c) and (d) Taking into consideration the present trend of monthly additions, it is expected that the target of 500 million by 2010 can be achieved.

(e) and (f) As on 31st October, 2007, the over all tele-density is 22.52%.

(g) The year-wise and State-wise progress of tele-density in rural areas during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement***Year-wise and State-wise progress of tele-density in rural areas during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	As on 31.3.2005	As on 31.3.2006#	As on 31.3.2007*	As on 30.9.2007
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9.07	8.80	14.17	13.45
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2.39	2.34	6.84	8.50
3.	Assam	0.63	0.73	2.36	2.61
4.	Bihar	0.57	0.66	2.05	2.45
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.54	0.51	0.99	1.08
6.	Gujarat	2.63	2.69	10.43	13.17
7.	Haryana	2.80	3.10	10.74	13.64

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6.79	7.25	22.30	26.90
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.76	0.85	5.08	6.29
10.	Jharkhand	0.50	0.58	1.08	1.07
11.	Karnataka	2.49	2.63	7.46	9.30
12.	Kerala	9.74	10.65	21.11	22.71
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.66	0.79	3.28	3.69
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	2.56	2.80	7.16	9.58
15.	North East-I	1.22	1.29	4.63	5.38
16.	North East-II	1.20	1.26	2.89	2.80
17.	Orissa	1.04	1.16	4.20	5.48
18.	Punjab	5.33	5.29	16.16	17.98
19.	Rajasthan	1.44	1.67	6.75	9.37
20.	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	2.79	2.99	9.65	12.82
21.	Uttarakhand	1.63	1.84	4.36	4.58
22.	Uttar Pradesh	0.52	0.55	3.10	4.29
23.	West Bengal (-) Kolkata	1.04	1.13	4.69	5.63
24.	Kolkata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Chennai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Mumbai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ALL INDIA TOTAL		1.73	1.86	5.88	7.30

Note: \*Upto February, 2007, fixed telephone line + WLL were taken into account for calculation for rural teledensity as segregated data for rural mobile subscribers was not available. Since March, 2007 mobile telephones + fixed line + WLL are being taken into account for calculation of rural teledensity resulting in sudden increase as on 31st March, 2007 and onwards.

# Rural teledensity for some states shows decline in the year 2006 due to decline in number of fixed lines in rural areas of these States. Number of rural Mobile subscribers is not included due to its non-availability till February, 2007 in calculation of rural teledensity.

#### Mulla Periyar Dam

1359. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mulla Periyar Dam issue is still remain unresolved;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has recently convened a meeting with the Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala to solve the issue amicably;

(c) if so, the details of outcome and the present status thereof; and



(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to solve the issue between the two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Government of Tamil Nadu filed a suit No. 3 of 2006 - State of Tamil Nadu v/s State of Kerala and Union of India in the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 31.3.2006 praying for-

- (i) Declaration of Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act 2006 passed by Kerala Legislature as unconstitutional in its application to and effect on Mulla Periyar Dam.
- (ii) Pass a decree of permanent injunction restraining Kerala from application and enforcing impugned legislation enforcing with or obstructing Tamil Nadu from increasing the water level to 142 feet and from carrying out the repair works as per judgment of Supreme Court dated 27th February 2006.

In this regard, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order on 25.9.2006 stating "the two State Governments independently or with the intervention of the Union of India may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute". The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an Inter-State meeting of the Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Mulla Periyar dam issue on 29.1.2006 and again with the Ministers concerned of two States on 18.12.2006. No solution acceptable to both States emerged in these meetings.

#### **Auctions for 3G Spectrum**

1360. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open auctions for 3G spectrum;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has also recommended for auctions for 3G spectrum;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to finalise the issue of allocation of 3G spectrum at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced the guidelines for 3G services which provide that 3G licences would be granted through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction, to ensure transparency in the selection process. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has also recommended, among others, the auction for 3G spectrum.

#### **Domestic Technical Textile Sector**

1361. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to promote Domestic Technical Textile Sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the details of textile regions in which centers of excellence and infrastructure support is likely to be set up in the country, State- wise;
- (d) whether the scheme is expected to increase more employment opportunities during the Eleventh Plan period; and
- (e) if so, the details alongwith the projection made thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendation of an Expert Committee on Technical Textiles (ECTT), the Government has approved implementation of the "Scheme for Growth and Development of Technical Textiles" (SGDTT) with a budgetary provision of Rs. 48.00 crore during the 11th Five Year Plan. The scheme consists of three components: (i) Conduct of Baseline Survey, (ii) Setting up of 4 (four) Centers of Excellence, one each for Agrotech, Buildtech, Geotech and Meditech, and (iii) Conducting Awareness Programme.

(d) and (e) Employment generation could be assessed only after implementation of the Scheme.

#### **Labour Welfare Measures in IT Sector**

1362. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees in the Information Technology (IT) Sector faced hardships and harassments due to non-implementation of labour welfare measures;

(b) whether the Union Government has issued directions to the State Governments to ensure and regulate implementation of labour welfare measures in the IT Sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Complaints, if any, regarding hardships and harassment being faced by the employees in the Information Technology Sector, lie with the State Governments being the "Appropriate Governments" under labour laws and legally vested with power to deal with violations of labour laws. In case a specific complaint is received in this regard, the matter will be taken up with the appropriate Authorities.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Labour and Employment had written to the State Governments on 21.10.2005 in the context of workers of Information Technology enabled Sector, a segment of Information Technology Sector, that State Governments are "Appropriate Governments" under the labour laws and legally vested with power to deal with violations of labour laws.

#### **Defence Pact with Nigeria**

1363. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed a new Defence pact with Nigeria recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which both the countries are likely to be benefited by the Defence pact?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation was signed with the Federal Republic of Nigeria on 15th October, 2007. This would facilitate defence cooperation through exchange of experience and knowledge for mutual benefit of two countries. The MoU contains provisions for exchange of expertise in military training and information technology, facilitate contact and cooperation between defence related agencies, institutions and industries, exchange of visits of personnel, ships and aircrafts, joint exercise and training and collaboration in other spheres of defence cooperation for mutual benefit.

*[Translation]*

#### **Vacant Posts in Labour Courts**

1364. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several posts of the Presiding Officers are lying vacant in the Labour Courts at present particularly in the tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes posts out of these posts as on date, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 an Appropriate Government can set up Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals for resolution of Industrial Disputes. In respect of Industrial Disputes arising in the Central Sphere, Central Government is the Appropriate Government for setting up the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (CGIT-cum-LCs). There are 22 CGIT-cum-Labour Courts in different parts of the country. The details of the State Labour Courts are not maintained in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The location of CGITs are mainly decided on the basis of location of industries in the Central Sphere. At present out of 22 CGIT-cum-Labour Courts, 7 posts of Presiding Officers are vacant in the following CGIT-cum-

**Labour Courts:**

1. Ahmedabad.
2. Jaipur.
3. Hyderabad.
4. New Delhi-I
5. Dhanbad-I
6. Mumbai-I
7. Chandigarh-I.

The appointment of Presiding Officers are done as per the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. There is no provision of reservation for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes for appointment to the post of Presiding Officer in the Act.

(c) The process of filling up of the vacancies of the Presiding Officers has already been initiated by the Government which are at various stages of process.

**Computer Literacy In Rural Areas**

1365. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) the details of funds allocated to various States especially in Rajasthan for computer literacy programme;

(b) whether the Government is satisfied with the progress of computer literacy programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per the information received from Ministry of Human Resource Development - the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Information and Communication Technology in Schools was introduced in December 2004 to assist States/UTs, on a sharing mode, for Computer Education Programme at Secondary stage of schooling. The grants released to States in 2007-08 is given in the statement enclosed. As regards Rajasthan, funds would be released only after receipt of the confirmation of the State Govt. about the budget provision made by the State Govt. to meet the project cost to implement 2500 schools in 2007-08.

(b) to (d) The programme is in the nascent stage as most of the approvals has been accorded in 2007-08. Its actual operation and affectivity can be assessed only in the coming years.

**Statement**

*Schools and Amount approved by PM and EG under the Scheme of ICT in Schools during 2007-08*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Provision made in the State/UT Budget	Schools & Amount approved by PM&EG under Boot Model					Schools & Amount approved by PM&EG under Out Right Purchase Model				
			(A)				Fund released	(B)				
			Schools	Amount	Share Central	Share State		Schools	Amount C	Share entral	Share State	Fund
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Non-NER States</b>												
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1405.00	5000	10000.00	7500.00	2500.00	3750.00					
2.	Bihar	-	1000	1333.33	1000.00	333.33	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	300.00		-	-	-	-	200	1340.00	1000.00	340.00	-
4.	Goa	600.00	432	576.00	432.00	144.00	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5.	Gujarat	-	1150	1533.33	1150.00	383.33	247.15	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Haryana	1360.00	-	-	-	-	-	500	3350.00	2500.00	650.00	1250.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1340.00	1206.00	134.00	-
9.	Jharkhand	1200.00	1074	1432.00	1074.00	358.00	1074.00	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Karnataka	4700.00	1571	4189.33	3142.00	1047.33	3142.00	-	-	-	-	-
		1000.00	708	1886.00	1416.00	472.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Kerala	-	1016	1354.66	1016.00	338.66	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1200.00	-	-	-	-	-	320	2144.00	1600.00	544.00	7.50
13.	Maharashtra	-	500	666.66	500	166.66	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Orissa	-	1500	2010.00	1500.00	510.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Punjab*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Rajasthan	1000.00	2500	3333.33	2500.00	833.33	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Tamil Nadu	2680.00	-	-	-	-	-	400	2880.00	2000.00	680.00	1312.50
18.	Uttaranchal	200.00	-	-	-	-	-	100	670.00	603.00	67.00	377.25
19.	Uttar Pradesh	6700.00	2500	5000.00	3750.00	1250.00	3115.47	-	-	-	-	-
20.	West Bengal	400.00	-	-	-	-	-	343	2296.10	1715.00	583.10	984.33
	TOTAL	22745.00	18951	33316.64	24960.00	8336.97	11328.62	2063	13622.10	10624.00	3196.10	3611.58
NER States												
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.00	-	-	-	-	-	35	234.50	211.06	23.45	-
22.	Assam	1000.00	641	1445.81	1301.23	144.58	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Manipur	42.50	-	-	-	-	-	66	435.50	391.96	43.55	-
24.	Meghalaya	50.00	-	-	-	-	-	75	502.50	452.25	50.25	-
25.	Mizoram	CEP Deferred	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Nagaland	1340.00	-	-	-	-	-	264	1902.80	1712.52	190.28	443.20
27.	Sikkim	500.00	-	-	-	-	-	2	13.40	12.06	1.34	-
28.	Tripura	-	400	902.22	612.00	90.22	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	2982.50	1041	2348.03	2113.23	234.80	-	461	3086.70	2779.83	306.87	443.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
UTs with legislature												
29.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	355.10	205.00	90.10	-
30.	Puducherry	-	169	225.33	169.00	56.33	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL		169	225.33	169.00	56.33	-	53	355.10	205.00	90.10	-
UTs without legislature												
31.	A and N Island*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	448.90	335	113.90	-
33.	D and NH	10.20	-	-	-	-	-	6	40.20	30.00	10.20	-
34.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	147.40	110.00	37.40	-
35.	Lakshdweep*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	10.20	-	-	-	-	-	95	636.50	475.00	161.50	-
GRAND TOTAL		25737.70	20161	35890.00	27262.23	8628.10	11445.22	2672	17902.40	14143.83	3758.57	4354.78

Total School (A+B): 22833

Total Amount Approved by PM and EG (A+B): 53792.40

Total fund released (A+B): 15683.40

\*CEP yet to be considered

Name of Institution	Amount approved by PM and EG	Fund released
SIET, Thiruvanthpuram, Kerala	103.00	51.50
SIET, Bhubaneswar, Orissa	73.50	36.75
SIET, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	58.00	

*Funds released during current financial year 2007-08 to following SIETs also*

SIET, Pune, Maharashtra	113.09
SIET, Thiruvanthpuram, Kerala	100.00
SIET, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	45.00
Total Amount Released during 2007-08 under ICT Scheme	Rs. 16029.74

#### Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers

1366. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE  
PATIL:  
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
be pleased to state:

(a) the names and details of schemes being  
implemented for the welfare of Beedi Workers;

(b) the funds allocated, released and utilised under such schemes during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise and Scheme-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any mechanism to ensure that full benefits reach the Beedi Workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Statement I is enclosed.

(b) Statement II is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Welfare Commissioners of the nine Regions all over the country, are responsible for implementation and execution of the welfare schemes for the beedi workers. The welfare schemes in the field of these Regions are implemented through different dispensaries of Labour Welfare Organization located in the areas where there is concentration of beedi workers. Moreover, the Central Advisory Committee at the centre and State Advisory Committees in the different States have been constituted to advise the Government on such matters arising out of the administration of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, including matters relating to the application of the Fund.

(e) Does not arise.

**Statement I**

*The names and details of the schemes for welfare of Beedi Workers*

Sl.No.	Names and Details of the Schemes
1	2
I.	<p><b>SCHEME FOR TREATMENT OF CANCER</b></p> <p>The actual expenditure on medicines and diet charges incurred by the worker or his dependant on treatment of cancer in a recognised cancer hospital and duly certified by competent authorities shall be reimbursed.</p>

1	2
II.	<p><b>SCHEME FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AS A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WORKERS SUFFERING FROM HEART DISEASES</b></p> <p>Financial assistance restricted to the actual expenditure or Rs. 1.30 lakhs which ever is less.</p>
III.	<p><b>SCHEME FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WORKERS FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION AND ALLIED TREATMENT</b></p> <p>Financial Assistance not exceeding actual cost or Rs. 2.00 lakh, whichever is less shall be paid towards treatment charges.</p>
IV.	<p><b>REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENDITURE ON TREATMENT OF MINOR DISEASES LIKE HERNIA, ULCER, APPENDECTOMY, PRENATAL AND GYNAECOLOGICAL DISEASES</b></p> <p>The actual expenditure or Rs. 30,000/- whichever is less will be reimbursed.</p>
V.	<p><b>MATERNITY BENEFIT SCHEME FOR FEMALE WORKERS</b></p> <p>Financial assistance of Rs. 1 0007- per delivery, will be paid to a female beedi worker for the first two deliveries.</p>
VI.	<p><b>SCHEME FOR PAYMENT OF MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR STERILIZATION OF WORKER/SPOUSES</b></p> <p>Monetary incentive at the rate of Rs. 500/- per head is paid, over and above the incentive given by other agencies.</p>
VII.	<p><b>SCHEME FOR DOMICILIARY TREATMENT OF WORKERS SUFFERING FROM TB</b></p> <p>Reimbursement of treatment charges upto Rs. 50 per month to each worker to cover the cost of medicine.</p>
VIII.	<p><b>FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PURCHASE OF SPECTACLES</b></p> <p>Financial assistance toward the cost of frame and lenses to the extent of Rs. 300/- or actual expenditure whichever is less.</p>

1	2	1	2
IX.	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME (INSURANCE) FOR BEEDI WORKERS</b>  An amount of Rs. 10,000/- is paid to the family of the deceased worker for natural death and Rs. 25000/- for death due to accident.		An amount of Rs. 1500/- is provided as financial assistance to the family members of the deceased worker.
X.	<b>SCHEME FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF Rs. 5000/- TO A WIDOW/ WIDOWER OF BEEDI WORKER AS WELL AS TO WIDOW/WIDOWER BEEDI WORKER FOR MEETING THE WEDDING EXPENSES OF THEIR DAUGHTERS.</b>  An amount of Rs. 5000/- is provided as financial assistance to the widow/widower of beedi worker as well as to widow/widower beedi worker for meeting the wedding expenses of their first two daughters.	XII.	<b>GRANT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION.</b>  Financial assistance for education is paid from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 8000/- to the wards of the workers who are studying in Class-I to Professional Courses, per child per annum.
XI.	<b>SCHEME FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF Rs. 1500/- TOWARDS FUNERAL EXPENSES OF BEEDI WORKERS.</b>	XIII.	<b>SUPPLY OF TV SETS</b>  A maximum amount of Rs. 10,000/- for Colour TV set and Rs. 4000/- for Black and white TV set is provided in the community hall of the Group Housing Scheme.
		XIV.	<b>REVISED INTEGRATED HOUSING SCHEME (RIHS), 2007 FOR BEEDI WORKERS ETC.</b>  A Central Subsidy of Rs. 40,000/- per tenement per worker is granted for construction of a house.

**Statement II**

*The funds allocated, released and utilised under various schemes for welfare of Beedi Workers during last three years.*

(Rs. In thousand)

Region	Scheme	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Budget allocated and released	Exp.	Budget allocated and released	Exp.	Budget allocated and released	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Ajmer</b>							
	Health	15045	14799	17827	17782	18533	18512
	Recreation	394	350	455	433	420	415
	Housing	0	0	524	524	6174	6173
<b>Alahabad</b>							
	Health	27083	24618	25253	23597	30352	29859
	Education	11750	11722	15800	15774	14600	14600
	Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Housing	2452	2450	1601	1589	1100	1092
Bangalore	Health	55446	55315	54278	53599	52450	52442
	Education	82000	81999	86000	85999	85800	85800
	Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Housing	30648	30646	14625	14623	10857	10856
Bhubneshwar	Health	22927	23537	23989	22085	25658	25434
	Education	16800	16774	20300	20270	7400	7383
	Recreation	600	600	309	305	340	339
	Housing	33700	33700	40000	40000	10000	10000
Hyderabad	Health	68022	68055	64832	64761	57579	56103
	Education	143828	143750	150800	150623	140300	140288
	Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Housing	11600	3202	22636	2636	3972	3972
Jabalpur	Health	52080	50702	48446	47496	48423	47934
	Education	30550	30530	29550	29669	29750	29748
	Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Housing	2200	2196	3000	2998	9000	8999
Karna	Health	44295	43548	41703	39655	35183	33218
	Education	12452	12434	13509	13493	13015	12997
	Recreation	305	154	225	174	215	184
	Housing	1000	998	600	331	0	0
Kolkata	Health	31611	30342	44622	43409	42063	40909
	Education	45223	45223	50200	50144	55655	55636
	Recreation	300	128	130	125	150	147
	Housing	10000	9987	11939	11928	4957	4957



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Nagpur</b>							
	Health	25015	24967	20889	20842	23003	22999
	Education	52225	52227	43025	43022	56025	55023
	Recreation	30	30	25	25	25	24
	Housing	30000	38378	58122	34900	21145	21145

### Production and Demand of Cotton Thread

1367. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) the total demand alongwith quantum and value of cotton thread produced in the country during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been rise in prices of cotton threads causing hardship to weavers; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to make available cotton thread to the weavers at the subsidized rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The total demand for cotton yarn during the last three years was 1826.69 million kg in 2004-05, 1973.4 million kg in 2005-06 and 2216.36 million kg. in 2006-07. The state-wise production of cotton yarn is furnished in the Statement enclosed. Value-wise production data is not maintained, since the price of cotton yarn varies as per counts (quality) and seasonal demand.

(b) No, Sir. However, the quarterly count-wise price of cotton hank yarn and cone yarn during last 3 years have been showing moderate changes.

(c) Through Schemes like Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme and the Scheme for Re-imbursment of CENYAT on Hank Yarn, Government ensures an adequate supply of hank yarn to weavers at reasonable prices.

### Statement

#### State-wise Production of Cotton Yarn

('000 kg.)

States/Union Territories States	Cotton Yarn production		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	100301	104844	116941
Assam	87	95	81
Gujarat	179235	178963	185132
Haryana	88308	100067	108075
Himachal Pradesh	43515	51992	71867

1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	1339	5209	5470
Jharkhand	1134	1391	1428
Karnataka	70589	73022	72781
Kerala	26537	30804	31937
Madhya Pradesh	104611	112553	124258
Maharashtra	218363	233459	266346
Orissa	2002	3690	2459
Punjab	233809	280295	344317
Rajasthan	74184	90529	96801
Tamil Nadu	1029375	1148608	1276572
Uttaranchal	217	2793	16686
Uttar Pradesh	43745	51009	50532
West Bengal	13428	14211	14415
UNION TERRITORIES			
Dadra Nagar Haveli	28810	26775	29208
Daman and Diu	317	376	380
Pondicherry	12352	10189	7903
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2272258</b>	<b>2520874</b>	<b>2823589</b>

#### Residential Schools for Child Labours

1368. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up residential schools to rehabilitate and educate child labours;

(b) if so, the number of such schools proposed to be set up in the country during Eleventh Plan Period, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from State Governments for setting up of such schools;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the funds allocated for the purpose during the Eleventh Plan Period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has proposed for setting up of residential schools for the migrant child labour in Metros and big cities during Eleventh Plan. However, it is subject to the necessary approvals.

(c) Under the existing Scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP), there is no provision for residential

facilities for the child labour. However, proposals from the State Governments for setting up residential schools would be sought after the approval of the Eleventh Plan.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### Production of Cotton

1369. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether per hectare production of cotton in India is much less than the cotton producing countries;

(b) if so, the details of the cotton production per hectare in India;

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the production per hectare of cotton in the country;

(d) whether the production of cotton in the country is far below international norms; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to provide high yielding varieties of cotton seeds to the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Table below gives yield (per hectare production) and production of cotton lint in India vis-a-vis other major cotton producing countries of the world in 2006:

Country	Yield of Cotton Lint (Kg/Hectare)	Production of Cotton Lint (Lakh Tonnes)
India	400	35.64
China	1243	67.30
United States of America	805	44.98
Pakistan	705	21.87
Brazil	958	12.10
Uzbekistan	795	11.71

Source: FAO website accessed on 22.11.2007

While the per hectare production of cotton in India is much less than the major cotton producing countries of the world, India ranked third in the production of cotton lint in 2006.

A Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in the cotton growing States of the country since 2000-01 for increasing the productivity and production of cotton by focusing on increasing availability of cotton seeds, covering more area under hybrids, thrust for evolving area specific technology, popularization of integrated pest management, increasing efficient use of irrigation water, field demonstrations for transfer of technology to fanners and farmers' training.

The Central Institute for Cotton Research and the Centres of the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project are developing high yielding varieties/ hybrids to increase the production of cotton in the country. These organizations also produce breeder seeds of varieties and parental lines of hybrids for further multiplication by seed producing agencies for supply of certified seeds to cotton growers.

#### Rice Export Policy

1370. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice export policy has been modified recently;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the percentage of broken rice allowed in the rice meant for export; and

(d) the steps taken to make Indian rice competitive for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide its notification No. 38 (RE-2007)/2004-2009 dated 15th October, 2007, prohibited export of non basmati rice effective from 9th October, 2007.

Subsequently, vide its another notification No. 45(RE-2007)/2004-2009 dated 31st October, 2007, DGFT has stipulated that the prohibition imposed by this Notification shall not be applicable to the export of non-basmati rice if the Minimum Export Price(MEP) is more than US \$ 425 per ton FOB.

There is no change in the policy for export of Basmati rice.

(c) There is no restriction on the percentage of broken rice in export of rice. However, in the export of rice, the percentage of broken rice is dependent on the requirement of the importers.

(d) The rice industry is upgrading their mills to meet the quality demands of the global market. They have also been implementing various quality systems. Government has adopted a multi pronged strategy to achieve higher productivity and production of rice. These initiatives include launching of a new scheme titled National Food Security Mission, balance use of fertilizers and development of marketing infrastructure etc.

#### **Export of Agricultural Products**

1371. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to remove the cess on export of agricultural products and make them more competitive in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farm incomes are likely to be augmented with these decisions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Government has decided to repeal "The Agriculture Produce Cess Act, 1940" and "The Produce Cess Act, 1966". Increase in exports of agricultural products helps to augment farm incomes. Imposition of cess on exports reduces the competitiveness of agricultural exports.

#### **Water Audit**

1372. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Water Audit in industries, hotels and housing societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Water supply is a State subject. As such the responsibility for planning and designing, implementation and Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply projects including water management, conservation and water auditing lies with the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies.

*[Translation]*

#### **Crop Improvement and Management**

1373. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government in the field of crop improvement and management;

(b) the details of the efforts made with respect to major crops like foodgrains, pulses, oilseed, sugarcane and cotton, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the funds sanctioned and spent during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the plans to be formulated in future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) To increase the production and productivity of Foodgrains, Pulses, Sugarcane and Cotton, following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are under implementation:

- (1) Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton.
- (2) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).
- (3) Macro Management Mode of Agriculture subsuming Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat/Rice/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Areas (ICDP-Wheat, ICDP-Rice, ICDP-Coarse Cereals) and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS).

Under these schemes, assistance is provided for various inputs like seeds, agriculture implements, water saving devices, integrated pest management, transfer of crop production and plant protection technology through demonstrations and training of farmers and extension workers.

(c) A statement indicating State-wise allocation and expenditure under these schemes viz. Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton, ISOPOM and Macro Management Mode of Agriculture as a whole with various schemes including schemes of ICDP-Wheat, ICDP-Rice and ICDP-Coarse Cereals and SUBACS during the last three years is enclosed.

(d) In the XI Five Year Plan besides above, the Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme

"National Food Security Mission" (NFSM) to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes respectively by the end of XI Five Year Plan. The National Food Security Mission has three components viz. NFSM - Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses. The scheme has become operational from Rabi 2007-08. It is being implemented in 305 districts of 16 States of the country. The NFSM-Rice is implemented in 133 districts of 12 States, i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The NFSM-Wheat is being implemented in 138 districts of 9 States i.e. Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The NFSM-Pulses is being implemented in 168 identified districts in 14 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. Under NFSM, assistance is provided on demonstration of improved production technology, distribution of quality seeds of HYVs and hybrids, popularization of newly released varieties, support for micro nutrients, gypsum, zero tillage, rotavators, weeders and other farm implements, integrated pest management, integrated nutrient management, water lifting and moisture saving devices, training and mass media campaign including awards for best performing districts etc.

#### **Statement**

#### *Statewise Allocation and Expenditure during 2004-2005 to 2006-2007*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2		3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Allo*	7766.62	8340.00	10072.00
		Exp.**	8131.27	8003.75	11089.24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Allo	500.00	1420.00	2200.00
		Exp.	716.00	1880.69	2126.55
3.	Assam	Allo	808.00	1735.00	2030.00
		Exp.	834.94	928.28	0.00

1	2		3	4	5
4.	Bihar	Allo	2090.00	1945.00	2555.00
		Exp.	1717.45	1264.06	2611.92
5.	Jharkhand	Allo	1400.00	1300.00	1660.00
		Exp.	1116.19	184.02	0.00
6.	Goa	Allo	220.00	216.00	263.00
		Exp.	265.87	290.52	421.09
7.	Gujarat	Allo	4933.00	4800.00	4985.00
		Exp.	6371.02	6275.99	8297.95
8.	Haryana	Allo	2364.00	2314.00	2751.00
		Exp.	2354.50	2298.70	3385.52
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Allo	1640.00	1675.15	2115.00
		Exp.	1521.54	1761.00	2713.28
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Allo	1770.00	3142.50	4000.00
		Exp.	2245.23	2762.82	0.00
11.	Karnataka	Allo	8341.03	7000.00	9250.00
		Exp.	8453.23	10679.41	8787.24
12.	Kerala	Allo	2910.00	2407.50	3075.50
		Exp.	3541.81	3605.37	3468.54
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Allo	8032.59	6700.00	9180.00
		Exp.	7111.31	6875.04	7621.49
14.	Chhattisgarh	Allo	2425.00	2200.00	2975.00
		Exp.	3044.62	4551.20	3223.03
15.	Maharashtra	Allo	10024.79	10375.30	10655.00
		Exp.	17915.97	12960.92	15177.04
16.	Manipur	Allo	700.00	1600.00	2200.00
		Exp.	758.10	2039.25	2200.00
17.	Mizoram	Allo	807.00	1890.00	2680.00
		Exp.	1784.00	1080.00	652.57
18.	Meghalaya	Allo	900.00	1600.00	1800.00
		Exp.	575.95	1233.55	991.96
19.	Nagaland	Allo	900.00	1800.00	2500.00
		Exp.	1412.50	1800.00	1893.50
20.	Orissa	Allo	2835.00	2578.00	3200.00
		Exp.	5137.52	2606.94	2131.11

1	2		3	4	5
21	Punjab	Allo	1606.00	1188.50	10.00
		Exp.	26.96	1609.06	1516.41
22	Rajasthan	Allo	9519.21	9140.00	10904.50
		Exp.	10398.66	11302.97	5307.40
23	Sikkim	Allo	600.00	1422.00	1900.00
		Exp.	833.28	1372.94	1823.57
24	Tamil Nadu	Allo	5629.41	5195.00	6180.00
		Exp.	5163.55	6070.14	8162.72
25	Tripura	Allo	835.00	1770.00	2240.00
		Exp.	789.26	1920.39	1860.75
26	Uttar Pradesh	Allo	7865.00	6930.00	8595.00
		Exp.	9032.24	7435.75	8285.11
27	Uttaranchal	Allo	1600.00	1700.00	2170.00
		Exp.	2114.82	1944.77	2878.70
28	West Bengal	Allo	2710.00	3025.00	3944.50
		Exp.	2855.55	3907.30	3320.52
29.	Delhi	Allo	100.00	50.00	0.00
		Exp.	15.82	19.62	0.00
30.	Pondicherry	Allo	100.00	100.00	0.00
		Exp.	56.27	23.42	7.25
31.	A&N Islands	Allo	100.00	280.00	28.00
		Exp.	0.00	33.32	12.50
32.	Chandigarh	Allo	25.00	0.00	0.00
		Exp.	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Allo	50.00	20.00	10.00
		Exp.	0.00	4.85	0.00
34.	Daman & Diu	Allo	25.00	0.00	0.00
		Exp.	0.00	0.00	3.13
35.	Lakshadweep	Allo	100.00	200.00	25.00
		Exp.	50.00	23.25	11.46

\*ALLO: Allocation

\*EXP: Expenditure

**Medicinal Plants**

1374. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to ascertain which States or regions of the country produce superior quality of medicinal herbs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to conduct any survey in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal. However, a study has been conducted for assessment of demand and supply of medicinal plants through Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore. Some of the salient findings of study report are as under:

(i) Forests of States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, H.P., Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Manipur provide larger quantity of raw material of medicinal plants.

(ii) Total consumption of largely traded 117 species of medicinal plants (wild/cultivated) has been assessed to the tune of 1,41,337 MTs.

*[English]*

**Modifications in Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme**

1375. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has accepted the Secretaries Level Committee's recommendations on Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has approved the modified Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for the textile sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith objectives of the Scheme;

(e) the time by which the modified Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is likely to be approved;

(f) whether the Government proposes to enhance the capital subsidy to textile Units under the said scheme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) There was no Secretaries Level Committee's recommendation on Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) The objective of TUFS is to provide impetus to the modernization of the Indian Textiles Sector. The salient features of the modified Scheme are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) The Scheme has been approved.

(f) In the modified Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, Government has approved enhanced capital subsidy for the garments and technical textiles segments.

(g) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Salient features of the modified Technology upgradation Fund Scheme*

(i) The rate of interest reimbursement on spinning machinery has been reduced to 4%. All the remaining sub-sectors covered under the scheme would continue to get assistance @ 5%.

(ii) The scheme will continue to provide cover for foreign exchange rate fluctuation not exceeding 5%. However, for the spinning machinery the coverage will be 4%.



- (iii) The Scheme will now provide an additional option to the powerlooms units to avail of 20% Margin Money subsidy under TUFs in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement on investment in TUF compatible specified machinery subject to a capital ceiling of Rs. 100 lakh and ceiling on capital subsidy Rs. 20 lakh. A minimum of 15% equity contribution from beneficiaries will be ensured.
- (iv) The Scheme will now provide 15% Margin Money subsidy for SSI textile and jute sector in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement on investment in TUF compatible specified machinery subject to a capital ceiling of Rs. 100 lakh and ceiling on capital subsidy Rs. 15 lakh. A minimum of 15% equity contribution from beneficiaries will be ensured.
- (v) The Scheme will continue to provide 5% interest reimbursement plus 10% capital subsidy for specified processing machinery.
- (vi) The Scheme will now provide 5% interest reimbursement plus 10% capital subsidy for specified machinery required in manufacture of technical textiles and garmenting machineries.
- (vii) The Scheme will now provide Interest subsidy/capital subsidy/Margin Money subsidy on the basic value of the machineries and exclude the tax component for the purpose of valuation in view of the decision for non-subsidizing the taxes.
- (viii) The Scheme will provide 25% capital subsidy on purchase of the new machinery and equipments for the pre-loom and post-loom operations, handlooms/up-gradation of handlooms and testing and Quality Control equipments, for handloom production units.
- (ix) The entire range of imported second hand machinery will now be ineligible under the Scheme for any benefit except automatic shuttleless looms with the value cap of Rs. 8.00 lakh per machine and 10 years' vintage and with a residual life of minimum 10 years.

- (x) Other investments such as energy saving devices, effluent treatment plant, in-house R and D, IT including ERP, TQM including adoption of ISO/BIS standards, CPP etc will now be eligible for benefits of the Scheme only upto 25% of the cost of machinery.
- (xi) Investments like land, factory building, pre-operative expenses and margin money for working capital will now be ineligible for benefit of reimbursement under the scheme except meant for apparel sector and handloom with existing 50% cap i.e. 50% of the cost of machinery and equipment.
- (xii) On loans sanctioned during 01.04.1999 and 31.03.2007, the then existing parameters and guidelines will apply.

#### **Military Transport Aircraft**

1376. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to procure military transport aircraft; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the source of procurement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) The Government is processing a proposal for procurement of C-130J transport aircraft for the Air Force. No contract has been concluded for the procurement as yet. There is also a proposal for joint development of a Medium Transport Aircraft by India and Russia.

*[Translation]*

#### **Functioning of Public Telephone Booths**

1377. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of public telephone booths functioning as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the said booths are not functioning properly;

(c) if so, whether the public telephone booths have been closed in several States during the last three years;

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

(e) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure proper and satisfactory functioning of public telephone booths located at railway stations/other public places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The data of Public Telephone Booths [Public Call Offices (PCOs)] excluding Village Panchayat Telephones is maintained circle-wise and not State-wise by BSNL/MTNL. The number of PCOs functioning in all the circles as on 30.09.2007 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Generally these PCOs are working properly. However, at times some PCOs do remain faulty for longer duration on account of reasons beyond control such as damage to underground cables due to digging of roads by other agencies and natural calamities.

(c) and (d) The details of PCOs closed during the last three years are given in the Annexure.

There are various reasons of closure of PCOs. Some of the reasons are, (i) franchisees are getting some other employment, (ii) franchisees are shifting to some other cities, (iii) death of franchisee, (iv) closure due to non-payment, (v) churning to other operators, (vi) reduction in STD/ISD tariff, etc.

(e) The steps taken for proper and satisfactory functioning of PCOs at Railway Stations/other public places by BSNL/MTNL are installation of new CCB PCO instrument in case of theft, replacement in case of damage, priority in repair in case of instrument fault, early repair of cable in case of cable fault, creation of pole less network (to reduce drop wire fault), periodic check up, etc.

### Statement

*Details of Numbers of PCOs Excluding VPTs in BSNL/MTNL and Circle-wise Number of PCOs closed during last Three Years by BSNL/MTNL*

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Number of PCOs excluding VPTs in BSNL/MTNL (as on 30.9.2007)	Number of PCOs closed during the last three years by BSNL/MTNL
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1176	297
2.	Andhra Pradesh	257605	168069
3.	Assam	33777	1091
4.	Bihar	66888	9348
5.	Chhattisgarh	9484	2646
6.	Gujarat	113809	53270
7.	Haryana	27755	13478
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11869	1170
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	15496	3259
10.	Jharkhand	23534	1552
11.	Karnataka	254306	84177
12.	Kerala	127015	21246
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51646	16319
14.	Maharashtra	316674	129835
15.	North East-I	8627	440
16.	North-East-II	7657	425
17.	Orissa	29647	9253
18.	Punjab	29438	22074
19.	Rajasthan	64846	20606
20.	Tamil Nadu	206626	56753
21.	U.P. (East)	115083	20454

1	2	3	4
22.	U.P. (West)	45219	21064
23.	Uttaranchal	13293	1231
24.	West Bengal	65611	8389
25.	Calcutta	58269	19355
26.	Chennai	83781	30739
27.	Delhi	83139	34413
28.	Mumbai	161961	32338
<b>Total</b>		<b>2284232</b>	<b>783291</b>

**Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies**

1378. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies (PWCS) operating in the country particularly in Rajasthan at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of the handloom goods manufactured by these societies during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(c) whether any stocks have been accumulated with these societies and Apex Bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a to (d) Based on the information received from various State Governments, a statement in reply enclosed statement.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	State	(a) Number of Primary weavers co-operative societies in the State at present	(b) Details of the handloom goods manufactured by these societies during the last three years, State-wise	(c) Whether any stocks have been accumulated with these Societies and also with Apex Bodies	(d) If so, details thereof
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1218	Lungies, dhoties, towels, dress material and bed sheet etc.	No.	Does not arise
2.	Assam	3637	Shawl, Chaddar, Dress Materials	Yes	Rs. 12.34 crore
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	40	Traditional local Dresses, Furnishing items, household items etc.	No	Does not arise
4.	Chhattisgarh	228	Cotton Bedsheet, furnishing cloth, Shirting, lungi, towel,, Tussar-Sarees, Shirting, Furnishing cloth etc.	No	Nil
5.	Delhi	399	Bedsheets, Bedcover, Furnishing Cloth, Blanket, Khes, Durry, Duster.	Yes	Rs. 8.26 crores
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	462	Pashmina, Kani Jamawar and Raffal Shawls, Lois, Woolien Blankets, Tweed, Mufflers, Stoles etc.	Yes	Rs. 24.12 crores

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Karnataka	405	Silk/Cotton Sarees, Dhoties, Bedsheets, Dress Materials etc.	Yes	i) Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies- Rs. 4.41 crores i) Apex Bodies- Rs 23.25 crores
8.	Kerala	750	Sarees, Set Mundu, Dress Materials, Shirts, Dhoties, Table Mats, Bedspreads, Towels, Curtains etc.	Yes	Apex Bodies, is Rs. 20.00 crores
9.	Madhya Pradesh	228	Tussar and Cotton Sarees, Dress Material, Polyester Suiting, Cotton Shirting, Bedsheets, etc.	No	Does not arise
10.	Maharashtra	665	Tussar Saree, Tussar Dress Material, Furnishing Material, Shirting, Durry, Paithani Sarees etc.	Yes	(i) Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies-Rs. 11.41 crores (ii) Apex Bodies- Rs 0.42 core
11.	Nagaland	1450	Shawls, Makhelas, Bedsheet, T.V. Cover, School Bags, Uniforms, Table Mats, Scarfs, Jackets, Curtains etc	No	Does not arise
12.	Orissa	1268	Cotton—Dhoti, Sarees, Napkin, Bedsheets, Dress Materials, Silk-Sarees, Dhoti (Joda), Chadar, Furnishing items etc.	Yes	(i) Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies-Rs. 32.93 crores (ii) Apex bodies-Rs. 11.75 crores Total Rs. 44 68 crores
13.	Punjab	944	Blankets, Shawls, Bed sheets, Shirtings, Suitings, Lohis, Khaddar, Towels, dusters, dures and kheses etc.	No	Does not arise
14.	Rajasthan	821	Kota doria Saree/cloth woolen shawl, towel, Blanket etc.	Yes	Rs. 4.90 crores
15.	Sikkim	Nil	Does not arise	No	Does not arise
16.	Tamil Nadu	1087	Bedsheets, Bedspreads, Silk Sarees, Dhoties, Lungies etc.	Yes	(i) Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies-Rs. 200.83 crores (ii) Apex Bodies-Rs. 7410 crores
17.	Tripura	29	Home Furnishing cloth, Saree, Dhoti, Acrylic products, Napkin and Bandage etc.	Yes	(i) Primary Co-operative Societies-Rs. 0.41 crores (ii) Apex Societies-Rs. 34.00 crores
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1927	Silk Sarees, Suiting, Shirting, Durry, Bedsheets, Lungi, Towels, Dress Material etc.	No	Does not arise.

