

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 11, 2008/Phalguna 21, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On behalf of the hon. Members of the House and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Pavol Paska, Hon. Speaker of the National Council of Slovak Republic and the members of the Parliamentary Delegation from the Slovak Republic, who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Monday, 10th March, 2008. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and very best wishes to His Excellency the President, the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of the Slovak Republic.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice to suspend the Question Hour. The entire House condemns the attack. Series of incidents have taken place. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you, please. Mr. Acharia, I have got your notice. You see that how it was properly discussed, raised in the House yesterday. I will allow you after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Throughout the country a number of incidents have taken place. One incident took place in Delhi itself. RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad have. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on? I do not like it at all.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are disturbing the proceedings. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will decide only after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Communist Party should be banned. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 161, Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you saying it? Can you not wait for 55 minutes?

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to behave in Parliament of India.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word is being recorded. Nothing will be recorded. I will have to decide whether I can allow this matter. It will not allow it during the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I will take decision. You have to take your seat Mr. Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please sit down? Anybody standing up, when I am on my legs, will be asked to go out, whichever side it may be. Anybody standing up when I am on my feet will be requested to go out of this House. I am going to be very strict. Yesterday I saw this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Ban the RSS. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, do you think that you are glorifying yourself or Parliament by such despicable behaviour?

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to suspend the Question Hour. If you do not allow it, the country will see that you are not allowing the Question Hour to be held.

Secondly, I have to decide. By just giving a notice does not give you right to disturb the House. I have been requesting every side on all sides. I do not know of any matter in this country which could be raised in Parliament has not been allowed to be raised during the last four years. I am here for 3¹/₂ years. Then, why is this impatience?

Why do you make ourselves a subject of mockery by people and ridiculing us? Can you not wait for another 53 minutes? Let us now take up the Question Hour.

I am grateful to you. I am appealing to you from the bottom of my heart that for the sake of this institution please allow this House to function.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not minimizing the seriousness of the issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 161—Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal.

UNESCO Report on Literacy in India

+
*161. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the concrete steps the Government proposes to take to achieve the goal of

universal elementary education to all in view of the UNESCO's Institute of Statistics Report which has stated that India's literacy rate is just a shade over 60 percent compared with the global standards and one-third of the world's illiterates live in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The UNESCO Global Monitoring Report (GMR), 2008 refers to India's literacy rate for the period up to 2004, as derived from the Census of India, 2001. The following concrete steps have been taken to achieve universal elementary education and augment efforts to improve the literacy rate in the country.

1. Enhancement of outlays for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which also includes National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (RGBV).
2. Introduction of cooked Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme for all children in classes I-V in Government/Local Body and Government Aided schools, and centres under the Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS), and its extension to upper primary level in 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs).
3. Levy of 2% Education Cess in order to bridge the gap between available plan resources and estimated requirement to finance the programmes for universalisation of elementary education, specifically SSA and MDM.
4. Programmes under National Literacy Mission aimed at providing functional literacy, post literacy and continuing education.

Existing strategies are to be continued with higher outlays in the 11th Plan for achievement of universal elementary education and enhancement of literacy levels.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has found the failure of the National Literacy Mission for this kind of low literacy rate as it did not illiterates above 35 years

and caters only to the age group of 15 to 35 years. If so, what are the steps taken to make the National Literacy Mission more effective to bring down the illiteracy rate in the country?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first census in India after independence was conducted in 1951. At that time the literacy rate in the country was 18.33 per cent, which has now as per the census 2001 increased to 64.84 percent. But the question is as to why the people in the age group of 35 plus are not covered under the said literacy programme. For the first time, the Planning Commission has decided that people of the age group of 35 plus will also be covered under the said schemes during the 11th Five Year Plan.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: I would like to know whether the Government are feeling that they would not be able to achieve the literacy rate of 85 percent and above by 2012. What are the present schemes that are being undertaken by the Government to achieve that target?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, the Government have focused their attention to Adult Education, simultaneously, we are paying full attention to children in the age group of 6-14 years under Seva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Government are providing required funds to the States for this purpose. At the same time, the Government provide mid-day meals, so that poor students attend school. The Government have been successful in ensuring attendance of such children in schools through these programmes. Today, gross enrolment ratio in primary schools is 110 per cent. I feel, that through adult education programme and SSA we will be able to bring more and more children in the age group of 6-14 years to school, and thus increase the literacy ratio in the country certainly.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Alok Kumar Mehta—not present.

Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what concrete steps the Government have taken for girl child literacy in the country? The Government claim that the level of education has been increasing in the country whereas the female literacy rate in the country is just 45 per cent against women population of 50 percent. Well, the Government have taken steps to promote primary education through SSA but the drop out rate is very high at secondary school level. My submission is that all the facilities, such as Mid-Day-Meals or any other schemes should be extended upto secondary school level. Until and unless, these facilities are extended upto secondary school level, we can't increase literacy rate. I would urge the hon. Minister to take concrete steps for girl children upto secondary school level and even for college education so that the level of education can be raised.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Though it is beyond the domain of the main Question, yet I am allowing it.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of literacy is concerned, there are LLM norms in it and three basic things *i.e.* reading, writing and numeracy should be covered under these norms. As far as education beyond that level is concerned, the Government are making all efforts to ensure that children study beyond upper primary level, especially so in case of girl child. The Government are allocating adequate funds for this. It has reduced the gender gap substantially, we will understand it better if we go through the figures. If you say I can provide the details.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not give the full details now.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: The gender gap has decreased substantially and now more number of girls go to schools. That is why the gross enrolment has reached 110 percent now in the country. Very large number of children in the age group of 6-14 years go to schools now. Of course, the drop out rate at upper-primary level is very high. The Government are serious about checking it. Attention is being paid to retain children of people belonging to weaker sections in this school. The Government are making all out efforts to ensure that the girl students as well as boy students do not drop out.

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Whenever a question is raised about education, we get the reply that it is a state subject. What I feel is that it hardly matters whether it is a state or union subject. The children need education. But, unfortunately the students from poor families study in government schools. I can say that majority of students in such schools belong to poor families or Scheduled Castes. These students can study in a school without a building or without a mat to sit on, but how can they study without a teacher? Some states are unlucky in this regard. It can be with any state, be it Punjab, Bihar or any other state. The Government have laid down norms of one teacher for 40 students. The Government say that if the number of students in a class goes beyond 40 it would provide one more teacher. But the fact is that it will never be 41, it can easily go down to 3-35 and after 2-3 months it can even come down to 10-15. Will the Government be able to provide five teachers in primary schools? Until and unless the States which are facing financial crunch provide five teachers, drop out rate in such States will keep on increasing and it won't decrease. Will the Central Government provide funds to the States which have tight finances so that the poor students can study and become good citizens of the country.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, 8.81 lakh teachers have been provided to various States in India under SSA. The Government have provided teachers to all the States as per their requirement. However, he is right in saying that large number of teachers remain absent from schools. The State Government should take care of it. As per information available with me the presence of teachers in primary schools is 81.7 percent and 80.8 percent at upper primary level. I had been to schools. I went to school in M.P. and Orissa and I found that some of the teachers remain absent, which, no doubt affects the education adversely. So far as providing teachers to the States as per their demand is concerned, I would say that there is 98 percent accessibility in primary schools. In 98 percent of the cases there are primary schools within every one kilometer radius and wherever there is no school, we have opened EGS centers and ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL: Sir, presently the dropout rate is more than 89 percent. He is including the urban schools also in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have already spoken about teachers.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We do not want your cooperation.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that the Government has imposed two per cent cess to allocate more and more funds for speeding up education. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what amount of cess they have collected in the last three years and what amount they have spent, particularly, from the funds they have collected out of the cess imposed on the people.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you got the figures?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A FATMI: Sir, I do not have the figures of three years with me but Rs. 10393 crore collected as two percent cess in 2007-08 were deposited in Primary Education Fund. This amount is spent on Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan and Mid-Day Meal.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: You may tell the figures of two years.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright.