**Cost Recovery for Pilfered Foodgrains**

1379. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of subsidised foodgrains is recovered in case they are pilferaged;

(b) if so, the amount recovered during each of the last three years indicating the names and designation of the officers from whom it was recovered; and

(c) the number and details of the officers penalised for their involvement in such pilferage of subsidised foodgrains during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**Sugar Production**

1380. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and consumption of sugar in the country between October 2006-September 2007;

(b) whether the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories has urged the Government to take advantage of the surplus sugar production in the country during the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The sugar production and consumption in the country between October 2006-September 2007 is

provisionally estimated at 280 lac tons and 190 lac tons respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Agricultural Development**

1381. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is compulsory for State Governments to submit utilization certificates, proposals and project reports to draw benefit of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Agricultural Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of State Governments that are not submitting such reports regularly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Funds are released to the States for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes based on their Annual Action Plans/Proposals/State Extension Work Plans. Further releases of funds as per the General Financial Rules of the Government of India are made to the States/Implementing Agencies only after receipt of the Utilization Certificates.

(c) Under the Scheme of Support to State Extension Programme for Extension reforms, State Extension Work Plans for 2007-08 are due from Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya and Delhi. The audited Utilization Certificates for 2005-06 are due from Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura.

Under the Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme, the State of Assam has not furnished the Utilization Certificate.

(d) The concerned States have been reminded to submit their Work Plans/Utilization Certificates at the earliest.

[*Translation*]

#### Indo-Israel Defence Deal

1382. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed defence deals with Israel to meet defence requirements of the Armed Forces of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether there is any proposal to develop Advanced Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile in collaboration with Israel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) Procurement/acquisition of items to meet defence requirements of the armed forces is made from various indigenous as well as foreign sources including Israel. This is a continuous process undertaken to keep the armed forces modernized in order to meet any eventuality. Divulging details in this regard would not be in the interest of national security.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Divulging details in this regard would not be in the interest of national security.

[*English*]

#### New Technologies For Agriculture Development

1383. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian agriculture can be made globally competitive by application of new technologies especially space technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed high yielding varieties for fanning recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Technologies such as use of Geographic Information System, Remote Sensing, Global Position System, Simulation Modeling along with Information Technology have wide application across diverse fields such as crop forecasting, land use planning, flood and drought monitoring. Besides, other latest technologies such as biosensors, biotechnology, nano-technology etc. also have potential applications to make Indian agriculture competitive.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Using radiation induced mutation and hybridization, BARC has developed 29 improved varieties that are released and notified for commercial cultivation. These includes: 16 in oilseeds (12 in groundnut, 2 in soybean, and 2 in mustard); 11 in pulses (4 in blackgram, 5 in greengram, and 2 in pigeonpea); and 1 each in rice and jute. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

#### Statement

##### *Varieties Released and Notified for Commercial Cultivation-BARC*

Crop	Variety	Year of Release	M: Maturity (days) Y: Yield (kg/ha) YI: Yield increase (%)	States	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
Groundnut	TLG-45		M: 114 Y: 1506 YI: 28	Maharashtra	Large seed for Kharif season
	TG-38	2006	M: 115 Y: 2500 YI: 20	W.Bengal, Orissa Assam /N.E. States	High yield potential in residual moisture situation Rabi/Summer

1	2	3	4	5	6
	TG-37A	2004	M:110 Y: Kharif 1993 YI: 26-36	Rajasthan, UP, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, W.Bengal, Orissa, Assam/N.E. States	Fresh seed dormancy
	TPG-41	2004	M: 120 Y: Summer 2407 YI:26	All India	Large seed (70g/100 seeds), Fresh seed dormancy
	TG-26	1995	M: 110-120 Y: summer 2500 YI: 23-39	Gujarat, Maharashtra, MP	Semi-dwarf, early maturity, high harvest index, high partitioning efficiency, fresh seed dormancy, wider adaptability
	TKG-18A	1994	M: 120-125 Y: 2000-2500 YI: 12-13	Maharashtra	Large seed, fresh seed dormancy
	TG-22	1992	M:Kharif 115-120 Y:Kharif 1677 YI:30	Bihar	Medium-large seed, fresh seed dormancy
	TAG-24	1991	M: Kharif 100-105 Summer 112-117 Y:kharif 1300 Summer 2500 YI: Kharif 24 Summer 50	Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Karnataka	Most popular in all groundnut growing states, semi dwarf habit, early maturity, high harvest index, high partitioning efficiency, wider adaptability used as national check variety
	Somnath (TGS-1)	1989	M: 110-125 Y: Kharif 2000 YI:23	Gujarat	Large seed Spreading habit
	TG-3	1987	M: 110 Y: 2000-2500	Kerala	More branches
	TG-17	1985	M: 115-120 Y: 1700-2000 YI: 15-20	Maharashtra	Less branches
	TG-1	1973	M: 130-135 Y: 2400-2500 YI: 15-20	Maharashtra, Gujarat	Large seed
Soybean	TAMS 98-21	2007	M: 103 Y:2318 YI:20	Maharashtra	High yielding, Resistant to bacterial pustules, myrothecium leaf spot and soybean mosaic virus diseases
	TAMS-38	2005	M: 90-95 Y: 1800-2000 YI:20	Maharashtra	Early maturing, resistant to bacterial pustule, Myrothecium leaf spot
Mustard	TM-2	1987	M:90 Y: 1370 YI:25	Assam	Appressed pod

1	2	3	4	5	6
	TM-4	1987	M:95 Y: 1470 YI:35	Assam	Yellow seed
Greengram	TMB-37	2005	M:84 Y: 1100 YI:20	Eastern UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, West Bengal	Tolerant to yellow mosaic virus
	TARM-18	1995	M: 65-70 Y: 1051	Maharashtra	Resistant to powdery mildew
	TARM-1	1995	M:80 Y:765 YI:45	Maharashtra, Gujarat, MP, AP, Kerala Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa	Resistant to powdery mildew
	TARM-2	1992	M: Rabi: 90 Y: 1000-1100 YI:80	Maharashtra	Resistant to powdery mildew
	TAP-7	1983	M:80 Y: 700-800 YI: 23	Maharashtra, Karnataka	Tolerant to powdery mildew
Blackgram	TU 94-2	1990	M:70 Y: 900-1000 YI: 19-37	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu	Resistant to Yellow Mosaic Virus
	TAU-2	1992	M: 70-75 Y: 900-1000 YI: 18	Maharashtra	High yielding
	TPU-4	1992	M: 70-75 Y: 900-1000 YI:22	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh	Large seed
	TAU-1	1985	M: 70 -75 Y: 800-1000 YI:24	Maharashtra	Large seed Most popular variety in Maharashtra
Pigeonpea	TAT- 10	1985	M: 110-115 Y: 900-1000	Maharashtra	Early maturing
	TT-6	1983	M: 135-140 Y: 1200-1300 YI: 15	MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat, AP, Karnataka, Kerala	Large seed
Rice	Hari	1988	M: 135-140 Y: 8000 YI:20	Andhra Pradesh	Slender grain type
Jute	TKJ-40	1983	M: 125-130 Y: 2800-3100 YI: 10-13	Orissa	High yielding



**Agricultural Growth**

1384. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA.

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth in the agricultural sector during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the anticipated growth rate during 2007-2008; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure a higher growth rate in the farm sector in order to push up overall growth in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) According to the data compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the growth rate (at constant 1999-2000 prices) of agriculture and allied sectors for the last three years is given in the table below:

Year	Growth rate (%) in agriculture and allied sectors
2004-05	0.0
2005-06	6.0
2006-07	2.7

(b) The CSO has not released the estimates of GDP growth rate for the year 2007-08. However, according to the Quarterly Estimates of GDP released for the first quarter (April-June) of 2007-08, the growth rate of GDP of agriculture and allied sectors at constant (1999-2000) prices is estimated at 3.8 percent.

(c) The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 reaffirmed its commitment to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in the agricultural sector during the Eleventh Plan and resolved that agricultural development strategies must be reoriented to meet the needs of farmers and urged the Central and State Governments to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. Towards improving the growth in the agriculture sector, Government has initiated, *inter-alia*, the following:

- Launching of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with an outlay of Rs. 4,880 crore for the Eleventh Plan period. It aims to add additional 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), a State Plan Scheme, with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan period, to ensure a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.
- The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in planning for rainfed areas.
- Providing additional resources for irrigation.
- Strategic focus on the national agriculture research effort.

[Translation]

**Bonded Child Labour**

1385. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether bonded child labours are being engaged in stone crushing industry in the country particularly in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated number of such bonded child labours, State-wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken against such owners of the stone crushers who have engaged bonded child labours; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of child labours rescued and rehabilitated during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not differentiate between the Adult bondage and child bondage. The Bonded Labourers are identified, released and rehabilitated by the State Governments and the Central Government is providing

Grant-in-aid for rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers at the rate of Rs. 20,000/- per bonded labour which is shared by the Central and State Government concerned on 50:50 basis. A Statement showing the total number of

Bonded Labourers, identified, released, rehabilitated, and Central assistance provided, state-wise (including Jharkhand), till date, is enclosed. Occupation-wise data on rehabilitation of Bonded Labour is not maintained.

**Statement**

*Number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme up to 31.10.2007*

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers		
	Identified and Released	Rehabilitated	Central Assistance provided (Rs. in lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	37988	31534	850.00
Arunachal Pradesh	3,526	2992	568.48
Bihar	13,792	12974	403.38
Chhattisgarh	124	124	12.40
Gujarat	64	64	1.01
Haryana	582	80	4.03
Jharkhand	196	196	19.60
Karnataka	63,437	57185	1578.18
Kerala	823	710	15.56
Madhya Pradesh	13,125	12,200	164.49
Maharashtra	1,404	1,325	10.10
Orissa	50,029	46901	903.34
Punjab	69	69	6.90
Rajasthan	7488	6331	72.42
Tamil Nadu	65,573	65,573	1661.94
Uttar Pradesh	28,489	28489	603.72
Uttaranchal	5	5	0.50
West Bengal	213	213	15.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,86,927*</b>	<b>2,66,965</b>	<b>6891.06</b>

**NOTE**

\*19962 Bonded Labourers are not available for rehabilitation either they have died or left the place without leaving their addresses.

\*Rehabilitation grants equal to Rs. 6891.06 lakhs has also been provided by the State Governments as State's share for rehabilitation of bonded labour.

\*In the case of Arunachal Pradesh 100% Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 568.48 lakhs has been provided by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. In the case of North Eastern regions and Sikkim, 100% Central grants (without matching States share) are provided for rehabilitation of bonded labour.

*[English]***Committee on Price Rise**

1386. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 22 dated August 13, 2007 regarding Rise in Prices and state:

(a) whether the report of Abhijit Sen Committee constituted to study the impact of future trading on price rise in agricultural commodities has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Sir.

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

*[Translation]***Reduction in Food Subsidy**

1387. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food subsidy has been reduced for some States by the Union Government during the last one year;

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

(c) whether any criteria has been fixed for providing food subsidy to the States;

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

(e) whether measures have been taken by the Union Government to supply foodgrains as per their demand in various States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The food subsidy is released to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Governments who have opted for decentralised procurement scheme (DCP), for the quantity of foodgrains distributed at Central Issue Prices (CIPs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes (OWS). The difference between the economic cost of foodgrains and CIP is borne by the Central Government as food subsidy.

(e) and (f) For AAY and BPL families foodgrains are allocated to State Governments to meet the requirement @35 kg. per family per month. For APL families, allocation is made depending upon availability of foodgrains in central pool and by linking it with offtake of previous years.

**Dependence on Rain**

1388. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major part of an Agricultural land is still dependent on monsoon for irrigation;

(b) if so, the scheme to irrigate the said land;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any programme to increase irrigated areas;

(d) if so, the details of amount released, expenditure incurred and results achieved during the last three years in this regard, State- wise and Year- wise; and

(e) the efforts made to achieve results early for the said works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) According to the Land Use Statistics for 2003-04 compiled by Ministry of Agriculture, net sown area in the country is estimated to be 140.9 million hectare and net irrigated area (N1A) is 55.1 million hectare i.e. 39.10%.

(b) to (e) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are conceived, planned and implemented by the State Governments as per their own priority. However, Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments for completion of ongoing irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit

Programme (AIBP). The AIBP criteria have been relaxed and procedure simplified to cover more projects under this programme. The state wise details of the Central Loan Assistance/Grant released during the last three year are enclosed as statement.

*Statewise details of CLA/grant released under AIBP*

Sl.No.	State	Amount of CLA/Grant released (Rs. in crore)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	87.5470	311.3815	843.4220
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.0000	18.0000	27.0000
3.	Assam	16.9300	34.9332	30.2685
4.	Bihar	37.2150	16.2380	3.2300
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.9250	7.6645	10.7050
6.	Goa	0.6500	-	1.9100
7.	Gujarat	530.5000	339.6000	121.8885
8.	Haryana	11.1350	6.0000	3.1700
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3.6900	30.0785	3.9300
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	12.7445	36.6878	37.7716
11.	Jharkhand	21.2850	5.0370	1.2900
12.	Karnataka	396.2952	140.7759	160.3729
13.	Kerala	49.4400	9.3591	16.6468
14.	Madhya Pradesh	516.7010	168.0966	48.3100
15.	Maharashtra	529.2860	167.3822	465.5213
16.	Manipur	13.0000	75.7035	156.3042
17.	Meghalaya	1.7438	1.5750	0.7500
18.	Mizoram	5.0000	9.3150	14.2354
19.	Nagaland	4.0000	7.9987	10.5995
20.	Orissa	24.2230	151.3742	133.8846
21.	Punjab	-	26.3166	-

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Rajasthan	352.9040	90.2952	11.6000
23.	Sikkim	0.7500	0.9113	3.3236
24.	Tripura	11.0000	31.9950	22.5131
25.	Uttar Pradesh	175.9200	133.1280	81.8954
26.	Uttaranchal	38.9917	80.4387	84.7298
27.	West Bengal	13.4610	0.0287	6.7000
	Total	2867.3372	1900.3142	2301.9722

[English]

**Schemes for Textile Sector**

1389. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the name of schemes being implemented for the benefit of textile sector particularly of textile workers by the Union Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated, released and utilised under the said schemes during the said period. State-wise and Scheme-wise; and

(c) the details of programmes formulated for assisting the textile sector to face globalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The amount allocated and released for the benefit of textile sector particularly of textile workers for the last three years is given below:-

(Rs. crore)

Name of Sector/Scheme	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Allocation	Release/ Utilisation	Allocation	Releases/ Utilisation	Allocation	Releases/ Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>HANDLOOM</b>						
(1) Workshed cum Housing Scheme	20.00	15.00	12.00	14.44	12.50	17.95
(2) Weaver Welfare Scheme	10.00	8.09	8.00	8.80	10.00	9.86
(3) Deen Dayal Hatkargha Protsahan Yojana	47.67	83.96	82.10	93.15	90.88	75.31
(4) Scheme for Handloom Export Development	6.50	4.15	5.50	4.55	5.50	4.50
(5) Mill Gate Price Scheme	9.00	11.50	8.00	7.39	7.00	12.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(6) Marketing Promotion Programme		12.50	9.09	9.50	11.47	15.50	15.19
(7) Design Development and Training Programme		18.41	4.00	9.70	4.51	5.12	4.13
(8) Weavers Service Centres		0.63	0.30	0.70	0.42	0.50	0.36
(9) Bunkar Bima Yojana		5.50	1.95	5.50	0.31		
(10) Inter graded Handloom Training Programme		24.35	16.06	15.00	12.96	13.00	10.90
(11) Health Insurance Scheme		-	-	0.00	26.73	17.00	37.00
(12) Cluster Development Scheme		-	-	0.00	5.00	5.00	5.47
(13) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana		-	-	0.00	3.15	3.00	3.00
<b>Total (Handlooms)</b>		<b>154.56</b>	<b>154.10</b>	<b>156.00</b>	<b>192.88</b>	<b>185.00</b>	<b>195.67</b>
<b>Powerloom</b>							
Group Insurance Scheme		0.50	0.52	1.50	0.60	1.00	0.07
Group Workshed Scheme		6.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.82	0.04
<b>Total (Powerloom)</b>		<b>6.50</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>0.11</b>

The funds under plan programmes for development of Textiles sector are allocated and released scheme-wise and not state-wise.

(c) The programmes formulated and implemented for assisting the textile sector to face globalisation are Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, Scheme for Integrated Textile Park, Technology Mission on Cotton and Jute Technology Mission. New planned programmes are

Textipolis, Brand Promotion scheme, Human Resource Development and setting up of Fashion Hub. These are aimed at modernising, upgrading technology, providing infrastructure facilities, facilitating technical know-how for improving productivity and increasing competitiveness both domestically and internationally.

12.00 hrs.

### FELICITATIONS BY THE SPEAKER

- (1) **Congratulating woman archer Ms. Dola Banerjee for winning World Archery Championship and felicitating the Indian Cricket Team on their victory against Pakistan**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is a matter of great pride and joy that one of our women archers Ms. Dola Banerjee has won the Archery World Championship in Dubai on 24 November 2007. Her victory has brought laurels to the country.

Hon. Members, the Indian Cricket Team has won the first cricket match in the ongoing test series with Pakistan in Delhi today.

I am sure the House would join me in congratulating Ms. Dola Banerjee and Shri Anil Kumble and his team mates on their accomplishments and since I can claim credit because two of our very distinguished colleagues have associated with these games, namely, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Sharad Pawar. I congratulate all of them for their victory.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): They have played well.

MR. SPEAKER: It is primarily them and I have already done.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, what about football?

MR. SPEAKER: When they make it, I will definitely congratulate them.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, our football team has defeated Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and everybody. They have also defeated Yemen, Stuttgart, Munich, have come back and are preparing for the bigger victory.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not getting such publicity

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We do not have that much money as much as Shri Sharad Pawar has.

MR. SPEAKER: I congratulate the team and also you. At least, great pride our young boys and girls have given to us.

12.01 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (Shri A.K. Antony): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
  - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.
 

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—7304/2007)
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
  - (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.
 

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—7305/2007)
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi,

for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—7308/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (Shri Oscar Fernandes):  
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961:-

(i) The Apprenticeship (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.558(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st August 2007.

(ii) The Apprenticeship (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.576(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—7307/2007)

- (2) A copy of the Financial Estimates and Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—7308/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Indian Post Office (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.607(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2007, under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—7309/2007)

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997: —

(i) The Direct to Home Broadcasting Services (Standards or Quality of Service and Redressal of Grievances) Regulation, 2007, published in Notification No. F.No.4-55/2007-B&CS in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2007.

(ii) The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2007, published in Notification No. F.No.4-54/2007-B&CS in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2007.

(iii) The Domestic Leased Circuits Regulations, 2007, published in Notification No. F.No.404-1/2007-FN in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2007.

(iv) The Regulation of Guidelines for Registration of Consumer Organisations/Non-Government Organisations and their Interaction with TRAI (Second Amendment), 2007, published in Notification No. 330-2/2007-CA in weekly Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT— 7310/2007)

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. F.No.101-60/2006 MN (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2007, containing Errata to Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2007 dated 6th June, 2007, issued under Telecom Regulating Authority of India Act, 1997.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT— 7311/2007)

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956: —

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Informatics Centre Services Inc., New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Informatics Centre Services Inc., New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—7312/2007)



[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report ( Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts ( Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, together with audit report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No LT— 7313/07)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7314/07)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Federation of Cooperative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed In Library. *See* No. LT—7315/07)

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No LT— 7316/07)

- (6) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 1993-1994, along with Accounts.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No LT— 7317/07)

- (8) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 1994-1995, along with Accounts.
- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No LT— 7318/07)

- (10) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 1995-1996, along with Accounts.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT— 7319/07)

- (12) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 1996-1997, along with Accounts.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7320/07)

- (14) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 1997-1998, along with Accounts.

- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7321/07)

- (16) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7322/07)

- (18) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT— 7323/07)

- (20) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (21) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (20) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT— 7324/07)

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Taslimuddin, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Second Amendment) Order, 2007, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.1 488(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2007 under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT— 7325/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT— 7326/2007)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT— 7327/2007)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See No.* LT— 7328/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

(Placed in Library, *See No.* LT —7329/2007)

- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Development Council for Sugar Industry, for the year 2005-2006.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

(Placed in Library, *See No.* LT— 7330/2007)

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Development Council for Sugar Industry, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See No.* LT— 7331/2007)

- (5) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the year 2005-2006, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

(Placed in Library, *See No.* LT—7332/2007)

12.03 hrs.

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

### (I) National Policy for Farmers, 2007\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I am glad to inform the House that the Government has approved the National Policy for Farmers, 2007. The Policy is primarily based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers chaired by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. The Terms of Reference of the Commission, inter alia, included methods of enhancing productivity, profitability and sustainability of the major farming systems in different agro-climatic regions of the country and suggesting measures to attract and retain educated youth in farming and working out a comprehensive medium term strategy for food and nutrition security.

2. Based on the draft policy suggested by the Commission and the comments and suggestions received from various Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments, the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 has been formulated and approved by the Government of India. The policy, inter alia, aims to improve the economic viability of farming by substantially improving the net income of farmers in addition to improving productivity, profitability, land, water and support services and provide appropriate price policy, risk management measures, etc. In order to operationalise the Policy, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation will constitute an Inter-Ministerial Committee for preparing a suitable plan of action for the purpose,

3. I hereby lay the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 on the Table of the House and hope that the new Policy would help in rejuvenating our farm sector and bringing lasting improvement in the economic condition of the farmers.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a comprehensive discussion should be held

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\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See No.* LT 7333/2007

on this issue since suicides are being committed by the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready for that. Hon. Members will no doubt give notices.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion should be held on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that I am ready for holding the discussion but you first give the notice for that.

12.04 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in Seventh Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resources\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz): Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources in pursuance of Direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated September 01, 2004.

The Seventh Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) was presented in the Lok Sabha on 28th April 2007. This Report related to the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2007-08. Action Taken Notes on the recommendations/observations contained in the above said report of the Standing Committee had been sent to the Committee on 8 August 2007. There were 20 recommendation paragraphs in this report containing recommendations/observations made by the Committee where action was called for on the part of Government. These recommendations/observations mainly related to the issues like projection of outlays in more

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 7334/2007.

realistic terms, expeditious preparation of detailed project report of Ken-Betwa link, private sector participation in water management and project planning, settlement of audit objections regarding diversion/misutilization of Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, development of better technology to utilize unused water going waste into the sea, completion of ongoing projects spilled over to Eleventh Plan, bridging gap between created irrigation potential and its utilization, research and development programmes, need of stepping up allocation for minor irrigation, artificial recharge of ground water through dug wells, modification of command area development & water management programme and enactment of participatory irrigation management legislation under this programme, monitoring of physical and financial progress of flood control schemes and implementation of the report of task force on flood control in a time-bound manner, early processing of review report of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, completion of projects under the scheme of repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies by State Governments, changes in the National Environment Policy 2006 to increase storage capacity, formulation of policy on "National Projects", etc.

The present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.05 hrs.

#### FELICITATIONS BY THE SPEAKER-Contd.

- (ii) **Congratulating Parliament Eleven Cricket Team on winning a match against Haryana Chief Minister's Eleven Cricket Team**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Parliament Eleven has won against Haryana Chief Minister's Eleven a cricket match on Saturday. Well, Shri Mohan Rawale was the Captain. I congratulate you and all the players. In spite of you being the Captain, the team has won!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are so affectionate to me.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): We have made a hatric by winning the match for 3 consecutive years.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, let us get some other Chief Minister's team. Haryana is too easy for you! It is a very happy news. Congratulations to all. Some sportsman spirit should be here, inside the House also.

12.07 hrs.

### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—*Contd.*

*[English]*

#### (iii) Bomb blasts at Lucknow, Varanasi and Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to the hon. Home Minister for agreeing to make a statement on an important matter. It was raised and I had informed you that the hon. Home Minister would make a statement.

Hon. Home Minister, I am thankful to you for your kind response.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (Shri Shivraj V. Patil): This is a statement on the incidents in UP.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It was agreed that it would be taken up now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, there is no copy of it.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be made available to you. You please appreciate; I requested him and he has responded.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise, with a deep sense of anguish, to inform this august House of the tragic incidents of terrorist violence that occurred in the court premises in Varanasi, Faizabad and Lucknow on 23.11.2007.

As per the latest information, five bomb blasts took place in these three cities within a span of about 20 minutes. There were not six blasts; there were five blasts.

There were two blasts in the Varanasi court premises in which nine persons including three lawyers and one twelve year old boy have been killed and 56 others are injured. Out of the injured, two persons are reported to be critical. My colleague, Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal, Minister of State for Home, along with officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs visited the blast sites in the Varanasi Court premises and the injured admitted in Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Singh Nursing Home and BHU Hospital. In the Court premises in Faizabad, there were two blasts in which four persons have lost their lives including one advocate and 24 persons have been injured. In Lucknow, there was one bomb blast but it did not cause any loss of life or injury.

The modus operandi adopted in these blasts was that the explosives with a battery operated timer device were contained in a bag and kept on the bicycles parked close to the area where lawyers/litigants sat. The teams of NSG personnel have visited the blast sites for post-blast investigations.

The investigations into these blasts have been given to the Special Task Force (STF) by the State Government. The Central agencies are also helping the State Police in this regard. The State Government, as per the latest report, has announced compensation of Rs. 5 lakh to the next of kin of those deceased and Rs. 1 lakh for those seriously injured.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has also given directions to enhance and strengthen the security of all district courts and especially of the Allahabad High Court and the Bench of the Allahabad High Court in Lucknow. The State Government has also increased vigil at sensitive and crowded places, educational institutions, etc.

The Government strongly condemns these incidents of mindless terrorist violence, and reiterates its firm resolve to combat terrorism. The security and intelligence agencies continue to make sustained efforts to neutralize such extremist and terrorist elements through preventive measures.

The fight against terrorism has to be fought at different levels. Besides the Government, political parties, civil society, media and the public at large, all have to

play an important role in countering such forces. We will not allow these anti-national forces to disturb peace and communal harmony in the country.

We mourn the loss of invaluable lives of innocent citizens and convey our heart-felt condolences to the affected families. ...(*Interruptions*)

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT —7335/2007)

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): What about the Assam incident?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute, please. I earnestly appeal to all of you to sit down. Shri Prabhunath Singh, please sit down.

Now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition wants to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is unfair when I am totally agreeing to this discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am making a point. The ghastly incident has happened in Assam in which Adivasis have been attacked. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. One by one, all subjects will be taken up. I have mentioned it in the morning.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Sarma, please sit down. This is not the way. This is a very important matter. Assam matter is also important. Please cooperate.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, this is not the way. Please cooperate.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am suggesting to you that the Home Minister may also make a statement on the situation in Assam. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Home Minister, you may please make a statement on the situation in Assam as early as possible.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He will make the statement. Why are you standing up? He has immediately responded.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Sarma, please sit down. Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

12.11 hrs.

## SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

### Re: Serial bomb blasts in Uttar Pradesh

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. I had agreed with you in the morning. Why are you doing this? This is very unfortunate. I earnestly appeal to you to cooperate with me. This is an important matter. I had suggested to the hon. Leaders today morning and they had agreed for a discussion on this. Now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition wants to speak. Otherwise, I thought of calling those hon. Members who have given notice on this issue.

Now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): So far as the discussion on this particular statement is concerned, my other colleagues will participate. I am merely recalling what I had said on Friday. It was on Friday afternoon that these blasts took place in three different places in Uttar Pradesh, and I had an occasion to raise this matter when the Home Minister was here because he had come here to give preliminary information about the blasts that had taken place. I had said that it was not merely these three blasts in Uttar Pradesh, about which a statement needed to be made. Over a period of time, we had seen a set pattern in the terrorist attacks taking place, and that set pattern was that almost always there were a series of blasts. And whether it was in Delhi or in the local trains in Mumbai or Hyderabad, it was not one single blast took place but a number of blasts took place.

\*Not recorded.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

I had also pointed out on that day that in those cases it was in one place but this time it was in Uttar Pradesh, where blasts had taken place at three different places, and in this case the blasts had taken place in the courts. The planning for this must have gone over a period of time. The planning and its execution are not that simple where only someone had gone and planted it. Therefore, I had requested the hon. Home Minister on that day to make a statement on the action taken by the Government till now and the status of the cases that had been instituted, and also requested him to tell how many had been arrested in these blasts. I had requested him to make a statement giving the status of all the cases that had taken place in the last two years. The hon. Home Minister on that day said that he would like to come to the House with all this information. But today, he has confined himself to the three blasts that had taken place in Uttar Pradesh.

I would once again repeat that the House should be informed as to what had happened in all the cases in the last two years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I believe, we have already agreed that we shall have a discussion on internal security in this Session itself.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The facts must be known to us. Today, the Home Minister has given the facts about the blasts that had taken place in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me call one by one.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, as far as the Assam incident is concerned, I have some information and I am going through that information. I will come back to the House and give that information to the House, and it may be in the afternoon.

Now, as far as the cases, which have been filed in different courts were concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the hon'ble Minister to tell us about the bomb blasts. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening? You please sit down. This is not fair, your leader has spoken just now.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: As far as the cases, which have been filed in different courts are concerned, these are the cases, which are being investigated into by the State Governments. I have the information about what has been done by the State Governments in all these cases. I would not like to keep away that information from the hon. Members. But the discussion should take place in a proper form.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: While replying to a question raised relating to the blasts in UP, I would not be able to give the information about so many case that have taken place.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, it is restricted to it. But we shall soon find a date to discuss them.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Any time it is fixed, I would come before the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, we shall fix the time.

Today, we have the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. We will decide it there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can everybody speak together, I do not understand. I have got the names here. I will call you one by one. How is it possible that everybody wants to speak simultaneously.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singhji, Shri Ramji Lal Suman is a member of your party and he has given the notice first. Do you want to speak? Very well, in place of Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Mohan Singh is speaking.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the hon'ble Minister has made a very brief statement without giving complete details in the House regarding the bomb blasts that rocked three prominent places of Uttar Pradesh on 23rd of November. It is a matter of great concern. In Uttar Pradesh, 'Kartik Purnima Snana' is considered to be an auspicious bath for the followers of a particular religion and Ayodhya which is situated near Faizabad is an important place for such a holy bath. Similarly, in Varanasi, where there are so many 'Jyotirlingas', the festival of 'Gupt Deepawali' is celebrated on the occasion of 'Kartik Purnima'. The intention behind the bomb blasts that occurred in the premises of the three district courts on the eve of Kartik Purnima was to create terror among the pilgrims who gather in large numbers at these two places.

The other view is that the terrorists in detention were to be produced in these courts. Two incidents took place in Lucknow. In one incident, the police was told 15 days back that the terrorist who had been arrested was a shooter. Later on it was heard that the police while taking him to the court from Jail, shot him dead in an encounter after blocking all the roads and then told the media next day that the encounter took place when he was trying to escape. After that, some terrorists were apprehended. The Uttar Pradesh police said that they had come from Pakistan and the police came to know about them when they entered Saharanpur, the border of Uttar Pradesh. However, they were arrested only after they reached the capital, Lucknow after covering a distance of 550 kms by car. The Uttar Pradesh police made public the secret information which they received from them. As a reaction thereof, when they were being produced in the court, some ill-treatment was meted out to them by the advocates of that court. The bomb blast was carried out at Lucknow court just to create terror and as a reaction to the ill-treatment meted out to the criminals. However, the bomb blasts that occurred in Varanasi and Faizabad were more fatal than the blast that took place in Lucknow. There were 3 or 4 blasts in the Varansai court premises whereas there were two blasts in the Faizabad Court. In both the incidents around 13 people including 9 lawyers were killed on the spot and around 150 people were critically injured.

From such incidents, it seems that Uttar Pradesh is gradually becoming the terrorist hub. It is a matter of great concern. Despite this, there has been a stereotype

approach that neither the State Government nor the Union Government alone is responsible for dealing with terrorism. It is the national responsibility of both the Governments, the people of the country and all political parties to fight unitedly against this big national challenge.

But a very unfortunate situation was created when the Chief Minister of the State immediately issued a statement saying that the responsibility of the incident was on the government of India and its secret service machinery which had not given them any prior information in this regard. It is very surprising that the Chief Minister of a State is trying to put the entire responsibility of the said incident on the Government of India. The secret service machinery of the Government of India has issued a public statement through the newspapers that they had warned the Uttar Pradesh Government one week prior to the incident about the probability of such incidents and out of the districts which they had named, blasts took place in only three districts till now. There is a possibility of blasts occurring at the remaining 3-4 locations. What type of precautionary measures were taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the state police in this regard? No discussion was held with us in this regard.

It is a matter of great regret that the Chief Minister of a large State, where the explosions are regularly taking place, remains unconcerned and it is a matter of surprise that they are not contacting or holding talks with the secret services machinery of the Government of India. Therefore, these explosions are grievous, painful and condemnable and it is an important incident which poses challenge to the unity and integrity of India. Besides it is an attack on, the Government of India, our Constitution and the judiciary which have separate autonomy of their own. In spite of that, the fact remains that instead of taking on this basic challenge, Governments are issuing public statements, against each other which breed disappointment and boosts the morale of the perpetrators of such heinous acts.

The second point I would like to raise is that the situation prevailing in Uttar Pradesh has badly shattered the morale of the Uttar Pradesh police in the last six months . ...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not go to that.

...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded.



MR. SPEAKER: I am myself taking up the point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It will not be proper. [English] Please do not go to that

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly allow me. Before you said anything, I have said, do not go to the details of the police set-up.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know you are a very responsible Member.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): These are baseless accusations. ...(Interruptions) More number of innocent persons were killed during their tenure. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have myself prevented him from talking like that. I will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. Only Shri Mohan Singh's speech will go on record

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have myself asked him not to say anything like that. Azmi Sahab, please take your seat. This is an important discussion, therefore, he should speak. I know that Mohan Singh ji is a very disciplined Member.

...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, IPS officers are under the control of the Government of India and without taking Government of India into confidence, if police administration is divided on political grounds, then the police administration cannot deal with terrorism in a manner as expected from them. The second point I would like to raise is that there should be co-ordination between the State Government and the Government of India. Such kind of activities cannot be curbed until and unless there is co-ordination between the Government of India and the State Government.

The post incident behaviour of the people who hold the reins of this administration cannot be termed as proper. The Government of India should take this matter very seriously and issue instructions to the Uttar Pradesh Government to take steps keeping in view the guidelines issued by the Government of India to deal with terrorism. Wherever such kind of incidents took place, the next of kin of the persons killed, especially the advocates, used to get Rs. Ten lakh as compensation. In Uttar Pradesh, initially a compensation of Rs. Two lakhs, and subsequently of Rs. Three lakhs was announced. I think that Government of India might have taken some initiative as a result of which a compensation of Rs. Five lakh was announced but the people killed in those incidents should be given Rs. Ten lakh each as compensation. I would like to say that the hearing of the cases against the terrorists lodged in various jails of Uttar Pradesh should be conducted inside the jail complex. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): Instructions have already been issued in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: May be he has some information about that. I would like to request in this august House that the hearing of all types of such cases should be conducted inside the jail complex.

The fourth point which I would like to make is that responsibility for the safety of the public prosecutors taking part in the said cases should be taken by the Government of India and with the assistance of the State Government, Uttar Pradesh police should be modernized, the strength of the police force should be increased, more and more police personnel should be recruited. ...(Interruptions)\*

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not go into it.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted it.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will delete that portion.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I would like to speak on this issue because. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted this portion.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: This will not boost the morale of the Police.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to the State Police.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you may take your seats, I have deleted that portion.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, why can't any discussion take place in the House on the guidelines of the Government of India? *...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. The State Police administration cannot be discussed here. I agree with you.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have myself said that.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singh, please conclude now

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, what they are saying is not correct. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Azmi Saheb, you are a very respected Member please take your seat.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I am conversant with the rules of the House but if improvements are not made immediate, the prevailing situation in Uttar Pradesh could get worse and the number of such incidents would also increase. Besides, the network of the Government of India's secret services should be expanded there and on those lines improvements should be made in the intelligence agencies of Uttar Pradesh.

Few days back, a meeting of DGs was held wherein the Minister of Home Affairs accepted that there was intelligence failure in all the States and the intelligence services have not been modernized at the State level to the extent to which it should have been done. The Minister of Home Affairs in his statement had given clear instruction that full security should be provided to the centers of faith of all the religions of the country as they are in the hit list of all the terrorist organizations and the security of the religious places located especially in cities should be strengthened.

Sir, with your permission I want to tell something about this unfortunate incident that. *...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: No it will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\***[Translation]*SHRI MOHAN SINGH: It has been a common practice to raise the issue of failure of any State Government in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

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*\*Not recorded.*

[Shri Mohan Singh]

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Singh ji, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I have submitted all these points with a request that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take action in this regard. I would like to extend my thanks to you for you gave me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I seek co-operation from everybody. In a sense, because of the urgency of the matter, I have allowed.

There are two notices received from the main Opposition Party. I will request only one Member to speak, either Shri Santosh Gangwar or Prof. Malhotra. You may please decide.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Please call yogi ji first.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are also from U.P. Okay.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ok, I will call yogi ji as well.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have also given notice. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, will you permit us? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): This is not proper.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you interfere with my humble efforts to have a discussion proper, then it will be difficult.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call Shri Prabhunath Singh also.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please allow those two members who have given notices.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Ok, I will see. Only one Member may speak. This is an *impromptu* discussion. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot have a lengthy discussion on this. We shall have a proper discussion on internal security.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a serious matter. Do not make this running commentary. Let us discuss this matter. We have agreed to have it done. I appeal to everybody that please allow this. If anything improper is said, I will delete it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will request all the hon. participants not to discuss the State Administration *per se*.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Yogi Aditya Nath's speech will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Home affairs has made a brief and

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\*Not recorded.

incomplete statement regarding the bomb explosions that occurred in three prominent districts of Uttar Pradesh on 23rd November, 2007. From the statement of the Minister of Home Affairs one can guess the extent of seriousness of the Government of India towards this entire incident. There have been bomb explosions in three places, at Varanasi, Ayodhya and Lucknow. This is not for the first time that there have been bomb explosions in Uttar Pradesh. Prior to this, there had been three bomb explosions on 22nd May, 2007 in Gorakhpur. Two days after that explosion there were bomb explosions in Sitapur and then in Allahabad. Thus the incidents of bomb explosions are continuously occurring in Uttar Pradesh. Today, Uttar Pradesh has become the Centre of Islamic Terrorism. ...(*Interruptions*) These developments should be taken seriously. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Terrorism is neither Hindu nor Islamic. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: May I request?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I am coming to the main issue. When bomb explosion occurred in Gorakhpur on 22 May 2007. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): He says that it should not be called Islamic Terrorism. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You wait for my observation.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: At that time too serial bomb blasts had occurred in Uttar Pradesh.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded. No, I will not allow. Otherwise, I will stop this discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

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\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: They are wasting the time of the House ....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you to please take your seats. Why are you standing, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: When I am on my legs, please show this courtesy to the Chair.

[*Translation*]

Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you speaking?

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all the hon. Members as this is a national issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Azami ji Saheb please listen. This is a national issue, and many hon. Members are rightly agitated. They have also given notice on this issue. I have also realized this myself and suggested that let there be a discussion. But this is not an elaborate discussion on the emergent situation in Uttar Pradesh (UP), which is being discussed today in the House. The hon. Minister has very fairly responded immediately when I requested him to make a statement, so that you can have some discussion and give your views that can help the country as a whole and the Government also. Instead of that, you are trying to fight against each other here.

...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): It is not proper to hurt the religious sentiments of any one.  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, I will have to ask you to go out of the House. I will now have to ask you to go out of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not sit down immediately, then I will have to ask you to go out of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs, and you are deliberately insulting the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am not insulting the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are insulting the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all sections to please have a proper discussion, so that it can help in solving the problem.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): The word 'Islamic' should be expunged.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make me take strong action unnecessarily. Please do not do it. I am earnestly appealing to all of you. Therefore, nobody is bound by anybody's statement.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: What is your objection to the word 'Islamic'.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, What is going on here?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I will adjourn the House and go away if you are not cooperating.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are only trying to intervene when others are speaking. If anything is unparliamentary and that cannot be permitted here, then I will delete it. I myself intervened on two occasions when Shri Mohan Singh was speaking that I felt — rightly or wrongly — was not proper. Therefore, please cooperate with the Chair. We can have a very meaningful discussion, which will be consistent with the dignity of this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb each other.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Somebody has to go out of the House today.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling you that nothing will be allowed to be recorded, which is either unparliamentary according to me or deals with matter that is not to be discussed here.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, probably the recent incident could have been averted had the Uttar Pradesh Government taken seriously the serial bomb blasts that had occurred on 22 May 2007 in Gorakhpur. But the State Government first started playing politics on this issue. It said that Samajwadi Party and Bhartiya Janta Party are stage managing these blasts. Again on 23rd November, similar bomb blasts occurred at these three places. It is not happening for the first time in Uttar Pradesh. On 5th July 2005, Ram Janambhumi in Ayodhya.

...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: If anybody is found disturbing, then I will immediately ask him to go out of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*


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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: If you react to everyone, then the House will not run.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, will you take your seat? If you want to take part, then there is a proper method of doing it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: There had been similar bomb blast in 2006 at Sankat Mochan Temple in Varanasi and such incidents are continuously occurring in Uttar Pradesh. Western Uttar Pradesh has become quite a sensitive area. All such institutions are openly and shamelessly harbouring such terrorist activities. Political parties are providing them patronage. We are holding discussion on this issue in the House and I would like to extend my thanks to the Members of Samajwadi Party as for the first time, they have raised their voice against terrorism in the House. It is for the first time that Samajwadi Party is raising voice here against Terrorism . ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the submission of Yogi Aditya Nath.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Otherwise, when the attack was made on Varanasi, Ayodhya. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It will be deleted. I will delete it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot refer to an hon. Chief Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): At that time all the terrorists were killed on the spot.... (Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, organisations like SIMI and HUSE are at the root of terrorism in Uttar Pradesh and at some places there are the sources of inspiration for these organisations. ... (Interruptions)\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That will be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us adjourn the House. I will adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, I would like to thank that Samajwadi Party for the first time has spoken against the terrorism, because they have felt that something wrong is going on over there. Despite that I do not understand that Samajwadi Party is honest towards this issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Objectionable words have been expunged.

...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party. ... (Interruptions)\* Until the Union Government takes it seriously terrorism will not be contained.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that today, the atmosphere of fear and terror is prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. The people are living under the shadow of terror. I would like to request that the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should be directed to hold a discussion in the House on present situation in Uttar Pradesh. The recent happenings in Uttar Pradesh are somewhere politically motivated and the atmosphere of fear and terror is being deliberately created among the majority community. The Government of India should take it seriously and if

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

required should take security arrangements in Uttar Pradesh in its own hand. They are playing with sentiments of majority community. Political protection is being given to these organisations.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The name of the Party should be deleted from the speech.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I call the next speaker, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, and only his statement will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted it.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I strongly condemn the serial bomb blasts in Faizabad. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only the statement of Shri Acharia will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I strongly condemn the serial bomb blasts in the cities of Uttar Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a national issue /problem, and let us deal with it in that manner.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I strongly condemn the serial bomb blasts in the cities of Faizabad, Varanasi and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. It is a matter of great concern that the terrorist elements have now targeted the courts knowing well that thousands of people would be present there.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not accuse each other. If we do that, then we cannot discuss this issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No effort should be spared to unearth the conspiracy behind the dastardly acts of terror and punish the culprits.

Sir, whenever there have been discussions on bomb blasts in this House, always the failure of Intelligence had been pointed out by many Members. In this particular incident also, we came to know from various sources that where these three bomb blasts have taken place, it was not a sporadic or spontaneous attack, rather it was a well-planned and well organized attack. If it was a well-planned and well-organized attack, how the Intelligence Department of the Central Government was not aware of the happening of such incidents.

Sir, we have seen that many, many years ago, in 1994, on the 12th of December, 1994, a large number of sophisticated arms and ammunition were brought from foreign countries, from abroad, by aeroplane and dropped in our district at Purulia. The Government of India was caught unawares by that incident. We have seen that serial bomb blasts are taking place in the country in the recent past. All these serial bomb blasts are pre-planned and well-organised. So, there is a need to strengthen our Intelligence Department. Surveillance mechanism should be geared up.

The people of Varanasi have shown great courage at the time of this crisis and have unitedly fought against the designs of the terrorists. When such incidents take place, there are some people who always try to communalise the situation. The need of the hour is to unite the people. Whether it is minority fundamentalism or majority fundamentalism, both are dangerous for the country and both are against the unity and integrity of the country. These are anti-national activities and we will have to fight against them. We have to stand unitedly to face such situations.

There will be a detailed discussion on this subject. So, I just want the Home Minister to enlighten the House whether the Government of India received advance intimation of such happenings in any part of the country during the last two or three years. A number of such incidents have taken place in the State of Uttar Pradesh. If the Government of India was aware of such incidents, what action has it taken to prevent such incidents? The need of the hour is to face the challenge of such anti-national activities, both extremist and fundamentalist forces, unitedly.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall have a fuller discussion on this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Janjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too may be permitted to speak on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice. They have given the notice. Please send the notice.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have just given the notice.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has read out in the House the written information which has been collected in regard to the incident which has occurred in Uttar Pradesh. At one point, he has stated that the Uttar Pradesh Government has made adequate security arrangements in the court premises. In the last para of his statement he has stated that such terrorist incidents can never be permitted. I do not have any information as to whether any terrorist organisation had sought permission from Ministry of Home Affairs for carrying out such incidents? When permission has not been sought, the question of giving permission never arises. The terrorist incidents never occur with permission. This is not a first or last incident in the country. The incident are taking place and even in Uttar Pradesh this is not a first incident. The bomb blasts has occurred in Gorakhpur, near Sankatmochan Hanuman temple in Varanasi and in Ayodhya also. When such incidents take place, the entire country get concerned, the House also express its concern, the Government also collects information and a written statement is read out in the House and we have been continuously listening such statement, but do we make concerted efforts to check such incidents. We do not doubt the intentions of the Government. The Government certainly might be making efforts to check such incidents. The Government may be of any party. But the matter of biggest concern is that as to why we have not been successful in curbing such incidents. During the discussion on terrorists and terrorist incidents the hon'ble Members get divided in two groups on some particular word, as if .....". If such kind of message from House goes to terrorist, it will boost their morale.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I appeal to all of you to treat this as a national problem and we should tackle it accordingly.

\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Secondly, I would like to say that sometimes we boost the morale of terrorists due to political reasons. The Parliament was attacked, some security personnel were killed. The Supreme Court had pronounced capital punishment to terrorist involved in it. But till now, capital punishment has not been executed. After all, what kind of message is going to the terrorists? The terrorists who had attacked the sacred temple of democracy are living safely even after pronouncement of capital punishment by the Supreme Court, a very bad message is being sent to terrorists.

Thirdly, I would like to say that when NDA Government was in power, it had enacted POTA to curb their activities. But this Act has been repealed on the pretext that this Act was enacted to target a particular community, a particular religion. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: ...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): ...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not said so. Please ignore him.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: All those interruptions which are not relevant will be expunged They are, in fact, already expunged. [*Translation*] I have expunged it now please speak.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: We have got so many helpers, advisors.

\*Not recorded.



*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were saying that certain political factors and acts on our part are boosting the morale of the terrorist organizations. Reports are appearing in the newspapers that they are now conspiring to use the local terrorist organizations to divert the mind of the people and spread message among the people that these acts are carried out by none other than the terrorist from within the country. Wherever the incident of terrorism takes place, it affects not only the urban areas but the whole of the country. It affects the people psychologically. Now, the situation is such that the people have begun hesitating to travel in trains. Prominent leaders ensure full security arrangements prior to visiting any place for any inauguration and laying of foundation stone ceremonies. They too feel apprehensive while deciding about their visits. As such, this country has come completely under the grip of terrorism.

Through you, I would like to request the Central Government that I am not levelling allegations against any State or the Centre. I understand that it is a national problem which has now become a global problem. So, it is time to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all States along with the officers concerned with this issue. It cannot be said that since it has happened in Uttar Pradesh today, so it will not occur in Bengal tomorrow or in Bihar the day after tomorrow. It can happen anywhere. Therefore we request that a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the States should be held to discuss the issue and providing security in courts will not serve any purpose because tomorrow if some education institute is attacked it will be provided security, if one temple is attacked, it will also be provided security. Therefore some provision should be evolved for the security of every common man and every place of this country and in the light of this provision, strict action should be taken against the guilty persons. With these words, I conclude my speech.

KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all we all should abhorrently condemn the incident of bomb blast that took place in Uttar Pradesh some day back. It is a matter of great concern. As has been seen, the incidents of terrorism have been on the rise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, during the last few years. At one time, our State was peaceful, but during the recent times we have seen the incidents of Ayodhya, Gorakhpur and Varanasi followed by bomb blast that took

place some days back. It is a matter of great concern. We ourselves are responsible in encouraging the terrorists to achieve their objectives. We have seen that only few hours after bomb blast, the UP Government began the act of passing the buck saying that it was the responsibility of the Central Government because the intelligence comes under their control and the UP Government was not informed in time. However, the issue of terrorism has to be dealt with unitedly by us with the concerted efforts. If we bring politics this issue, and the State Government try to shoulder off its responsibility, everybody remain busy in minting arguments, then, it will fulfill the intentions and objectives of the terrorists.

As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, we have seen that the advocates are being targetted in the courts, which is a matter of great concern since the advocates are the professionals who, in fact, help the people in getting justice. It has also been seen that in Uttar Pradesh whosoever party had been in power, whether it was S.P. or B.S.P., all had been involved in demoralizing police force, making transfer and posting very frequently during the last few years due to which these forces are unable to discharge their duty efficiently, maintain law and order and keep upto date information. As on date 18000 posts in the state are lying vacant. These are yet to be filled. Perhaps, that is the reason behind the increase in the incidents of terrorism and the morale of terrorists is getting a boost.

As far the Congress party is concerned, it never compromised with the terrorism. So, we have to remain united on this issue and take a stand on this issue rising above the party lines. There should not be such a pressure under which once BJP had to surrender on Kandhar. This kind of acts gives a boost to the morale of terrorists. So, I would like to urge upon the whole House, through you, that we should take a united stand to fight terrorism.

As far as the Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned, there is a need to make our intelligence agencies a little bit more alert for the betterment of the intelligence department. As has been seen in the past few years, our two great leaders from Congress party lost their lives in the incidents of terrorism. Therefore, to avoid the recurrence of such incidents, we need to strengthen our intelligence agencies. I would like to draw your attention towards this very aspect. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded; the speech of only Shri D.P. Yadav will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded. I will request you to please take your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, please take your seat. Only Shri D.P. Yadav's speech will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. I will not allow, Shri Swain.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You made a very good speech; do not spoil it.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the heart land and the biggest state of the country. ...(*Interruptions*). In this State, the serial bomb blasts that occurred in three districts Faizabad, Varanasi, and Lucknow. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no lunche on recess today.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the heart land of the country where serial bomb blasts have occurred. These serial bomb blasts were executed in a very well planned manner. It is a most condemnable act, but these bomb blasts is a matter of national concern. It is not only a matter of national concern but also a challenge before us. It is, in fact, a national challenge before us to deal with terrorism because the fact remains that the external forces, foreign hand keep on creating disturbances in the country after infiltrating into our country. In this blast, 13 people were killed and 56 others were injured, as the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has stated in his brief statement.

\*Not recorded.

13.00 hrs.

How these external forces have become so strong that they are able to infiltrate and create disturbances in our country, which have been posing threat to our life and property? Are the Central and the State intelligence agencies not competent enough to apprehend these external forces posing threat to our internal security? My request is that we should have a separate discussion on this issue because our intelligence agencies must be lacking somewhere due to which such incidents are taking place. This is not the question of any party or community. So, it should not be associated with some particular community. Terrorism can be dealt with only when the communal harmony is strengthened within the country. If we can save the nation from the external forces and are able to deal with terrorism, the communal harmony will emerge automatically here. If the efforts are made to break the strength of the country and the fanatic ideology is floated, then, the country will never succeed in tackling terrorism. That is why no hon'ble Member should have the right to annex his fanatic or narrow ideology, while discussing the issue of terrorism. It is a matter of great concern that such serial bomb blasts took place not only in Faizabad, Varanasi and Lucknow but also in Mumbai and Delhi. Recently such bomb blasts occurred in Hyderabad. It is a question before the whole country. Do the intelligence agencies of our country not have any mechanism to get prior informations to deal with such fast spreading terrorist activities within the country? If the Central and the State intelligence agencies do have the prior informations they should go for joint operations. Co-ordination should be strengthened so that the recurrence of such incidents could be prevented by launching a special campaign with the help of an integrated programme. The feeling of insecurity prevailing among the people affects the whole country. In such an atmosphere, it is a matter of concern for the people of the whole nation to check the terrorist activities in the whole country.

We should make concerted efforts to combat terrorism. We will also have to appeal to the masses to get united and firmly fight them back. Not only the police but even the intelligence service should step up its vigilance. This message should percolate down the common people that by strengthening communal harmony in the country; we can fight back terrorism. This is my view.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: As you know, we are going to have a full-fledged discussion on internal security.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly wait. Everybody is very impatient.

Therefore, please make a brief reference to this particular tragic and serious incident. I am happy there is uniformity of views in this House.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the House is discussing a very important issue relating to the internal security of the country. These incidents took place in Faizabad, Varanasi and Lucknow on 23rd November. These are various commissionerary centres having headquarters at Lucknow where this terrorist incident has taken place. It is not only a challenge for Uttar Pradesh but for the entire country. Attack on Uttar Pradesh which is one of the biggest States of the country, should be considered a big threat to the country's internal security. Various political parties have shown unity in their intentions to combat such terrorism. It is regretful that some colleagues have exhibited political parochialism in fighting back terrorism. If we nurture bitterness and political acrimony, then we can never combat terrorism. If terrorism spreads in any part of the country, every party leader should rise above political lines and show that we are united and committed to the cause of national integration.

Just now, some of our colleagues referred to certain Members and pointed out that. *...(Interruptions)*"

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: That has not been recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: I am not levelling any allegation. I am making a very objective observation that if we continue to make allegations on one another then not only the House but the entire country would stand testimony that an important issue is being discussed with narrow political parochialism. I wish to submit that when this incident took place in Uttar Pradesh our hon. Chief

Minister took it very seriously. She immediately visited all the three sites of the incident. She did not bother about her safety in the least that there could be another bomb explosion. She visited the three sites of Faizabad, Varanasi and Lucknow and was with the victims till 11 p.m. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, if you go on disturbing, I would not call you then.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: I will refer to that also I am coming on Mumbai as well. *...(Interruptions)* I will not speak much. *...(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chief Minister has taken a serious view of this incident. A young Member of the ruling party from Shahjahanpur is sitting here. He said that ever since the Bahujan Samaj Party has formed Government in Uttar Pradesh, the law and order situation has got paralysed over there. Law and order situation has not got crippled. This is your misconception. Removing such officers immediately by transferring them out is very necessary. Those who do not know governance should be replaced by the ones who are efficient in governance. Today, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs towards Uttar Pradesh. Hon. Mr. Speaker Sir, this issue is concerned with Uttar Pradesh. Our party is in Government; we should be allowed to speak out our mind.

Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I became a Member of Parliament for the first time in 1999. I was sitting in this very House when there was terrorist attack; the entire House condemned it unanimously. At that time, nobody levelled any allegation against the Bhartiya Janata Party since it was in power. The entire House, all the parties, entire country are at fault and if we are not able to check terrorism then we have no right to run the Government. Today, the terrorists have spread their tentacles in Uttar Pradesh. If terrorists infiltrate in Mumbai or Bihar, then it becomes the responsibility of the Union Government. I am not referring to any particular party be it the U.P.A. or any other party in Government, the onus lies on the centre. What is the root cause of terrorism? Terrorism spreads from across the border. Once terrorists infiltrate into the country, there might be explosions anywhere in the country, terrorism can spread its tentacles anywhere. Terrorism has no purpose, no religion, no caste. It has the only purpose of spreading terror.

The entire House should stand up to fight back terrorism. Terrorism has spread to various countries, however, our country is a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity, the unity that prevails in the country can be seen nowhere in the world. It would be a serious blow on the Hindu-Muslim unity if terrorism spreads in the country. I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Home Affairs what was submitted by Shri Prabunath Singh ji right now that a meeting of all the Chief Ministers should be convened. A meeting of all the Chief Ministers should be convened at the central level, as today this is the issue of Uttar Pradesh, tomorrow it could be of Gujarat, or it may be Madhya Pradesh next time. All the Chief Ministers will have to be sounded and we will have to step up vigilance. About the statement in the House that the I.B. had raised an alert, I spoke to the hon. Chief Minister and got to know that she did not have any information and it is entirely baseless to say that information was given.

Hon. Minister of Home Affairs should take serious view of this issue. Our Government, our party is prepared to give you whole-hearted support to combat terrorism. I would not like to name any party, in particular, but would like to sound those who say that the Bahujan Samaj Party is a complete failure in Uttar Pradesh that our Government has been in majority there. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Uttar Pradesh, the biggest state of our country, has witnessed a Government after sixteen years. With a full majority. *...(Interruptions)* Those who say that we do not enjoy majority there will learn it in the times to come that we got inroads all over the country championing the cause of the 'Bahujan Samaj'.

Hon. Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to assure the Minister of Home Affairs that my party and our Chief Minister are completely ready to combat terrorism. An important meeting of all the District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police and other concerned is being convened tomorrow and instructions are going to be issued to the effect that terrorism should be completely rooted out from Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Speaker Sir, with these words, I would like to conclude with a message that the entire House should rise above political lines to combat terrorism. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call everyone turn by turn; otherwise, you will feel annoyed.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please be liberal ever as you are today. You are allowing members to speak without having any notice from them for the same. Please include me also in the list of members to speak without giving any notice. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath ji, if you speak in a right manner and don't create disturbance, then it would be taken care of. Please cooperate with the Chair, everyone will get a chance. All start shouting sitting here and there. Don't interfere more while one speaks, interference should be restricted to minimum.

*[English]*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am really rattled by the way we are discussing this issue. The question is that the country is sought to be destabilized; the national unity of the country is sought to be jeopardized; the national unity of the country is sought to be destroyed by a number of fundamentalist forces who are believed to have foreign connections. That is the issue before us.

Only a few months back something outrageous had happened in Hyderabad twice — serial bombing. Before that Mumbai was sought to be made the target and before that Ajmer. Therefore, a series of terrorist activities is taking place in the country, in different parts of this sub-continent.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall have a full discussion on this. You may just restrict your submissions to this issue now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, therefore, the point is that terrorism seeks to strike the country. If it is so, then why should we make it an issue of polemical controversy? Why should we turn this debate into a narrow partisan discussion? The question is that if terrorism is a danger, then national unity is the only answer. If national unity is sought to be jeopardized by narrow political comments, the way it is sought to be made, then I think, we are doing just the way the terrorists want us to do. It is a realization the whole House has

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

to make. Therefore, I appeal to all Members, this side and that side, to refrain from making any statements and from imputing accusations and saying that the Uttar Pradesh Government has failed, for that matter which Government has not failed in this country. Therefore, the position is that there is a colossal failure of the intelligence system, both at the State and the Centre. This failure was evident when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. This failure is evident today when Dr. Manmohan Singh is the Prime Minister. This is a continuous and colossal failure. Every time the hon. Home Minister makes a statement, he says that computerisation is being done and that updating is being done. But I find the same situation exists. Our intelligence does not know or is not able to know or does not have the infrastructure to know what is going to happen in this or that part of the country. Therefore, we want to know categorically what steps are being taken in this regard.

This will be an administrative move. The hon. Prime Minister should take a political initiative to unite the country. There has to be administrative as well as political action. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a full-fledged debate.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There has to be a political initiative by the States and by the Prime Minister to build up unity at all levels.

Finally, I do not believe that POTA is the answer. I believe a stronger nation with an updated intelligence system and national unity is the answer to the question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. We shall have a full-fledged discussion.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had occasions for discussing the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing the UP incident.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: We have observed that this Government has utterly failed to combat terrorism in the entire country. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He says, "This Government has failed", as if the earlier Government has succeeded.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The entire country is shocked on the news of this barbaric incident in Uttar Pradesh on 23rd November, 2007. This speaks about the helplessness of the Union Government as well as the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. There is intelligence failure.

Uttar Pradesh is now home to the highest number of ISI-backed espionage modules in the country. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We have been discussing this for more than one and a half hours. I would not allow this.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I am mentioning about Uttar Pradesh.

Out of 39 modules that have been busted by this Government, ten modules are detected in Uttar Pradesh alone, which is about one-third. It seems that the State of Uttar Pradesh has become home to ISI-backed espionage. With their act of 23rd November, 2007 in Uttar Pradesh, once again the terrorists have sent a chilling reminder that they can strike at will. A number of people have been killed. The hon. Minister has narrated it. It is not necessary to mention all the details. The internal security problem in the country is much more grave and alarming.

I want to draw the attention of the House and the hon. Minister through you to the following fact. Since 2004, the number of people who have been killed by terrorists in India is the highest in the world after Iraq, America, Europe and Euroasia put together. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There will be a debate on internal security. You can raise all these points during that time. Now, we are only discussing the unfortunate incident that happened in Uttar Pradesh.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: After what happened in Uttar Pradesh, we must be careful. It has been always said that intelligence failure is the main

cause for these incidents. We must be very careful. The Government should take strong action against the terrorists. ...(*Interruptions*) It seems that the Government has no will.

Clearly this Government has no will and no resolve to act. Worse, there are apprehensions of political protection. The Government's bumbling response to terror attacks, both in preventative term and in bringing the merchants of death to book, have shocked and frustrated the entire country.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs as to what action he proposes to take to combat terrorism. ... (*Interruptions*) When the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh alleged that there was no prior information to the State Government, what is the actual position and why this thing has not been shared or intimated to the State Government? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: tripathy ji, I request you to please conclude.

[*English*]

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Home affairs made a statement in the House giving information on the serial blasts that took place in Varansi, Faizabad and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh on 23 November. While participating in the discussion going on in the House on the issue, Mohan Singh ji made a statement in the House. He said that Uttar Pradesh has become the hot bed of terrorism. If it is so, the very first thing we should try is to find out the roots of terrorism. When D.P. Yadavji was speaking, he made a mention of the neighbouring country. When Rajesh Verma ji was speaking, he also made a mention of the neighbouring country itself in this context. Several of the Members speaking earlier also made a mention of the neighbouring country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: They did not name any particular country, rather they spoke the word 'outside'.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Yes, outside means the neighbour (Padausi)

MR. SPEAKER: Padausi means neighbour, they did not name the neighbour. You should say the foreign country.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: They hesitated to name the country, but I don't hesitate to do so. The roots of the terrorist activities that took place in the country, are in Pakistan. If we are not able to even show such courage in our Parliament, how could we be then able to combat terrorism. I am not alone in saying this. Every Minister of Home affairs who spoke in the House, has said this. I have been a Member of this House since 11th Lok Sabha. Be it the NDA Govt., The UPA Government, be it the prime minister Deve Gowdaji, Gujaralji, Atalji or Manmohanji, every Minister of Home Affairs under their leadership has many times admitted in this House that whatever be the nature of terrorism taking place in the country' has its roots in Pakistan. The terrorists are imparted training in the Pak occupied kashmir (P.O.K.) This mission has been given a part of the proceeding in the House which is also a fact. If we hesitate to even say so, we can't even think of combating terrorism.

Presently, Pakistan is burning. and is under Military rule. That country is an enemy of ours and does not want India to be peaceful. That country does not want our people to live with peace. They don't want harmony among Hindus and Muslims. They want in a state of unrest. They want sabotage, riots to take place in India. They want clash among the followers of different religions over trifles and therefore such type of terrorist activities are perpetuated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, serial bomb blasts took place. Some blasts are taking place one after the other. Here, we hold our I.B. responsible for this. We hold the state intelligence responsible for not providing us the intelligence. What do the intelligence and State intelligence depts do? The question arises as to when we hold any agency responsible for such type of incidents, do not we need to introspect whether we as a part of Government discharge our responsibility with request courage? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss the whole thing.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: This case is absolutely clear....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You did not even give notice still I have called you. Now you are speaking only for five minutes.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you gave me an opportunity and in the same manner you have also given opportunity to many Members. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only those who gave notice were allowed. You did not even give notice even then I have called you.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Only those who gave notice there allowed. You did not even give notice even then I have called you.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: If you do not want me to continue, I may sit. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, you immediately conclude.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to Conclude. When we hold any intelligence agency or an organisation responsible, then there is a need to introspect respective of who is in power be it N.D.A. or U.P.A. Whether as a Government we really want to fight terrorism? Shri Prabhunath Singh had raised his voice in this regard. There was an attack on this Parliament. I was in this attack Mr. Afjal was found guilty by the Supreme court but he could not be hanged till date. That proposal is still pending with the hon'ble President.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Geete, please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Santosh Gangwar to speak.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: How will we fight terrorism. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this any longer. He has already said that.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: One hon. Member has mentioned it.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: We all are responsible for it. We do not have that courage. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar. Only his speech will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of our colleagues expressed their anguish in regard to incidents occurred in Uttar Pradesh recently and it is really unfortunate. As right now, our colleagues have stated that these incidents are not new. It was reported in the newspaper that a new organization in the name of 'Indian Mujahidin' had been formed which is behind the incident or later on it was stated that this is the act of Huzi. Thus we should understand and as it was said earlier that if we do not go to the roots then it will not happen. One week ago some people were arrested in Uttar Pradesh in connectin with one leader of ruling party.

They said that they intended to perpetrate sabotages. If, even after this, the Union Government and the State Government continue to blame each other for not keeping them informed. I think it is a matter of passing the buck onto each other. I am saying so especially in view of the incidents that took place during the last one decade, and in particular during the last five years, be it the incident of 247 terrorists being apprehended in Uttar Pradesh or the recovery of 165 kg of RDX or 265 A.K. 47 rifles or the recovery of Rs.One crore in cash or hand grenades or rocket launchers, Does each one of these incidents not indicate the lack of responsibility of the Government? Isn't it the responsibility of the Government in power over there to take care of this and check such type of incidents. We are aware that presently there is this Government and earlier there was another Government. *...(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\**

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\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, illegally.  
...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Santoshji, you are a very responsible Member.

[*English*]

I respect you so much.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, so far as the roots of these incidents are concerned, these roots were getting nurtured in a University of Uttar Pradesh since the pre-independence days. At present also, Central Government's Intelligence Bureau says that the supporters of the neighbouring country are active in that University and none can go over there. If we don't pay attention to this issue and wish that all the things to get right, I don't think it'd be possible. ...(*Interruptions*) These things are right. ...(*Interruptions*) Today. ...(*Interruptions*)\* None can go to certain departments.

MR. SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: He started levelling charges before making his speech. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already deleted it. Shri Gangwar, you are a very senior, respected leader.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Uttar Pradesh has common border with Nepal for nearly 100 Kms. It is a porous border and if any terrorist intrudes from there, we are not able to check such intrusion. Therefore, I humbly

urge both the SP & the BSP to rise above the party, politics and desist from levelling charges against each other. I am saying so because both these parties are responsible for increasing incidents. This fact is evident and all know it. ...(*Interruptions*) If we play the politics of votes, appease such a community whose votes could win us power, the number of such incidents will not come down. I am not against any particular religion. I think if we don't treat a terrorist as a terrorist and fail to criticize and condemn Pakistan for getting such incidents perpetrated in our country, it would be an injustice by us to our country. I would like the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to ponder over the point seriously that Uttar Pradesh is increasingly becoming an active centre of terrorism. There are a number of organizations active in the state whose activities are essentially required to be checked. Keeping this in view, if we join hands and work together in this regard, it would be better. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Nikhil Kumar. You have to contribute for four minutes please.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Let me speak first, you may speak thereafter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You address the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Terrorism in this country is not something unknown. We have been facing the brunt of it for the past 30 years. It began first in Punjab and we all know that we were able to tackle the threat of terrorism in Punjab, of course, not before terrorism left in its wake a trail of blood shed. Life and property were destroyed. All kinds of activities, all kinds of targets were selected. It seemed at one time that the Indian society would crumble, especially in Punjab. But, at the same time, there was a basic inherent strength with which we fought terrorism in Punjab. It is now a matter of record and a matter of history that we won the battle against terrorism in Punjab. We won that battle not with the help of any special laws. There was then the Terrorists and

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\*Not recorded.



[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

Disruptive Activities Act (TADA). We did not win that battle with the help of TADA, but with the help of people of Punjab and because of our insistence on following a democratic process. It is part of the democratic process that in Punjab we held an election in 1995 and elected a popular Government. It is this popular Government which took steps to see that people who had genuine grievances were redressed and we saw the pockets supposed to be susceptible to terrorism and terrorist influence were taken care of. All this was done with the help of a democratic process. The question is not whether the Government of the day in Punjab or elsewhere was armed with some special laws. It is not that. Special laws do serve a purpose, but they do not serve the purpose which we are used to accepting from a democratic process. It is this democratic process which finally helped us to win that battle against terrorism in Punjab. It is this process of democracy and popular support that we are now following in Kashmir. After Punjab, the centre of terrorism shifted to Kashmir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. Let us not go to the history. We all know that.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: We can say with a degree of confidence that we also won the battle against terrorism in Kashmir. The question here is not so much regarding the States, whether it is Jammu and Kashmir or Punjab or Uttar Pradesh or any other State. They are dependent only on intelligence. Indeed, intelligence plays an important role. But, if I may very politely mention to our dear friend Rajeshji, it is not very reasonable to accept that Central Intelligence Agency will send an intelligence report which will target every district or every village. It is a general warning. Basic intelligence collection relates to the duty of the local police station and local administration. It has to be a joint effort between the Centre and the States. I am very happy to say that this is being done. But, at the same time, I would submit for hon. Home Minister's consideration that there is an urgent need to see that our technical capability of collection of intelligence, its analysis and then follow-up action on that, is being done or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You may take part in the main debate.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: The main thing is only this much that hon. Home Minister may kindly consider whether his Intelligence agencies are well-equipped in terms of technical intelligence because now a days, it is

the internet, by and large, which is being used for this all over the world.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure it will be considered.

It is here that we have to be very careful and whether we are doing it or not is what the Government of India has to say and at the same time, it has to be a joint operation between the State Governments and the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a very specific point to raise on this matter. Kindly permit me for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Minister yields, I shall see.

Shri Ramdas Athawale, please speak briefly and conclude your speech within three minutes because we have already taken 1½ hours on this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to condemn the bomb blasts that took place in Lucknow, Varanasi and Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh on 23rd of November. We should all be united with regard to taking stringent action against any terrorist. There should not be more discussion on as to whose Government is there in Uttar Pradesh. I think the roots of terrorism at present are not in Pakistan. These roots lie in the demolition of the Babri Mosque. I am not speaking in political terms. Be it the Government of Mayawatiji or Mulayam Singhji, we all-be we Hindu or Muslim-need to come forward unitedly to combat terrorism. Earlier, Mulayam Singhji was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, it was Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government in the Centre earlier and now it is of Shri Manmohan Singhji. After it, it will be our turn. I mean to say that terrorism should be opposed and combated by all, irrespective of any Government. We have got a strong Minister of Home Affairs in Shri Shivraj Patilji. In Uttar Pradesh, Mayawatiji has become the Chief Minister representing the downtrodden society. Bomb blasts took place on the 23rd in Uttar Pradesh and she visited Mumbai on the 25th. There, the BSP leader told that she was also going to visit all the States. Alright, she has the right to visit Mumbai. I am also going to visit Lucknow.

Similarly, every party has the right to visit any State. I oppose this incident on behalf of the Republican Party and we should all unitedly fight against it.

*[English]*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI SI (Hyderabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I condemn the bomb blasts which took place in Lucknow, Varanasi and Faizabad. It pains me more because I belong to the legal fraternity and out of the 14 people who died in these serial bomb blasts many of them were lawyers. As there is paucity of time, I would just like to point out certain things over here.

I agree with other hon. Members that the country has to unite to fight this menace. It is very clear in these bomb blasts that people are more mature than political parties and the reason is that they are not falling into any communal trap which the terrorists really want.

The second and the most important thing is that if we want to stop all these things, the first thing that needs to be done is that the mindset needs to be cleared. It is very fine to say certain words that we should not blame this community and that community, but the most unfortunate thing is that the investigating agencies have a preconceived mindset that whenever any bomb blast takes place, the finger has to be pointed towards the Muslim minorities. Day in and day out we keep saying that the terrorists who commit these heinous crimes do not have any religion. In fact, terrorism is a new religion now. We have to understand that.

The third point is that the State investigating agencies, like the Special Branch is being utilized only to check what the political parties are doing. The Special Branch is not being utilized to look into these anti-social or anti-national elements. When it comes to the Intelligence Bureau, I would like to point out that in our IB we have only two Muslim officers. Why is it so? Why do you not increase their strength? Let me be a devil's advocate for some time. If you say that a particular problem is there, how do you control that problem? Unless and until you have those people who understand the psyche and the thought processes of the terrorists, you will not be able to control it.

The last point is that bomb blasts have taken place in Delhi's Jama Masjid, Ajmer, Hyderabad, Malegaon and other places. But these four places are identified with a particular religion, the Muslim religion. You have still not caught the real culprits. So, what is the message that is being sent across the country? In the case of bomb

blasts which took place in other places, immediately either an encounter has taken place or you have caught the culprits. So, my request to the hon. Home Minister, through you, is that the thought process needs to be very clear. If you want to stop terrorist attacks, on which we are all one, you have to ensure that fingers do not point towards the Muslim minorities. That has to be done.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mahtab, if you have a specific question, I will allow. Now one question as a special case.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a matter relating to the coverage of the news relating to terrorists activities in the country. New proportions have occurred in this country. Serial blasts are occurring, and Jehadi terrorism has reached a new height.

Earlier, it was a cross border terrorism, now it is home-borne terrorist activity. The manner in which these incidents are being covered are being taken differently, and this UP incident is being termed as a retaliatory terrorist activity. Retaliatory terrorist activity means that three persons were arrested and when they were apprehended and brought to the court, they were manhandled and all those clippings were shown on the TV.

So, I would request the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting to ask the media to introspect how do we cover. *...(Interruptions)* such incidents so that it should not explode to this type of incidents.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it was a very pertinent point.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, 18 hon. Members have participated in this informal discussion which has taken place.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry. I beg your pardon. Please cooperate. I am thankful to all of you.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, please hear me for a minute. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry, I cannot hear you. Your leader has already spoken.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, if you allow me, I will point out certain factors which are essential for tackling the situation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You take full part in a fuller discussion where you get more than 20 minutes to speak. Yes, the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No more discussion please. I beg your pardon. Please excuse me. We have taken one hour and forty minutes for this. I have been repeatedly saying that there will be a fuller discussion. This I have allowed because it is an important matter. I have been requesting all of them and they have made their observations, very pertinent observations. The hon. Minister need not have agreed, but as soon as I suggested, immediately he agreed. I am thankful to the hon. Minister. Let us please continue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want to hear the reply, I will adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss that. Why are you saying that Dr. Sarma? You are a responsible Member of the House. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): I would like to say something about Assam. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You would like to talk about Assam, you may have a full discussion thereon. During that discussion, I would give you full time.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to make a statement on Assam also. But the difficulty is that I

have to reply to this discussion here and then I have Karnataka, I have to go to the other House and come back. So, if I am allowed to make a statement tomorrow, we can have a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, on Assam tomorrow and then the discussion we shall decide later.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Tell about the recent incident that has occurred in Uttar Pradesh. [English] We will have full-fledged discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, very good suggestions have been given and I think that both the Governments will have to take action keeping in view these suggestions. This work needs to be done unitedly. We cannot do this by levelling charges against one another. I remember well that we were in Varanasi when the Sankatmochan Mandir at Varanasi came under attack. Our leader Smt. Sonia Gandhiji was asked there as to whether that incident had occurred due to the carelessness of the State Government. She had said at that time that at this juncture it was not right to say as to whose carelessness it was. We will have to act unitedly to solve such problems. We have to move forward with this attitude and the same attitude should be there forever.