[English]

Mr. Lahiri, no further supplementary is allowed.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, the Mid-day-meal scheme has been introduced but I would like to bring it to your notice that there is no arrangement for preparing meals. The teachers are involved in this scheme as they procure rice and pulses and the children get sub-standard meals. I want to say that there is already shortage of teachers and this situation has worsened further because this scheme provides no hand for cooking meals and bringing ration. What action is proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard? As Mr. Deputy Speaker has rightly, said the schools are in poor state. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You put one supplementary. This is not a lecture.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I am asking the supplementary only as to what action is proposed by the government in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, so far as Mid-day-meal scheme is concerned, the teachers are nowhere involved in it and there is arrangement for cooking meals. The schools which. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not forget that the actual implementation is done in the state. Should we send cooks from here?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Self-help groups are involved in it and we keep an eye on the quality of food and we are always in touch with the States so that the children get quality food. Persons from Delhi and other States go for inspection of the schools and if any complaint is received from anywhere, action is taken thereon. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentary, please.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Government claim that the rate of enrollment in the country has increased and the state of primary education has improved. But UNESCO report states that India was ranked 100 and now it has slipped to 105 rank. It is clear that one of the two is misleading or...* not speaking the truth.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This word will be removed from the proceedings.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: I know that many hon. Members of Parliament are taking personal interest

*Not recorded.

and working on primary education in their respective parliamentary constituencies. I would like to know whether the Government have formulated any programme to address the existing discrepancies and problems with regard to supervision or are likely to have a meeting with the hon. Members of Parliament and evolve a programme so that those members of Parliament, who are willing, may get involve themselves directly in supervision-work and work further by making the primary education a part of their personal agenda.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, a district level committee consisting of Members of Parliament, local M.L.As and the Members of District Council has been constituted to monitor Sarv Siksha Abhiyaan. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything else.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: We have take a decision in this regard that the Members of Parliament of every district may call a meeting and ask for complete information with regard to Sarv Siksha Abhiyaan. A committee has been constituted for this purpose.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I know how many Members are taking interest.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will you sit down?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

Replantation of Tea, Coffee and Rubber Crops

*162. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any scheme for replantation of tea, coffee and rubber crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any subsidy or other financial assistance is likely to be made available to the planters;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for replantation of these crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) TEA: Government has already launched a Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) in January, 2007 to extend financial support to the tea growers for replanting and rejuvenation of the old tea bushes. The programme envisages uprooting and replantation/rejuvenation of 2.13 lakh hectares of old and uneconomical sections of tea over a period of 15 years. The scheme provides for financial assistance to the extent of 75% of the assessed unit cost of which 50% is provided as long term loan repayable over 13 years with an initial moratorium of 5 years and soft interest @ 9.5%. 25% of the unit cost would be provided as subsidy by the Government and the garden owners are required to bear only the remaining 25% of the unit cost. The estimated outlay for the scheme will be Rs. 567.10 crore *i.e.* capital infusion of Rs. 91 crore in SPTF plus subsidy of Rs. 476.10 crore during the 11th Plan Period. The estimated area to be taken up for replantation/rejuvenation during the period would be 85,044 hectares and a sum of Rs. 300 crore has been set-aside during the 11th Plan Period for meeting the subsidy requirements.

COFFEE: Coffee Board has identified an area of about 80,000 hectares out of 3.81 lakh hectares of coffee

area, which is senile & uneconomical and requires to be replanted to improve farm productivity to desired levels in the long run. During the 11th Plan Period, an area of 40,000 hectares is proposed to be taken up for replantation by extending suitable financial support in the form of subsidy. In the 10th Plan Period subsidy @ 20% of replantation cost was paid to the small and medium coffee growers.

RUBBER: Rubber Board has drawn up a scheme for scientifically replanting 33,500 hectares of old and uneconomical rubber plantations comprising 30,000 hectares in the States of Kerala, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu (Traditional areas) and 3500 hectares in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa & other States including North East (Non-traditional areas) by extending suitable financial support in the form of subsidy during the 11th Plan Period. During the 10th Plan, subsidy of Rs. 20,000/- per hectare in traditional area was provided for replanting upto 2 hectare. Similarly, a subsidy of Rs. 20,000 per hectare for the growers having area upto 5 ha. and Rs. 16,000 per hectare for the growers having area between 5 to 20 hectare was provided for replanting in non-traditional and NE Region.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that most of the plantations are 70 years old, some of them are more than 100 years old. This is having an adverse effect on the yield and ultimately on the export of tea, coffee and rubber. Tea has witnessed one of the biggest drops in exports this year. There are lakhs of families who depend on these plantations for their livelihood in the North-East and southern States of our country. Sir, I would like to know, through you, whether the Government is thinking of setting permanent norms for the replantation programmes and enhancing the productivity of the plantations? Thank you, Sir.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, replantation is the single most important initiative that this Government has taken to improve productivity and livelihood security for millions of workers in the tea, coffee and rubber industry which is what the Question relates to. Sir, in the tea industry, in the last 15 years, replantation was done for 2,000 hectares per year. In the next 15 years, we are going to replant 11,000 hectares per year. So, from 2,000 hectares per year we are going to do 11,000 hectares per year.

In the case of coffee, in the Tenth Five Year Plan, the total replantation was only 4,000 hectares. In the Eleventh Five Year Plan the total replantation is 40,000 hectares. In the case of rubber, in the Tenth Five-Year

Plan 17,000 hectares were replanted. In the Eleventh Five-Year Plan almost 34,000 hectares are being replanted. So, replantation, Sir, is the only way our plantation industry will survive. The hon. Member is right, Most of our plantations are senile, they are old, and, therefore, they have very low productivity.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Sir, the statement tabled by the hon. Minister states that 80,000 hectares of coffee area has been identified as senile and uneconomical and 33,500 hectares of rubber plantations have become uneconomical and old. I want to know whether the budgetary inputs would suffice to make this land productive and in addition what type of scientific techniques are being adopted for this purpose. Thank you.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has made adequate budgetary allocations for this replantation programme and the replantation programme for tea has already started. It is almost a year old and we hope that we will start the replantation for coffee and rubber in the next couple of months. All this replantation is based on a subsidy given by the Government of India. In the case of tea, for example, 25 per cent subsidy is given by the Government of India, 25 per cent is the contribution of the tea garden owner and 50 per cent comes as a soft loan from banks and financial institutions. Similar subsidy schemes are there in coffee and rubber as well. I want to reassure the hon. Member that shortage of funds will not hold back the replantation programme.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Thank you, Sir. I would like to ask from the hon. Minister a specific question. Will the Special purpose Tea Fund which you have created be extended to coffee? He said it will be extended. But I would like to know whether he will extend this particular Fund for the State of Orissa and the KBK region which is a non-traditional area and has got a very good future for coffee development.