The question is as to what can be done. Sir, you have just said that discussion in detail would be held on this subject. Many suggestions are likely to be given during that discussion. We would act keeping in view those suggestions and what is being done by the Government would also be explained in detail. I would like to say in brief that we need to take some steps. I would like to tell about these steps. One step is that we will have to enhance the budgetary funds for policing, police action. This has to be jointly done by both the Union and the State Governments. We are spending a lot of money on development and development is being achieved too. If we do not spend funds on Police services, there could be difficulty. We have interacted with many State Governments in this regard.

They have also accepted that funds should be increased and some States have increased it too.

Therefore, all the State Governments will have to do this.

Secondly, special branches will have to be strengthened. It was asked during the discussion here whether the intelligence agencies gave the information or not. Very politely, I want to tell the House that our intelligence agency is related to defence and thus it provides defence related information. Second agency is RAW, which collects international information and provides the same to us. Third is IB which collects information from all over the country and then provides it to us. Besides, every State has a special branch known as CID. Its function is to collect information about anything that is taking place in the State and give it to the State Government. It is difficult for the defence intelligence, RAW and IB to give information about everything that is taking place in every street. These agencies provide information as to what is likely to happen in the country at large scale and sometimes they are unable to do so. I do not want to discuss as to how many times they provide information because it should not appear like that they provided information but it did not work. We can make allegations like this but the point is that we lone to work together and not make allegations. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the Special Branch of each State. We have taken many steps like providing electronic gadgets to strengthen and modernise the IB. We are increasing the strength thereof too but that will not suffice because ours is a vast country. We should not be over dependent on I.B. for information. Therefore, it is necessary for every State to strengthen its special branch.

Blasts took place in Hyderabad. I visited there and spoke with the Chief Minister. I told him to strengthen special branch. We were told later that he has increased the police strength from 38,000 and is taking specific steps for special branch also. Similarly, steps have also been taken in Maharashtra. Such steps have been taken in other States too. We have a long-term scheme in this regard. From that point of view it is necessary to strengthen the special branch. It has also been seen that police officials do not go there because their work does not get recognized and the information provided by them remains confidential without any name which causes difficulty.

Thirdly, police strength will have to be raised. I have said it earlier also and am saying it today also that I will tell the police and population ratio in other countries and in our country with figures when there will be a detailed

discussion on this matter. Our country is so large but police strength is less. For your information, I would like to tell that the number of cities, towns and villages in the country is 6 lakh while there are only 14,000 police stations. We have to manage all the work only through these 14000 police stations. Therefore, we will have to increase the number of police personnel and police stations. Besides, communication system in the police stations will also have to be strengthened and the Centre has provided funds also for the purpose. We have given them a mechanism and money too. Some States have utilized it and some have not. Some friends here have said very rightly that only depending on police will not do, we will also have to remain vigilant.

For example, someone is sitting in his shop and some person puts a bag containing explosives in front of his shop and if he suspects and inform the police, then it would be a great help to police. Even a little alertness will help us greatly.

We will have to work together. It is an issue of fraternity, brotherhood. It is not like that I say that State Government did not do so while that Government will say that it had done so. Be it the Government of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, U.P. or Bihar or Rajasthan untoward incidents have taken place everywhere and discussions regarding them were held here. But, you may have never heard that we blamed someone here or outside because blaming does not help. Now, the question is that, whenever a discussion takes place, it is asked what we did? We can not send our police there, can not carry out investigation, can not go there without being invited and what should we say if here we are asked what are we doing? We both have to find out a solution. Many meetings of the CMs have been called and one more is being called. Hon. Prime Minister has said that it should be considered by calling a meeting. Therefore, as per your desire, a meeting of the CMs is being called here within 15-20 days. Previous Government, present Government, experts and the commissions set up for streamlining the administrative machinery—they all have indicated about having the Federal crime and Federal Investigation system. I want to say politely that this idea is not acceptable to the States. They are of the view that if is put in place it will be misused. But, we can not go there if it is not implemented. Therefore, we have to ponder over as to what can be the way out. I have said that it is very necessary to devise a system to investigate crimes taking place in one or other state or in the whole country. We

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

will think about this also. I have said it earlier and will say it today also that no step will be taken from our side unless there is unanimity on this issue. Unanimity is necessary because ours is a Federal structure and it should not be jeopardized. Newspaper coverage was talked about here. It is true and our friends from newspapers help us. But, sometimes news is published in such a way that the issue gets boiled up. For instance, someone says that there is a bomb blast and 10 persons have died in it but it is reported that 100 persons have died or that 200 persons have died in Assam. This creates anguish in the mind of other people and the issue flares up. This should not happen and we should pay attention to it also.

I have raised some of the issues before you but not all of them. You have given very good suggestions and we will keep them in mind. Whenever discussion takes place again then I will tell the condition of any state in writing. I will provide in writing all the information like the total amount paid to any state, the police strength of any State, number of police posts vacant in any State, the States where crime / terrorism has increased/decreased etc. But, I have only one request to you that you should come after reading it. If you can not read then atleast have a look at it. I will give you a graph showing the swing which will show the situation of a State. I know that you will have different opinion if you will come after checking the graph and if not then you will repeat the same thing. Some of the friends who had raised some points are not present here to listen the answers to their points and they will repeat same points when they will come back. It should not be so. Therefore, I want to say that you must come after checking the graphs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am thankful to the hon. Minister and all sections of the House that we have responded adequately in a serious mater, which has taken place in one of our own States, very near to the Capital, and everybody has impressed on national unity; and we should takle these matters in a manner of unity and integrity. I am thankful to all of you. This is the way we should function.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Mr. Speaker, Sir, will there be zero-hovr?

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no zero-hour today.

13.57 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters Under Rule 377 listed in Today's List of Business may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

### (I) Need to sanction new railway projects in Karnataka

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): The Karnataka Government have submitted the following proposals for development of Srirangapatnam, Shivapura, Ramaswamy Circle (Mysore) under Freedom Circuit Scheme/at an estimated cost of Rs. 802.52 lakhs.:-

1. Proposed expansion and additional tourist facilities at Hotel Mayura Hoysala, Mysore costing Rs. 1,50,14,940/-
2. Proposed additional tourist facilities and construction of 1st floor at Yatriniwas, Mysore, costing Rs. 95,86,296/-
3. Construction of dormitory block at Hotel Mayura River View, Srirangapatnam, costing Rs. 60,61,731/-
4. Proposed construction of cottages at Hotel Mayura River View, Srirangapatnam, costing Rs. 5,68,20,702/-
5. Proposed interpretation centre at Shivapur (Maddur), costing Rs. 52,26,007/-
6. Proposed construction of interpretation centre at Nanjungud costing Rs. 1,20,03,648/-
7. Proposed illumination works at Chamundi Hills, Mysore costing Rs. 24,96,411/-
8. Proposed upgradation of Hotel Mayura at Krishnarajasagar costing Rs. 59,98,613/-
9. Proposed construction of 1 st floor at Mayura Hotel at Krishnarajasagar costing Rs. 60,11,132.
10. Proposed Tourist Information Centre at Welcome Gate, Mysore costing Rs. 45,31,105/-
11. Proposed improvements of Freedom Heritage Circle, Mysore costing Rs. 56,40,780/-
12. Signage's costing Rs. 20,00,000/-

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\*Treated as laid on the Table.

These proposals are pending with the Centre for long. I urge upon the Centre to clear the proposals immediately.

- (ii) **Need to construct a road over bridge on N.H.8 in Behrod, Rajasthan**

*[Translation]*

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, the place where NH-8 crosses Bharatpur-Alwar-Namraul highway in Behrod town under my Parliamentary constituency, the traffic often moves in an disorderly manner resulting in frequent traffic jams. Heavy rush of traffic on both the roads and absence of traffic signals leads to traffic jams. Also, frequent accidents take place around this point. Therefore, there is a need to install a traffic signal at this point and construction of an over bridge is also urgently required for smooth flow of traffic on NH-8. I would like to urge the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to direct the NHA in this regard.

- (iii) **Need to augment BSNL mobile service in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency in Gujarat.**

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, through you, I would like to apprise the House of very poor service of BSNL's mobile telephony in Amreli Parliamentary constituency. People do not get their calls connected and if at all gets connected, then it gets disconnected in between. Condition of network in rural areas is far worse. The networks of private mobile operators are functioning satisfactorily consequently people are switching over to other cell operator. There is an urgent need to install more towers for improving the services of BSNL.

Through the House, I would urge the Government to review the working of BSNL and mobile services in my Parliamentary constituency should be improved.

- (iv) **Need to upgrade Himmatnagar—Vijayapur-Mehsana-Radhanpur State Highway in Rajasthan to the level of a National Highway**

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehasana): There is an urgent need to upgrade Himmatnagar-Vijayapur-Mehsana-Radhanpur highway passing through my Parliamentary constituency to the level of National Highway as it connects many big cities of Gujarat and it plays a vital role in economic development of North Gujarat. If the said highway is declared as a National Highway, it will facilitate economic development of this backward area.

This area has no rail or air connectivity. Entire inter-state heavy traffic passes through this highway.

I urge the Government to convert the said highway into a National Highway.

- (v) **Need to conduct an inquiry into the works undertaken by NBCC in border fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border**

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the whole world is badly affected by terrorist activities and India is no exception to it. All parts of our country, be it Northeast, West or any other parts, are in its grip. I would cite its living example how NBCC while fencing on Assam, an integral part of India, has ceded 137 meters to 900 meters of fertile land inside from zero line to Bangladesh. This serious irregularity has been committed while carrying out fencing of third phase leaving fertile land from Dhubari – Karimganj. Though it was intimated to the Home Ministry by the D.C. Dhubari-Karimganj on 13 March, 2007 but no action has been taken so far.

Today, when the Government has not been able to retrieve our territory from China, the officers of the NBCC have created a new headache. It will not only cause damage to Assam but will also will spoil our relations with Bangladesh. The newspapers and electronic media have reported a lot with regard to the quality of work and allocation of works in contravention of official rules.

In view of this I would urge the Government to take cognizance of it and initiate proper inquiry in this regard.

- (vi) **Need to restore local rail service between Palanpur & Gandhidham, and augmentation of DMU rail service between Palanpur and Ahmedabad**

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Prior to conversion of Palanpur-Gandhidham stretch from meter gauge to broad gauge several local trains used to ply on this route. But after conversion of railway line on this stretch into broad gauge there is no local service causing great inconvenience to people around this area. At present Gujarat Mail shuttles between Mumbai to Ahmedabad. After terminating at Ahmedabad, it stays parked here over 15 hours. If said train is extended upto Palanpur it will facilitate Mumbai bound commuters from North Gujarat. It will also generate revenue for the railways. In addition to it, I would also urge the Government to

increase number of DMUs from one to two between Palanpur and Ahemadabad as the people have been demanding for it for long.

Sir, through the House, I would also urge the Government to restore the local train service between Palanpur-Gandhidham. Present train service between Mumbai-Ahemadabad may be extended upto Palanpur and two DMUs in place of present one should be provided on Palanpur-Ahemadabad route.

**(vii) Need to repair stretches of National Highway from Agra to Mumbai and Indore to Baitul in Shajapur Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.**

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Sir, the condition of stretches from Maksi to Devas and from Double Chowki to Chamda on National Highway from Agra to Mumbai and Indore to Baitul is extremely poor. This requires immediate repair. The public has been demanding this since long. Myself and many other public representatives have also asked for the same but no action has been taken so far. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to get these problems resolved immediately.

**(viii) Need to install tubewells in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh facing acute shortage of water for irrigation.**

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, the water level in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh has gone down considerably due to scanty rains during the last three years as a result of which the tube wells have gone dry. There is no water in the dams due to which the farmers have not got water to sow their crops. Because of non sowing of crop the farmers are on the verge of starvation. The people of Bundelkhand are forced to commit suicide or migrate.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to waive to other places the loan of farmers in Bundelkhand and sanction 2000 tube wells, implement the Panchnada Dam Project pending for years in order to prevent the farmers and public from committing suicide.

**(ix) Need to re-schedule and reduce the travel timings of "Rani Chennamma Express" between Bangalore & Belgaum**

*[English]*

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum): There is an express train namely "Rani Chennamma Express" which

runs between Bangalore and Belgaum in Karnataka. From Bangalore it leaves at 9 PM and reaches Belgaum next day morning by 9.30 or 10 AM taking a journey duration of 12 hours or more.

This railway between Bangalore and Belgaum was earlier metre-gauge and it has been converted into broad-gauge line. However, even when this line was metre-gauge, the journey duration was same as 12 hours or more defeating the purpose of gauge conversion. It was highly expected by people of Belgaum that this gauge conversion would shorten the journey duration between Bangalore and Belgaum.

As this train reaches Belgaum at 9.30 or 10 AM in the morning, by then all the business establishments, institutions, offices have already opened. Because of this timing the business people, office goers and students are facing a lot of difficulties. Therefore, the rescheduling the train by leaving Bangalore at 9 PM and reaching Belgaum by 6 AM in the morning, would be highly helpful to the people of Belgaum.

Sir, through you, I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to consider to shorten the journey duration of the "Rani Chennamma Express" and rescheduling the timings of the train, in the public interest.

**(x) Need to waive off the condition of NET/SET examination for University lecturers appointed prior to 04.04.2000 in Maharashtra and Goa**

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (Jalgaon): The Lecturers of Maharashtra and Goa who have been doing great service to provide the education to the students of various Colleges and Universities since last 15 to 16 years are worried for the NET/SET examination which has to be cleared by them before the time frame provided by the UGC or else their appointments as a Lecturer shall not be valid. Most of the lecturers are at the age of retirement and it is not possible for them to appear and clear such exam.

As per the UGC notification dated March 2000 forwarded to all the State Governments and Universities by letter dated 04.04.2000. The second clause regarding Minimum Qualification reads as "Provided further that these regulations shall not be applicable to such cases where selections of the candidates having had the then

requisite minimum qualification as were existing at that time through duly constituted selection committees for making appointments to the teaching posts have been made prior to the enforcement of these regulations." Though as per this notification the requisite Minimum Qualification at the point of entry the UGC are making it mandatory for lecturer to clear the NET/SET Examination and the Notices for individual Colleges has been sent for necessary action.

With no fault of the teachers after being appointed as per the guide lines issued by the Commission, the State Government and Universities Statutes, the teachers should not be punished by asking them to clear NET/SET examination after the service period of 15 to 16 years. Through this Hon'ble House I request the Hon'ble Minister to waive the entry qualifications of NET/SET for those appointments prior to 04-04.2000 and provide the great relief for these Lecturers.

- (xi) **Need to set up a Central University in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has remained undeveloped since last many years. The neglect and laxity of the State Government towards getting the benefits of the development to those people who have remained out of the main stream of development has led to miserable conditions in that region. In spite of abundance of forests and various mine deposits/products in this geographical area unemployment continues unabated. The percentage of literacy there is far less than the total percentage of literacy in the State. The backwardness of the region is continuously on the increase because of the low literacy rate among the predominantly tribal population in the Eastern Vidarbha.

The State Government is not taking any effective steps for providing educational opportunities in this area. Therefore, in view of the large tribal population in this area, there is a need to set up Tribal Universities on the lines of Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh. A Central University must be set up in the eastern Vidarbha region

of Gadchiroli tribal area for education and development of tribal civilization.

I have come to know that the Human Resource Development Ministry has decided to open 16 Central Universities under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Keeping this in view, Gadchiroli district must be chosen for setting up a Central University. I would like to say that education is required for bringing the tribal people into the main stream of development. I would strongly urge the Government to announce the establishment of a Central University in the region on priority basis, during this session.

- (xii) **Need to improve the service conditions of drivers of Express/Mail trains in Sealdah and Howrah Divisions of Eastern Railway**

*[English]*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): I draw the attention to the Minister of Railways towards the train accident that have occurred in various parts of the country due to excess duty hours being put in by the drivers.

I already wrote a letter to the Minister of State for Railways on 03.08.2007 regarding the problem being faced by the drivers of Express/Mail train specially in Sealdah and Howrah Division of Eastern Railways.

For example 3111/12 Up/Dn, 5047/5049/5051 Up and 5048/5050/5052 Dn Sealdah crew are working from Kolkata to Janjha. But all the crew of 6 trains are working from Howrah to Asansol and other crew from Asansol to Janjha. As a result of this, there exist disparities between Sealdah crew and Howrah, Asansol crew. These disparities has led to long hours of duties, unwillingness to become a Loco Pilot Mail/Express from Loco Pilot Passenger, Traffic blockage, excess mental and physical pressure. A strong resentment is brewing among the Loco Pilot Mail/Express for being relieved at Janjha instead of Asansol.

Over & above they have to bear an uncomfortable rest in Janjha because of shortage of accommodation. In spite of that the responsibility will be fixed on drivers and punishment will be enforced to the drivers if accidents occur.



I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to please give justice to Sealdah Division/Howrah Division Loco Pilot Mail /Express in respect of Howrah and Asansol Loco Pilot Mail/Express.

**(xiii) Need to set up an Indian Institute of Technology at Palakkad in Kerala**

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): The State of Kerala is having highest literacy rate and a better profile in general and higher education. However, till this date there is no Central University or education institution of national importance in Kerala. It is the long cherished dream of people of Kerala to set up an IIT in Kerala. A number of discussions were held by Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Kerala, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala with Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister here in Delhi. But so far the Government of India did not select Kerala for setting up an IIT. The Government of Kerala has already identified 300 hectares of land at Palakkad in Kerala for this purpose. During the speech of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15.8.2007 on the eve of our 60th Independence Day at Red Fort, he mentioned that in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, 7 IITs are to be set up. In the light of this announcement, I urge upon the Government to set up one IIT among the 7 proposed IITs at Palakkad in Kerala.

**(xiv) Need to construct a flyover on Railway Crossing No. 122-C in Lucknow-Bareilly division, Uttar Pradesh.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Railways towards the prevalence of miserable traffic conditions at crossing No. 122-C in Lucknow-Bareilly section in the North Eastern Railway Zone. There is a need to streamline the traffic conditions in this area. There is always heavy traffic jam at Kunethia, Fardhan and Rajapur level crossings on this line and this causes inconvenience to the people. There is a need to construct flyovers on these crossings.

Therefore, I would like to urge the hon'ble minister of Railways to construct flyovers on these crossings.

**(xv) Need to ensure adequate availability of seeds and chemical fertilizers to the farmers in the country.**

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: (SALEMPUR): Sir, the Central Government are claiming that there is no shortage of chemical fertilizers and seeds in the country. On the other hand, people have been queuing up in long queues to get seeds and chemical fertilizers but still failing to get the same. Farmers have been perforce making frequent visits to the Government and co-operative agencies for well over a month now to get the fertilizers and seeds. Most of the farmers are forced to purchase seeds and chemical fertilizers at higher prices from market in utter helplessness. One farmer died in the stampede that occurred at a Government fertilizer agency at Bilthara Road in my constituency. On the one hand, Government is importing wheat from abroad on the other hand they not providing facilities to the farmers. In such a situation how our country can be self-reliant in foodgrains.

I, through this House., would like to request the Government to ensure the supply of seeds and chemical fertilizers to farmers in the country and make it available to them easily.

**(xvi) Need to provide three phase power supply for Irrigation purpose under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Scheme.**

SHRI GHURAN RAM (Palamu): Sir, two phase power is being provided for irrigation under the electrification being carried out under "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana". I would like to request the Government to provide a three-phase line under the scheme instead of a two-phase one.

**(xvii) Need to send a Central team to survey and recommend measures for renovation of 'Gopamau', a historical place at Hardoi district, Uttar Pradesh.**

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Sir, there is an ancient historical town Gopamau in district Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh. Many mansions made of ancient Lakhauri bricks in good but deserted condition are located in this ancient town.

The famous Nawab Mohammad Ali Wala Jah of Karnataka was the inhabitant of this town. Gopamau is a town area but its condition is so bad that all historical legacies are becoming extinct after getting dilapidated. After some time we shall be deprived of the remaining evidences of history.

I would like to demand from the Government to conduct a survey by sending a central team there for the construction of streets and gutters and other works and to provide funds for their reconstruction as per requirement so that the historic legacy of Gopamau could be preserved.

(xviii) **Need to introduce helicopter services for pilgrims visiting Thiruvannamalai, a temple town of Tamil Nadu**

*[English]*

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): In Tamil Nadu, the age old temple town Thiruvannamalai in my constituency is a world renowned spiritual and pilgrim centre. Pilgrims and tourists throng this place in a huge number. Every year the annual celebration of Karthikai Deepam draw lakhs of people. Devotees in Lakhs both from within the country and several parts of the world gather for the monthly Bhakti move called 'Girivalam' of going round the Thiruvannamalai hills on every full moon day. People of different hues are attracted to this tourist destination because of its proximity to Sathanur dam. But transport facilities for visiting to Thiruvannamalai from different parts of Tamil Nadu is very meager and needs to be augmented further. In order to increase transport facilities and for development of rail connectivity and to strengthen highways and road connectivity, steps are on the anvil. Still it needs to be considered that it takes several hours to reach Thiruvannamalai from major cities of Tamil Nadu and places like Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pondicherry the capital cities of the neighbouring states. Hence, there is an urgent need to introduce Helicopter services linking major cities with Thiruvannamalai. This will add up to the efforts to utilize tourism potential and to earn more foreign exchange. The number of foreign tourists visiting this historical pilgrim tourist town is on the increase, hence, I urge upon the Union Civil Aviation Ministry to provide infrastructure facilities and to introduce Helicopter services towards the promotion of tourism in and around Thiruvannamalai.

(xix) **Need to provide stoppage at Sattur & Kovilpatti in Tamil Nadu for train No. 2665/2666**

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): A weekly train no (2665, 2666) is running between Kanyakumari and Howrah which covers maximum number of Railway station in Tamil Nadu. But it does not stop at Sattur Station. Sattur which is located on the NH 47 has thousands of match units and hundreds of fire work factories in and around. There is a need for a stoppage of this train at Sattur and also at Kovilpatti which is a fast growing town of South Tamil Nadu. Lot of Passengers are using train for facility for their travel. The daily express train running between Kanyakumari and Chennai (2634, 2633) has a stoppage at Kovilpatti. I urge the Government to consider these two requests as earliest.

13.57 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF KARNATAKA**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 14—Statutory Resolution regarding seeking approval of the proclamation issued by the hon. President on 10th November, 2007 under Article 356(1) of the Constitution of India in respect of the State of Karnataka, for which we have to allot time. I think, we may allot one and a half hour for this item.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (Shri Shivraj V. Patil): Sir, rise to move:

"That this House approves the proclamation issued by the President on 20th November, 2007 under Article 356(1) of the Constitution in relation to the State of Karnataka."

As the hon. Members are aware, election to constitute the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka were held in April, 2004. The elections resulted in a hung Legislative Assembly in the State. On 28th May, 2004, a coalition Government comprising Janata Dal (S) and the Congress was formed. However, in January, 2006, a group of 39 MLAs of JD(S) led by Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy broke

away from the alliance and formed a Government with the support of the BJP with Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy as the Chief Minister.

13.58 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

There was an understanding between the two coalition partners that the JD(S) would hold the Chief Minister's post for the first 20 months and the BJP for the next 20 months. The period of 20 months for the JD(S) ended on 3rd October, 2007. Seventy-nine MLAs of the BJP presented themselves before the Governor and withdrew support to the coalition Government on 6th October, 2007. On 8th October, 2007, the leaders of the Congress party also submitted a memorandum to the Governor stating that the Ministry headed by Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy had been reduced to a minority and demanded the dismissal of the Government. Thereafter, the Chief Minister met the Governor and submitted his resignation on 8th October, 2007.

The Governor in his report dated 8th October, 2007, recommended invoking President's Rule in the State of Karnataka as there was no possibility of any party or person being in a position to form a Ministry with majority support in the Assembly. The report of the Governor was considered by the Union Government and the President's Rule was proclaimed on 9th October, 2007 in the State of Karnataka under Article 356(1) of the Constitution keeping the Legislative Assembly under suspended animation.

In view of the political developments in the State after the imposition of the President's Rule, the Union Government was informed by the Governor that on 27th October, 2007, a group of JD(S) and BJP leaders met him and staked their claim to form a Government led by the BJP leader Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa.

14.00 hrs.

On 29th October, 2007 the JD(S) and BJP combine submitted 129 letters of individual support to the Governor (79 BJP, 41 JD(S), 3 JDS(U) and 6 Independents) and also signed in the register at Raj Bhawan. The Governor also indicated that there were a few MLAs and leaders like Shri M.P. Prakash, Shri D.G.R. Sindhia and several academicians and eminent men who urged him not to accept the coalition arrangement and call for fresh

elections. He also stated that the JD(S) President and former Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda had written to the Prime Minister suggesting dissolution of the House. Besides, the Governor also enclosed a draft MoU sent by Shri H.D. Deve Gowda to the BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh imposing conditions for the coalition which was contrary to the unconditional support given to him earlier by the 129 MLAs supporting the coalition. The Governor concluded that in spite of his reservations about stability, keeping in view the imperatives of the democratic option with reference to the numerical strength, the President may consider affording an opportunity to Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa to form a Government and revoke the Presidential Proclamation. Accordingly, the Union Government considered the report of the Governor and revoked President's rule in the State of Karnataka on 12th November, 2007.

Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa took oath on 12th November, 2007 and inducted four Ministers from the BJP. The Governor in his report dated 19th November, 2007 stated that the Chief Minister was given eight days time from the date of assumption of the office of Chief Minister to prove his majority on the floor of the House. Accordingly, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly was summoned at 11 a.m. on 19th November, 2007. Prior to the Vote of Confidence on 19th November, 2007, the JD(S) reportedly issued a whip to the JD(S) Legislators to vote against the Confidence Motion. The forenoon Session of the Assembly commenced with the reading of obituaries. The House was adjourned after that. At 3.05 p.m. the House was reconvened and the Confidence Motion was tabled. The Chief Minister spoke at length about the cooperation rendered by the BJP to the JD(S) during the past 20 months and highlighted his party's achievements as Deputy Chief Minister. However, the Congress Members, Shri Dharam Singh and Shri Mallikarjuna Kharge spoke derisively about the Government seeking the Confidence Motion when the coalition partner had itself issued a whip against it. Subsequently, Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa got up to speak but left midway stating that he was leaving for Raj Bhawan to tender his resignation and did not want any further discussion on the Confidence Motion. The Speaker adjourned the House at 4.40 p.m. as the Confidence Motion had failed.

The Governor in his report indicated that he had accepted the resignation tendered by Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa at 4.45 p.m. on 19th November, 2007. He was of the opinion that no party or individual is in a position to form the Government in the State of Karnataka

with majority support and that he was satisfied that a situation had arisen in the State in which the Government of the State could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The Governor, therefore, recommended that President's Rule under Article 356 (1) of the Constitution of India may be imposed with immediate effect after dissolving or suspending the Legislative Assembly of the State of Karnataka.

The Union Government considered the report of the Governor and proclaimed President's Rule in the State of Karnataka under Article 356 (1) of the Constitution on 20th November, 2007 keeping the Legislative Assembly under suspended animation.

With these words, I commend, Sir, that the Proclamation issued on 20th November, 2007 under Article 356(1) of the Constitution in relation to the State of Karnataka be upheld by this House. A copy of the Proclamation, as stipulated under the Constitution, along with the consequential order has been placed on the Table of the house on 21st November, 2007. In keeping with the convention, a copy of the Governor's Report recommending issuance of the Proclamation is also placed on the Table of the House.

It is clear from the current political situation that there is no likelihood of any Government being formed in the State of Karnataka. Once the august House approves the Proclamation, the intention of the Government is to dissolve the Legislative Assembly in the State of Karnataka.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 20th November, 2007 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Karnataka."

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar to speak now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): What prompted the Governor to keep the Assembly in suspended animation? ...(Interruptions) That has created this position. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When your party's tuim comes then you may speak. Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What was the purpose? The only purpose is for horse-trading. That is what is happening actually. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When your party's time start, you may speak.

[English]

You are asting the time of the House. please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded except the speech of Shri Ananth Kumar.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: As early as in 1959, the Kerala Assembly was dissolved; not only the Assembly was dissolved but even the Speaker's post was dissolved. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please hear me Shri Radhakrishnan.

Sir, this is happening because of the Supreme Court's ruling. The moment this House says that the decision taken by the Government of India is approved by this House, we are going to dissolve the House. I have said it in my statement that we are going to dissolve the House immediately. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar may speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please do not waste the time of the House. Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Ananth Kumar.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Shivraj Patil, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. Because he has also assured the august House that as soon as the House approves the Presidential Proclamation of 20th November, 2007, the Vidhan Sabha of Karnataka will be dissolved and elections will be held. I AM also urging at the outset that the people of Karnataka want the dissolution of the Assembly and immediate conduction of elections to Karnataka Vidhan Sabha because we feel that is the only answer in the present political situation.

Sir, it is unfortunate that from 2nd October onwards, in the last one-and-a-half months, Karnataka's name and legacy have been marred by the politics of betrayal by the JD (S) especially from hon. former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowdaji and former Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Kumaraswamy and their partymen.

Actually, I want to take this House to some of the events. As already put forth by hon. Home Minister, in 2004, we had the Assembly elections in which the Congress was rejected by the people, the electorate of Karnataka, and BJP and JD(U) got 84 seats in an Assembly of 224. BJP got 79 seats and JD(U) got 5 seats. The Congress Party, which was having 150 seats in the previous Assembly, was sliced down to 65 only and JD(S) got 58 seats. The Janadesh, the mandate of people of Karnataka in 2004 was very clear that they wanted a non-Congress Government with BJP heading it and the non-Congress parties supporting it, but unfortunately, Shri Deve Gowda and JD(S) committed the first betrayal on the people of Karnataka. They did not respect this mandate of the people because during the run up to the 2004 Assembly elections, Shri Deve Gowda and JD(S) continuously went hammer and tongue against the Congress Party and got 58 seats on account of anti-Congress votes. But instead of coming with BJP and forming a non-Congress coalition, in the name of pseudo-secularism, Shri Deve Gowda joined the Congress Party and supported the Congress Party.

At this moment, I also want to bring to the kind notice of this august House that in 1983, 18 members of

BJP Legislature Party supported Shri Ramakrishna Hegde of then Janata Party in which Shri Deve Gowda was part and parcel, and not only was he part and parcel, Shri Deve Gowda was the PWD Minister. Through this august House and through you, I want to ask Shri Deve Gowda how come he threw to wind in 1983 his pseudo-secular principle. We also want to know what happened in 1989 when Shri V.P. Singh formed a Government at the Centre which was supported by all of us, by BJP also. Where was Shri Deve Gowda then and where were his so-called secular principles? I think, in 2004, raising the bogey of pseudo-secularism, Shri Deve Gowda and JD(S) committed the first betrayal on the people of Karnataka.

Then, we come to 2006. In 2006, the entire Janata Dal (S), 39 MLAs of JD(S), as put forth by the hon. Home Minister, withdrew their support to the then Congress Government headed by Shri Dharam Singh and supported BJP. The BJP and JD(S) together formed the Government, I think, which was according to the aspirations and mandate of the people of Karnataka. Actually I want to place on record what was the situation according to the first interim report of the Government sent to Rashtrapatiji on 6th October. I quote:

"In January 2006, 39 MLAs from the Janata Dal (S) withdrew support to Shri Dharam Singh led coalition government and entered into an alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party to stake claim to form a coalition government headed by Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy. Individual letters were handed over to the Governor from the State Party Leaders and from the members of the Legislative Assembly. A copy of the resolution of withdrawal of support was also given to the then Governor.

Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, the former Prime Minister and All India President of Janata Dal (S) wrote to my predecessor, that is, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi urging him not to recognise this break away group of JD(S) and requesting him to recognise Shri Dharam Singh only as the Chief Minister. Subsequently, however Shri H.D. Deve Gowda has reconciled with his son and Chief Minister, Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy and now he is strongly backing him."

This is the report given by the hon. Governor. It means that they solemnly agreed to the arrangement with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that for the first 20 months Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy will be the Chief Minister and then our leader Shri B. S. Yeddyurappa should be the leader and the Chief Minister. They even agreed

regarding the division of portfolios, and exchange of portfolios.

Unfortunately, on October 2, 2007, Shri H. D. Devegowda and his JD(S) once again committed the betrayal on the people of Karnataka as they were not ready to transfer power as agreed and promised. Actually, I remember one doha from *Thulasi Ramayan*:

"Raghukul Rit Sada Chali Aayi,  
Pran Jaye Par Vachan na Jai"

This has been the culture of this country.  
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): This is not about Raghuveer, it is about Devegowdaji.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is not a situation to praise Devegowdaji.

We are having coalitions with BJD in Orissa; JD(U) in Bihar; Shiv Sena in Maharashtra; Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab, and all these coalitions are sustaining there strongly from the last 10-20 years. But Shri Devegowda, a senior politician and former Prime Minister of this country, broke the promise given to the people and to the BJP on October 02 for the sake of sheer opportunism, and for the sake of lust of power and continuing his son in the Chief Ministerial position. Why am I taking October 02? October 02 is the anniversary of the founding father of the nation, namely, Mahatma Gandhi.

There were many cartoons and many things going around in the entire country. Actually, I want to narrate one of the cartoons issued by the Times of India during that period. It depicted a thousand rupee note with the picture of Shri Devegowda instead of the picture of Mahatma Gandhi; it mentioned the Central Bank of JD (S) instead of the Reserve Bank of India; and it said: "I do not promise to pay thousand rupees to the bearer" instead of "I promise to pay thousand rupees to the bearer". This was the cartoon going around regarding Shri Devegowda, and it was the third betrayal.

Thereafter, we went on a 'Dharma Yatra' throughout the State of Karnataka, and we also wanted dissolution of the House. But on 27th, Shri Devegowda and his son

Shri Kumaraswamy came back and said that they will support BJP. On 27th, Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy, Leader of the Legislative Party of JD (S) wrote a letter to the Governor saying that:

"The Janata Dal (Secular) Party is supporting the BJP in forming the Government in Karnataka. The two Parties, JD(S) and the BJP, together have absolute majority in the Legislative Assembly. We, therefore, request you to immediately call Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa, the Leader of the BJP to form the Government in the State, and thereafter, convene the State Legislative Assembly to have a floor test..."

He was ready to support the BJP for the floor test — as held by the hon. Supreme Court in the S. R. Bommai's case — on the floor of the Legislative Assembly. Shri N. Merajuddin Patel, the State President of JD(S) in Karnataka also wrote a similar letter to the Governor. Thereafter, on 27th itself we staked claim to form the Government.

Shri Yeddyurappa was elected as the Leader of the Joint Legislative Party of both Bharatiya Janata Party and JD(S) comprising of 129 MLAs. All the 129 MLAs went to Raj Bhawan on 29th in the afternoon. Here, I want to draw the attention of the august House towards the fact that all of them, on affidavit, gave an individual letter to the Governor of Karnataka saying that each one of the JD(S) MLAs, the entire JD(S) Legislature Party, is supporting Bharatiya Janata Party unconditionally to form the Government. That happened on the 29th.

Later, I want to read this because it is a very important thing, Shri Devegowda came out with many conditions—first with 12 conditions, then he said that they were not conditions but suggestions; then, he came out with 21 conditions; then, he said that the conditions should be written on a paper; then, he said the conditions should not only be written on a paper, but must be written on a Stamp Paper, as if it was a real estate property transaction unheard of in the annals of democracy of this country.

Sir, this is the letter written by Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy, Leader of the Legislature Party, JD (S), Karnataka Legislative Assembly. He wrote the letter to the President of India; the letter was given to the President of India.

Sir, I will be taking a few more minutes.

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have allotted one-and-a-half hours for this debate.

[Translation]

Anant Kumarji four members of your party are still to speak and only 21 minutes' time left for your party.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: All our Members agree that I will speak on behalf of them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be brief.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he gave a letter to Her Excellency the President of India stating that 49 MLAs of JD(S) Legislature Party declaring their unconditional support to BJP and Janata Dal coalition Government under the leadership of Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa. The affidavits are filed before the Notary. If somebody jumps the affidavit or files a false affidavit, that itself is a crime. Here, the affidavits were filed not only before a Notary, but also before the Governor of Karnataka, and the same has been informed to Rashtrapati.

Now, after filing such affidavits declaring unconditional support to Shri Yeddyurappa, the former Prime Minister of this country and the former Chief Minister of Karnataka throws it to the winds and issues a Whip on the day of the floor test stating that they were no longer supporting Yeddyurappa's Chief Ministership.

Actually, on 27th October, when JD(S) representatives came to us, we were having three questions. One was whether Shri Devegowda had agreed to this and whether he has authorized the JD(S), Karnataka, to have a truck or alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party. That was the first question. The second question was whether the support was unconditional because 20 months back, we had an honourable agreement that for 20 months, the Chief Minister would be from the JD(S), and for another 20 months, the Chief Minister would be from the Bharatiya Janata Party. Even the distribution of the Cabinet posts, portfolios and everything was on board. It was transparent to the five-and-a-half crore people of Karnataka. Therefore, we put the second question to JD(S) as to whether the support was unconditional. The third question was whether they would abide fully by the agreement arrived at between the two parties in February, 2006. The reply of Shri Kumaraswamy, Shri Mirajuddin Patel and Shri

Devegowda on 27th was a categorical "yes". They said that as the National President of JD(S), Shri Devegowda was for this unconditional support, and Shri Kumaraswamy and Shri Mirajuddin Patel followed the suit.

Not only that, in the Kumarakrupa Guesthouse of Bangalore they said that they should sit there and not go out till the talks were finalised and we reached the Governor together with the support letters of leaders. The reason they gave for that was that the Congress party was trying to split their party. When Mirajuddin Patel and Kumaraswamy themselves were giving their letters of support to the Governor, when all the 49 JD(S) MLAs and their supporters were giving affidavits, sworn affidavits and letters addressed to the Governor Karnataka supporting Shri Yeddyurappa, we thought to ourselves that we would consult our national leadership and give a chance to the situation. Actually Shri Deve Gowda himself spoke to Shri Rajnath Singh our national President and assured him that they were giving unconditional support and that they were going to the Governor and to the Rashtrapati.

After three hours, our central leadership gave us permission to go ahead. On the 29th of October, after electing Shri Yeddyurappa as the leader of the Joint Legislature Party, all the 129 MLAs, especially 49 MLAs lead by Shri Kumaraswami, met the hon. Governor of Karnataka and submitted the letter of unconditional support. Then there was a delay - I want to place it on record in the hon. House. According to the recent judgement of the hon. Supreme Court in Bihar Assembly dissolution case, when the numbers are there no Union Government can dissolve the legislature and the leader who has got support of largest number of members should be called to form the Government. Therefore, we came and met the hon. Prime Minister of India and urged on him to revoke the Presidential rule and suspended animation of Karnataka and to call Shri Yeddyurappa to form the Government in Karnataka. Shri Advani, Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Venkaiah Naidu and all the BJP MPs of Karnataka met the Prime Minister of India, along with the Home Minister of India.

On 7th November we went to Rashtrapati Bhavan with all the 129 MLAs, again with Shri Kumaraswamy the leader of the Legislative Group of Janata Dal (S) and his letter to Rashtrapati saying that they give unconditional support to the Bharatiya Janata Party and to the legislature party leadership of Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa. We met Mahamahim Rashtrapati with all

those documents. After all this is done, on 12th November, the Presidential proclamation was revoked, swearing in was decided, and Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Floor test was slated for 19th.

Surprisingly, in the meanwhile, both Shri Kumaraswamy and Shri Deve Gowda, especially Shri Deve Gowda, started with his 12 points and then went on to 21 points. It is most unfortunate. It does not befit the stature and political experience of Shri Deve Gowda to do this. The common man in Karnataka and in the entire country is having a big doubt about the credibility of politicians because of the behaviour of Shri Deve Gowda and his party JD(S). They all call it as Vachana Brashtata. They have betrayed the people of Karnataka; they have dishonoured the word given.

They insisted upon retaining the portfolios of PWD, Power, Mines and Geology, Urban Development and Bangalore Development Authority. It is quite obvious why they wanted to retain those things. I do not want to go into details about it. The first time, in 2004 they broke the solemn promise given to the people of Karnataka on the basis of pseudo-secularism. Second time, on October 2, on the sacred day of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, they broke their word after his son Shri Kumaraswamy served as Chief Minister for 20 months.

For the third time we were very careful. Hon. Law Minister is here. We trusted the written and sworn words. We trusted the written and sworn affidavits of 49 MLAs of Devegowdaji and Kumaraswamyji and again they have betrayed. I want to say through this august House that the JD(S) cannot be trusted at all. It is totally untrustworthy. The only language the JD(S) and Devegowdaji know is betrayal. ...(*Interruptions*) I am coming to the end.

They have betrayed the people; they have betrayed the democracy; they have betrayed the people of Karnataka. I do not want to go into much of the detail. In between those 20 months of Kumaraswami's regime, there were very peculiar statements made by Devegowdaji. Actually, Kumaraswamyji has made a statement that he would step down on 3rd October. Devegowdaji said: "Media had been accused of creating confusion for 10 months. I have never said that power transfer is impossible." The former Prime Minister and the JD(Secular) President, Shri H.D. Devegowda has stated that he has asked his son to extend his stay. Shri

Devegowda addressed the Press persons here on Sunday that the media had been creating confusion on the issue for the past 10 months. He was critical about the coverage of the media of his programme. He stated: I never said that transfer of power to BJP is impossible. I only said that there is still time to think about it." Why is this dilly dally? One day he said that he is going to transfer the power; the other day, he said that he is not going to transfer the power. He went on like this.

I also want to say that he said: "My relationship with the Left became strained because of the BJP alliance. I must be grateful to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Shri Prakash Karat, who told Mrs. Gandhi on her face that he was responsible for humiliating Devegowdaji." For that, the rejoinder was: "Devegowdaji is an opportunist." Shri Yechury terming the former Prime Minister, Shri Devegowda as an opportunist. The CPI(M) leader, Shri Yechury today sharply criticized the JD(S) for joining hands with us. Why am I telling all these things is that today Devegowdaji and JD(S) have betrayed the people of Karnataka; they have betrayed the democracy; they have betrayed the entire political fabric of the country.

Therefore, I urge that we should now go to the people. I welcome that the hon. Home Minister has brought this Statutory Resolution for ratification of the Proclamation of the President's Order on 20th and he has also assured the House that immediately the Vidhan Sabha of Karnataka would be dissolved. I would like to also urge the hon. Home Minister and the Union Government that the elections should be held forthwith in Karnataka. People will give their mandate; they will reject the JD(S) lock, stock and barrel. They have already tried the Congress Party; they are going to give full majority for the BJP this time for a stable and good Government in Karnataka.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA (Kanakapura): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I am seeking your permission to speak from here. I would like to know as to how time you have allotted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have very little time with me. I have many speakers in the list. So, please be brief in your speech.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: While standing in this august House, it is a painful moment to protect democracy of this country. We are going to end a



[Shrimati Tejasvini Gowda]

democratic Government in Karnataka for no fault of people, who elected this popular Government in Karnataka or the MLAs. Coalition politics is an inevitable process of our time - whether at the Centre or in the States.

Now we are used to the coalition politics. Based on our ideology, based on our principles, based on our secular values, all the parties are having a freedom to choose a political group. Earlier, with this sort of a coalition, the NDA ruled the nation, now the UPA is running the nation.

Coming back to the history, Karnataka people and the Karnataka Government always protected the secular and democratic values. This time, the people of Karnataka failed to elect a single democratic party to form the Government. That is why, we were forced to enter into a coalition Government. Earlier, the Congress Chief Minister, Dharam Singh, with the support of JD (S) ruled Karnataka for 20 months.

While standing here, to put an end to the Government in Karnataka, with a heavy heart, we are speaking for the dissolution of the Karnataka Assembly. Whose fault is it? Many young MLAs were chosen to the Assembly with great hard work; they were from poor background. Many such people faced the election and came out victorious.

Today, people were not encouraging, people are not respecting; it is a very difficult time that we are facing. We are not able to say that we are politicians of Indian nation. Often and often we are having elections. Why are we causing losses to the exchequer of this poor nation, when we are having many issues to be addressed and why should we spend money often on elections? People are not appreciating this. This applies to every political party; we should be very careful in this.

You may please go through the exposure of the electronic media in the last one month. We have stooped to such a low level that everybody is making fun of the politicians and political parties. Who encouraged this type of politics? When we lost the Dharam Singh's Government in Karnataka, who conducted the 'night time guest house' politics? Who conducted the conspiracy to end the democratic Government? Who had shown the Chief Minister's chair to Shri Kumaraswamy? Who extended political support to make him the Chief Minister, while ending the secular Government of the Congress?

What moral right my friends are having from the BJP side? What moral right my friends from the JD (S) are having today to criticize the Congress? Many times, they brought the name of Mrs. Gandhi. We have allowed them every possible opportunity to form the Government in Karnataka; but within no time, they organized so many protests; they criticized every leader. When my leader Mrs. Sonia Gandhi attended some programme in China, they did not even spare her. We have not brought the great leader Shri Vajpayee's name; we have not taken another respected leader, Shri L K Advani's name. But they have done it. For that, the people of Karnataka and the people of India will never excuse and no politician should ever stoop down to that level.

I am from Karnataka; I am not basically from the political family. Personally I have a lot of respect for Shri Devegowda. He is a farmer who rose to the highest post of the Prime Minister of this country. When Shri Devegowda allowed his son Shri Kumaraswamy to become the Chief Minister with the support of BJP, if he is really committed, if he is really committed to the secular values, if he can prevent BJP from forming the Government today, why did he not prevent the Government headed by Shri Kumaraswamy, which was with the support of BJP at that time? We would like to ask that question. I am confused; in every media, so many definitions are given and so many statements are made; why were they misleading? If I am confused and if I am mislead, how to lead the younger generation of this country, how to lead the farmers, how to lead the innocent people of this country? Nobody will believe that; no political party will believe. How to correct it? How to bring stable Governments in the States and at the Centre?

When I rise to support the Proclamation of the President, under article 356 of the Constitution, the Congress Party knows the values of democracy.

The Congress Party has always supported installation of democratic governments all over the world. As a leader of NAM, we cannot forget the contributions made by Jawaharlal Nehru or Shrimati Indira Gandhi. We fought for our Independence. We know the values of democracy. Today, we must expose the culprits. In my view, both the BJP and JD(S) have removed their masks. They were given every opportunity. Nobody asked them to prove their strength in front of the President but they came here. Hon. President gave them the full opportunity. The Central Government has never misused its power and

with honour gave them the full opportunity. In this regard I would like to congratulate the UPA Government and the Home Minister. I would like to pay my respect to Rashtrapati ji.

I cannot forget the type of documentary that was being shown in 'E' TV. In one of the TV channels 'Sarkar' in Karnataka under 'Jhalak' a song used to play everyday on the political development. It became a part of the popular fun. It is very difficult for us to answer MLAs who are asking what crime they have done for which they must face another election. I am for the earlier election because there is no alternative left for us. But in the month of March-April, we have exams for the children. Sir, they do not realise the amount of money, energy and struggle that go in to bring fresh Government.

I would also like to suggest that all the decisions taken in the last three months by the out-going Government should be re-looked because there was no mutual faith between BJP and JD(S). In the interest of the people of Karnataka all the administrative decisions taken by the Karnataka Government in the last three months should be re-looked.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, hon'ble Minister..."

*[English]*

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: I would also like to urge the Governor's Office in Karnataka to set right the house now. A number of developmental works have stopped. We have to address to the grievances of the people of Karnataka. To restore the faith of the people of Karnataka in democracy, we should conduct free and fair elections. While doing so we should prevent indiscipline of any sort. In future, we should not encourage this type of 'Jugalbandi' or political drama. We should always guard the dignity of the highest Office.

My elder brother Shri Ananth Kumar is a senior politician. We have exposed our friends in two ways. They do not have faith in their strength. They had the strength. They had got 80 seats. I was shocked to see them losing power. How could they think of going for elections? Secondly, they are strong believers of Rama. So, I thought they would sacrifice the power for six

months, face the elections and then come back to power. They have exhibited their hunger for power. Whenever required, JD(S) has used the word secularism for its convenience. I think, they cannot further mislead the people of Karnataka. We realise the pain of every MLA who has today lost his membership for no fault of his. We all are a part of this crime as we are forcing fresh elections on the people of Karnataka but still there is no option left before the Rashtrapati ji. Therefore, the best thing would be to conduct free and fair elections preferably after the school and college examinations are over.

It will be very much advisable not to cause another havoc in Karnataka. As soon as possible, please conduct the elections in a proper manner.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am taking part in a discussion wherein there is no choice left to me but to approve the Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it your seat? What is your seat number?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Do you want me to go to my seat?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. You should go to your seat and speak from there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: All right.

There is a provision in our Constitution for dealing with emergency powers. Now article 356 is to deal with emergency in a state as given in the Constitution. The founding fathers of the Constitution were thinking of a situation when there will be only one party system in our country. With all powerful Congress Party which led the freedom movement, they were under the impression that Indian parliamentary democracy will be a one party affair. Hence whenever there is any failure of the Constitution machinery, the Central Government can intervene, dissolve the Ministry and impose the President's rule. That is the position. Now our parliamentary democracy has developed to such an extent that multi-party system and coalition Government is the order of the day even at the Centre. In the States also, it is like that. There cannot be any such situation when there will be one party rule in our country. When multi-party system is flourishing in

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

parliamentary democracy, we will have to evolve certain ethics so that the federal system also gets strengthened. We are following the federal system of Government. So, in order to strengthen the federal system in a multi-party parliamentary democracy, will this article 356 be sustainable, that is the moot point.

Now I would like to submit that this matter had been elaborately discussed by the Sarkaria Commission. They had taken many evidences also. Now in the past 60 years, the Central Government had dissolved many governments in the States. The Sarkaria Commission had dealt with it and had expressed its opinion that it was misused. For hundred times it was misused against the State governments. For political expediency, the Central Government was misusing article 356. That is the history of our country. That has been expressly covered by the Sarkaria Commission. So, what should we do? The Supreme Court also looked into this matter. They have also suggested that such a system is not tenable in a multi-party system or in a country where federalism is prevailing. Recently, we had an international conference on federalism. I was invited to that Conference. As a Member of this Parliament, I attended that Conference. From all over the world, the federal countries were represented in that Conference. Our Prime Minister inaugurated that Conference. A discussion was held about this aspect of federalism. Now what federal structure is prevailing in our country?

We will have to think over it. I belong to a State where the provisions of article 356 were invoked for the first time when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was at the helm of affairs at the Centre. It was used for the purpose of dissolving the Kerala Assembly. There was no constitutional failure then. Failure of Constitutional machinery means that the functions of the Government cannot be run through the Assembly. When a party is having a majority in the Assembly, then this article 356 cannot be invoked. But at that time — even though the party was having full majority in the House and EMS Namboodripad was governing the State under the provisions of the Constitution — on the pretext of failure of law and order, the Centre intervened and article 356 was invoked. This will go down as a bad chapter in the history of Indian Parliamentary system. The day was 31st of July, 1959. This will remain as a black chapter and nobody can justify this. Now, even if there was a failure of law and order in the State, the Central Government was bound to come to the rescue of the State. That is what the federal structure is all about.

Sir, recently we had a discussion in the House on the incidents of Nandigram in West Bengal. Twice there was firing in the area and people started demanding that the Centre should intervene because the law and order situation in the State has failed. No, that was not the right demand because the Central Government can intervene only when there is a failure of constitutional machinery in a State. When the ruling party is having a majority in the House no authority can intervene in its affairs. But what did they do? For reasons of political expediency whenever there is trouble in Nandigram, the Centre should intervene. How can the Central Government do so? There is no failure of constitutional machinery in the State. In 1959 when the EMS Ministry was brought down by invoking the provisions of article 356, there was no failure of constitutional machinery. For argument's sake it may be said that there is failure of law and order. But if there is deterioration in the law and order situation of the State, then it is the bounden duty of the Central Government to come to the rescue of the State Government. That is the real spirit of federalism. That is what we were discussing last week in this House. But unfortunately, in India, we are misusing it for political purposes. One must realise the tragedy of the incident when the Kerala Ministry was dismissed in 1959. The post of the Speaker of the Assembly was abolished in 1959 and the Assembly could not have functioned in the absence of the post of a Speaker. Now we developed to such an extent that we have brought in a new nomenclature to say that the Assembly is kept in suspended animation. Nowhere there is a provision in the Constitution where an Assembly of a State could be kept in suspended animation. It is only an interpretation. There is no bar also. The Central Government decided to keep the Assembly in suspended animation. For what purpose was it done? It was done only to give the MLAs an opportunity for horse trading. This is what happened in Karnataka.

What was the natural course for the Central Government when the Kumaraswamy Government fell in the State? They did not think of dissolving the Assembly and instead gave a chance to the MLAs of the Karnataka Assembly for horse trading. The JD (S) thought of joining hands with the BJP to form a Ministry. The BJP was overjoyed to have the opportunity to share power in this Southern State. Now, both the parties had their own intentions. I am not concerned and I also do not know as to what transpired between them. The BJP withdrew support. Shri Kumaraswamy had to resign. What could the Central Government have done in that scenario? They

should have dissolved the Ministry. But instead of doing that they kept the Assembly in abeyance. The MLAs of the JD(S) party started the murmur that they could not have faced an election at this stage and so the Assembly must have to be revived.

They came to such a situation. It has created a very ugly situation in recent parliamentary experience in the State of Karnataka. People for their own purposes come together for sharing power. Such a very ugly drama was enacted in that State in the name of Parliamentary democracy. What was the basis for that? It was because the Central Government decided to keep the Assembly in suspended animation. If the Assembly had been dissolved, then such a situation would not have arisen. But that was not done. Keeping any Assembly under suspended animation means giving scope for horse trading, giving the MLAs the opportunity for floor crossing. Nothing else is achieved by that. That is what happened in Karnataka.

Now, when we look at the discussion we had we can find one thing very clearly. It is really a post-mortem affair. Based on the report of the Sarkaria Commission the Supreme Court ruled that imposition of President's Rule in any State would have to be approved by the Parliament. There has been an amendment made in the Constitution also that the imposition of President's Rule has to be approved by the Parliament. But I am of the opinion that article 356 should be scrapped from the Constitution. If anybody is very particular of having it, then it must be amended in such a way that before dissolving any Ministry by invoking article 356, the prior approval of the Parliament would have to be obtained. The Central Government should bring in a Statutory Resolution seeking the prior approval of the Parliament before dissolving any Ministry. It should not just seek the approval. They themselves should not take the decision. For invoking article 356 prior approval of the Parliament should be essential. The Supreme Court also has given this ruling. But can we implement it? Is it not necessary? My point is that the prior approval of the Parliament should be sought before invoking the provisions of article 356 for dissolving any Ministry. That is the correct procedure. But here what is being done is first dissolving the Ministry, then keeping it under suspended animation and then again re-invoking it and things like that. It could have been easily done by seeking the permission of the Parliament. When Shri Kumaraswamy had resigned, the Parliament was in Session. Our hon. Home Minister could have brought in a Statutory Resolution for seeking the

permission of the House saying that the Government wanted to invoke the provisions of article 356 in Karnataka. What was the difficulty? There would have been democratic strength behind such an action. He could have brought such a Resolution to the House. Now after having imposed THE President's Rule and allowing for all nasty things to happen, he has come to this House with a Statutory Resolution saying that we must give our seal of approval to this action. It is very unfair and is uncalled for and I do not agree to this. Hereafter the Government should make it a point that whenever they wanted to dissolve a Government by invoking the provisions of article 356, they must first come to the House.

15.00 hrs.

You should move a Statutory Resolution. ...*(Interruptions)* You should come to the House and move a Statutory Resolution seeking the permission of the House to dissolve a Ministry especially when a coalition Government is in power at the Centre as well as in the States. That is the only remedy available at present before us.

So, I once again appeal to you not to come to this House under such a situation. You should seek our prior permission. We will grant it or we will reject it according to the circumstances available in each and every case. So, I would request the hon. Home Minister to move such a Resolution in future. The hon. Law Minister is also present here. You should bring forward an amendment to the Constitution whereby you should invoke article 356 only on the basis of an approval granted by the Parliament.

With these words, I conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Radhakrishnanji is our respected colleague and he too is never in agreement with any one like Devegowdaji. We have an agreement with this Government because the documents presented in this House by the Minister of Home Affairs is a beautiful poetic document of opportunism in Indian politics. I think the founding fathers of our Constitution made provision of Article 356 thinking Central interference essential in case such situation arises. Therefore, I not only support the proposal introduced by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs but also request

[Shri Mohan Singh]

him to dissolve the legislative Assembly of Karnataka at the earliest and efforts should be made by the Government of India to constitute a new Government there.

Karnataka is a beautiful State which has a rich political tradition along with art, literature, music which affects the politics of India. It is the State of people like Nijalingappa, B.D. Jatti, Ram Krishna Hegde, Deoraj Urs, S.R. Bommai and at last we must also not forget the name of Devegowdaji. This State has positively affected the politics of India for a long time. I know Devegowdaji since 1977 when he was the president of Janta Party in Karnataka, Hon'ble Chandrashekharji made me the Secretary of Janta Party, Uttar Pradesh at a very young age. I received a call from National President of Janta Party that Hon'ble Devegowdaji, the President of Janta party, Karnataka is visiting Lucknow and I had to make arrangement to facilitate his holy divat Prayagraj and visit to all the places of pilgrimage in Uttar Pradesh. I took him to Varanasi, Kaashi-Vishvanath for Darshan and Triveni sangam for holy dip. He prostrated himself before the statue of Hanumanji so forcefully as very few people do. But keeping in view the incidents which occurred in Karnataka recently, I have concluded that Devegowdaji is only such political person on this land who does not fear God despite having faith in Hanumanji. Everything has a limit and he has stretched the politics of that State to that limit. His party's name is JD(S). He continuously attacked a particular party that it was a non-secular party.

Our commitment to secularism is more confirmed than any one else in this country and this party was in haste to make a person from its cadres as Chief Minister of a State of South.

Hence we do not care with whom we were associated for the past twenty months, which party. I was in and with whom we wanted to have an agreement. We only knew that any party willing to make our nominee Chief Minister in any circumstances was a great party. Even after being aware of his history, the Bharatiya Janata Party lamented later that it was duped. When I read that the Chairman of the Party was complaining that his Party had been deceived, I became greatly concerned as to how person with no political vision manage to occupy highest position in political partis. When a person's track record clearly shows him to be a habitual deceiver, then the people who compromise and repose unwarranted faith in such a person they deserve no sympathy but censure.

I am deeply disturbed by the events that have taken place in Karnataka during the last two-three years. Which political party or which politician deserves to be trusted by the people? It is not just one person. People are going to lose faith in political leadership, leaders and political parties. Musharraf Sahab has declared emergency in our neighbourhood. None of our neighbouring countries has been in a democratic set up. In this island of wilderness, India wishes to nurture the flower of democracy and spread its fragrance throughout the subcontinent. In this situation, if we conduct ourselves in this manner, no faith will left in democracy even in our country, let alone in our neighbouring countries. Therefore, this question is not in context of just one State.

The political events in Karnataka during the last two or three months have given an indication of the reasons for which we should feel concerned about the direction in which Indian politics is moving. The Home Minister has taken a correct and timely decision. He should have taken the decision to dissolve the Legislative Assembly at the time of keeping it in suspended animation. May be he was expecting that someone would come forward to form a Government. With this belief, the Union Government infuse the fresh lease of life in the State Legislative Assembly. From the year 1991 till date, there has been only one occasion when I have fully supported the decision of imposition of President's Rule in any State. The occasion was the demolition of Babri Masjid when President's rule was imposed in four States in the country. After that occasion, after a long time, I once again urge the House to support the decision to impose President's Rule and in fact urge the Home Minister to take stringent measures because the Supreme Court has given many rulings in this regard. In Bommai case, the Government had dismissed the Karnataka Government. This decision is seen as a landmark decision. There were some flaws which were removed in the judgement regarding Bihar Government. Now the Government has limited options before it. One of our esteemed friends was just saying that Article 356 is mostly misused and it should be abrogated from the constitution. I do not support this view since it has arisen out of the anguish caused in the year 1959 when Article 356 was first enforced. I agree that it was a misuse but it is not right to nurse the resentment and to ignore the many events which made the use of Article 356 imperative. We should keep a list of such reference. The present case of Karnataka proves that use of Article 356 is justified in certain circumstances and the Assembly of the State should be dissolved to justify the use of Article 356.

*[English]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the Resolution regarding the Proclamation issued by the hon. President of India on the 20th November, 2007 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Karnataka.

I would just begin from the point which my predecessor had just mentioned about article 356 being imposed on respective State Governments. Article 356 has become a bone of contention for the last 30 to 35 years and even the first episode of 1959 is also being referred to now. But since mid 1960s or early 1970s article 356 has been used politically and the majority of the regional parties are opposed to article 356 including the CPI (M). The Akali Dal is one of the proponents of removal of article 356, so also the DMK and many other regional parties. Our party is also a regional party, but we hold a different view. It should be sparingly used. The amendments and the instructions which have come clearly demonstrated that and once the President's Rule is imposed under article 356 of the Constitution, it should be ratified immediately by the Parliament. I think that gives a clear instruction to the Central Government that it should be sparingly used.

Sir, when it comes to Karnataka, we should also refer to the system of democracy which we have in our country. It is parliamentary democracy and in a parliamentary democracy, the system is, 'the first past the post'. That is the mechanism which we have adopted. In 'the first past the post' system, some situations will crop up where we have a fractured mandate and in a fractured mandate there will be coalitions. It is not always possible for the political parties to have an arrangement before the elections. At times situations will arise where you will have arrangement after the results come out. Such things do not happen only in our country, but also happens in other countries also where parliamentary democracy is in vogue.

So, when we have such situations, what is the best thing to do? Here, I am reminded of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma's writings and his decisions as the President of this country. He had categorically stated that the leader of the majority party or the party which has the maximum number of seats in the Assembly or in the Lok Sabha should first be called to form the Government. In determining that, there should not be a long gap so that unethical means are not employed to form a coalition.

So, when the leader of the majority party or the party which has the maximum number of seats in the House is asked to form the Government, he should be asked to prove his majority within a stipulated time.

What happened in Karnataka? The Bharatiya Janata Party had the maximum number of seats in the Assembly. It had around 79 Members supported by the JD (U) which had 5 Members. In a way, this was the largest political group in the Karnataka Assembly. But after some time, two political parties, namely the Congress and the JD (S), combined together, formed the Government and they proved their majority in the Assembly.

I fail to understand whether the JD(S) has given an explanation to the people of Karnataka when it withdrew from that coalition. Why have they withdrawn from the Congress-led coalition? I am yet to find it in any media why they have withdrawn from that and why they have come with BJP which was led later on.

There are situations in our country where we have had minority Government. It was in 1969, after the division of Congress, that Mrs. Gandhi led minority Government was supported by the CPI from outside. We have had Government during Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao's time. It was a minority Government and had managed to continue for more than four years as a minority Government. We have this Governments in Centre. These are instances in Centre, I need not go in provinces, where the Governments have been formed and supported from outside is given.

It is not unique in our country. In many parliamentary democratic countries such types of Governments are formed and Houses continue. What has happened in Karnataka? A coalition Government has been formed, but there is distrust, there is ill-will. Ministers are filing FIRs against the Chief Minister. I fail to understand what is happening there and this creates so much of ill-will between the people, between political parties. One thing is said in the morning by one quarter and another thing is said in the evening by another. I think, in this manner, a political system cannot run.

I would only mention here that providing outside support is on a thinner edge that a Government actually functions. It is very difficult and at times, I have seen Governors asking for written consent from respective political parties so that they can get an assurance that this Government will continue. What is required today is

[Shri B. Mahtab]

stability. But stability can also be established if a leader commands that much of respect inside the House. We have had situations in other countries where the leader alone can command the respect of the House, political parties can combine together.

I would like to state here that uncertainty is there in Karnataka and there is tremendous ill-will between political parties. Three distinct political groups are there today. But it is high time that this Assembly should be dissolved immediately and Karnataka people should be given a chance to have their own Government. This method of sharing power with 20 months each is really a unique feature which we have seen in Karnataka and I am sure the people of Karnataka will elect a popular Government in the near future. But at the same time, I would say that an attempt is being made in different quarters as if the people are at fault for giving a fractured mandate.

15.19 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Fractured mandate is nothing new. I am repeating it that fractured mandate in parliamentary democracy is nothing new and in parliamentary democracy when a mandate does not give a clear cut majority to any political party, situations are created where coalition Governments can run smoothly and can deliver the goods. This has happened in Punjab. This has happened in Maharashtra. This has happened in Orissa where for the last seven years, the coalition Governments is running because there is trust between two coalition partners.

It is with coalition; it is only with trust that a Government runs. It is the trust between the Members, between the participants, trust within the House and trust of the people. Once the trust is broken, the Government will fall. Here the Government has fallen. I only urge that immediately the House should be dissolved and fresh mandate should be called for.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak very shortly. Therefore I would request you not to ring the bell in the meantime.

Sir, we are the witness of the drama of Karnataka. It is nothing but an unholy, an unprincipled and an unethical alliance between the two Parties. Marriage tie has been dissolved between BJP and JD(S). I do not

know whether it is a permanent dissolution of the marriage tie or it will be revived at any moment for grabbing the power in Karnataka.

Karnataka is a leading industrial State in our country. My learned friend, Shri Mohan Singh already referred about the heritage and culture of Karnataka. This type of unstable Government in Karnataka, which is emerging as one of the leading States of the country, will jeopardize the interest of the people, will hamper the industrial policy and growing industry in Karnataka.

I am compelled to refer the name of Devegowda ji. He is an hon. Member of this august House. Not only that, he is a former Prime Minister of India. He was holding highest place in our country. He was the Prime Minister of India in the United Front Government. He fought in favour of the secular forces of our country.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chakraborty, address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: He was the Prime Minister from the secular Parties and he opposed BJP. We can recollect that BJP vividly opposed the Devegowda Government. It is only for grabbing the power, as his son Kumaraswamy will be the Chief Minister of Karnataka. That is why, he got support from BJP. He has a connivance with BJP to make a Government. I have tremendous respect for Devegowda ji but this time I am sorry to ask: "How far will we respect our hon. former Prime Minister Devegowda ji in the name of secularism?" It is because he has formed a new Party and the name of the Party is Janata Dal (Secular). How far is he continuing secularism? I have hundred per cent doubt in that regard. He has made a coalition, made an alliance with a Party which has not the slightest respect for secularism. That is the cause. The question is not the coalition that the Chief Minister, Yeddyurappa formed; the question is stability of the Government. Both the Parties betrayed the cause of the people. In the name of the stable Government, they got vote from the people. Ultimately they betrayed the people of Karnataka. So, our Party, CPI, other Left Parties and other democratic parties will not be supporting the imposition of article 356; but in this case they have no other alternative than to impose article 356. That is why, we support the imposition of President's Rule under article 356 in Karnataka. But that should be a temporary arrangement

because, for the sake of democracy, the Assembly should be dissolved and fresh mandate should be taken from the people. Immediate mid-term poll is required for the interest of democracy without any further delay. Though the election which will take place will put burden on the Public Exchequer yet for the sake of democracy, for the sake of the people of Karnataka, for a stable Government in Karnataka, there is no other alternative but to dissolve the assembly and seek fresh mandate from the people of Karnataka.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 2004, both Parliament and Assembly elections were held. It was a fractured mandate, of course. But the mandate was very clear. The Congress Party was rejected by the people of Karnataka. It was the BJP which got 79 seats. All that were explained and I do not want to repeat them now. Under the name of secularism, both the Congress Party and JD (S) joined together and formed the Government. At that time also, we did not make hue and cry out of that. Under the leadership of Shri B.S. Yedurappa, we played the role of constructive Opposition in Karnataka. But I do not know what had happened. I think, Shri Devegowda is going to explain it. All of a sudden, Shri Kumaraswamy came out and said: "To save our Party, we are joining with the BJP and forming a new coalition." It was an agreement between both the Parties that for the first twenty months, there would be the JD (S)-led Government and for the next twenty months there would be the BJP-led Government. At that time, Shri Devegowda said: "Till I am alive, I do not allow Shri Kumaraswamy to go with BJP." But what happened? The JD (S)-led Government went for 20 months. For 20 months, Shri Devegowda and his family enjoyed the power, and ultimately when the question of transferring the power came, they said: "We do not want to transfer the power." Again they became secular. Why did they become secular again? It was because he had made his one son as the Chief Minister and he wanted to make his other son as the Chief Minister. That is why, he said: "I do not want to transfer the power."

Ultimately, when Shri M.P. Prakash and other senior leaders decided to violate the orders of Devegowda ji, people saw another drama, and he said: "We want to go again with BJP." Affidavits were filed before the Governor, not only before the Governor but all the copies of those affidavits were submitted before the hon. President of India. After that, when the question of facing the Confidence Motion came in the Assembly, imposing of

conditions was started. What were those conditions? You leave apart other conditions. Their main condition was about the allocation of portfolios. They wanted the portfolios of Mines, Zoology, Home and Finance. Whatever agreement we had with them 20 months back was to be respected, and we did not go back to Devegowda ji or his son. We were going in *dharmayatra* under the leadership of Shri B.S. Yedurappa and Shri Ananta Kumar ji. But the hon. former Prime Minister, Shri Devegowda contacted our national leaders and said: "We will forget whatever has happened and form the Government in Karnataka to avoid the untimely election." Our national leaders had agreed to this. But they wanted the important portfolios and I do not want, for the sake of.  
...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): Please explain.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I do not know the reasons. I think, senior persons are there. They wanted the portfolios such as Mines. Everybody knows about mining that was going on in Karnataka. So, Shri Devegowda wanted the Mines' portfolio for his son; PWD for his son; Home and Finance for his son; Power for his son; BDA for his son; the remaining portfolios to some of his other MLAs; and they wanted the BJP to keep quiet with the Chief Ministership.

JD(S) now has become JD(Sone), and it has become a company. Now, I would request Shri Devegowda to change the name of his Party from JD (S). It should not remain JD(S). It should be changed to JD(B). JD(B) means JD (Betrayal) because betrayal was in his blood. He had betrayed Shri Ramakrishna Hegde, who was the most popular leader in Karnataka and who was the founding father of Janata Dal. He was betrayed. When Shri Devegowda became the Prime Minister, his first duty was to throw Shri Ramakrishna Hegde out of Janata Dal.

The same case went further also. He went with the Congress. We did not go and approach him; we did not beg them that we want to form the Government. It was his son who came with 39 MLAs and said he did not want to go with them. Then, ultimately he said that his son was doing a good job; he appreciated that Government and then, again, he betrayed the BJP. We were going on a *Dharma Yatra*, and again we were called; again the same drama occurred.



[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

I would just like to submit that the level of politics is coming down in Karnataka. The pre-Independence stage was different. During the pre-Independence stage, the politicians were seen with respect, they were being respected very highly. But post-Independence, after some years, politicians were seen with some doubts. Earlier, when any political leader was passing through, people used to say: "Yes, some leader is going." They used to tell their sons and daughters: "He is the leader of our State; he is the leader of our city, you pay him *namaskar*." But what has happened now?

[*Translation*]

People pay respect to politicians in their face and curse them behind their backs saying that they are going to dupe or destroy someone.

[*English*]

Nowadays, politicians are seen with doubt. This is the credit of Shri Devegowda.

Sir, in this situation, there is no other option but to dissolve the Karnataka Assembly. I would, through this House, appeal to the people of Karnataka that in the next elections they should give a clear mandate for the formation of the stable Government.

With these few words, I support this Statutory Resolution.

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA (Chitradurga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the permission to speak a few words either for or against the Resolution moved by the hon. Home Minister to approve action taken by the hon. President of India. I am also from Karnataka. Though I am new to the politics yet I am not new to the moralities.

I would also like to speak a few words. There is no doubt that in Karnataka in the year 2004, no party had obtained a clear-cut majority. There was a fractured mandate. The Congress party got 65 seats and our friends from the JD(S) came forward by saying that they would be supporting us to form a Government. We thought that this understanding would be a reasonable and favourable one, and therefore, we agreed for that. They were kind enough to give us an opportunity to lead the State by making Shri Dharam Singh as the hon. Chief Minister of the State. Of course, there was distribution of portfolios;

and there was no grievance of any kind between the Congress and the JD(S).

When this appletart was going on happily and smoothly, somehow the brain of the JD(S) was spoiled by the B.J.P.. I do not want to use the harsh words because fortunately, a senior politician of our State Mr. Ananth Kumarji has not used any harsh words against the Congress. But they persuaded them. I have come to understand that the BJP persuaded the JD(S) to come out from the alliance with the Congress and have a new marriage settlement between the JD(S) and the BJP.

And, they were successful by setting up Shri Kumaraswamy to see some MLAs were taken to the resort because it is called the resort culture in Karnataka. When we came to know that JD(S) has fallen out from our company, we happily came out from that understanding and we handed over the power. It was the alliance between, rather I would like to say, 'unholy and unethical alliance' as used by my friend, between the JD(S) and the BJP. For 20 months, of course, they were also pulling on well because that understanding was there between sharing of power and sharing of other things also. I do not know why all of a sudden, the bickering started between the BJP and the JD(S).

They say that there was an understanding for 20 months each and when 20 months' time was nearing, the BJP started saying that you must hand over power to B.J.P. by 3rd of October. When Kumaraswamy said that he is not going to hand over the power, the BJP went on *Dharmayatra* throughout the State. They used all sorts of words against the JD(S). Such words cannot be found in any of the dictionaries of any language. Such unparliamentary words were used against the JD(S) and its leader also.

They gave an understanding to the people as if they are not power-mongering persons; they do not want power any longer with alliance and they are for *dharma* and they want to install *dharma* in the State as if they are the only persons born to give *Dharma* to the State and as if it is their monopoly. But all of a sudden, what they did was, when the *Dharma Yatra* was going on, it appears there was a call from the JD(S), yes you come back; we are going to support you. On the middle of the road, they stopped their *Yatra* and came running to Bangalore city and Shri Yeddyurappa said these are our four people. I am the Chief Minister and these are the four persons. I am going to form the Government with others.

They went to the Governor. That was narrated by my other friends and also our hon. Home Minister. I need not speak about that. Oath was taken and he was installed as the Chief Minister. I do not know what happened because we never poked our nose in their affairs. The Congress was not at all willing. It did not open its mouth, as opposed, against their alliance because it was their understanding and how we can poke our nose. We have got a right to criticize and we were criticizing. That is all. Except that, we did not say that you cannot have alliance and all that. So, for seven days they went on, and all of a sudden, Shri Yeddyurappa said, now I cannot pull on with the JD(S). It is putting all sorts of obstacles. I do not know what their conditions were because we were not a party to those understandings between the JD(S) and the BJP.

Just now I heard from our learned brother Mr. Pralhad Joshi that JD(S) wanted some important portfolios. I do not know how they are important and how they are non-important. It is for them to explain. It is because on the allocation of portfolios, the differences started. Then, all of a sudden, when the Vote of Confidence was about to be taken up, the so-called then Leader of the State left the Assembly and ran to the Governor's office and handed over the resignation. That is how this alliance had broken for the third time.

My friend here was narrating as if the BJP is the only Party in the State, which is clean from all these bad things. I would like to here pinpoint that it was because of the BJP, all these struggles started in the State. If the BJP had not instigated Mr. Kumaraswamy to ask his Legislators to come out from the Congress, definitely the Congress and the JD(S) would have continued for a full term of five years which the people of the State wanted; and they had faith in that system. But they betrayed that. In the first instance, they instigated Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy. The Chair knows well the effect of instigation and so also the culprits.

They instigated and JD(S) became a culprit. So, both are responsible to be sued and to be punished and that is what the people are going to do in the next election. ...(*Interruptions*) I will come to that point. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Why are you commenting on the Congress? ...(*Interruptions*) You purchased the headache on your own. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: In 2004 you had a coalition with them. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: Please do not interrupt. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: You are power-mongers. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: We did not show an iota of anger towards their formation by making this unholy alliance. As a matter of fact, we were really happy that, though their views are poles apart, somehow they were aligning and they were trying to lead the State. But, unfortunately, they failed on both the aspects.

Shri Ananth Kumar was telling that the JD(S) had betrayed the public. I have to say that it is not the JD(S) alone. I do not say JD(S) is a very good Party and their people are very good. But, at the same time, the BJP is as bad as the JD(S). Both of them betrayed the State. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI (Chikkodi): Ask Jalappaji of your party.