Besides, I would like to ask whether the Government will take steps to reduce excise duty on coffee as the Indian coffee, when it competes with the international market, does not become remunerative. So, to make it remunerative, will the Government extend this tax concession to the coffee growers also or not?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the hon. Member has asked three questions in one supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked two and a half questions.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Let me address the one that is most relevant to his own State. It is true that Koraput district has great potential for cultivating organic coffee. I myself have seen this potential. We are working on a programme for promoting organic coffee cultivation which does not use fertilizer, which does not use pesticide. This is being cultivated in Paderu region of Andhra Pradesh and the adjoining Koraput district of Orissa. I want to assure the hon. Member that even though Orissa grows very little coffee, yet it is organic coffee and it is grown by tribal population, we are giving it the highest attention.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, about 21 estates—tea and coffee estates—were earlier closed in Kerala. This issue has been taken up by the State Government with the hon. Minister and the hon. Minister visited Kerala also. Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister what action plan has been taken under this scheme explained by the Government and whether any relief has been given in order to give employment and also to open these estates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is about replantation.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the Question relates to replantation and the supplementary relates to closed tea gardens, but I will be happy to answer very briefly.

There are 17 closed tea gardens in Kerala. Out of these 17 closed tea gardens, so far 11 tea gardens have reopened. We are hoping to reopen the balance six tea gardens in the next couple of months. In West Bengal, there are 14 closed tea gardens. We have been able to open only one of the closed tea gardens. So, our success in Kerala has been much more.

I think, the hon. Member wants to know whether this Special Purpose Tea Fund would be extended to the tea gardens that are opened. The answer is 'yes'. Once a closed tea garden reopens and stays open for a prolonged period of time, it automatically becomes eligible for funds for replantation.

MR. SPEAKER: It seems that you anticipated the next supplementary.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: These three industries—rubber, tea and coffee—are traditional industries of our country. We are proud of our Darjeeling tea. Before start of this globalization, it was a global

brand, but now because of the negligence on the part of the Government and the Administration, more than 3,000 workers have already died in Darjeeling itself of starvation. Especially in Kerala, Assam and West Bengal, the tea industry is a famous industry. The hon. Minister says that it is because of low productivity. Who is responsible for this? Obviously, it is not the working class. There is no planning. So, will the Minister prepare a plan of action? I am not blaming the industrialists, but the problem we are facing is that ...

Sir, please give me one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not stopped you!

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, since this is Question Hour, please give me one minute.

Sir, you will appreciate that replantation does not mean recapturing only the real estate business. It is not that. You have to save the traditional industry, like tea industry and jute industry. So, will the Minister prepare a plan of action? Only giving the money is not the matter. I want to know whether the Government of India and the State Government in joint venture with private sector will start a company to reopen the tea gardens and for replantation of the tea industry, coffee and rubber so that the traditional Indian industry can be glorified and projected in the world. This industry can give a good moral boost up not only in our country but also in the world. Will he prepare a plan for that?

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, you will say 'yes'.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I share the hon. Member's commitment to the plantation sector. I want to reassure her that there is a detailed action plan for tea, for coffee and for rubber. This action plan has been prepared State-wise. There is an action plan for North Bengal; there is an action plan for Darjeeling. I categorically reject the accusation that Darjeeling tea has been neglected. Darjeeling is a global brand. We have got the geographic indication for Darjeeling tea. This has been registered. We are now hoping to get international recognition for Darjeeling tea.

I am aware of the distress that workers have faced in these areas because of neglect over a large number of years. But I want to reassure the hon. Member that I

have personally visited most of these areas, and an Action Plan has been put on the ground. The hon. Member is welcome to come with me and see the implementation of the Action Plan.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. The District of Wayanad produces most of the Robusta Coffee in India, which is produced by 80,000 small growers holding below two acres of land. There is a subsidy scheme for replantation, but they cannot make any input there as part of the subsidy for replantation. Will the Government consider giving total subsidy including fertilizer subsidy directly to these 80,000 small growers who grow Robusta Coffee in Wayanad whose holding is below two acres?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, Wayanad faces peculiar problems, and I share the hon. Member's concern. The subsidy is 40 per cent. In case of Tea the subsidy is only 25 per cent; in the case of Rubber the subsidy is 20 per cent, but in the case of coffee we have decided in the Eleventh Plan that the subsidy for small growers like the growers of Wayanad be 40 per cent because of the preponderance of small coffee growers. ...*(Interruptions)*

ADV. SURESH KURUP: He is not a small grower.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt in between.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: But if the problems of Wayanad District are still not addressed after the implementation of this replantation programme, then I am prepared to relook it. I may also draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that the Government of India has already announced a special relief package for 31 distress-Districts, and Idukki and Wayanad happen to be amongst these 31 Districts. Therefore, we are addressing the problems of Idukki and Wayanad in a focused fashion.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Member to ask the supplementary is Shri K. Francis George, but it should be on replantation.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency is the seat of Tea, Coffee, Rubber and all the Spices, and the hon. Minister is a regular visitor to my Constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: Your Questions are also very spicy.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: He hops in and out of my Constituency every week, and we see his beautiful face, but not much action is there. There have been so many Action Plans, but they are only plans and very little of action. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister, and this is a very pointed Question. Almost one year has passed since this Plan for replantation and rejuvenation of the 85,000 hectares of Tea and 80,000 hectares of Coffee has been announced, but nothing much has taken place. How much area in Kerala under Tea and Coffee has been replanted under this Special Purpose Tea Fund, and if nothing much has been done, then I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Will he be prepared to have a full review of this particular scheme as far as Tea and Coffee are concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: The supplementary Questions need not be on the basis of 'and'. It has to be only one supplementary, but I am allowing it for the last time.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, Kerala has about 152 Tea Gardens, and most of these are in the hon. Member's Constituency and his District Idukki. Out of these 152 Tea Gardens, 18 applications have come for replantation under the Special Purpose Tea Fund. There have been some delays in launching this fund for South India. Unlike in Assam and Bengal, the cost of cultivation in South India is much higher than in rest of India. Therefore, we have had to revise the norms. There is a severe labour shortage being faced by the Tea Gardens in South India because of alternative employment opportunities.

I accept the criticism of the hon. Member that there has been a delay in launching the fund in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, but I am glad to say now that the fund was launched in Kerala and Tamil Nadu on 7 December. We have received 18 applications from Kerala, and I expect the momentum of applications to increase right now.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 163-Shrimati Kalpana Ramesh Narhire—not present.

Shri Tukaram Gangadhar Gadakh—not present.

I thought that a Question from the field of science also will come up.

Q. No. 164—Shri Narahari Mahato—not present.

Shri Amitava Nandy.

Crime against Children

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*164. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crime cases against children have been continuously increasing in the country during recent years;

(b) if so, the total number of cases of kidnapping, rape of children and child abuse registered during 2006-07 and in 2007-08 so far, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Available statistics compiled by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) reveal an increasing trend of crime against children.

(b) The latest information compiled by the NCRB pertain to the calendar year 2006, is given in the enclosed statement. Information for the year 2007 has not yet been compiled.

(c) The Government has notified the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, which envisages setting up of a National Commission and State Commissions for proper enforcement of children's rights and effective implementation of laws and programmes relating to children.

(i) There is a 24-hour, toll free emergency helpline service for children in need of care and protection in select cities.

(ii) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has already been set up.

(iii) Consultations are being held with the State Governments, Non-Government Organizations, experts, and social workers etc. to identify measures and action to continuously strengthen the implementation apparatus in order to prevent offences against children.

Statement**Cases Registered for Crimes against Children during 2006**

Sl.No.	State	Murder (Including Infanticide)	Rape	Kidnapping & Abduction	Foeticide	Abetment of Suicide	Exposure and Abandonment	Procuration of Minor Girls	Buying of Girls for Prostitution	Selling of Girls for Prostitution	Child Marriage Restraint Act	Other Crimes Committed	Total Crimes Committed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61	412	498	5	11	89	35	5	6	17	247	1386
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
3.	Assam	11	61	25	1	5	0	0	0	1	1	147	252
4.	Bihar	12	17	25	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	6	66
5.	Chhattisgarh	48	448	113	5	1	14	0	0	0	5	604	1238
6.	Goa	3	14	10	0	1	8	1	0	0	0	17	54
7.	Gujarat	87	112	360	6	1	150	9	0	0	12	240	977
8.	Haryana	29	176	158	9	0	24	0	0	0	7	59	462
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	41	52	5	1	12	2	0	0	1	18	136
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	8	72	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	85
11.	Jharkhand	10	28	11	1	0	0	26	0	0	0	36	112
12.	Karnataka	63	84	62	13	0	31	2	0	0	6	15	276

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13.	Kerala	51	219	73	0	0	4	35	0	0	1	170	553
14.	Madhya Pradesh	160	829	237	14	12	105	6	0	0	4	2572	3939
15.	Maharashtra	207	655	552	10	7	255	15	23	1	15	1101	2841
16.	Manipur	6	15	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	54
17.	Meghalaya	6	47	13	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	71
18.	Mizoram	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
19.	Nagaland	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
20.	Orissa	13	101	17	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	19	154
21.	Punjab	24	58	169	22	0	15	0	0	1	9	31	329
22.	Rajasthan	77	311	392	25	0	137	1	2	0	1	5	951
23.	Sikkim	4	14	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	35
24.	Tamil Nadu	60	125	118	0	0	12	1	0	0	6	31	353
25.	Tripura	3	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	41
26.	Uttar Pradesh	426	347	734	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	255	1767
27.	Uttaranchal	10	23	5	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	51
28.	West Bengal	3	20	156	0	0	3	77	4	114	6	49	432
	Total State	1384	4248	3917	118	43	861	230	34	123	99	5634	16691
29.	A & N Islands	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
30.	Chandigarh	1	8	43	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	1	64
31.	D & N Haveli	1	3	10	0		1	0	0	0	0	0	15
32.	Daman & Diu	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
33.	Delhi UT	62	448	1114	7	2	36	1	1	0	0	489	2160
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	1	8	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	25
	Total UT	66	473	1185	7	2	48	1	1	0	0	493	2276
	Total All India	1450	4721	5102	125	45	909	231	35	123	99	6127	18967

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Sir, this Question is very important, which relates to child's crime. But it transpires

from the reply so far received from the hon. Minister that the Ministry is not serious about the children's crime.

There is no data on crimes against children. No data is given here. Therefore, I would like to know about the steps taken so far to control the role of media. As you know, behind the increase in crimes against children, the media is also involved, and violence is taking place.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question now.

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: What steps are being taken to control the role of media in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: What kind of media are you talking about?

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Media is playing a part in the increasing number of crimes against children by showing different episodes on TV. So, what steps are being taken to control the role of media in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: You want to know whether media reports are encouraging crimes against children. But how can you take steps against the media?

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: There is a 24-hour toll free emergency helpline service for children in need of care and protection in select cities. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to which are those cities where this helpline service can be availed of.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for your second supplementary.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the question relates to the crimes against children, and a part of the question relates to what can be done against the media. I am not in a position to give an answer to that part.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing that part.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: There are, in some cities, some special arrangements made for the people to inform the police about the offences taking place against the children, and the police officers sitting in the Control Rooms take the information from them. Nearly 120 cities are there in which this kind of arrangement has been made. The moment they get the information, that information is passed on to the police stations and the police officers can help the families of the children to see that the offences do not take place or prevented or action is taken against those who are responsible for the offences.

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Sir, my second supplementary is about the National Commission that has already been set up. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to (a) the functions being discharged by the Commission till today; and (b) whether the Ministry has identified the NGOs and what is the result of the activities undertaken by those NGOs who are registered with the Department. This is my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: The details of the first part cannot be given here. You can give the answer to the second part of his question, that is, whether the NGOs are involved.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: There is a National Commission and there are State Commissions and there are units established at the district levels also. The NGOs which are involved in helping the children are allowed to cooperate with these Commissions to see that the offences do not take place, and when they take place, relief is given.

SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Sir, the NCRB report clearly says that there is an alarmingly increasing trend of crimes against children. The 24-hour toll free emergency helpline has not really showed good results where working is concerned. I would like to know what provisions are there according to law to protect these children and to met out the harshest of punishments to the perpetrators. We hear and see everyday cases of child molestations and child sexual abuse where the accused persons that are arrested are released on bail immediately. That is not a deterrent to such a heinous crime. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what provisions are made by the Government.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Under Indian Penal Code action can be taken against the offenders. There are special laws which are on the statute book which can be used to provide protection to the children. There are many special laws like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation, Prevention of Misuse) Act, and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. There are many provisions in the Indian Penal Code under Sections 166A, 375, 377, 372, 373 and 315 under which action can be taken. When a case is registered under the Criminal Procedure Code, the matter goes to

the court and it is ultimately for the courts to decide whether the accused should be given bail or not. It goes into the jurisdiction of the judiciary and the judiciary decides. In certain cases the judiciary gives bail and in certain cases the bail is refused. This is the legal position.

The question is whether we should change the laws and make them more stringent. This matter is being considered by the Women and Child Development Ministry. This is not a matter which comes under the jurisdiction of the Home Ministry. As far as the investigation of the offences is concerned, we do it. But as far as amending the law, especially the special laws, is concerned that is done by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, I feel it is a shame on the whole nation that crimes against children are on an alarming increase. I feel bad to say this but the reply of the hon. Minister is very vague on the steps that have been taken to check this type of incidents being repeated in the future. Still it is said that the consultations are there with the NGOs and other organizations to identify the measures and to strengthen the action, etc. What is the reason that the crimes against children are increasing year after year? There are a few States in which they are increasing more and more year after year. What exactly are the steps that are being taken to prevent these crimes? This is a very important factor. If this is not properly dealt, these would recur in the future also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are not very happy with the situation which prevails in the country. We would certainly like to see that no offence is allowed to take place against children. There are many reasons because of which these things are happening. These are happening more and more in certain States only. The States in which these things are happening are not economically developed. They do not have facilities to provide employment to the people. It is exactly in these States that these things are happening. Unfortunately, 75 per cent of the offences are taking place within four to five States only. These are the States which are affected by other violent activities also.