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: He will also speak. All the people expected that Ministry would run the State for five years and they would not trouble the people by asking them to again go to the polling booths in less than five years' time. But, unfortunately, these two groups made it to happen now. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, Shri Hanumanthappa is former Chief Justice. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: He is rendering justice. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: In the 2004 elections, the Congress was rejected by the people. They had 150 Members in the previous Assembly and they became 65. The people have rejected them. Why did they want to come to power from the backdoor? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: I am coming to that point. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, Shri Ananth Kumar has every knowledge excepting the election figures. In this election, the secular forces got the mandate isolating the BJP from coming to power. Please try to learn the lessons. Do not try to jump on to the conclusions. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: JD(S) joined with the Congress.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: On that day the JD(S) did not join the BJP. You are lurking on the power and trying to hobnob here and there. Though you got the power, you could not keep it. *...(Interruptions)* You do not even know the technique of this.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: I am coming to that. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It was the mandate against the Congress Party. *...(Interruptions)* It was a mandate for the Bharatiya Janata Party and not the Congress Party.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hanumanthappa alone can speak. Nothing else will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\**

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: Yes, Sir. I will address the Chairman. In fact, why was the coalition formed? It was not that the Congress party secured less votes, but our other friends, JD(S) at that time, which was committed to social justice like us, also secured nearly 55 seats. With our 65 seats, put together, it came to 120. That was more than what he expected. *...(Interruptions)* In fact, the people had taught a lesson telling the BJP that they are not fit to rule the State. The mandate was against the BJP and not against us. The people liked both Congress and JD(S) and that is why they elected us and they wanted a secular-spirited people should be there. That is why they made us to sit power.

Unfortunately, the BJP wooed the JD(S) to go in their camp and made the people feel disappointed, betrayed and now they made everyone to feel very sad and disgusted about the politics of the State of Karnataka. At no time they showed any respect to social justice. At no time during these two-and-a-half years they were like

that and they always wanted to have their own ideologies to be implemented, which people did not like. Fortunately now, it has come to an end. Now the people will definitely tell what type of Government they should have.

Shri Mahtab was also telling that it has become an order of the day to have coalition Governments. Of course, we also respected that let there be a coalition between the JD(S) and the BJP. But, unfortunately, there was a collusion between JD(S) and the BJP. They colluded and there was a downfall also.

In order to prevent such things, this Proclamation has come. Everyone has now supported the use of Article 356, except my friend Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to a little extent. Now nobody can erase Article 356. It should be there. It is a greatest whip and a sword in the hands of the President of India. We should have it.

In order to stop this type of running of the Governments or falling of the Governments, there should a suitable law to be made by this august House.

Law shall be made that once a coalition forms the Government, it shall run, whether they are conducting it rightly or wrongly, for a period of five years and whichever party is responsible to pull down the coalition Government, shall pay the entire expenses of the future elections. Such a law should be made. Secondly, once a coalition is formed, there shall be an undertaking between the two that they will run it for a period of five years. Such a law should be made. Otherwise, there will be no end to it and what happened in France will happen in India also. Today one Government is formed and tomorrow another Government will be formed. Actually, it will be fooling the people and hurting their aspirations.

As far as JD(S) and BJP are concerned, I do not want to use any bad words for them other than simply saying in light words that they actually ... *(Not recorded)* the entire electorate of Karnataka. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, this word is unparliamentary. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: Shri Joshi, I am sorry that I have used a good word. They have actually ... because now they are driven. *...(Interruptions)* They promised to the people that they would take them to *...(Interruptions)* Okay, I use the word 'disappointed' *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is your turn. You can speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have said in Hindi they were devastated. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: If my friends are not happy with the word ... I say that they deceived the people, they disappointed the people.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him finish.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, let the entire country know whether this word is unparliamentary or not. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, if there is anything unparliamentary, you have the right to expunge it at the end of the speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will look into it.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is any unparliamentary usage, that will be off the record.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You finish it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: Nowhere it says that ...is unparliamentary. I have now stated another good word. Actually they deceived and disappointed the electorate of Karnataka State. In fact, whatever promises they had made at the time of election and also after forming the Government, they have breached those promises. They are liable to be prosecuted for the breach of promise committed by them and the authority to punish them will be the electorate of Karnataka. Definitely, they will tell them the lesson and tomorrow they will impose a very heavy fine on them at the time of elections.

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\*Not recorded.

As far as we are concerned, the Congress has 65 members in the Assembly. We too would have formed the Government, but we never believed in horse trading. We said that we did not want to form the Government and we want to remain as we are today. We do not want to form the Government unless we have an absolute majority in the House. Otherwise, we too would have gone for horse trading or for wooing the JD(S) people. Even their people were prepared to come to us and join us. We said 'please do not come to us and be where you are.' Nearly 30 people wanted to join us because they know. ...(*Interruptions*) How can they know? We know. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This House would not have taken its time had Shri Ananth Kumar been the Chief Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) Since he could not become the Chief Minister, he just played an important role to see that this Government does not continue. [*Translation*] This is what people say, not our party. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he has taken my name.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am taking his name with respect.

[*English*]

He deserves. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is a very responsible person. In Karnataka, BJP is totally united. We had decided 20 months ago that Shri Yediyurappa will become our Deputy Chief Minister and after 20 months, he will become our Chief Minister. Therefore, we stood like a rock and the total BJP - Central Parliamentary Board, our National Council, our State Executive, State Legislature and everybody - supported it. But unfortunately, the Congress Party as well as the JD(S) is spreading the canards about divisions in the BJP.

There is no such division. Whereas, the Congress Party wanted to form a Government because up to 27th —after we withdrew support on 8th — the Union Government did not revoke the Presidential Rule, and did not allow Shri B. S. Yeddyurappa to form the

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

Government. They were hobnobbing with JD(S) during that time through Shri M. P. Prakash. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI GOWDA: Sir, they are misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: There was a serious problem as to who should become the Chief Minister. That was their problem. We told Shri Devegowda as well as Shri Kumaraswamy to please come and take oath as Deputy Chief Minister when we formed the Government on 12th November under the leadership of Shri B. S. Yeddyurappa. But there was a continuous fight between Shri Kumaraswamy and Shri Revanna as to who should become the Deputy Chief Minister. Therefore, they did not join the Cabinet. This is the situation both in the Congress Party and JD(S). The BJP was united under the leadership of Shri B. S. Yeddyurappa as he is the Chief Ministerial candidate, and our leader there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the honest and virtuous Party that stood like a rock instantly went to the Governor saying that they are withdrawing their support from JD(S). Further, they were the first to go to the Press on the day the President's Rule was imposed to say that they want a mandate and dissolution. But again, when slightly some silver sky was shown, namely, Shri Devegowda's son was ready to support them, they again jumped and said that they are ready to accept the Chief Minister's post. Therefore, please do not try to talk about the rock, soil and everything. Let us talk sincerely and honestly that your commitment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Whatever decision was taken by the Party unitedly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You can go and explain to the people of Karnataka in what manner you can be loved. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: You will come to know about it after the elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hanumanthappa, have you concluded your speech?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, I am concluding in one minute. It is not my duty to find fault with their internal affairs, and it is left to them. But one thing is

clear that they have deceived the people of the State. I use this word emphatically. They did not feel happy to continue with JD(S) because there was a distance between those two people, and they were not happy to continue the family affair. Hence, they wanted to have a divorce, and now they are happily divorced.

If at all they wanted to tell the people that they wanted to run the show, but these people did not allow, then there was no reason for hon. Shri Yeddyurappa to go out from the House right to the Governor's house and tender his resignation. He should have faced the vote of confidence, which he did not do. It means that everything is not fair with BJP, and whatever they have said about the Congress Party is totally false. It is nothing but finding fault with the Congress, which is committed to serve social justice. The action taken by the hon. Governor is justified, and all that the hon. President has done is absolutely and 200 per cent correct because it is permissible under law, that is, under article 356. Therefore, there is no other go but to approve the action of the President of India, and go for dissolution of the Assembly.

With these words, I again thank the Chairman and the House.

SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI (Chikkodi): Thank you, Sir. I am seeking your permission to speak from this place.

*[Translation]*

I regret that I have to support the Bill brought by the Home Minister because Karnataka never had to face such a situation in the past. Karnataka has lost the good name earned by it. I am trying hard to find out the underlying reasons. This has happened because of JD(S). I feel very bad on seeing this. I would like to give a suggestion that a statutory body should be constituted to monitor the anti-defection Bill. At the time JD(S) had split, its Chairman Shri Devegowda had written to the Speaker, urging him to expel the Members of the Party who had defected ...*(Interruptions)* The letter had recommended expulsion of 39 members but no decision in this regard was taken for over 20 months due to our Speaker. That letter was not replied to for 20 months. It is a matter of regret that there was a 20 month delay over a matter which could have been resolved in an hour. During this period, a letter was also written by one MLA, Shri Nagaraj

but it was also not replied to. A statutory body is needed to avoid such a situation as has been created in Karnataka.

*[English]*

I will request this House to make our statutory body to monitor the implementation of the Anti Defection Law.

*[Translation]*

My friends and party leaders have expressed their views. I did not know the real persona of Shri Devegowda earlier. He was fine till he became the Prime Minister. Shri Ramkrishna Hegde ji had formed a party in Karnataka but Devegowda ji threw him out from that party itself when he became Prime Minister. I was with Hegdeji and Devegowdaji. I was forced to contest three elections under the banner of three different parties due to Shri Devegowdaji. First I was in Janata Dal when Hegde Saheb was expelled from the party. I had associated with him. Then I contested the election under the banner of Lok Shakti Party. The Hegdeji was persuaded to rejoin Devegowdaji's party and so I contested the second election as Janata Dal candidate. Thereafter, Devegowdaji left that party and Hegdeji expired. So I entered the House for the third time as a member of yet another party. So you can understand the predicament I must have gone through. Today, the people of Karnataka say about Janata Dal that. ...*(Interruptions)*" It is not a party of statesmen. People say this, not me. People will teach Janata Dal a lesson for the perfidious manner in which it has dealt with Congress and BJP. There is no doubt that Gowdaji and his party has kept the interests of his family before the interest of the Party.

Sir, with this I support the resolution and thank you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You are absolutely right. This is exactly the scenario prevalent in Karnataka.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would now request Shri R.L. Jalappa to speak on the issue concerning Karnataka.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur): Sir, I have been listening to all the speeches of my friends from this side and from that side. Some of my friends said that culturally,

Karnataka is a very matured State, it was very well administered previously, and unfortunately, these two parties, both BJP and JD(S), ruined that good name.

Sir, when we were defeated in the 2004 elections, I told all my friends not to join the Ministry since the people have rejected us. But just for power, some of the leaders in my Party joined this untrustworthy JD(S).  
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He is telling the truth.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: The hon. Member purposefully mentioned about some individuals and not the Party.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Please listen, I will come to you also.

They somehow managed for twenty months. The Government was run by Mr. Deve Gowda and not by Mr. Dharam Singh. He speaks as if he comes from heaven. Let him speak from his heart. The Government under him was governed by Mr. Deve Gowda and his son. At six o'clock in morning Mr. Deve Gowda used to phone to Mr. Dharam Singh. Whenever he received the call of Mr. Deve Gowda, Mr. Dharam Singh would immediately jump from his seat, say, "*Namaskar, Sir*" and then attend to his work. I have criticized this several times. Mr. Deve Gowda's son Mr. Kumaraswamy used to come there at six or six-thirty, speak to Mr. Deve Gowda, get all his work sanctioned and go. We could not get anything done. No congress worker got anything either from Mr. Dharam Singh or from that coalition government. That is all right.

All of a sudden, they shifted. That is because BJP went to Mr. Kumaraswamy and enticed him. Mr. Yeddyurappa, Shettar and another gentleman went to his guesthouse in the midnight and enticed him by saying, "Yes, you become the Chief Minister, we will support you." Mr. Kumaraswamy was power hungry and so he agreed. What did he say? He said that he was joining hands with BJP to save his party. In fact, there was no danger to his party. We never tried to break his party. Breaking the party is known only to JD(S), not to anybody else. We never did it. In spite of that, it was stated as the reason. They wanted power and money, nothing else.

So, BJP enticed Mr. Kumaraswamy, coaxed him and supported him. They distributed portfolios amongst

[Shri R.L. Jalappa]

themselves. There was a complaint lodged by one MLC that about Rs. 150 crore was paid as bribe to Mr. Kumaraswamy. Unfortunately, I am told that the case is pending in the Supreme Court. I do not know what is wrong with the judiciary and why it does not decide this case. After all it was referred to refer it to CBI. They need not take months and years together for it. In spite of that, they were pulling on. Then, they fell out.

They went to Tumkur Seer, took his blessings, and were proceeding on Dharma Yatra. On the same evening word was sent to Mr. Yeddyurappa. He came running leaving the Dharma Yatra halfway. He came there, there was some understanding between these two people. But fortunately, unfortunately for Mr. Yeddyurappa, the BJP leaders at the Centre did not permit him to go along with them once again. Again he continued. He went to Shimoga. There also JD(S) people told them, "Come here, we will do something". So, he ran up. That time also he could not get it. Mr. Yeddyurappa fell into the trap the third time.

Sir, both the parties are fraudulent parties in Karnataka. I am not blaming the BJP at the centre. I am only talking about the State. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, how can Mr. Jalappa use that word? It is an unparliamentary expression. If that is allowed, then Congress is a fraudulent party. Mr. Jalappa was the Minister of Textiles in Deve Gowda Government. He should remember that fact. He owes his political career to Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde. He is from the same Janata Dal *parivar*. *...(Interruptions)* He is not a saint. Therefore, he cannot call other parties as fraudulent parties. Before calling other parties as fraudulent parties, he should know that Congress is a fraudulent party. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ananth Kumar, your party men can speak later. Let him speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I have got respect to Mr. Jalappa. But he was Textile Minister in Deve Gowda Government. He should not forget that. *...(Interruptions)* If he thought that JD(S) was a fraudulent party, why did he join Mr. Deve Gowda's Cabinet as the Textiles Minister?...*(Interruptions)*

He was the Home Minister of Karnataka. Why did you join the Congress party? Why are you a turncoat

and joined the Congress party? You are fraudulent. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you have all spoken and you have been given ample time. You have spoken about all these matters. Let him finish. Your turn will come and then you can speak about that.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Can I speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You alone can speak.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Shri Ananth Kumar, please listen to me. I was in Janata Dal. I was earlier in Congress. When Shri Devaraj Urs was thrown out from the Congress, I went with him because he was very kind to the downtrodden people, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people and the Backward Classes. I remained with him. I contested in 1983 from the Karnataka Kranti Ranga. Please understand this. Unfortunately, I was with him. I gave up this party. I fought with Shri Devegowda and I told him, in front of party leaders, that he is not trustworthy and that he has ditched me several times and that I do not want to continue in his party. I have not come out quarreling with them. I have told on their face and have come out. Shri Sitaram Kesari sent us a message. Then, I went there. He asked me as to why not I contest from the Congress ticket. I told him that I am already 72 and I do not want to fight any more elections and that I am retiring. He replied: "No, I am already 78 or 80. I am here." Why do you not contest? Then, he gave me the ticket. I successfully contested for three times. This is the story.

I would come to why I used the word "fraudulent". If it was not fraudulently done, why did he approach the Chief Minister, Shri Kumaraswamy? Why did you do that? *...(Interruptions)* Allow me to speak.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: When you are rejected by the people of Karnataka, they went and joined the JD(S), which is fraudulent. *...(Interruptions)* You have defrauded the people of Karnataka. It is a fraud committed on the people of Karnataka. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Shri Jalappa, if you have any questions, you can address the Chair. Do not address the Opposition.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: If they had not fraudulently done this, why did you go to Shri Kumaraswamy in the dead

of night and entice him to become the Chief Minister, and then support him. That was not necessary. Why I used that word is, afterwards both the parties joined together, and they ditched us. Are you a gentleman? Do you call yourself a gentleman? That is why, I used a strong word. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We are ditched today. They lost the mandate. Congress party has defrauded. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: It is not an unparliamentary word. I am using a parliamentary word. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: You defrauded the Congress party. (*Interruptions*) Congress party has defrauded. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The speech of Shri Jalappa only will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: You have joined with JD(S). You have spoiled a young and innocent boy, Shri Kumaraswamy. You have made him to become a villain. You are responsible. The BJP is responsible. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We will not allow this.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: May I go ahead?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Expunge the remarks. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: You cannot shut my mouth. I have every liberty to speak. You speak whatever you want. This is not the way. This is a parliamentary debate. You cannot ask me to shut my mouth. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, how can he use that word? We will not allow it to go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The word 'fraudulent' is not unparliamentary. It can be used.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, secondly, both the parties joined together and ditched us. It was all right and there was no problem, but why did now they fall apart? As

one of my friends was telling from the other side, they wanted particular portfolios which are money-spinning. They are Mines and Geology, Urban Development, PWD, etc. ...(*Interruptions*) Why are you shouting at the top of the voice now? You may keep quiet. We know what you were demanding. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, this is too much; we will not allow. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: This is not the way to defend a person. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: They should also cooperate; they should talk truthfully; they should not be so untruthful; and that too, Shri Jalappa. ...(*Interruptions*) He should also know his standing. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I know my standing. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Before throwing stones at others, he should know that he is living in a glass house. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jalappa, you may continue.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I am not in a glass house; my hands are clean. Nobody can blame of anything. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, we will not allow this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: There is no corruption charge; nobody can blame me of anything. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Yes, he is 'Satya Harichandran' and others are 'fraudulent'! ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Why were they fighting for that particular portfolio? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: No, we were not fighting. That was an agreement arrived at earlier. ...(*Interruptions*)



SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Then, why did you not give it up? ...*(Interruptions)* Why did you not give those portfolios to them? It is because you wanted money. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: No. It was on the basis of an agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: You wanted money; it was at the cost of the people and at the cost of the nation. You wanted those portfolios to make money and nothing else. It was not in the interest of the people. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not try to hoodwink people. I have also seen everything. I have also seen so many things. Shri Ananth Kumar, I respect you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: You are talking untruths. You are talking fraudulently. You are not the only speaker in the Parliament. We will not allow you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: You cannot be telling untruths in the Parliament of India. Why should he be speaking fraudulently? ...*(Interruptions)* What he says is untruth. ...*(Interruptions)* He cannot go on imputing motives. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I am on my legs; please be seated.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the portfolio-affair was in the agreement. Why should he come in-between this, as a commission agent? He should not say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: My friends from the Opposition, all of you have got chances to speak and you spoke well. You have dealt with the portfolio-affair also in detail. All these matters are on record. Shri Jalappa is also speaking about portfolio. Shri Palaniamanickam is also interested! We are all interested; but at the same time, come to the point and confine to the points and be strict in parliamentary procedure.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Shri Pralhad Joshi also spoke about the portfolio. What was Shri Ananth Kumar doing at that time? ...*(Interruptions)* Why should Shri Ananth Kumar be arguing now? ...*(Interruptions)* Why should he be arguing a wrong case? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, he referred to my name and I want to reply to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I would like to say that the portfolio-business was an agreement reached 20 months back. We agreed that portfolios would also get exchanged. Shri Jalappa also knows this. We have nothing personal against Shri Jalappa. He is a respected leader of Karnataka. He has fought against Shri Devegowda. But he should not be imputing motives against BJP. There was an agreement between BJP and the JD(S). ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: If you are not power-hungry, you would not have gone and chased that boy, Shri Kumaraswamy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: There was an agreement 20 months back that they would hold such and such portfolios and we will hold such and such portfolios and whenever we change, we will interchange and exchange those portfolios also. That was the agreement. ...*(Interruptions)* For that only, we were demanding.

We are demanding for that. We are not fighting on portfolios. We were fighting only for an honourable agreement. We said to JD(S), Shri Devegowda, Shri Kumaraswamy, do not become betrayers. Honour the agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ananth Kumar, when you were speaking you had dealt with all these matters. The agreement reached between the BJP and the JD(S) has been discussed. There is no point in repeating it.

Please conclude, Jalappa ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: For the last 20 months when both these Parties were in power. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Power sharing is the crucial issue.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, when they were in power, most of the money of the tax-payers was spent in Ram Nagaram, Hassan, Shikaripura and so on. I had myself written a number of letters to the then PWD Minister to repair some roads but he could not repair them. I had not asked him to repair a road leading to my house. In the entire constituency of mine or wherever Congress Members were there, work worth not even a single paise was undertaken. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken 20 minutes.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Shri Ananth Kumar, please come with me. I will show you, there is not a semblance of roads. We are very much disturbed. The Government of India had brought service tax and VAT system. They are getting plenty of money because of the increased industrial production in the country. A part of it is being diverted to Karnataka. But is it to be spent only in three or four constituencies of these people?

I urge upon the Government, if our Government in the Centre has got any teeth, to constitute a Commission to find out the commissions and omissions of the State Government in the last 20 months. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Let it be for the last 40 months.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: You can argue for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 20-25 minutes.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, I will conclude within two minutes.

Our Government in the Centre is fair enough. For the first time the Assembly has been kept under suspended animation. We do welcome it because they wanted to find out as to whether anybody would come together to form the Government. These two immoral, fraudulent, unethical Parties came together and our Government allowed them. We did not come in the way. We did not go there, meet anybody to dissolve the Assembly. Now, whatever has happened is perfectly well. I compliment the Government of India and also Madam President for that. By mere dissolving the Assembly will not solve the problem. Let the Central Government understand that there shall be a Committee to go into the details of the omissions and commissions for the last 20 months.

With these few words, I thank you very much. I am very sorry if I have annoyed my friend Shri Ananth Kumar. We are friends. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We are always friends.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I have not said anything about you, Shri Ananth Kumar. It is Mr. Kumaraswamy who has told that you are very happy for not having given the opportunity to Mr. Yeddiyerappa to become the Chief Minister. He has told this openly. ...(*Interruptions*) He has also told that you look at his face how blooming and radiant it is. ...(*Interruptions*). His joy is radiating on his face. This is what Mr. Kumaraswamy has told who is your own ally. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Karunakara Reddy to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you all speak? He can speak about the developments that have taken place in Karnataka.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, first of all, I may be permitted to speak from here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. You can speak.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Mr. Chairman Sir, today our nation is witnessing the discussion on and the betrayal and the breach of trust committed by JD(S). In 2004, in the general elections no political party got absolute majority. Though our Bharatiya Janata party emerged as a single largest party in Karnataka then, JD(S) and Congress both formed a coalition Government. But now they are accusing BJP-JD(S) coalition as an unholy coalition. Then what about JD(S)-Congress coalition? Was it not unholy coalition? After they enjoyed power for 20 months, JD(S) leader Kumara Swamy had approached BJP leaders and he sought our support to save his JD(S) party from the Congress. Even at that point of time our Hon'ble former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Devegowda Ji had expressed his unwillingness to join hands with our BJP party. He also had written this to His Excellency the Governor of Karnataka and conveyed his unhappiness. But only to avoid mid-term poll and to avoid unnecessary burden of about Rs. 500 crores on the exchequer of the Government, our party supported the JD(S) to form the Government under the

\*English translation of speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Chief Ministership of the Shri H.D.Kumara Swamy. It happened in the month of February 2006. Then we had reached an agreement that for the first 20 month, JD(S) leader Shri H.D. Kumara Swamy will be the Chief Minister and BJP leader Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa will be the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka and for the next 20 months Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa will be the Chief Minister and the post of Deputy Chief Minister will go to JD(S) party. The BJP upheld this agreement and acted accordingly without creating disturbance to the JD(S) led Government.

But when the JD(S) was to transfer the power to the BJP, leaders of JD(S) party made unnecessary comments on BJP. The then Chief Minister H.D.Kumara Swamy had expressed his willingness to transfer the power to BJP in front of media and some seers of mutts in Karnataka. He also said that he did not want to be seen as a betrayer by the people of Karnataka. But he could not keep his word by transferring the power on October 2nd 2007. Our senior leader Shri Yashwant Sinha Ji who was also in-charge of the Karnataka BJP unit came to Karnataka and had several rounds of discussions with JD(S) and BJP leaders, but JD(S) leaders did not agree to transfer the power to BJP.

My friends and colleagues and Hon'ble Members of the House Justice Y.Hanumanthappa Ji and Smt. Tejeswini Gowda Ji have accused that the BJP is power hungry. But I could say that if the BJP is so hungry for power all 18 BJP Ministers along with Deputy Chief Minister B.S.Yaddyurappa would not have tendered their resignation on October 5th, 2007. I can say BJP is has no lust of power. It is the Congress that has the lust for power. This is why soon after BJP came out of the Government, Congress had tried to form the Government with JD(S) party. That is the reason why the Karnataka Legislative Assembly was kept under suspended animation. But they could not form the Government.

Again for the second time JD(S) National President and former Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda Ji and his son former Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri H.D. Kumara Swamy came and told our party leaders that they had done a mistake of not transferring the power to BJP. And they also assured to extend their unconditional support to the BJP to form the Government in Karnataka. After that both BJP and JD(S) legislature parties under the leadership of B.S.Yaddyurappa and Shri H.D.Kumara Swamy submitted their individual letters

of support which were signed on the bond paper before the notary to His Excellency the Governor of Karnataka.

All the BJP and JD(S) Legislative Assembly Members signed in the Raj Bhawan register. At that point of time also they said support was unconditional. Even after completing all these procedures our party was not invited to form the Government. Then all the 125 Legislative Assembly Members came to New Delhi and met Her Excellency the Hon'ble President requesting necessary direction to form the popular Government in Karnataka. There also JD(S) leaders submitted their written support to BJP to form the Government in Karnataka.

After that the President's rule was revoked. The Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka had invited our party leader Shri B.S.Yeddyurappa to form the Government. Accordingly Shri B.S.Yeddyurappa was sworn in on the 12th October, 2007 as the first BJP Chief Minister of Karnataka first in Southern India along with four BJP Ministers. That day itself we smelt the JD(S)'s betrayal as it had not taken oath for the post of Deputy Chief Minister which was assigned to the JD(S) party from the very first day they started cheating us. After that the floor test was decided to be held on 23rd November in the Cabinet meeting. But as directed by the Governor of Karnataka it was pre-poned to 19th November, 2007.

Accordingly our leader the then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Yeddyurappa has decided to conduct the floor test on 19th October, 2007. But there were some unexpected developments have taken place in Karnataka, which should not be happen in anywhere in the country.

JD(S) party was insisting us to give it in writing on Bond paper that certain portfolios should be given to it. 21 conditions were there which was earlier 12 in number including the consultations with JD(S) regarding transferring of officials. But our BJP central leadership and state unit did not agree to these conditions. Our party categorically said that the Karnataka is not the property of any political party or anybody. It is the property of people of Karnataka so we refused to sign on any Bond paper.

Sir, today the Hon'ble members from the Congress party have accused that the BJP has lust for power. But I strongly deny that we are not hungry for power. Only to avoid mid-term poll and unnecessary burden on the exchequer our BJP Party had tried to form the

Government with JD(S). It was not for the lust of power. Our party is always upheld the values of politics. ...(*Interruptions*)

Tejeswini Ji, you may please speak when your party's turn comes. I am not yielding. Many of your party leaders Shri Dharma Singh Ji, H.K.Patil Ji, came to Delhi and tried to join hands with JD(S) only for the sake of power. I am not yielding to Smt. Tejeswini Ji. I am not using any unparliamentary word. I speak what I want to speak. The whole country is aware that how Shri Dharma Singh Ji and Shri H.K. Patel Ji have tried to form the JD(S)-Congress Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All these points have been covered. All these issues have been, discussed. You may please conclude now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: When your chance comes, then you may speak, please don't interfere in between.

Sir, I am talking about values of the BJP party. For the sake of people of Karnataka we have not signed the Bond paper agreement. We refused to go with JD(S) party.

Sir, I am of the opinion that today we should enact a legislation to award nobel prize for 'Betrayal' and 'Breach of Trust'. If so it would definitely be awarded to our Hon'ble former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Dewegowdaji and Hon'ble former Chief Minister Shri H.D. Kumara Swamy jointly.

Finally I urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps to dissolve the Karnataka Legislative Assembly to seek fresh mandate. The Government should ensure that within two to three months election should be held in Karnataka to form a popular Government, to protect the interests of the people of the Karnataka. Therefore I once again make an appeal to the Government through this August House to take immediate and all necessary steps in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the

opportunity to speak on the proclamation of President's Rule in the State of Karnataka. What had happened in the State has been very aptly described by the earlier learned speakers as a betrayal of democracy. It is a betrayal by the JD(S) party and they had indulged in a child like game before the entire country. Now the Central Government proposes to dissolve the Assembly and make way for holding fresh elections in the State. I rise to support this move. It is the most important thing because as has been mentioned by yourself, I also support that contention and suggest that article 356 should be scrapped from the Constitution.

It was first announced on 9th October, 2007. In this case, imposition of President's Rule was invoked on 9th October, 2007. The Assembly was kept under suspended animation. Again, the Proclamation was issued on 20th November of this month. So, this Article should not be taken very lightly. It should not be available so easily at the hands of the rulers of this country. Therefore, I would urge upon this Government one thing.

In this country, there are so many political parties. In Karnataka, there may be only three political parties. During the 2004 elections, there was a majority in favour of the BJP. There were 79 Members plus one Independent Member supported it. So, it came to 80 Members. Also, five JD(U) MLAs supported it. Out of the 224 Members, there were 85 Members of the BJP. The Congress had 65 Members. The JD(S) had 59 Members. Under such circumstances, who played a game to form the Government? Who was hungry for power? It is to be noted. Who were playing politics?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Manjunath, all these things have been covered in detail.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: In this connection, I would only like to bring to your kind notice again and again that there is betrayal of democracy, betrayal of BJP and betrayal of the word. This has never happened in the history of Indian politics.

Sir, our democracy requires the two-party political system in this country. You also know that during the period 1996-2004, even for this august Parliament, elections were held four times. First, only for 13 months, the Government was there under the BJP at the Centre. At that time, what happened?

16.32 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

There will be a great loss which cannot be compensated by enemies of democracy. There is a loss to the public Exchequer, to the entire country of 106 crore people who pay taxes to the Government. There is a heavy loss to the Exchequer if we are going to face election again and again. Therefore, the day has come before this august Parliament to ponder over it. All the leaders should sit together and try to bring the two-party political system in this country.

Under the circumstances, what is the game played by both the parties in Karnataka - JD(S) and the Congress - to wash out the Government of hon. Shri Yeddiyurappa who wanted to run the Government there? It has been taken away by playing politics. I want to say again and again that the JD(S) has played a children's game before the Karnataka people and also the entire country. Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Government, through you, Sir, to consider this. I appeal to the people of Karnataka to give us a stable Government in future. Also, I heartily accept the Proclamation issued by the Union Government. Further, immediate elections should take place in Karnataka and they should not be postponed at any cost.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Sir, at the outset, I would like to request you to allow me to speak from this seat because I have already written a letter requesting you to change my seat. Today, I am requesting you to allow me to speak from this seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Can you come here?

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I will stand here itself and speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come here.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I read an article today saying "Sitting as a backbencher, now Devegowda has become a betrayer." Who has written that article? ... *(Interruptions)* It does not matter.

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the Chair is concerned, I will be very happy if you come here and speak.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, please permit me to speak from this seat.

MR. SPEAKER: That is for your convenience. But I would like you to come here and speak.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: One article was written by one of the staunch supporters of the Opposition Leader. It says: "A back-bencher has become a betrayer." This is the article that I have seen. It starts from there.

In the year 2004, there was a fractured mandate.

Till now, I have not spoken a single word. I have not interfered in the speeches of any hon. Members. That is why, I pray to all the hon. Members who have spoken, "Please allow me to speak without any disturbance."

My habit is to take everything supportively. At the same time, I want to respond to the attack they have made on JD(S) and especially on Devegowda and his family. Sir, 2004 was a fractured mandate. I have not gone to the doors of anybody to form the Government. Let me speak very frankly. I do not want to take names of any individuals except the Members who are in this House. The former Chief Minister of Karnataka with his son-in-law had come to my doors in 5, Safadarjang Lane. I said, "No". You have reduced Congress from 159 to 64. It is not 65. Our own leader, the Deputy Chief Minister, resigned and joined Congress. It had become 65 with 257 votes. You put up a candidate who is called Uttara Brahmin. I know all these things. An Uttara Brahmin should get all the Brahmin votes. I am not going to speak on the caste issue. Sir, before 2004, JD(S) was formed in 1999. Some of those friends who wanted to join BJP, have joined and whatever their political decision were, I do not want to explain now. Some of the friends including late Shri Madhu Dandavateji took the decision to keep this party as Janta Dal (Secular) and decided that we should fight both BJP and Congress at equal distance. In 1999, I was defeated. My party State leader was also defeated.

I would just go back to 1998. There was an election to the Parliament after Shri Vajpayee had lost by one vote. One of the seniormost leaders of BJP came to Hassan. He addressed a public election campaign in Belur and Hassan and said, "Defeat Devegowda. Elect anybody you want." That was the call given by the seniormost leader - the seniormost leader after Vajpayeeji, after Advaniji - the other seniormost leader who was addressing the public in my parliamentary constituency. I was defeated. In 1999 again, I was defeated because the party was split 15 days earlier to the election. One group

was BJP. The other group formed JD(S). My party got 10 seats out of 224. Congress was not able to tolerate those 10 seats.

Out of 10, 6 were taken away by the Congress and those persons with ideological commitment remained with us. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I can speak volumes about the political system in this country. My last speech here was on the Budget on the 20th of August. After that I have not entered this House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You ignore them.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, when I was at the receiving end, I received all the criticisms very sportingly. So, I must now give a suitable reply. In 2004, the Congress President called me, we had 5 sittings and we came to an understanding to form the Government with power sharing on the Maharashtra pattern. Till Madam Gandhi called me, I did not talk with anybody in the Congress Party. When several other people from the Congress Party came and met me, I did not talk with them regarding the formation of the Government. On the day when she was elected as the Leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party, that night she called me, there were five rounds of discussion and I do not want to anything as to what had transpired in those meetings. I do not want to use this forum for that. There will be sufficient time for me to use all those things in the election platform. The person who approached me was the former Chief Minister of Karnataka and he started his game to destabilize the JD(S).

Sir, Shri Jalappa wanted an inquiry about the 20 months of misrule. Why only 20 months? Let him go back to the previous five years rule also. Then, I will wholeheartedly support him.

Sir, the hon. Home Minister is here. How many times..\* did ccme to Karnataka? Has his intelligence machinery failed? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, this has no relevance. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, what Shri Jalappa has said, I have taken it sportingly. I am not mentioning

anybody's name because I know my limitations. How many times\* visited Karnataka? The Home Minister has got all the intelligence reports at his disposal. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, why is he disturbing our leader? When he spoke, we did not disturb him. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a case for debate and for a debate we must listen to each other.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shivanna, your leader does not need your help. He is requesting you to keep quiet. Don't defy him at least.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I express my apologies for my colleague's behaviour.

MR. SPEAKER: You know very well that we cannot discuss the Governor's conduct or the Prime Minister's conduct. Don't bring them here.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I am not going to take the name of the Governor. But how did the politics of Karnataka go on? After Shri Dharam Singh took charge, 23 portfolios were kept by him. I have not made any complaint. Whatever I am going to speak now, if a word of untruth is there, Shri Jalappa can move a privilege motion against me in this very House. The Cabinet of Karnataka was not expanded for nearly 6 months. So, ultimately, the JD (S) MLAs had a separate meeting and they wanted to withdraw the support. At that time, ...\* called me. He told me that they would allow. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is he present in the House?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: He may be in the other House. That is why, I have not taken his name. He is a Member of the other House. There is a rule to take the name of the other House and discuss. That is why, I have limited myself to that stage. He called me after six months and told me that Madam had permitted to have our full Ministry. So far as their Ministry issue was concerned, they would not have the full strength or they

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

would not fill up all the Ministries and they would keep two pending and that was the decision taken by the Congress High Command. That is why, I would leave it to that stage.

The propaganda went on that Dharam Singh was a weak Chief Minister and Devegowda would swallow the Congress (I). During Dharam Singh's period, the elections were held to Parliament for Bidar constituency. In the last five elections to the Parliament, the Congress lost to the BJP. When bye-election was held, for the first time, the Congress came to this House through the bye-election, when Dharam Singh was the Chief Minister. He was a weak Chief Minister. He was heading the Government and for the first time, after 25 years, the Congress (I) MP came to this House.

There was also another bye-election. Shri Bangarappa is not here. He is the former Chief Minister and he is a reputed man. He joined the BJP before the election and with his background or support they got 79 seats. I know Karnataka, I know every constituency of Karnataka. I am not a new man. In 1999, BJP got 39 seats.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: BJP got 44 seats.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: All right. It may be 44, as he says. I will correct myself. In 2004, they got 79 seats. The NDA was defeated in the country and the BJP got some seats. When Shri Bangarappa resigned from the Parliament, there was a bye-election and Shri Bangarappa was elected again with 15,000 votes. Dharam Singh was a weak Chief Minister. Again, of course, we contested all the elections, the Congress (I), JD(S) and BJP. It was now the question of fighting the battle over the electoral ballots, but we are sharing the power. The former Chief Minister resigned. In that constituency, all the three parties contested and JD(S) candidate was elected. They now compromise on the issue of fighting the electoral battle.

Then the local body elections came. In the local body elections, how my Party was destabilised, I do not want to narrate all these things here. If Devegowda is a betrayer, let the people decide. What Shri Anantha Kumar has said, the people of Karnataka are going to give the answer whether Devegowda is a betrayer or who betrayed whom. It is for both the national parties, let us accept the people's verdict. Then we can give our certificates.

Sir, I do not want to hurt anybody. In the local body election, we wanted to see that the Party is totally

destabilized. At that time, I still remember, on 7th January, I called a meeting of the Legislature Party to say that there is no fun in continuing with this coalition. Shivraj Patil ji, I want to make it clear. You have got every report and all that. I took a decision to go for polls; no alliance business. I came to Delhi. I had five district meetings from 8th to 13th. On 14th, on *Makara Sankranti* day, I came to Delhi.

I come to one issue which is pending in the Supreme Court. It is a *sub judice* matter; I do not want to make much on that issue. That issue was listed on 18th. Jalappa ji said one truth. Who went to Kumaraswamy's residence? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I always spoke truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: That is why I welcome it. The BJP Party leader has made one person as Public Prosecutor. He has narrated the whole story. Yeddyurappa ji and two others went to his house. He persuaded him to become the Chief Minister, when I was in Delhi. I was sitting here for the other purpose. Why?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: It was not from the front door; it was from the back door. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: If I knew that, it would be a different issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I would like to make it very clear that whatever happened was without my knowledge. Our Samajwadi friend has said that Devegowda goes to holy places; I took him, and there is God fear. I take it forthwith.