That is the reason. We shall have to appreciate that it is necessary to bring about economic development and to change the attitude of the people living in those areas towards the children in order to see that the offences do not take place. This has to be done by all of us together.

This is something which has to be done by the State Government and the Union Government helps them with the funds; the Union Government helps them by forming the laws; and the Union Government helps them by having the schemes and the plans at the national level, which can be utilised. At present, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is in the process of putting integrated child protection scheme. It would be prepared by the Union Ministry, that is, the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Then, it would be handed over to the State Governments to see that it is implemented. All of us together have to do it but it is unfortunate that it does not happen. We all should take care about it. The District bodies and the State bodies and at the national level, we shall have to take care.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: The reports of the NCRB and that of the Amnesty International India state that there is an increase in the incidence of crime against school children of the country. Sir, the Report says that 87 per cent of the school children in Delhi is either physically or mentally assaulted by the school teachers and the employees of the educational institutions. Sir, I would like to know from the Minister on the basis of the Report, whether any steps would be taken to bring a code of conduct for the school teachers and other employees of the educational institutions and to ensure and to protect the rights of our children and ensure their safety in school premises.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It will be very difficult for me to say yes or no in this matter because ultimately it will be decided by the State Governments and the Education Ministry. But as far as the statistics given by the Amnesty International, which says that 80 per cent of the children are abused, probably, we shall have to take it with a pinch of salt. We cannot go to this extreme to say that but something is happening in the society, which is polluting the minds. What can be done to see that the mind is not polluted has to be seen by all of us together.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, you are keeping quiet today and that is why I am giving you the chance to put a supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to put a question.

Sir, as hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the crimes against children are taking place mostly in three

or four states which are economically backward and these things happen because of their economic plight. Secondly he has stated that a law is proposed to be enacted in this regard. I would like to know from hon. Minister of Home Affairs as to what is being done to bring about economic development in those States and for making strict laws Home Ministry and Ministry of Women and Child Development so as to check these crimes and protect the children.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, Ministry of Women and Child Development has already taken the required steps. They have drafted a Bill and are trying to bring up the Bill. Laws like Indian Penal Code and other laws are already in place but the question is as to how these laws should be implemented? If there are laws and they are not implemented then those laws are of no use. They will do early whatever is required and necessary.

[English]

Community Policing

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*165. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote community policing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the incentives proposed to be given to the States for promoting community policing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Home Affairs set up a Committee of Experts to draft a new Police Act to replace the Police Act, 1861 which submitted the draft model Police Act in October, 2006. The draft Model Police Act, inter-alia, contains provision of community participation in policing in Metropolitan cities and in respect of Village Guards, Village Defence Party and Community Liaison Groups in rural areas The Draft Model Act has been sent to the State Governments for consideration and appropriate action.

(c) and (d) While no specific scheme is there to give incentives to States, the need and importance of involvement of community in policing has been stressed from time to time during discussions and deliberations with State Governments. Efforts in this direction are proposed to be continued.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: The idea of promoting community policing by constituting community liaisoning groups, village guards, village defence parties in rural areas, community participation in metropolitan cities. Earlier, there used to be *maitri sanghas* under the local area police station in metropolitan cities as well as in the villages. They used to help police in finding out and curbing the crimes. But as time passed, what happened was that the inept handling of the cases by the police and the rash response to the public representatives when they approach the police personnel have brought down the community participation in policing, in curbing the crimes.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: I am coming to the question.

There is the fear complex that once the criminals and anti-social elements come out of the police station, they would physically manhandle the people and cause harm to them. Under the circumstances, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any protective measures are contemplated in the proposed Police Act, which is going to replace the Police Act of 1861, to protect the common men, the *maithri* group and also other groups?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Before the British Government brought into existence the Police Act of 1861, the system which was followed in India was completely different. In the villages, there used to be *kotwals* and police parties which were responsible for finding out whether any unknown persons have entered the village, whether any offences are likely to take place and then, inform the authorities and take action.

After this Act came into existence, slowly this system was given up and today, we have the police stations. You will be surprised to know that in a country which is having 112 crore people living, there are only 14,000 police stations. A country in which there are 6.5 lakh villages, there are 14,000 police stations. The result is that in many villages and hamlets, there are no police stations at all. One police station covers nearly 100

villages and that is why, an idea was floated to accept the concept which was in existence before this law came into existence and marry it with the present system and see that the policing is made available in all the villages. That is why, the concept of community policing has come into existence. We are trying to frame a new law, the Police Act; but let me tell you that there are two ideas which were projected—one idea is that the Police Act is not helpful to the people and so, stringent provisions of the Police Act should be diluted. That is one idea.

The second idea which the hon. Member is suggesting here is that the law should be made more stringent. These are the two contradictory concepts and it has become necessary to strike a balance between the two. The idea is to make the law effective, to make the law more humane, to make the law quite efficient. That is the idea with which it is being done. One of the concepts which is projected in the model law which is prepared is to see that the concept of community policing is also adopted, in the villages.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any more supplementary? Do you have the second supplementary?

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Yes, Sir.

The hon. Minister categorically stated that there is no idea of giving any incentives to the State Governments. As such, the State Governments are under financial crunch and any additional burden on them is going to jeopardize them. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, having experimented this, whether the Government is having any idea to help the State Governments by giving any incentives to them in future at least.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have already said that this matter is under consideration. You will also know that in certain States, which are affected by violent activities, under the present scheme, for community policing, the funds are given to the State Governments. Security-related expenditure is a scheme under which the State Governments are given funds and they are using these funds for providing community policing also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. The Police in India has become synonymous of terror. There are even news that postings in police stations are made for

a price and the performance level of the police has gone down sharply. Police is functioning at the dictates of the political parties.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a question of community policing.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, I am coming to the point.

[Translation]

These facts have come to light. It has put adverse impact and the prosecution rate has come down to 1.5. Like in many other countries where steps have been taken to popularize the police and give it an assisting role, the Government of India are also considering to change the police manual so that police will assist and society will do its own policing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are not having a debate on this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: The sad part is that the Government are not serious on this issue as yet and are still considering it. They want to consider it for a long time, as long as it serves its purpose. It is a matter of serious concern.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he has taken any input from the social segment for the policing concept introduced in this regard? What will be the role of the local bodies in it, be it gram panchayats, municipalities or greater municipalities? How will they be selected and police recruited therein and how will there be coordination between the regular police and the policies that are to be implemented?

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that it has been sent to the State Governments for their opinion.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is very important to understand one thing that if we enact some legislation here then it does not apply to States. State Legislatures can make Police Act and they can make it as they wish. But, if we enact legislation here then the State Legislature will have to say that they have adopted this legislation and it can be implemented there. Police is a state subject and falls exclusively under the jurisdiction of a State. If we do not understand this basic thing, then it creates difficulty and all other things become useless. So far as your point regarding discussions with others is concerned, I would like to state that we had discussions with municipalities, jurists, judges police and experts in this field. We have formulated a model Act and any State Government can use it. But, if we enact a legislation here, then a State Government can say that it will not apply to them because as per the first entry in the second list of the seventh schedule of the Constitution only a State Government can decide about this. It will become difficult for me to answer, if you ask a question without keeping this in mind.

[English]

Naxal Operations

+
*166. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naxalites have made a budget of Rs. 60 crore for carrying out its armed struggle during 2007-2009 as reported in the *Times of India* dated February 18, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sent any team to assess the situation in those places where massive naxal attacks took place recently, including Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) This Ministry has no comments on the cited news report. However, it is reported by Jharkhand Police that an arrested naxalite has stated during interrogation that they have made budget of Rs. 60 crore during 2007-2009, allegedly for procurement of weapons and explosives.

(b) No other details are available.

(c) and (d) Government of India sends teams of officers from time to time, as per requirement, to assess the situation and to provide requisite assistance to the concerned States. In the wake of the recent incident in Orissa, a team of officials headed by Special Secretary (Internal Security), Ministry of Home Affairs was sent to the State. Assistance, as per assessment made by this team, including deployment of 4 additional coys of CPMFs, was provided to the State.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, naxal extremism is perhaps the most serious threat to our internal security. It poses a very serious threat to State governance. I am aware, Sir, that this is essentially a State Subject but this spread of naxal extremism has become so threatening that I would request the hon. Home Minister to tell us if there is a plan with the Central Government to contain the spread of naxal extremism. I say this on the basis of my personal knowledge of not only my own constituency which has been deeply affected by naxalism for the past forty years and it had a long a continued violence but, Sir, it is also spreading to other districts in Bihar especially those which border Nepal and, therefore, has struck up some kind of nexus with the Maoists of Nepal. The point is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time left for the Minister to reply.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, we have come at the fag end of the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do? I do not mind your having two hours Questions Hour.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: This is a very important matter. I would request you to allow the Home Minister to tell us if. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you will sit down some reply can come from the Home Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, there is a plan and in fact, I had given that plan to the hon. Members. I will supply that book to the hon. Member again.

MR. SPEAKER: With a request to read. Everybody should read it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is right, Sir. As far as our information goes, there is no connection between the Maoists and the naxals here.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Setting up of National Biotechnology Centres

*163. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments, particularly from Maharashtra and Uttaranchal to set up National Bio-Technology Centres in their States;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to set up these Centres in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology has not received proposals to set up National Biotechnology Centres from any State Governments including Maharashtra and Uttaranchal. Further, there is also no proposal to set up State-wise Bio-Technology Centres during 11th five year plan.

[English]

Setting up of New Polytechnics

*167. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of polytechnics proposed to be set up during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has approved a scheme to establish 65 new polytechnics in the country;

(c) if so, the State-wise number of polytechnics likely to be set up in the country;

(d) whether the Government has decided to upgrade infrastructural facilities in 177 polytechnics in the country; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details of the polytechnics that are going to be upgraded in the country and the estimated expenditure thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) Ministry of Human Resource Development does not directly establish or maintain polytechnics. However, in order to give a boost to the polytechnic education, a scheme for providing one time financial assistance to State Governments for upgradation of existing polytechnics in 177 districts and for setting up of New Polytechnics in 65 districts not having any polytechnic, had been under the consideration of the Government. In the XI Plan document, it has been stated that "New Polytechnics will be set up in every district not having one already. These polytechnics will be established primarily with Central funding and over 700 will be set up through PPP* and private funding..... The existing government polytechnics will be incentivised to modernize in PPP mode." In the light of the XIth Plan emphasis on polytechnics, it has been decided to prepare a new comprehensive scheme to cover a larger number of districts, which will also include the earlier proposal of assisting the establishment of polytechnics.

Telecasting Code for Television

*168. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to draft a code of conduct for telecasting various T.V. serials and other programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up a Committee in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

*PPP-Public Private Partnership

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the telecasting of 'A' certificate films/serial and vulgar advertisements on Television by various channels?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) The Government had constituted a Committee for reviewing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the guidelines for certification of films prescribed under Cinematograph Act, 1952. The report of the Committee on the Content Code has been submitted to the Government on 5.3.2008 and is available on the website of this Ministry www.mib.nic.in

The Government has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under Section 20 of the Cable TV Networks Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Act and Rules framed thereunder. The Committee either suo-motu or on receipt of complaints, examines cases of violation of codes. Show cause Notices are issued in the first instance to TV channels for telecasting objectionable programmes/advertisements in violation of Codes. Further action is taken as per rules.

Orders have also been issued for constitution of Monitoring Committee at the State and District levels to monitor private satellite TV Channels and local cable channels to detect and look into violations of Programme and Advertising Codes and complaints received from general public regarding violation of the codes. A copy of the relevant order is available on the website of this Ministry www.mib.nic.in

Import of Drugs from China

*169. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Chinese Pharmaceutical Companies are exporting drugs to several countries including India;

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

(c) whether the use of such drugs from Chinese Pharmaceutical Companies has caused paralysis to several patients;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to put a ban on import of drugs from China?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Information regarding the export of drugs by Chinese Pharmaceutical Companies to different countries is not available. Information regarding import of drugs into India from China (as received from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics), is as follows:

Year	Value (in Rs. Lakhs)
2004-05	90856.83
2005-06	157866.42
2006-07	212443.54
Apr 07-Oct 07 (Provisional)	181340.70

(c) and (d) No report has been received of any paralysis having been caused due to any drugs imported into India from China.

(e) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to ban import of drugs from China.

Lime Stone Mineral

*170. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the discovery of huge new deposit of lime stone in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to exploit the Lime Stone in these States;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up lime stone based industries in these States; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the period 2002-03 to 2006-07, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has discovered a large deposit of limestone in the State of Meghalaya and

a smaller deposit has also been discovered in the State of Tamil Nadu. 1870.08 million tonnes of limestone from Meghalaya and 47.38 million tonnes of limestone from Tamil Nadu has been discovered.

(c) to (e) Limestone has a large number of uses which are determined on the basis of grade and location. Limestone mining leases are granted by State Governments and the mineral is either extracted for captive use mainly by cement industries, or is sold to the user industries such as steel, paper, fertilizer, sugar etc., by the mining lessees.

Free Trade Agreement between India and EU

*171. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European union and India have exchanged lists for identifying the products that will be kept out of a free trade pact;

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

(c) the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. During the Third Round of Negotiations for the India—EU Broadbased Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) in December, 2007 in Brussels, both sides exchanged their initial list of Sensitive items.

(b) EU gave a sensitive list of 977 items at 8-digit HS level which covers approximately 10% of India's exports to EU. The list contains items relating to meat and fish products, milk and dairy products, wheat, rice and other agricultural products, sugar, textile products, etc. India also gave its indicative sensitive list of 750 items at 6-digit HS level which covers approximately 18% of EU's exports. India's list covers items relating to fish & marine products, agriculture and dairy products, chemicals, plastics and some components, etc.

(c) The negotiation on Trade in Goods is a part of a single undertaking under the India-EU BTIA which covers agreement on services, investments and other areas. The negotiations are being held and the lists will be finalized when an agreement is reached between both sides at the time of signing of the BTIA.

[Translation]

Special Zones

*172. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared or is preparing any draft proposal to set up special zones on the lines of China and America;

(b) if so, whether these zones are also likely to be given financial powers like the special economic zones; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Special Economic Zones operate in India under the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zone Rules, 2006. The Act and the Rules detail the benefits and obligations of these Zones.

[English]

Doha Round of Talks under WTO

*173. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fresh WTO proposals on agriculture in the Doha Round meet India's demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has studied the fresh proposals thoroughly; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the fresh WTO proposals would protect the poor farmers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) under the Doha Round have been under way since 2001. These negotiations cover Agriculture, Non-Agricultural Market Access, Services and a slew of other issues.