During those five days, what has happened? I would like to ask Mr. Ananth Kumar ji, one of the senior-most leaders in your party, your Parliamentary Board Member, your General-Secretary, to see what happened. Another Rajya Sabha from Karnataka was there. All these things were conspired. On 18th, before I went to Bangalore, both the groups went away from Bangalore. Where was the need? You could have discussed with me straightaway. He is the former President of Bharatiya Janata Party and

he is the General-Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party. At that time he was the Vice-President of the Bharatiya Janata Party. So, they have made all this arrangement. I do not know what is the understanding; why was the agreement. All these things have been kept in dark.

On the day when Kumaraswamy took oath, no family member attended the oath-taking ceremony. With pain and agony, I am telling about this. Earlier to that, Yeddyurappa ji himself has said: "I went to Kumaraswamy; I will resign from Bharatiya Janata Party; you make me the Minister." He has openly admitted it not only in the electronic media but also in the print media.

Sir, there was a big fight in the BJP. And because we influenced the Central leadership, it was all mentioned, and I have got the Press cuttings. ...(*Interruptions*) I do not want to speak. I maintained all these things. I know how to answer. I have got all the Press cuttings in which he had stated this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, Shri Yeddyurappa himself had denied this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Please hear me. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is not here. You cannot go into it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I am only answering to whatever you have said. The Central leadership will intervene and then there was a ceasefire that Shri Yeddyurappa should be confined to Karnataka and Shri Anantha Kumar should be confined to the national party.

Sir, he said 'betrayal' and 'lust for power'. I had resigned three times from the Ministership and I had resigned one time from the membership of the Karnataka Assembly. Is this 'lust for power'? In 10 months and 20 days when my Government was removed, your senior leaders wanted to support my Government. The Congress had 144 seats, the NDA had 165 or 168 seats. I had refused. I told this on the floor of the House, and we took the decision to resign and get out. Sir, I do not want to repeat the speech that I had made at that time.

Sir, they say 'lust for power'. Who made the agreement? I have got the paper. Twenty months before,

you yourself formed the Government ignoring Devegowda. They said: "Who is Devegowda?" It was an attack on me. They had an understanding with Shri Kumaraswamy by the so-called leaders at the national level, who came from Rajya Sabha to Karnataka.

Sir, you had witnessed two Sessions. I had not entered the premises of Parliament. I had not entered even the Central Hall. I had no face to come to this House, and what amount of agony and suffering I had. Yes, God only must give answer. My friend has said this.

Sir, during these 20 months, what had happened? They formed an agreement among themselves what is called 'Karnataka Development Front'. In that agreement, if that would have been strictly followed for the development purpose, then the question of power transfer would not have arisen.

Sir, I am not going to quote every instance. In Mangalore, two minority persons were killed. One was going to Dubai for some job. At that time, my party-man was the Home Minister. We arrested the culprits within 24 hours and we brought the whole situation under control. I told: "Whatever may be the consequences, you must deal with those culprits. Even if the Government goes, we should not care."

17.00 hrs.

Sir, the next thing is about the *Virata Hindu Samavesh*. I was just watching it. I have not asked these friends or talked to them. *Virata Hindu Samavesh* went on for 45 days. In Bangalore, when they started this *Samavesh*, seven Muslims were injured and one dead. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI: Sir, he knows everything and he says he is in dark!... (*Interruptions*) He is telling that he instructed the Home Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Devegowda, you may continue.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am coming to the point, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)



MR. SPEAKER: All of you have made your statements. All of you, who wanted to speak from your side, have been allowed to speak. Let him speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After all, he is a former Prime Minister. He is a respected leader of the country. He has some agonies.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He says that he has been betrayed, that is why he wants to speak on some points.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: It is because they have made such an attack on me, whether it is relevant or irrelevant, you must listen. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, we had the right to hold that meeting. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, you had the right to hold that meeting.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: sir, it was a very peaceful meeting. But if he misleads the House, it pains us. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody has a right to have a lawful assembly. Let us try to conclude it now.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, when they have given, I have received. I received it patiently. Why?

Mr. Karunanidhi is the senior-most leader in the present context in this country. He has become the Chief Minister of a State five times. His daughter is staying in Karnataka. When this Ram Setu issue came up, her house was attacked in Karnataka. Because we had got the Home portfolio, our Home Minister of the State arrested eight people. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: No, Sir. He is the former Prime Minister of this country. He cannot speak like this. ... (Interruptions)

There is no question of any involvement. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: It is the Director-General of Police, who said. They are now behind the bars. That is all. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he cannot mislead the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your points. It is being recorded.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I know how things went on. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: When you were speaking, he kept quiet and listened to all of us patiently. Let us hear him.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, when they were speaking, I kept quiet. Even when the Congress friends were speaking, I did not interfere. I listened to them patiently.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. You only address the Chair.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Please, Sir. It may be my last speech, I do not know.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. How can it be?

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Please, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I will keep you detained here! How can I allow you to go away?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: It is because the country would now look with bias, plus the proceedings of this House would be going throughout the country that Devegowda is a betrayer and he has the lust for power and what not. I have taken all these brickbats. I welcomed them.

The other thing is this. It is one of the important factors, which is pertaining to a corporate house or whatever company, I would not name that company. But I would name the persons. It is Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor. The Supreme Court gave some judgments.

One of the persons, who was fighting for the farmers, was a former Chief Justice and the Governor of Bihar, who has also written an article, Shri Rama Jois.

Sir, he prepared a Bill to cancel the contract after they have lost the case in the Supreme Court. That Bill

was listed in the Cabinet. For six hours, the BJP Ministers and the State President have not entered the Cabinet Room. They were all waiting. ...(*Interruptions*) Please hear me. I will come to that point. What is the condition you have put here? I will come to that. There is nothing.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: No development has taken place in your Party's rule.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Please hear me.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: As long as the Speaker allows him, he should be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: This is 27th October, 2007.

MR. SPEAKER: I also know that you wish to see that this is an important discussion.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Of course, the attack was so horrible. In that, they have mentioned that the Supreme Court's decision is final. This is what they have mentioned in the so-called stamped agreement. I can give other things.

For Bellary, the BJP would ensure no further embarrassment. The JD(S) would not interfere in the BJP's choice for their Ministry. This is their agreement. I have got some experience, at least, minimum 50 years of public life, maybe, in the State politics or in the national politics. When these people went on in the street that Devegowda's son has betrayed by not transferring the power, this was the attack. For the first time, one of the representatives, who represents Karnataka from Bharatiya Janata Party—with your permission I take his name—Yashwant Sinhaji came to me at 10.30 in the night. It is the first time their national leadership is involved. As soon as he landed in the airport, he phoned me saying that he wanted to meet me separately and nobody should know. Then, in a friend's car, he came to a particular place and we had a discussion till 1.15 a.m. What was the issue I discussed? The issue was this. ...(*Interruptions*) Yes, that was discussed. Power transfer is not a problem. But in the last 20 months, what has happened in Karnataka should not happen. I narrated all the events starting from their boycotting the Cabinet and on the previous day, the meeting of 28 MLAs in a five star hotel under the leadership of Shri Yeddyurappaji. All these things were published in the newspapers and I do not want to speak about what has happened there.

We pocketed so many things. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he is reading from the newspaper report that 28 MLAs met in a five star hotel. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has not read from the newspaper.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He has just now said.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not read the newspaper.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am not going to interrupt anybody. For your notice, I would like to tell you that you find out from your Secretariat how much time the Leader of the BJP took and what are the things they have said about this gentleman, our leader. He has a right to defend. He has a right to reply. Why not?

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, that is correct. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you go through it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivanna, you please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: How can he say that some MLAs met, in a five-star hotel etc.? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No Member can say how another Member will speak. You cannot do it. If anything is unparliamentary or non-admissible, I will delete it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: Sir, we have heard Shri Ananth Kumar. We will like to listen to the other side of it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Please allow me to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: How long will you take Devegowda sahib? I am not interrupting you. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, please allow me. As I said, this may be my last speech. ... (*Interruptions*) Please allow me. I beg of you.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not interrupting you. You carry on. You have your agonies. I find that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: About eight months earlier, on the streets, the discussion on power-sharing started. It was in all the print media where the columnists have written as to whether there will be power-sharing or not. I do not know about the situation in the coalition Governments where the CPI(M) is running the Government in West Bengal and in Kerala, I do not think this type of discussion took place. For eight months before the 3rd of October, it went on in the electronic media and the print media. I did not react.

Sir, it was not only that. Shri Yashwant Sinlhaji has written that letter to Shri Rajnath Singhji as to what has all happened. ...(Interruptions)

This is the letter. It was about a letter to be written on a bond paper. I never asked him to sign on any bond paper. Taking into account what all happened in the past twenty months, I will only just call it a Memorandum of Understanding. It is an internal arrangement between two Parties. What is the purpose of it? In my sincere view, a formalisation of this understanding having the benefit of the vision and the maturity of the national leadership of both the Parties, it will not only facilitate the task of the Government formation and a spirit of mutual understanding and goodwill, but will go a long way in ensuring harmonious functioning of the coalition to provide a model Government in the State by avoiding a kind of aberrations that took place during the functioning of the coalition for twenty months headed by Shri Kumaraswamy since both the Parties have created a crisis credibility of the coalition and the young Chief Minister and his family has suffered.

This is the letter that was written on 1st November, 2007. I will not mention any names. I will not mention the portfolios. I will not mention Bellary. If you permit, I will place it on the table of the House.

Sir, the 27th October was the date when they went to the Raj Bhavan. In this they have drawn the agreement on a stamp paper to be signed by Shri B.S. Yeddurappa and Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: It is not true. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Please listen. That is why, the person who has drafted it - I will not take the names of the other two leaders - chose to resign from the membership of the Party and gave an explanation as to how he was humiliated and betrayed. That is why he was going to resign. That is the statement which also I have got it. ...(Interruptions) I have not asked. Yes. What was the reason for giving my consent to form the Government? What was the reason?

The present Karnataka State Assembly has only three main political configurations with the Congress having 64 seats, BJP 79 and JD(S) 58 out of the total strength of 213 of the House. With JD(S) having conveyed its decision to go for polls and demanding the dissolution of the House, the scope of any combination to form the Government in the State within the accepted constitutional framework and norms get totally negated. As such, the dissolution of the House remains the only valid constitutional choice left under the circumstances as any other alternative force opens only the floodgates for attempts to subvert the electoral mandate and the constitutional norms and propriety.

This is the letter I wrote on 24th to the Prime Minister. This letter warns of even more serious concerns and told that the same elements from the State Congress, who have weaned away to JD(S) leaders are at work again. It is unholy pursuit which can have disastrous consequences for the long-term political future of the State where even fresh elections, with the secular forces working at cross-purposes, may only serve to strengthen the communal forces in the State, having in fact impact even on our national politics. Sir, I not only wrote this letter to the Prime Minister, but also telephoned to him. I begged him - I do not want to say this word shame - to dissolve the House and told him that those friends who had destabilised the Dharam Singh Government, the same friends are operating here also.

Sir, His Excellency, the Governor of Karnataka has sent further reports at least to the Union Cabinet apprising it of the concerted attempts that the vested interests are making to subvert the electoral mandate and recommending dissolution, more particularly as the State BJP has also demanded dissolution. It further says that entire attempts at horse trading by weaning away JD(S) MLAs has very much placed doubts in the minds of the people who have started to suspect the motives of the Congress. I have not mentioned the name of anybody. I also sent this letter to Madam Sonia Gandhi and to the

Home Minister. At that time, nobody claimed - JD(S) has not claimed and BJP has not claimed - then why it was not dissolved. Article 356 is okay. If it is dissolved and if it is going to be upheld within two months in the Parliament, in both the Houses, then there was no problem with regard to any Supreme Court decision.

Sir, I myself took a decision about Gujarat Government. In my Cabinet, the Home Minister was the CPI leader, and the TDP Members and DMK Members were totally opposed to taking that hard decision. I am not going to elaborate why I took that decision. Quoting this to the hon. Prime Minister, I begged him to dissolve the House. Do not try to destabilise my party. What has happened in 2005, the same thing should not happen. Do not hurt me. I told this. I am not criticising either the Prime Minister or Madam Gandhi. I tried to contact Madam Gandhi for this purpose. I also requested the Karnataka representative in the Congress High Command to please convey my feelings to Madam Gandhi that let the House be dissolved.

Yes, I contacted the BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh at the time when about 31 or 32 Members were listed by our own friends, who kept the House under suspended animation. I am not going to say a lie. He was in Mumbai. He consulted all the top leaders, and he gave his consent. At 3.15 pm, these friends went to Raj Bhawan with 40 or 50 of our Partymen. I do not know about it as I was in Delhi. They gave a letter. My Party people have not given any Affidavit. It is only a paper. I have got everything with me. It is only on a letterhead in which they have said that they are going to give unconditional support.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Sir, it is very clear that it is on a stamp paper. It is in Raj Bhawan, and I have seen it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, you cannot disturb him like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: If you produce it, then I will apologize to the nation in this very same House. I do not want to argue further.

I had a long discussion with Shri Yashwant Sinha when this matter came up on 30 September. Thereafter, he said that "how can we finalise it?" He told me that he is straightaway going to Delhi tomorrow, and that I should

not reveal all this information to anybody. He will go to Delhi, and explain everything to his Party President, and that I can come to Delhi and discuss it. I told Shri Yashwant Sinha to please convey all these issues. I have written all this in this letter, and there is no hide and seek.

Shri Rajnath Singh telephoned me enquiring as to when I was coming to Delhi. I said that I am coming on 4th. We met in one of the MP's houses on 5th evening. I conveyed that this Government cannot function unless this minimum understanding is there. This understanding must be there for the functioning and smooth running of the Government. He noted all these things in a notebook, and he said that his Parliamentary Board is going to meet tomorrow morning, and they will take a decision there. It may be hardly 10 minutes from that MP's *kothi* to reach my 5, Safdarjung Lane house, and our boys saw on TV that the BJP has withdrawn support. There are no more questions. It was their Party decision, and I welcome it. But when this issue went before the Parliamentary Board, and the Parliamentary Board took a decision — this is not a stamped paper — I saw on TV all the national leaders present there barring the former Prime Minister. They told the media that the understanding that took place in 2006 is the only understanding, and no more suggestion or understanding can be accepted. This was what the Spokesman of the BJP told after the Parliamentary Board met.

After the Parliamentary Board meeting was over, Shri Yeddyurappa came to Karnataka Bhawan and he said that he is going to run the State in the form of governance in Gujarat, that is, Gujarat model for development, and Gujarat model for protection of minorities. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: No, Sir, he referred to Gujarat model in terms of development only.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on like this. What is this? He is taking responsibility for his statements. I am sure he will take responsibility. He has said that if anything is wrong, you can bring a privilege motion against him.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betiah): You had taken along Modi for the oath-taking Ceremony.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: If you want, I can take out the Press statements and other things.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to enter into controversy here. Please complete your speech.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, the other thing they mentioned was that I wanted everything to be put on a Stamp Paper. What is the constitutional value of that? Do I not know or do I not have at least an elementary knowledge of these types of agreements? It is only an internal arrangement, and I sent this on a paper. Is it a written or registered document or what is this? I have not mentioned about Bellary.

On 18th, yes, I called Rajnath Singh ji and I told him about these things. Then, on 1st, I wrote this letter. They have refused to take any decision and they were not bothered about anything. Shri Yeddyurappa took oath on 12th. There were five or six days left. I conveyed my message to Shri Yeddyurappa and one or two other RSS leaders, I do not want to mention their names, as to how do they run the Government, if proper understanding was not there. What has happened in 20 months?

Mr. Yeddyurappa announced Rs. 20 crore here, Rs. 30 crore there and Rs. 50 crore somewhere. He has announced all these things, which were outside the Budget allocations. Sir, you have got long experience in this House. When Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister, he announced Rs. 100 crore for Rajiv Gandhi Trust. In this very same House, there was so much of protest that ultimately Dr. Manmohan Singh came to this House saying that they were not going to release the money to the Trust, and that every year, the Trust has to send the proposals along with the details of their purpose and how they were going to spend that money, what were the social welfare measures they were going to take and based on that, they were going to release Rs. 20 crore. The House finally accepted it. Here is a case, what Shri Jalappa has said, where he went on making announcements which were outside the Budget allocations. I was watching all those things.

When I sent these conditions written on an ordinary paper to such national leaders, who ran the country for six years, they said, "Nothing doing. What has happened 20 months back, that will only be the understanding." If that is the understanding, yes, he must pardon me, I cannot accept that. On 18th, I have asked the legislators to meet because the Vote-of-Confidence was on 19th. In

the Legislature Party meeting, the portfolio issue came up. It is not to make money. If you see, I have written a letter to then Dharam Singh Government on how the mine lobby was working in the State and requested him to take steps right from 2002 onwards. That was the letter which I wrote to Shri Dharam Singh. Quoting that letter that I had written to the Chief Minister of Karnataka in the coalition Government, he had taken some measures and transferred one officer.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for a few seconds, Shri Devegowda.

We have a matter for half-an-hour discussion to be taken up at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Khanna, we will take it up immediately after this is over.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: One of the leading MLCs made a statement that if that SP was not going to be retained that day, the Government would go.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: No, Sir, he did not say that the Government would go. He is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot be so impatient. This cannot be done. This is not the rule of a debate.

Shri Devegowda, I now request you to please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Where is the need to come to Supreme Court to file a petition against Kumaraswamy that he had robbed Rs. 150 crore from the State in three months? The Chief Minister was accused of robbing the State of Rs. 150 crore!

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not go into details now.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: The demand was that there should be a CBI inquiry.

The Karnataka Assembly debated on that.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the entire matter is in Supreme Court. It is *sub judice*.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I know that.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not speaking on the merits of the issue.

Please do not go into the merits.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I am not going to cast aspersions on anybody. I know my limitations. The matter of this Rs. 150 crore was discussed in the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka and Kumaraswamy had to defend himself. How can the Deputy Chief Minister defend? The Chief Minister alone had to defend the attack by the Congress leaders. He constituted a Commission of Inquiry which was boycotted by them. They boycotted it totally. They demanded that the issue to be handed over to CBI. A number of notices were issued by the Bhatt Commission and there was no answer to any of them. They came directly to the Supreme Court. Have the national leaders not seen all this drama at least on the electronic and print media?

Media has been hostile to me not today, but for a long time. I have suffered this hostility for the last 25 years but I survived, not by the mercy of anybody but by the mercy of the people of Karnataka. In 2004 election, JD(S) was not in the picture. It was only BJP and Congress who were in the picture then. 'Others' took only two seats. That 'Others-2' has become 58 now. That is why my party was called by Madam Gandhi. I respect her and so I went to 10, Janpath.

Somebody mentioned Shri Ramakrishna Hegde. For the first 13 months, Ramakrishna Hegdeji was there in your party. Who removed Ramakrishna Hegde?  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not go into all that. Devegowda *sahib*, please conclude now.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I will answer all those charges in public. ...(Interruptions) I will explain who has done what. ...(Interruptions) You cannot so easily digest Devegowda, mister, please wait. ... (Interruptions) When the oath was taken by Mr. Yeddyurappa, all the top BJP Chief Ministers including Mr. Narendra Modi flew in.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: What is wrong with it?  
...(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It is wrong. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I have not told a wrong thing. It is right. ...(Interruptions) It is said that in South

India, gates were opened. It is all right. The gates were opened. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us conclude.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I will also go before the people of Karnataka. You will also come before the people and know. I have been all the *yatras* of BJP.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very good. That is what he is saying. He cannot go alone.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: On 18th, in the Legislative Party meeting, you have taken a decision. They said that they are going to meet the Chief Minister in a common place. I would also mention the place - In Westend Hotel, they have arranged a suite. They went there. ...(Interruptions) I know the respected MP. If you do not know, I will tell you. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can go to him and find out. It seems to be good hotel.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: If I have not followed all these things, by this time, I would have totally been destroyed. It is not so simple to destroy Devegowda.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Who can destroy you?

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I will go to the people and I will answer there.

Lastly, I will come to the question of portfolios. There was a charge of Rs. 150 crore pending before the Supreme Court. That is why, Shri Kumaraswamy has said that since charges are against him, he will not be in a position to take that decision and that they must allow this. Even in the case of Bangalore-Mysore Corridor, the matter is pending before the Supreme Court. The present Government headed by Shri Kumaraswamy has taken a decision in the Cabinet. In 2002, a fraudulent agreement has been cancelled by the Cabinet. It is all submitted to the Supreme Court. They have said that my son, myself are having lust for power. We are not hungry for power. ...(Interruptions) The matter is before the Supreme Court. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are willing to go to the people.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I know how is Bellary. ...  
*(Interruptions)* We are not afraid of all these things.  
...*(Interruptions)* I know that.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Karunakara Reddy, this is not your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Reddy, go to your seat, otherwise, nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Who is the Minister from Bellary you are going to make? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us finish this. Let us hear him. We must pass this today itself. This is not fair. You go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: He says that he is going to induct Shri Ramulu in the Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly conclude now.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: He is going to induct into the Cabinet Shri Ramulu from Bellary. The same Shri Ramulu, who has complained that the Chief Minister, has conspired to murder him. In the last 60 years of democracy in the country, I have not come across such things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You want to go to the people for decision.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: No. I will close it. What is the D-day for closing the gates that were open to the

BJP in Karnataka? That is why the Party has taken a decision on 19th to vote against the Government. If at all I have done wrong, I will answer before the people. People's court will decide and not these people.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you. Nothing more. Only Home Minister now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I do not want to name your friends!

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not take note of them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your cooperation. Now, hon. Home Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (Shri Shivraj V. Patil): Sir, it is not necessary for me to make a long speech in reply to the debate. While moving the motion, I have made the points, which are required to be brought to the notice of the House. Almost all the hon. Members who have spoken, have said that the Proclamation should be ratified. Some Members have gone to the extent of saying that House may also be dissolved, without any delay.

In view of these statements, I need make no other points. I request that the motion may please be put to the vote of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 20th November, 2007 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Karnataka."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

17.43 hrs.

## HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Non-issuance of visas and passports  
to Indians living abroad*[Translation]*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in Half an hour discussion. It was admitted three sessions ago and today it is being discussed. The reason for this is that I have been following it, as it is very serious matter.

17.43½ hrs.

*[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]*

Sir, I had asked a question numbered 487 which had five parts.

*[English]*

"Whether India Embassies and High Commissions are not issuing visas and passports to several Indians living abroad to allow them to return to India." The reply was "No, Sir." my next question was- "Whether the government has prepared any list of persons to whom these facilities are not to be extended."

*[Translation]*

Then the government gave a detailed reply which stated.

*[English]*

"a separate list of persons are maintained keeping in mind the interests of the country, who are to be given a passport or visa with the prior approval of the Government. Passport facilities are restricted only in the cases covered by the relevant provisions of the Passport Act or in the case of those who seek or obtain asylum abroad"

*[Translation]*

Several people of my constituency and surrounding areas go abroad.

*[English]*

There are many legal and illegal ways to go abroad.

*[Translation]*

The first thing is that the Government has not set up any regulatory authority for this purpose. One has to obtain a license for setting up of a vegetable-shop but no license is required for sending the people abroad. So the people sell their properties, fall into the tricks of the agents and use illegal ways very much for going abroad. What happens thereafter is that they are instructed to destroy their passports after landing at foreign soil and they are made to plead danger to their lives in India so that the authorities there would give citizenship to them. Several such innocent people, who have committed nothing against that country, are lodged in foreign jails. But according to Ministry of External Affairs the number of Indians lodged in foreign jails is about six thousand but in reality this figure is much more because our embassies and counselors do not take pain to look for Indians in languishing jails and to identify them. That is why several people are lodged in foreign jails but visas and passports are not issued to those people because perhaps several of them have stated that their lives are in danger in this country.

I would like to give one or two examples. Each case should not be judged by the same yardstick. If someone has spoken or committed anything against India, he should be dealt with in that perspective. But if someone has said or done something for just settling down there, then there is a sea of difference between these two situations. If all of them have been there for 25 years it is the duty of the government to investigate the matter and to identify the persons who have committed a crime and the persons who have not committed any crime. Even today one person from Canada phoned me that he wanted to come back to his country and to meet his countrymen but he was not being allowed. What is his fault? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask your question.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: The question is why they are being detained there when they have committed no wrong. My question is about the people living abroad and longing to come back, whether the government. ...*(Interruptions)*

Dasmunsiji, it is an important matter. I have been raising it for the last three sessions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you finished your question?



SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: I have got half an hour more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other hon. Members are also to participate in it.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: But I have got time. Whether a list of these people would be prepared and. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other honourable members want to support you.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: It is O.K. whether the government will prepare a list of those persons and investigate their cases on their request and if it is found that they have not committed any serious offence, then will the government allow them to visit their country? The second thing is whether the government would allow the persons blacklisted by any government, to visit India after getting their cases investigated by the local police station or police officers and their antecedents verified and finding their character, behaviour and life-style non-criminal.

Let me give you an example, if some one commits a murders and is sentenced then the government releases him on parole from the prison too. Even the criminals involved in agricultural activities, are permitted to go home for two months or so in agricultural season on the basis of good character. If a murder can be given such concession and any person committing crime is released on bail under Probations Act, whether the government would make efforts for bringing such people living abroad back to India who are willing to contribute something to their country. Whether the government would set up any such authority where these people can submit their requests. Whether any efforts would be made to bring them back to India after verifying their applications and finding them not guilty of any offence?

Sir, I would like to cite one instance. There is abysmal poverty in my constituency. Many people from this constituency have settled down in Arab countries, Canada, USA and UK. The agents mislead them that they would earn lot of dollars there. They take them abroad after charging lakhs of rupees from them which the latter have to pay through their nose and then leave them at the sea-ports. I would like to cite one incident. I had gone to console an illiterate Sarpanch whose son has died. He told me that Agent had taken away his son. He had repeatedly requested them not to take away his son like

a donkey. It implies that they are taken to seaports without any valid visa in an illegal manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Whether the Government propose to formulate any law with a view to regularize travel agents and set up a Regulatory Authority to decide the agents which may take people abroad? Have the Government conducted inquiry into the cases of the people settled abroad, who are so-called black listed people who would be permitted to come back into India after holding an inquiry into their? If so, by which time it is likely to be carried out? Please give information in this regard.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT(Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before asking question, I would like to draw your attention that the rule so far followed is that one has to give his name before 10 a.m. to participate in half-an-hour discussion. After that the name should have been displayed on the notice board after holding ballot but my name has not yet been displayed there. When I inquired, I was informed that my name was there. At least, this should be kept in mind in future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have come with full preparation. Half-an-hour discussion is already included in the list of business.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Government this question. There are many travel agents in Shekhawati region in Rajasthan who place bogus advertisements in newspapers and swindle people of large amounts of money on false promises of getting them employment in Kuwait, UAE or Saudi Arabia and they take such people to these countries on fake passports. Many big players involved in this racket have been caught from time to time.

Sir, I would like to ask the Government whether the External Affairs Ministry or the Home Ministry has any system in place for registration of such travel agents. This is the primary question. If so, how many fake passports were confiscated during the last one year which are being examined by the Government?

What I want to know is what action is being taken in this regard. The people who are taken to foreign countries are given employment for two or three days and then fired. Those people get stuck there. They do

not have visas required to come back. Many persons die in those countries and their relatives have to go there to claim their bodies. They have to wait to recover the bodies.

Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Government what action it is taking about the fake passport. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Radhakrishnan.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I would like to put a clarificatory question with regard to the issuance of visa and passports to Indians living abroad. There have been a lot of complaints for renewal methods also. Lakhs and lakhs of people are residing in the Gulf countries. Many of them do not get renewal at the proper time and it is even said that bribe has become the order of the day. Even officials connected with the Embassy are taking bribe from poor Indians who are working abroad. This is not confined to Gulf countries alone and it is happening in other countries also. In America, I have the information that passport is not renewed without the payment of money. Such a practice should not be allowed. Many Indians, if they want to get renewal of passport, they will have to give money to the people working in Indian Embassies. Such situation prevails in many countries. I have personal information about these matters. Some people living abroad have complained to me that they had to pay huge sums for renewal and for even issuance of passport. It has become a widespread complaint throughout the nation.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to make an inquiry and to see that proper action is taken against those who are indulging in this malpractice and that issuance of new passports and renewal are done without any delay; without giving any room for complaint; and without taking bribes from these poor people working abroad.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I have also given a notice. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not received your notice.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I have given a notice.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K., you may ask only one clarification.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to ask one question. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been given the opportunity to ask one question under special circumstances.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Thank you very much. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna has raised it through half-an-hour discussion that the Indian citizen living abroad have to face a lot of difficulties in obtaining visa passport and it is true. I had also gone to Greece with the hon. Speaker. There all the Indian migrants were complaining that neither our embassy in Greece nor the Government of Greece helped them in issuance of visa passports. It is a very serious matter. Several of them have said that if their parents die or they are ill then they have to visit India. When they apply for visa, it is not taken seriously whereas visa and passports should be issued on priority in such case. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister through you, to direct our embassies abroad to issue visas and passport on priority on such eventualities.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Hon. Chairman, thank you. This issue which has been raised here in this House today through this Half-an-Hour Discussion, was raised through a Question earlier. I had given a comprehensive reply to the Question of the hon. Member on the 9th of May, 2007.

I would like to say at the very outset that the Indian missions abroad follow the policy and instructions of the Government of India to render all assistance to the Indian citizens living abroad, who apply for visa and also to those People of Indian Origin who apply for visa and wish to visit the country.

\*Not recorded.

As far as the Indian nationals living abroad are concerned, they do not require any visa to visit their own country. A large number of Indians, those who have gone out to work; to engage in business; those who are legal migrants, all of them, as and when they apply for the PIO Card, they get the PIO Card or the overseas citizenship of India. So, the Government of India has created every possible avenue so that the difficulties which may have been faced by the Indians living abroad, those who have taken the citizenship of other countries, can be mitigated to a large extent.

There is no denial of passports by our missions when the passport requests have been made, except in those cases where there is very clear violation of the provisions of the Indian Passports Act, 1967. In that case, the missions and the officials concerned are very much within their right to refuse the issue of passports.

The second case is that where the person concerned has applied for political asylum abroad and has obtained political asylum or the application is under consideration. So, that is the very clear policy of the Government of India. But still the humane aspect has never been overlooked.

18.00 hrs.

Even in such cases where the Government of India has no responsibility and no moral obligation, if a relative is ill or if parents are ill, as has been referred to by the hon. Members, Emergency Certificate is given to them to visit India. In case of those who have sought political asylum, let me for the benefit of the hon. Members clarify that, a Short Validity Passport of six months' duration is given. They can visit their families and relatives. But that passport has the validity only for the country for which they have sought political asylum. So, after that, they have the freedom to return.

In case of illegal migrants, the Government of India is sympathetic to their problems. This is an issue which has generated much concern, especially in States like Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, please wait for a minute.

Now, it is 6 o'clock. We have to take up item no. 15 and pass the Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2006. If the House agrees, I extend the time of the House till this Bill is passed.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, what will be of Zero Hour?

MR CHAIRMAN: Co-operate with the chair and let some government business be transacted.

*[English]*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: In case of those who have illegally gone out of the country, there are two categories. One category is, the people who travel on passports, on legal documents, who are allured by travel agents and other service providers. But when they reach their destinations, they destroy the travel documents which are given by the country. The second category is, those who actually go on forged passports or without valid documents given by the Government of India. In case of such people, those who have been trapped, those who have been misled, our missions have very clear instructions to help them to return to India once the nationality is established. In case of those who destroy their identity documents, destroy their passports, the State Governments concerned have to confirm about the nationality. After that Emergency Certificates are given to allow them to return to India.

In case of illegal migrants who go to countries on valid documents, but do not get the landing rights, every assistance is given to them to return. But those who get the landing rights or the right to stay in the country, Full Validity Passports are issued. We have done so last year in case of Greece. If I may share the information with hon. Members, in case of Spain and Greece, 3,000 such persons were given passports. We had also done so in anticipation when there was speculation that the Government in Portugal may also grant the landing rights.

In case of those illegal migrants who may have the possibility of the regularization of their stay, we have recently, in the month of August, given instructions that in their case also, a Short Validity Passport may be given to help them where the issuance of passport will help in regularization of stay. And such passports are of one year validity, renewable for one year. So, to say that the Government of India is not concerned is not true. The Government of India is doing everything that is possible. The Government of India does not refuse both visas as well as the issuance of travel documents in those cases where

the people are in the Prior Approval Category, the PAC. So, there is a difference here. The PAC is different from the black list. The PACs where the Intelligence Agencies and the Security Agencies have clearly identified individuals living abroad for indulging in activities which were prejudicial to the national interests of India. In that case also the Missions do not deny or refuse, but they forward the application or the request which has been received to the Government of India and in most of these cases, emergency certificates are given. As far as black list is concerned, it is again of three categories - Grade A, Grade B and Grade C. Grade A blacklist is of those people who have committed acts of terrorism, have the potential to threaten the integrity of India and also those who are guilty of having committed heinous offences and have been convicted whether for drug trafficking, murder, violence, rape, paedophiles. Surely, that list is a permanent list which we do not review. But the Grade B list where the conviction is for less than two years is definitely reviewed.

The hon. Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan was saying - he is not present here - about the Missions not being cooperative or the Indian Missions harassing such people and the charges of corruption. Now, Sir, it is very easy to make sweeping allegations. If there is any specific information which is given to us about any misconduct on the part of any Indian official working in one of our Missions abroad, that would warrant strict and prompt action. But the Indian Missions, especially in the Gulf countries, have been over-stretched to help such illegal migrants to return home. Recently, when the UAE had announced the amnesty scheme, emergency certificates were issued in case of UAE alone to 40,000 such people and in case of others, 20,000, passports were restored. The Government of India makes every possible effort to help them to get back home. The issue, therefore, is not what the Government of India is trying to do not. It is a much larger question. A reference was made and a question was put that what is being done about the travel agents? Now the State authorities in the State of Punjab from where the hon. Member, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna comes from or in Kerala or in Andhra Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: 'Shekawati' in Rajasthan.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We also include 'Shekawati'. For that matter, any State in India, wherever such travel agents or touts are operating, those lists are there. Many

of our nationals who have been put in this helpless situation have named the people or the travel agents who have lured them, misled them and they walk into a trap. It is true, it is a social problem, that they sell their lands or the families; part with all their money what they have and then these people land either in prisons or in employment which is illegal. Therefore, the concerned State agencies have to take action. It would very much be advisable and we would suggest also to the Ministry of Home Affairs that a Special Cell is created to screen, to vet all such travel agents. But a campaign also has to be mounted not only by the Government but by the State Governments also. Campaign has also to be mounted by the representatives of the people, whether Members of Parliament or MLAs, to sensitise the people about this problem and about this threat so that people do not get lured away and subsequently land in similar situations because we have a large number of illegal migrants, those who have gone out of India. In the Gulf alone, the figure may be about two-and-a-half million. I have given the figures only of the UAE where we tried to help. A similar help was given in Kuwait where another 12,000 were brought back. So, the Government of India has remained committed to take action where required. There is no case where any *bona fide* person has been denied travel documents or the right to return to India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask a supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There would not be any supplementary on it now. A detailed reply has been given.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sometimes it becomes very difficult to bring dead body of a person who has died there.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: So far as occurring of death is concerned, if our mission receives any request for deportation of dead body of any Indian citizen, the mission renders needful assistance. Whenever I have received any request of such kind, I have always taken action thereon.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would seek only a clarification. The Hon'ble Minister has given a detailed reply. I write him number of letters. The Hon'ble Minister should assure that he would review the list of category 1, 2 and 3. I do not want to say anything against those who have spoken against the State or the country. But, especially in case of those, who are at

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

fault, I would like to know as to what is the Government's policy for review of such list ?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Perhaps the Hon'ble Member could not understand what I have said. The said list is not of illegal migrants. No list of them is prepared. We render maximum help in their repatriation. The list contains names of prior approval category persons. Security agencies submit report about them to the Home Ministry and in most of the cases we issue emergency certificates. The Black List contains names of 'A' category persons. And that is never reviewed as it contains person involved in very serious offences, persons undergoing imprisonment or terrorists. Second List is category 'B'. Our security agencies review it after ten years. But there is no list of illegal migrants with a view to keeping them out.

18.13 hrs.

## PAYMENT AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS BILL, 2006—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up Item No. 15-Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2006.

Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.

[*Translation*]

You have already spoken for eight minutes. Now you please continue.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister had stated in details about its requirement and objectives at the time of presenting this Bill. After listening to his statement and going through this Bill, I find that such a Bill and law is very much required. While associating myself with hon'ble Minister, I had mentioned at the same time that the Stock Exchange and other exchanges like commodity exchange etc. have not been included under its section 34, whereas they also enter into this kind of transactions. Alongwith this, I had also mentioned that there are various trade practices prevailing in our society since ancient times, for example. One creditor gives in writing to the lender and a revenue stamp is affixed on that. But on many times the payment of money is not done timely. In case of non-payment the case reaches courts. Although the trading

done through-Hundi or Promissory Notes is also registered. But a number of time, it is seen that all this happens without registration. This affects the economy of the country adversely.

The name of the Bill itself suggests that it applies to all the trading institutions of the country. But, when we read the definition we find that it only applies to the registered institutions under the banking system, which means it applies to the financial banks, nationalized banks, Co-operative Banks which are operating under the regulation of Reserve Bank. A number of institutions which enter into transactions are out of its purview. This Bill should either be named "The Banking Payment and Settlement Scheme Bill" or the name already given to it is also appropriate. Hon'ble Minister has drawn this conclusion. The other organisations in the country which enter into transactions of black money, money earned through dubious means benami money and income from unknown sources, throughout the country are adversely affecting the economy of the country. Concern has been expressed a number of times in this August House as well as at other appropriate fora against this kind of policy and on many occasions the Government has accepted that black money, benami money and money in excess of known sources of income is being used in various transactions that take place inside and outside the country. But, I am unable to find any solution under this Act for putting a check on this. Hon'ble Finance Minister is a very good economist. I am getting some experience here through which I am also able to understand a little bit. The payment and settlement system is like the backbone of Indian economy and therefore, there is a need to strengthen it as only then will the system work properly. The economy of the country will be strengthened when the system will work properly but which is lacking presently. I would like to urge the Hon'ble Minister to inform the people of the country about the system of stock exchange, commodity exchange, bullion transactions, promissory notes and credit cards through the House. Then there is the payment system-if the cheque is deposited in the same bank or one of its Branches then payment is made quickly but the same is not true if the cheque is deposited in some other bank. Sometimes, it takes one day, two or even three days. The banks say that the cheque will first go to clearance then will come back from clearance and thus double commission has to be paid. This causes difficulty for the party to whom payment is to be made. It will be better if some provision is made in this Bill to remove this difficulty. Otherwise, this Bill is for a limited number of institutions and there

seems to be not much scope for improvement in the existing system.