The WTO has set up a Negotiating Group on Agriculture. Based on the discussions in this Group, the Chair of the Group brought out a draft modalities text in July 2007, containing proposals on the three pillars of the Agriculture Negotiations, namely, domestic support, market access and export competition. This text can be accessed on the WTO website (www.wto.org). The proposals in this text formed the basis of extensive negotiations in Geneva from September 2007 to January 2008. Subsequently, the Chair brought out a revised draft modalities text on 8 February 2008 that reflects the outcome of deliberations in the Negotiating Group on the earlier draft. The revised text can also be accessed on the WTO website. Multilateral discussions on the revised text commenced in Geneva in February 2008.

While the revised draft reflects progress in some areas it also contains new proposals on some issues, which would require detailed deliberations e.g. Special Products (SPs), Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM), the Special Agricultural Safeguard, Tropical Products, Tariff Simplification etc. There are also some other issues on which large divergences still exist, e.g. reductions in overall trade-distorting domestic support (OTDS), market access in Sensitive Products, Tariff Capping etc.

India has carefully studied the revised proposals and we have articulated our responses to these proposals in the Negotiating Group. We are assiduously pursuing the negotiations with a view to safeguarding our key concerns.

India has been working closely with her coalition partners in developing country groupings in order to achieve an outcome that would fully reflect the level of ambition of the Doha mandate and the interests of developing countries. A substantial and effective reduction in domestic support and tariffs in agriculture by developed countries while enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers is a priority for India in the negotiations.

Export of Cashew

*174. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cashew exported during each of the last three years and the contribution of various States in this regard;

(b) whether the cashew production is facing any threat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The total quantity of cashew kernels exported for the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Quantity exported (MT)
2004-05	1,26,667
2005-06	1,14,143
2006-07	1,18,540

State-wise contribution to exports is not maintained.

(b) and (c) The production of Raw cashew nuts in India during the last three years as estimated by the Directorate of Cashewnut & Cocoa Development, have been increasing and these are as under:-

Year	Production (MT)
2004-05	5,44,000
2005-06	5,73,000
2006-07	6,20,000

As such there is no threat to production of cashew per-se.

[Translation]

Science Museums

*175. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides any financial assistance to the State Governments for setting up Science Museums in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to set up Science Museums in the country, particularly in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, the Government of India provides 50% of the capital cost for setting up science centres/museums in different states of the country. The balance

50% of capital cost is provided by the State Government along with the required plot of land free of cost. For states in the North-East and for island territories, the contribution of the Government of India is 90% of the capital cost.

(b) The details are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2005-2006 Rs. In Lakh	2006-2007 Rs. In Lakh	2007-2008 Rs. In Lakh	Total Rs. In Lakh
1.	Chhattisgarh	150.00	—	—	150.00
2.	Karnataka	—	—	150.00	150.00
3.	Maharashtra	—	100.00	—	100.00
4.	Uttar Pradesh	196.00	59.00	—	255.00
5.	Haryana	—	125.00	—	125.00
6.	West Bengal	50.00	80.00	40.00	170.00
7.	NE Region	—	149.87	—	149.87

(c) The Union Government, through Ministry of Culture, sets up science centres/museums in various parts of the country wherever the need arises and State Government undertakes to support its part. There is already a chain of 27 science centres working under the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an organization under the Ministry of Culture. There is no proposal for setting up of science museum in Aurangabad.

(d) The state-wise details of the science centres are as follows:—

Sl.No.	State	Already Existing	Set up and handed over to respective State Governments	Taken up in 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	West Bengal	07	01	—
2.	Karnataka	02	—	01
3.	Bihar	01	—	—
4.	Gujarat	01	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Maharashtra	03	—	01
6.	Tamil Nadu	01	—	—
7.	Uttar Pradesh	01	—	—
8.	Orissa	03	—	—
9.	Delhi	01	01	—
10.	Andhra Pradesh	01	—	—
11.	Assam	01	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	01	—	—
13.	Kerala	01	—	—
14.	Haryana	01	01	—
15.	Goa	01	—	—
16.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	01
17.	Jharkhand	—	—	01
18.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	01	—

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Mizoram	—	01	—
20.	Nagaland	—	01	—
21.	Manipur	—	01	—
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	01	—
23.	Meghalaya	—	01	—
24.	Sikkim	—	01	—
25.	Punjab	—	01	—
26.	Uttarakhand	—	01	—

[English]

Cement Regulatory Authority

*176. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a 'Cement Regulatory Authority' to control the cement prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by when it is likely to become functional; and

(c) the extent to which such authority is likely to be able to control the price rise of cement in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The prices of cement increased sharply between December 2005 and March, 2007 due to mismatch between demand and supply. The Government took a number of measures to increase the supply of cement in the market to cater to increased demand. These include facilitating import by reducing the import duty on cement to 'Nil', removal of countervailing duty and special additional customs duty. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Government of India enterprises, TANCEM, a State Government enterprise of Tamil Nadu and M/s. Puducherry Agro Services Industries Corporation (PASIC) have been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order,

2003 to enable availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market. With these measures, the average price of cement has stabilized to a large extent showing an increase of only 2.67% between March, 2007 and January, 2008.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Benefits to Spice Growing Farmers

*177. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to empower spice growing farmers to play a part in the futures market through active participating in the spices park;

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

(c) the manner in which spice growing farmers are likely to be benefited thereby;

(d) the details of spices exported from the country during 2007-08 as compared to 2006-07; and

(e) the extent to which exports of Indian Spices is likely to be increased by such empowerment of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Government intends to establish common infrastructure facilities (Spice Parks) in various parts of the country for cleaning, grading, processing, storage and packing facilities primarily to empower the spices farmers through value addition and quality improvement of spices. Six such infrastructure facilities are proposed to be established in major spices growing centres in the country during the XI Plan period. The warehousing/storage facilities proposed in such facilities would enable the farmers to stock their produce and participate in the futures market for better realization and to avoid distress sale during the peak harvest season.

(c) The common infrastructure is proposed to be included as an integrated spice zone with central processing facilities alongwith backward linkage, which would be aimed at adding value in the marketing channel for the ultimate benefit to the farmers/growers community.

(d) During the first ten months of financial year 2007-08, the export earnings of spices has been Rs. 3485.4 crore as against Rs. 2850.45 crore during the same period of the year 2006-07.

(e) The common infrastructure facilities are largely aimed at improving the overall quality standards of the spice products to avoid possible rejections of the products both in domestic and overseas markets and establish traceability. The export of spices for 2008-09 in quantity terms is expected to be 4 lac tones valuing Rs. 3950 crore.

Saline Water Treatment Plants

*178. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up saline water treatment plants in the coastal areas for providing drinking water to the people;

(b) if so, whether the sites for the purpose have been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) an autonomous body of the Ministry of Earth Sciences has indigenously designed developed and demonstrated the desalination technology for conversion of sea water into potable water based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD). The LTTD is a process under which the warm surface sea water is flash evaporated at low pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold deep sea water. After conducting several experiments in the Laboratory (500 Liter per day capacity & 5000 Liter per day capacity), a LTTD plant with a capacity of 1 lakh liter per day production of fresh water was developed and installed in May 2005, at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep Island. This plant was handed over to Lakshadweep Administration in April 2006 for operation and maintenance. The plant has been effectively working since then and catering significantly to the needs of the population of Kavaratti. This LTTD plant has produced over 6 crore litre of water so far. The Lakshadweep Islands have the advantage of ocean depth (-500 m) available within few hundred meters from the coast and hence, land based plants are possible.