Development is taking place at a very fast pace in information technology sector today. Development in the field of electronics is also taking place very fast. New system, procedures of transaction are being developed everyday. The Government cannot even imagine the kind of new transaction system that are getting developed which affect the economy of the country. This system weakens the strong economy of the country.

I want to request the hon'ble Minister that if shortcomings of any kind are noticed further while making efforts like this one, then those shortcomings should also be removed by bringing an amendment Bill so that the economy of the country is strengthened.

*[English]*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in support of the Payment and Settlement Systems Bill.

Sir, through the Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, our hon. Finance Minister has aimed to streamline the remittance of funds from one bank to another throughout the country. Through 'Society for worldwide Inter Bank Financial Telecommunications' (SWIFT), our people are getting money from abroad without paper-based transfer. Our bankers are getting money from all countries in a speedy manner. Likewise, this Bill is intended to provide quicker payment without any settlement risk. In our country hosts of payment systems are in operation ranging from manual paper-based clearing to the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System for facilitating non-cash mode of payments. Currently, the Reserve Bank of India manages the Real Time Gross Settlement System.

The various retail payment systems in operation include the manual paper-based clearing, MICR clearing, Electronic Funds Transfer System, Card Based Payment Systems, Government Securities Clearing, Forex Clearing etc. The paper-based cheque processing is operated and managed by the Reserve Bank of India at the four metro centres, whereas at 12 other centres it is operated by public sector banks and managed by the Reserve Bank of India and the remaining centres are operated and managed by certain public sector banks.

The retail payment systems comprise both paper-based as well as electronic systems. The Clearing Houses clear and settle transactions relating to various types of paper-based instruments like cheques, drafts, payment orders etc. the Clearing Houses are voluntary bodies set up by the participatory banks and post offices and they function in an autonomous manner. Electronic Clearing System (ECS) both for credit and debit operations is functioning at 64 places, out of which 15 are managed by the Reserve Bank of India and the remaining are managed by the State Bank of India and other public sector banks. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) system is operated in 15 places by the Reserve Bank of India. National Electronic Funds Transfer System is also operated by the Reserve Bank of India.

The Clearing Houses are not legal entities. The rules and regulations for the functioning of Clearing Houses are contractual in nature. The Real Time Gross Settlement System is operated by the Reserve Bank of India and Inter-Bank Government Securities and Foreign Exchange Clearing Systems are operated by the Clearing Operation of India Limited. At present, there is no law which empowers the Central Bank to regulate and oversee the payment and settlement systems. This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 25th July, 2006. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee and it submitted its report on the 16th May, 2007.

The Bill empowers the Reserve Bank of India to act as the designated authority with the powers to regulate the various payment and settlement systems in the country, to lay down operational and technical standards for various payment systems, to call for information and furnish returns and documents from service providers, to issue directions and guidelines and to system providers to audit and inspect the systems and premises of the system providers to lay down the duties of the system providers.

The Bill designates the Reserve Bank of India as the designated authority for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India for the smooth operations.

This Bill paves way to constitute a Committee for the purpose of exercising the powers and performing the function. Governor, Reserve Bank of India will be the Chairman of the Committee and Deputy-Governor who is in charge of Payment and Settlement Systems shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Board to regulate the payment systems. The Committee will have three directors nominated by the Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

As per section 24(5) of this amendment Bill, if any dispute arose between RBI and another system participant, the matter shall be referred to Securities Appellate Tribunal but as per the suggestion of the Standing Committee now it is decided to give power to the Central Government with the power to solve the dispute.

In recent days, throughout the country, a large number of criminal cases are pending in various criminal courts for dishonour of cheques under section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act. In electronic fund transfer also there is every possibility of cheating. According to section 25(1) of this Bill electronic funds transfer initiated by a person cannot be executed because of the account of money standing to the credit of the account is insufficient to honour the transfer instruction. Such act is an offence and such person is liable to be punished for two years.

On considering these aspects, I welcome and support this Bill. This is another welcome step taken by the hon. Finance Minister.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to support the Bill, but at the same time, I will be failing in my duty if I do not point out certain difficulties that arise in future transactions.

This is a very important piece of legislation. It will have far reaching consequences in our day to day life and also the system will definitely bring in certain changes in the payment transactions also. So, I am not trying to deal with all these aspects, but one basic matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, who has piloted the Bill, is with regard to regulation.

As per the Act, the power is given to the Reserve Bank of India. Now, we can delegate power to the Government of India. But we cannot delegate power to the Reserve Bank of India, which is only a body constituted by the Government under an Act. So, delegation is all right, if it is delegation to the Government of India, to the concerned Ministry, but at the same time, if the Reserve Bank is in need of making regulation, the Government of India can make regulation in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India. The regulations that are promulgated by the Reserve Bank of India, after getting the consent of the Government, is not good. The regulation must be given effect to by the Government itself and not by the Reserve Bank.

Prior consultation with the Reserve Bank is all right, but the Reserve Bank itself giving the regulation, after consulting the Government, is not proper. Let the Government take the final decision with regard to regulations that are to be implemented because it will create difficulties in future also. If the hon. Minister is not aware of it, he may think over it. From my own experience and from my legal knowledge, it is not safe to entrust the matter with a body other than the Government of India. That is one aspect that I would like to point out.

Another difficulty that may arise is with regard to the insolvency. In our country many things may be hidden. We do not know what the provisions of the Act will yield, especially, in money transactions, this is possible. A court may declare a person insolvent.

The system participant and the system provider can collude themselves. The poor man who is giving his belief or who is acting on that basis, will be defrauded. We have to prevent such malpractices, knowing that there is insolvency previous to entering into a system in practice. So, there are chances of defrauding first by the system provider and then the system. Even the definition of system provider has also some defect. There is not much difference between these two items, namely, 'system provider' and 'system participants'. Many a time it is likely to happen that the insolvent person knows that he will become insolvent but he is making payments and he is making himself obligatory to make the payment. That will also create difficulties in future.

Moreover, the criminal element is there in all money transactions. We know that the *mafia* is working in our country especially in such transactions. So, people who are accustomed to *mafia* practices can easily get into this system and defraud many innocent people who urge upon or who believe in it. Such things have prevalence. In future, definitely, we will have to deal with the criminal situation because the *mafia* elements are there in our country. They are likely to enter into the field and make the system a failure. Payments system will be a failure. Moreover, the definition also is not clear.

These are some of the observations which I have to make before this House. The hon. Minister, no doubt, replied loud, but in future he will have to think over this matter. It is because, in money matters, our country is not safe. Especially the *mafia* is very active in this field. There are chances of *mafia* entering into this field because it is a failure of all the prevailing systems. Throughout

the economic activities, throughout the nation, lots of people will be affected. On money matters, even the economy is also to be affected by this system. In that case, any *mafia* element entering into the field will definitely disrupt the entire proceedings.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to consider all these suggestions and, if necessary, he will have to come with suitable amendments in future.

With these words, I support the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar - not present.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, initially, the objections to this Bill were relating to entrusting Central Banking functions to a non-bank constituted under Companies Act, 1956 and the violation of Section 45(1) of RBI Act, 1934.

18.33 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

I am yet to get a convincing answer to this. I am aware that there is no explicit law at present enabling RBI or any other institution for direct regulation and oversight of the diverse payments systems in the country. Approximately, 1050 clearing houses, which are located all over the country, are run by various banks. The clearing houses are clearing paper instruments manually. Only 45 clearing houses have mechanised clearing. There is lack of standardisation in their methods of work. Many a times, their operations are operationally risk prone. More perturbing aspect is that RBI does not have powers to regulate them. Yet, there are a section of people who say this Bill is unnecessary. Today, the position is that people are buying cheques which can be encashed in any of the banks when electronically banks are connected. RBI is not in a position to control it. RBI had mooted a proposal in its Vision Document 2005-2008 on Payment and Settlement System in India that a separate organisation be set up for retail payment system in place of the existing arrangement of clearing houses and the settlement of accounts thereof by RBI.

Banks are moving towards global arena. Level of technology also varies. When world is developing into a small spectrum with the tremendous increase in clearing funds, there is a need to take up modern technology.

Users will be immensely benefited. One should bear in mind that money is considered as a means of exchange. With net coming into force, money has moved from paper to electronic form.

I was astonished to learn that the amount of money movement today is much more than the money that is with the bank. The legal basis for the functioning of the clearing houses is the "Uniform Rules and Regulations for Bankers", which is derived under the Indian Contracts Act, 1872. All member banks of a clearing house enter into a contractual relationship with the manager of the clearing house. Nearly Rs. 1 lakh crore of transactions move through netting systems each day. There is an urgent need, therefore, for keeping our financial market free from legal uncertainty. There is an apprehension that soon private players will enter the field of clearing house transactions. An amendment has been circulated now to allay that apprehension. New innovations and technology in settlement are also imminent. With this advent of private players and technology, it is advocated to have this Bill.

This Bill gives legal recognition to the netting procedures and settlement finality. This Bill considers paper, cash, cheque, drafts, electronic fund transfer, credit/debit card; transfers to be a part of payment as well.

This Bill empowers the Reserve Bank of India to act as the designated authority to regulate and oversee various payments and settlements; to lay down procedures for authorisation of payment system; and to audit and inspect the systems and premises.

It is said that the purpose of this Bill is to discharge the Reserve Bank of India of the duality of its functions, that of a service provider and that of a regulator. But, do you not think that even after this Bill becomes an Act, the Reserve Bank of India will continue to have a supervisory role and yet be the regulator?

There have been reservations relating to the whole reasoning and necessity for this Bill. The existing legal provisions particularly to Sections 58 (P) and 58 (PP) of the RBI Act, 1934 adequately empowers the RBI to regulate and oversee system operations. Though it is being claimed that many advanced countries are divesting their Central Bank from doing payment and settlement system, it is learnt that today even the United States of America's Central Bank is still actively involved in extending this service. Should we consider that this is a banking activity or not? I would like to know from the



Government whether the Reserve Bank of India at present is earning around Rs.300 crore from clearing house functions. Is it true that with the establishment of the National Payments Corporation of India it would lose this resource?

Another fundamental question is there. Should we consider payment and settlement systems to be a banking activity or something else? When the Reserve Bank of India is to entrust the operations of all retail payment systems to a separate legal entity at the national level, should it be presumed that the Reserve Bank of India is shedding its responsibility? Is it not true that the number of employees in the Reserve Bank of India has come down? Jobs are being trimmed and work is being outsourced.

By delegating this payment and settlement system to a separate entity, how many RBI and bank employees would be relieved from their services? How many personnel were engaged in this job? It may be a matter of opinion, and there may be a better scope to create more facilities if it is done by the NPCI, but nothing should be done by trimming jobs.

Before concluding, Sir, I would say that it was a long-felt need to build in trust relating to paperless money transactions. This Bill will regulate and oversee the various payment and settlement systems in the country including those operated by non-banks like CCIL, card companies and other payment system providers. The Government has accepted invariably all the suggestions and recommendations of the Standing Committee, and another suggestion of the Reserve Bank of India. The only question that has not been addressed is regarding the possible loss of jobs, who are engaged in clearing. We would like to hear from the hon. Finance Minister.

With these few words, I support the Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2006.

*[Translation]*

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, I rise to support the Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2006.

\*Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Payment and Settlement System Bill, 2006. Initiating the

discussion on Friday, in this august House, the Hon'ble Finance Minister made a detailed briefing on the proposed legislation. Such introductions are uncommon but very enlightening. He mentioned about the genesis and history of this Bill and the role of the Government in formulating this Bill. He also deliberated upon the necessity of such a legislation pertaining to payments and settlements in our financial system. It is contemplated that the new law would bring about positive changes and progress in the system. So, I feel that there is hardly any need for an elaborate discussion on this Bill.

However, I would like to say a few things on our financial system particularly in connection with payments, settlements and other financial transactions. It is a well-known fact that payment and settlement is the backbone of our financial system. Keeping in view its importance, our Government brought this Bill last year in this House, on July 25. Thereafter, it was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Committee had submitted its report in May this year.

The Government has incorporated almost all the suggestions and recommendations made by the Standing Committee in the Bill. Now, the Bill is before us. Though the Hon'ble Members have made various suggestions and proposed some amendments here and there. I believe that all of them have endorsed the Bill.

The procedure we have been practicing for financial payments and settlements are based on paper, cheques and Government securities. But today's electronic transactions and clearances are not properly controlled and regulated.

Since there is no prescribed rule or law, voluntary associations and private financial institutions are having a free hand. In order to regulate and monitor such activities, the RBI is going to be made the regulatory authority. For this, the RBI will be provided with some power and functions under this law.

There are difficulties in paper-based transactions and clearances. For instance, delay in sending cheque from one bank to another, waiting for clearance, delay in endorsement, sanction from the RBI, etc. Obviously, there is delay and there is wastage of time and energy. The new dispensation under the new law will certainly remove all these difficulties. In this new regime, there will be no wastage of time and energy and there will be no delays in clearance, payment and settlement. And, of course, it

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

will be less expensive. Moreover, cheating and malpractices in the system will be reduced to a great extent.

The RBI being the regulatory body will be able to regulate and monitor the entire gamut of payments and settlements in the country. Money plays a crucial role in our lives. We always have a tendency to bungle in every financial transaction. Such practices shall wither away by the introduction of an integrated electronic clearance system.

Dr. R.H. Patel, Chairman of the Clearing Corporation of India has made some prudent recommendations. The Government have already taken care of those recommendations. Now, we have this Bill before us, namely, the Payment and Settlement System Bill, 2006. All of us should extend our support to the Hon'ble Finance Minister in passing this important Bill. I hope all the amendments proposed by the Government and the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members are put together and incorporated. Once again, I appeal to all the Hon'ble Members to pass this Bill in one voice.

*[English]*

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda):

Sir, the Payment and Settlement Systems Regulation Bill is one very important Bill because there is a necessity to regulate different systems of the payments, and particularly the real time cross settlement systems for facilitating non-cash mode of payment etc. It is a long-felt need for quite a long time.

But there are certain problems which have been raised by the Trade Unions in the banking sector about this. Firstly, about 50 lakh cheques are supposed to be cleared everyday throughout the country in more than a thousand centres which are doing the clearings. I think about Rs. 2 is charged by these banks for clearance. Thus, about Rs. 300 crore in a year is being the revenue source for several banks through these clearances. Now, these banks are losing about Rs. 300 crores in which a big majority is in the Public Sector Banks. This is one point which should be taken into consideration.

But the other point is the Reserve Bank would like to shed its responsibility and give this responsibility to this new Corporation. Is it because of the administrative reason? The Reserve Bank is the main bank that regulates the banking system in the country. In several

countries, including in the United States of America, as the previous speakers were telling us that this is being regulated by the Federal Bank or the Central Bank in those countries. There are experiences in other countries where an independent corporation or a company is doing this type of activity.

Now, there is an official amendment by the hon. Minister, and according to this, now in the Reserve Bank Clearing Houses and all these things, 51 per cent of the equity of such company or corporation shall be held by the Public Sector Banks.

This is a good thing. This has been demanded by many people. But, on the question of the clearing and all these things, we would like to know why this 49 per cent share is being given for the private banks including foreign banks. I was told the American Bank is also going to be a partner in this. By this, if foreign banks are allowed, there will be no confidentiality in the banking system. Maybe, in several countries this type of a thing is allowed. But, in our country, in the present juncture where the public sector banks are doing a good job and are very profitable, it is possible that these public sector banks can be given this responsibility and instead of 51 per cent this whole corporation can be owned by public sector which is easier naturally for the Reserve Bank to regulate. In spite of these, the overall management has to be through the Reserve Bank of India. I do not understand why the 49 per cent is given to them. Just a two per cent of rise is going to change the entire balance in favour of the private sector.

This is one very important thing. I do not understand why this corresponding new bank is going to be given this 49 per cent of the share. But, otherwise, our Party also feels that there is a necessity about regularisation of these different modes of these payment and settlement system. While, we support, we appeal to the hon. Minister to clarify if there is a possibility, he may say whether it is only a vague thing or are you going to keep it in the public sector.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):  
I will clarify it.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister to reply now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I would like to make a point about my amendments.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: When I move the amendment, you can mention it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, will I be allowed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. The hon. Minister to reply now.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in my opening statement I spent more than the usual time that Ministers spend when introducing the Bill only to clarify what appeared to be very genuine apprehensions in the minds of several people. This is not an easy Bill to understand. Although the content of the Bill is quite simple, the manner in which the Bill uses technical language and the Sections are arranged, I can quite appreciate that it required a little clarification. In fact, in order to clarify my own mind, I dictated a four-page note to myself and I used that note to make the statement.

Let me briefly explain what this is. Clearing takes place everyday. Someone said it takes place in lakhs of crores of rupees. Some years ago the only form of paying and clearing was by cheque. The paper cheque will be taken from one bank to another bank, and then they will clear it and then the money will be credited. It will take several days. Today a number of different payment systems have come. We have got paper cheques, we have got MICR cheques, we have foreign exchange transactions, we have got Government securities being transacted which are in dematerialised form, and then we have got credit card payments where I pay by credit card and somebody settles it. Different modes of payment have come.

These payments have to be netted out. That is why the concept of netting is there. How is payment being done in India? RTGS - the Real-time Gross Settlement is a highly technological manner of settlement. That is being operated by the RBI and RBI will continue to operate it. In the four metropolitan cities RBI is the service provider and RBI will continue to be the service provider. Where the RBI has got regional offices, it does payment service and that will continue with the RBI. We have got the Clearing Corporation of India Limited which does foreign exchange transactions and Government securities. That Corporation will continue to perform those functions.

But there are also in this country 1,068 clearing houses. Now, who owns these clearing houses, who manages these clearing houses? For example, in a city like Chennai it is possible that the Indian Bank is managing this clearing house. In a city like Mysore, maybe it is the State Bank of India and the State Bank of Mysore which are managing it.

In a city like Guwahati, maybe it is United Bank of India and Allahabad Bank which are managing it. These are managed in 1068 places and other banks which want to use that payment system have to enter into a contract with that owner and manager and then pay, as somebody said, a certain fee and then the clearing takes place. Now, we cannot have 1068 different units managing 1068 clearing houses, each with different standards, different norms, and different qualities. We must have a uniform system, with a uniform high quality throughout the country. Therefore, the payment system is being strengthened by saying that all of this now will be regulated. Please remember that today this is not regulated and there is no regulatory power. This is being done under a contractual arrangement. Therefore, if there is a dispute between the payment making bank and the payment settling bank, it goes into all kinds of litigation and arbitration. So, what we are trying to do is to bring some order into the system and these 1068 units will, not immediately but over a period of time, come under the National Payment Corporation of India, which will be licensed by the Reserve Bank of India and regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

The question is: who will own this NPCI? Obviously, the banks which are owning the clearing houses have to own the new NPCI. I have said that nobody will be allowed to own more than ten per cent of the NPCI. The State Bank will own ten per cent, the big public sector banks will own ten per cent each, but the private sector banks are also doing clearing. They must also have a share of this. Therefore, this is implicit, but since the hon. Members demanded that it should be made explicit, I have readily said that we will make it explicit and that is why, the new amendment has been introduced. We have made it explicit that the NPCI will be a public sector corporation owned by the public sector banks. Sudhakar Reddy *garu* asked me what this corresponding new bank is. The corresponding new bank is the technical language for nationalised banks. Under the Banks Nationalisation Act, the nationalised bank is called the corresponding new bank because old bank was taken over and new bank was created. That is called the corresponding new

bank. You know that State Bank of India is the State Bank of India. The subsidiary bank is subsidiary of the State Bank of India. There are seven subsidiaries of the State Bank of India. The public sector banks will own not less than 51 per cent in this Corporation and some private sector banks are also to be given shares. The scheduled co-operative banks, which are also part of the clearing system, will have to be given shares, but RBI will regulate that.

Now, we are trying to bring some order. Why are we doing this? We are doing this because we are no longer a small economy doing small number of transactions. We are a large economy and under the Bank of International Settlement, they have laid down ten core principles. We subscribe to all the principles, but to the first principle, we are not yet subscribing. The first principle says that you must have a well regulated statutory basis for payment system. Since we do not have one, the rest of the world is looking upon us with some degree of suspicion. We do not have a well regulated statutory regulated payment system. We are filling that gap by introducing this Bill.

Let me tell you that the author of this Bill is RBI, the driver of this Bill is RBI. When the RBI drafted this Bill, they sent it to the R.H. Patil Committee. Mr. R.H. Patil and his Committee spent a lot of time and have given a thick report. Please read the report. It is available in the public domain. I have referred to it in my opening speech. Then, the R.H. Patil Committee went back to the RBI and then the RBI finalised the draft Bill. Then, the Government took over. We went to the Law Ministry, and in consultation with the RBI, we have drafted the Bill. There need be no apprehension. Tomorrow new systems will come. I am told now technology is developed to make payment by mobile telephone. Now somebody has to regulate it. I make a payment to you of one lakh rupees by mobile telephone. I make it through my mobile service provider and you get it through another service provider. Now there is a dispute and then somebody has to regulate all this. This cannot be left to be done in an unregulated manner. Therefore, this will have to be licensed now and the RBI is the licensing authority under section 4.

Hon. Member, Shri Radhakrishnan raised the question why we are allowing the RBI to make the regulations. The original section was that with the previous sanction of the Government, RBI will make the regulation, but the Standing Committee said that this is not correct. Like

SEBI can make regulations on its own, the RBI must be allowed to make regulations. Please see last sub-section. The regulations have to be placed before the Parliament and Parliament can amend the regulation. So, if the Government is not happy with the regulation, when the regulation is placed before the Parliament, we will amend the regulation or you can amend the regulation.

19.00 hrs.

Further, the regulations will come into force only after the amendments are made. This is the clause in the Bill.

Why are stock exchanges kept out of this? Stock exchanges are kept out of this because they are not doing clearing activities. They are only doing regulation of securities, and clearing of securities is done by the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), and not by SEBI. Therefore, SEBI and stock exchanges are kept out of this. SEBI is a regulator of stock exchanges, and we do not bring stock exchanges into this.

There were also questions about profit. It is true that RBI is making a profit of about Rs. 180 crore. Actually, it is not a profit, but an income of about Rs. 180 crore. But Rs. 120 crore is spent on the operations. Therefore, the real profit is only Rs. 60 crore, and RBI is using this Rs. 60 crore for upgrading technology in the five MICR centres operated by the RBI, and the 60 MICR centres operated by other banks.

What are we doing about it? NPCI is a non-profit Corporation, and it is a section 25 company. They will still charge Rs. 2 a cheque for any profit, but when they make the money that money cannot be distributed as dividend to any shareholder. It will have to be kept with the NPCI and ploughed back into the company for improving the technology; for improving the equipment, so that as and when technology improves we will introduce new technologies into the system. It is a non-profit company, and nobody can make a profit out of it and the shareholders cannot get any dividend. It will be ploughed back into the companies.

There was an apprehension whether jobs will be lost. No jobs will be lost. The RBI will continue to run its four centres; RBI will continue to run the RTGS; RBI will continue to provide whatever it is providing; and CCIL will continue to provide whatever it is providing. The new clearing houses and new payment system providers will be regulated. As new technologies come in, in fact, I

expect jobs to be created, and nobody is going to lose his job. There need be no apprehension that any jobs will be lost.

Clause 2

Definitions

With these words, I am grateful to all sections of the House, especially, the Standing Committee Members, who, I think, took great pains in recommending this. We are also grateful to my Left friends, who had some apprehensions. We have introduced an amendment to allay those apprehensions. I would request that the Bill be passed. I have some official amendments in which I am accepting the recommendations.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Why cannot we have it in the Banking Regulation Act if there is the Companies Act?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I cannot make it in the Banking Regulation Act because please, look at the Bill, there are a dozen definitions, which have to be introduced. If I introduce it in the existing Act, then I will have to add 'aa', 'ab', 'ac', etc. Therefore, we must have a standalone Act. In fact, the R. H. Patil Committee has extracted the core principles, and the first core principle is that the system should have a well-founded legal basis under all relevant jurisdictions. A separate standalone Act is a new piece of legislation where all the definitions are there. Further, there is the Section conferring licencing power, and there are various other provisions in it. If I start amending an existing Act, then I will have to start introducing section '58 (a)', section '59 (b) (ii)', etc., and it would become very complicated. How would you read all that together? I am doing this because there are other provisions in other Acts too. Therefore, it is best to have a standalone Act for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India and to designate the Reserve Bank of India as the authority for that purpose and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. Shri P. Chidambaram.

*Amendments made:*

Page 2, for lines 10 to 30, *substitute*, --

'(v) Such other bank as the Reserve Bank may, by notification, specify for the purposes of this Act.

(b) "derivative" means an instrument to be settled at future date, whose value is derived from change in interest rate, foreign exchange rate, credit rating or credit index, price of securities (also called "underlying"), or any other underlying or a combination of more than one of them and includes interest rate swaps, forward rate agreements, foreign currency swaps, foreign currency rupee swaps, foreign currency options, foreign currency rupee options or any other instrument, as may be specified by the Reserve Bank from time to time;

(c) "electronic funds transfer" means any transfer of funds which is initiated by a person by way of instruction, authorization or order to a bank to debit or credit an account maintained with that bank through electronic means and includes point of sale transfers, automated teller machine transactions, direct deposits or withdrawal of funds, transfers initiated by telephone, internet and card payment;

(d) "gross settlement system" means a payment system in which each settlement of funds or securities occurs on the basis of separate or individual instructions;

(e) "netting" means the determination by the system provider of the amount of money or securities, due or payable or deliverable, as a result of setting of or adjusting, the payment obligations or delivery obligations among the system participants, including, the claims and obligations arising out of the termination by the system provider, on the insolvency or dissolution or winding up of any system participant or such other circumstances as the system provider may specify in its rules or regulations or bye-laws (by whatever name called), of the transactions admitted for settlement at a future date so that only a net claim be demanded or a net obligation be owed;'. (3)

Page 2, line 31, for "(e)", *substitute* "(f)" (4)

Page 2, line 32, for "(f)", *substitute* "(g)" (5)

Page 2, line 36, for "(g)", substitute "(h)" (6)

Page 2, for lines 40 to 42, substitute, —

'(i) "payment system" means a system that enables payment to be effected between a payer and a beneficiary, involving clearing, payment or settlement service or all of them, but does not include a stock exchange.

*Explanation:—* For the purposes of this clause, "payment system" includes the systems enabling credit card operations, debit card operations, smart card operations, money transfer operations or similar operations;'. (7)

Page 2, line 43, for "(i)", substitute "(j)" (8)

Page 2, line 44, for "(j)", substitute "(k)" (9)

Page 2, line 45, for "(k)", substitute "(1)" (10)

Page 3, lines 1 to 3, substitute, —

'(m) "securities" means the Government securities as is of 1944, defined in the Public Debt Act, 1944 or such other securities as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time under that Act;'. (11)

Page 3, line 4, for "(m)", substitute "(n)" (12)

Page 3, for lines 7 to 12, substitute, —

'(o) "systemic risk" means the risk arising from --

(i) the inability of a system participant to meet his payment obligations under the payment system as and when they become due; or

(ii) any disruption in the system,

which may cause other participants to fail to meet their obligations when due and is likely to have an impact on the stability of the system:

Provided that if any doubt or difference arises as to whether a particular risk is likely to have an impact on the stability of the system, the decision of the Reserve Bank shall be final;'. (13)

Page 3, line 3, for "(o)", substitute "(p)" (14)

Page 3, line 15, for "(p)", substitute "(q)" (15)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabodh Panda, are you moving your amendment? All right, he is not present in the House.

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

#### Designated authority and its Committee

*Amendment made:*

Page 3, for lines 24 to 38, substitute, —

'(2) The Reserve Bank may, for the purposes of exercising the powers and performing the functions and discharging the duties conferred on it by or under this Act, by regulation, constitute a committee of its Central Board to be known as the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems.

(3) The Board constituted under sub-section (2) shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Governor, Reserve Bank, who shall be the Chairperson of the Board;

(b) Deputy Governors, Reserve Bank, out of whom the Deputy Governor who is in-charge of the Payment and Settlement Systems, shall be the Vice-Chairperson of the Board;

(c) Not exceeding three Directors from the Central Board of the Reserve Bank to be nominated by the Governor, Reserve Bank.

(4) The powers and functions of the Board constituted under sub-section (2), the time and venue of its meetings, the procedure to be followed in such meetings, (including the quorum at such meetings) and other matters incidental thereto shall be such as may be prescribed.

(5) The Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems constituted under clause (i) of sub-section (2), of section 58 of the Reserve Bank

of India Act, 1934 shall be deemed to be the Board constituted under this section and continue accordingly until the Board is reconstituted in accordance with the provisions of this Act and shall be governed by the rules and regulations made under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act." (16)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. 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 4

#### Payment system not to operate without authorisation

#### *Amendments made:*

Page 3, for lines 41 to 48, *substitute*,—

"4. No person, other than the Reserve Bank, shall commence or operate a payment system except under and in accordance with an authorization issued by the Reserve Bank under the provisions of this Act:

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply to—

(a) the continued operation of an existing payment system on the commencement of this Act for a period not exceeding six months from such commencement, unless within such period, the operator of such payment system obtains an authorization under this Act or the application for authorization made under section 7 of this Act is refused by the Reserve Bank;" (17)

Page 4, *after* line 9; *insert* the following—

(2) The Reserve Bank may, under sub-section (1) of this section, authorize a company or corporation to operate or regulate the existing clearing houses or new clearing houses of banks in order to have a common retail clearing house system for the banks throughout the country;

Provided, however, that not less than fifty one per cent of the equity of such company or corporation shall be held by public sector banks.

Explanation: For the purposes of this clause, "public sector banks" shall include a "corresponding new bank", "State Bank of India" and "subsidiary bank" as defined in Section 5 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (10 of 1949).' (35)

*...(Interruptions)*

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I have something to say on this amendment. *Per se*, I have nothing to say against this amendment itself. But the way the amendment has been brought, I have something to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your amendment is something similar.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, please allow me to speak. I have a very substantial point to raise. Sir, the thing is that just like any other Bill, this Bill was sent to the Standing Committee on Finance. I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance and we made several recommendations and the hon. Minister has accepted them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Standing Committee's recommendations were accepted.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, please allow me to speak. Sir, we have made some recommendations and the hon. Minister has accepted them. I thank him very much for the same.

Coming to this amendment No. 35 to clause 4 says, "Provided, however, not less than fifty one per cent of the equity of such company or corporation shall be held by public sector banks". The Standing Committee on Finance did not make this recommendation. Only one Member of the Committee gave a dissenting note. Since one Member from the Left gave a dissenting note, the Government is bringing in this amendment. Then, what is the need of having the Standing Committee? You dissolve it. I feel very insulted. Why should there be a Committee like this? We made a recommendation, but one or two persons, who are in a minority, objected to it. But why should they have dominance over everything? I very strongly object to this amendment brought by the Government.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am very grateful to Mr. Swain. He is a hon. Member of the Standing Committee. I know that he has participated in the meetings. All the

amendments proposed by the Standing Committee have been accepted by the Government. I, in my opening speech, said that the State Bank will have ten per cent share, public sector banks, at least, five of them will have ten per cent share, and the majority of shares will, indeed, be held by the public sector banks because after all, public sector banks have the dominant share of the banking business in the country. Nevertheless, hon. Members felt that if it is implicit in what I say, why do I not make it explicit? In NPCI, public sector banks will always have 60-65-70% shares. This is what is implicit. You understood what is implicit; they want to have it explicit. What does it matter? So, we made it explicit. We have accepted it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It was discussed and he was told by the officers, still he gave this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Does not matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate your view; that is all right.

The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 7

#### Issue or refusal of authorisation

*Amendment made:*

Page 5, *after* line 5, *insert*—

"(4) Every application for authorization shall be processed by the Reserve Bank as soon as possible and an endeavour shall be made to dispose of such application within six months from the date of filing of such application." (18)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 8

#### Revocation of authorisation

*Amendment made:*

Page 5,

*for* lines 27 to 30, *substitute*,—

"(4) Where a system provider becomes insolvent or dissolved or wound up, such system provider shall inform that fact to the Reserve Bank and thereupon the Reserve Bank shall take such steps as deemed necessary to revoke the authorization issued to such system provider to operate the payment system." (19)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 9

#### Appeal to the Central Government

*Amendment made:*

Page 5,

*for* lines 35 and 36, *substitute*,—

"(2) The Central Government shall endeavour to dispose of an appeal under sub-section (1) within a period of three months.

(3) The decision of the Central Government on the appeal under sub-section (1) shall be final." (20)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.*



**Clause 10****Power to determine standards***Amendment made:*

Page 5,

*for lines 42 to 44, substitute,—*

“(c) the manner of transfer of funds within the payment system, either through paper, electronic means or in any other manner, between banks or between banks and other system participants;”. (21)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill”.

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.***Clause 11****Notice of change in the payment system***Amendment made:*

Page 6,

*for lines 10 to 13, substitute,—*

“11. (1) No system provider shall cause any change in the system which would affect the structure or the operation of the payment system without—

(a) the prior approval of the Reserve Bank; and

(b) giving notice of not less than thirty days to the system participants after the approval of the Reserve Bank:

Provided that in the interest of monetary policy of the country or in public interest, the Reserve Bank may permit the system provider to make any changes in a payment system without giving notice to the system participants under clause (b) or requiring the system provider to give notice for a period longer than thirty days.” (22)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill”

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clauses 12 to 16 were added to the Bill.***Clause 17****Power to issue directions***Amendment made:*

Page 7,

*for lines 1 to 4, substitute, —*

“(b) any action under clause” is likely to affect the payment system, the monetary policy or the credit policy of the country,

the Reserve Bank may issue directions in writing to such payment system or system participant requiring it, within such time as the Reserve Bank may specify— (23)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill”.

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clauses 18 to 22 were added to the Bill.***Clause 23****Settlement and netting***Amendment made:*

Page 8,

*for lines 2 to 6, substitute,—*

“(4) Where a system participant is declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction as insolvent or is dissolved

or wound up, then notwithstanding anything contained in the Companies Act, 1956 or the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 or any other law for the time being in force, the order of adjudication or dissolution or winding up, as the case may be, shall not affect any settlement that has become final and irrevocable and the right of the system provider to appropriate any collaterals contributed by the system participant towards its settlement or other obligations in accordance with the rules, regulations or bye-laws of such system provider." (24)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 23, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 23, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 24**

#### **Settlement of disputes**

*Amendment made:*

Page 8,

*for lines 28 to 32, substitute,—*

"(5) Where a dispute arises between the Reserve Bank, while acting in its capacity as system provider or as system participant, and another system provider or system participant, the matter shall be referred to the Central Government which may authorize an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary for settlement of the dispute and the decision of such officer shall be final." (25)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 25**

#### **Dishonour of electronic funds transfer for insufficiency etc. of funds in the account**

*Amendments made:*

Page 8,

*for lines 33 to 49, substitute,—*

"25. (1) Where an electronic funds transfer initiated by a person from an account maintained by him cannot be executed on the ground that the amount of money standing to the credit of that account is insufficient to honour the transfer instruction or that it exceeds the amount arranged to be paid from that account by an agreement made with a bank, such person shall be deemed to have committed an offence and shall, without prejudice to any other provisions of this Act, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to twice the amount of the electronic funds transfer, or with both:

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply unless—

(a) the electronic funds transfer was initiated for payment of any amount of money to another person for the discharge, in whole or in part, of any debt or other liability;

(b) the electronic funds transfer was initiated in accordance with the relevant procedural guidelines issued by the system provider;

(c) the beneficiary makes a demand for payment of the said amount of money by giving a notice in writing to the person initiating the electronic funds transfer within thirty days of the receipt of information by him from the bank concerned regarding the dishonour of the electronic funds transfer; and

(d) the person initiating the electronic funds transfer fails to make the payment of the said money to the beneficiary within fifteen days of the receipt of the said notice.

(2) It shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that the electronic funds transfer was initiated for the discharge, in whole or in part, of any debt or other liability.

(3) It shall not be a defence in a prosecution for an offence under sub-section (1) that the person, who initiated the electronic funds transfer through an instruction, authorization, order or agreement, did not have reason to believe at the time of such instruction, authorization, order or agreement that the credit of his account is insufficient to effect the electronic funds transfer.

(4) The Court shall, in respect of every proceeding under this section, on production of a communication from the bank denoting the dishonour of electronic funds transfer, presume the fact of dishonour of such electronic funds transfer, unless and until such fact is disproved.

(5) The provisions of Chapter XVII of the 26 of 1881 Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 shall apply to the dishonour of electronic funds transfer to the extent the circumstances admit.

*Explanation:—* For the purposes of this section, "debt or other liability" means a legally enforceable debt or other liability, as the case may be." (26)

Page 9,

*omit* lines 1 to 6. (27)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 25, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 25, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 26 and 27 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 28

#### Cognizance of offences

*Amendment made:*

Page 10, *after* line 23, *insert,—*

"Provided that the Court may take cognizance of an offence punishable under section 25 upon a complaint in writing made by the person aggrieved by the dishonour of the electronic funds transfer." (28)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 28, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 29 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 30

#### Power of Reserve Bank to impose fines

*Amendments made:*

Page 10, *after* line 46, *insert,—*

"Provided that no such direction shall be made, except on an application made by an officer of the Reserve Bank authorized by it in this behalf" (29)

Page 11, *omit* lines 1 and 2. (30)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 30, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 30, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 31 to 33 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 34

#### Non applicability to stock and other exchanges

*Amendment made:*

Page 12, *for* lines 16 to 18, *substitute,—*

34. Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to stock exchanges or the clearing corporations of the stock exchanges." (31)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 34, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 34, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 35 to 37 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 38

#### Power of Reserve Bank to make regulations

*Amendment made:*

Page 12, for lines 34 and 35, substitute,-.

"38. (1) The Reserve Bank may, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act to carry out the provisions of this Act."(32)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 1

#### Short title, extent and commencement

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 4, for "2006", substitute "2007". (2)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### Enacting Formula

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-seventh", substitute "Fifty-Eighth". (1)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a notice given by Shri Prabodh Panda to amend the Long Title.

Shri Prabodh Panda—not present.

*The Long Title was added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 27th November, 2007 at 11 a.m.

19.21 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, November 27, 2007/ Agrahayana 6, 1929 (Saka).*

## ANNEXURE I

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha  
(Eleventh Edition) and Printed by Shree Enterprises, New Delhi.

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