As the Indian mainland doesn't have the required depths near the coast, a barge mounted 10-lakh liter per

day capacity plant was developed and demonstrated about 40 kms off Chennai in April 2007. The barge based demonstration plant was successfully run continuously for over a period of several weeks. However, the barge based technology needs further improvement for long term service under dynamic ocean conditions. Currently, the Ministry is in the process of formulating a project for development of 1 crore liter per day capacity barge based plant. After the demonstration of these higher capacity plants, the number of plants could be replicated.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the request by the Administration, Lakshadweep, NIOT is in the process of setting up of a set of 6 desalination plants in the other islands of Lakshadweep, which is being executed. These land based plants of 1 lakh liter per day capacity are proposed to be set up in the islands of Lakshadweep, one each in Agatti, Andrott, Minicoy, Amini, Kiltan and Chelat in 2 phases. Towards this, a global tender is being floated to execute the project.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is also making efforts to establish a 100 MLD Reverse Osmosis desalination plant in Chennai through foreign participation.

Hike in Fee by IIMs

*179. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institutes of Management are set for a huge fee hike from the next academic year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has opposed this fee hike; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Boards of Governors (BoG) of only three Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) viz. those at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta, have so far decided to raise the fees for the Post Graduate Programme (PGP) from the next academic year, as shown below:—

Sl.No.	Name of the IIM	Fees for 1st year for PGP batch joining in 2007	Fees for 1st year approved by BOG for PGP batch joining in 2008
1.	IIM, Ahmedabad	2.00	3.00
2.	IIM, Bangalore	2.50	4.00
3.	IIM, Calcutta	2.00	3.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Incentives to Entertainment Sector

*180. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide Incentives for infrastructure and technological upgradation in the TV and entertainment sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The TV and entertainment sector has been receiving continuous support from the Government of India. As per the Union List of the Constitution of India, Union Government can only sanction/certify cinematograph films for exhibition. Other areas regarding cinema are in the State List. However, the Ministry itself takes the role of facilitator in the matter and after consideration recommended to Ministry of Finance the following proposals for rationalization of tax structure pertaining to TV and entertainment sector—

- (i) Exemption from payment of custom duty on import of components of set top boxes.
- (ii) Reduction of Import Duty on import of equipments relating to digital transmission of films.
- (iii) Exemption from payment of Service Tax on transmission of cinema or on normal transaction between distributor of films and exhibitors.

(iv) Rates of depreciation allowed under Income Tax Act for machinery, furniture etc. should be in parity with rates of depreciation allowed for public transport and tourist taxis. Concession in Entertainment Tax given by State Govt. for developing new multiplexes or upgrading existing cinemas should be considered as Capital receipts and be exempted from income tax.

(v) Excise Duty exemption be granted to colour positive unexposed cinematographic film in jumbo rolls and colour negative unexposed cinematographic films in rolls of 4200 ft.

(vi) Rationalisation of tax structure for broadcasting services to be at par with telecom sector.

(vii) A unified tax structure/levy for Cable, Broadcasting, DTH sectors and film industry.

In the budget of the current fiscal year, reduction of custom duty on project import, from the existing rate of 7.5% to 5% has been proposed. In addition, specified parts of set top boxes are proposed to be exempted from payment of custom duty. Further, custom duty on convergence products is proposed to be reduced from 10% to 5% to establish parity between devices used in the information/communication sector and the entertainment sector. Such policy initiatives are expected to provide necessary incentives for infrastructure and technical upgradation in the TV and entertainment sector.

Resettlement & Rehabilitation of Flood Victims

1541. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Executive Committee has resolved to launch resettlement and rehabilitation projects in the flood hit village of Karnataka in January, 2008;

(b) if so, the total assistance provided to these flood affected villages in the State;

(c) whether the Central assistance have been fully utilized by the State for flood affected villages; and

(d) if so, how many affected people have so far been resettled and rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government

of Karnataka, the State Government has decided to take up resettlement and rehabilitation in the villages situated in Bagalkot, Gadag and Dharwad Districts in a phased manner.

The State Government has released Rs. 475.88 lakhs in the first phase of rehabilitation and resettlement of three villages namely Khyad, Hebballi and Khairwadgi in Bagalkot district.

(c) Till date the State Government has not sought any Central assistance for resettlement and rehabilitation of villages affected by floods during January, 2008.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Grant of Mining Rights

1542. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for getting mining rights are pending with the Government, for a long periods;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, till date, mine-wise, State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals from public and private sector mines, submitted by the State Governments including Madhya Pradesh to the Union Government for grant of mining rights during each of the last three years till date, State-wise, mine-wise, sector-wise;

(d) the number of proposals cleared by the Government during each of the last three years till date, mines-wise, State-wise, sector-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to fix a time limit to sanction such cases; and

(f) the time by when such proposals are likely to be sanctioned by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) The details are available on the website of the Ministry of Mines (<http://www.mines.nic.in>).

(e) and (f) Decision with regard to the proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government for grant

of mineral concessions in favour of applicants from private and public sector, is taken after consulting the concerned State Government, Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and other agencies as required, and also keeping in view the orders, if any, passed by the Tribunal/Courts in respect of proposals. The proposals are considered expeditiously on receipt of complete information.

Bangladeshi Infiltration

1543. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the continuous increase in the number of Bangladeshi infiltrators in Rajasthan;

(b) whether a large number of Bangladeshi families have settled in Ajmer, Jaipur and other cities of Rajasthan and are enjoying the several facilities;

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to check the infiltration, identify the settled infiltrators and deport them to Bangladesh;

(d) the number of Bangladeshi infiltrators deported to Bangladesh during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government is aware of the complaints from States that Bangladeshi infiltrators are involved in various kind of criminal activities such as smuggling and disturbing communal harmony;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Fire Fighting Arrangement in Malls.

1544. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to US No. 1973 dated December 5, 2006 regarding fire fighting arrangements in malls and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in collecting the information and the time by when the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) The information/material has been received from Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and is being examined/compiled.

[Translation]

Propaganda on AIR

1545. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reception of Pakistan Radio is more clear in comparison to All India Radio (AIR) in Laddakh and its surrounding areas in Indian Territory;

(b) if so, whether it is resulting in the spread of false propaganda of Pakistan in Indian Territory;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has prepared any scheme for round the clock broadcasting of AIR in the said areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) All India Radio, Leh broadcasts programmes on 20 kW MW Transmitter and 10 kW SW Transmitter. These programmes are also relayed by 1 kW MW Transmitter at Diskit, 1 kW MW Transmitter at Khalsi and 1 kW MW Transmitter at Nyoma. Reception of all these transmitters is very good in Laddakh Region. Local programmes & Laddakhi News from AIR Leh and from these relay

centres are very popular in Laddakh Region. Transmission from Pakistan is also heard in this region. To counter any misinformation a weekly programme titled 'JIGSEN NELONG' is broadcast on every Thursday from 9.10 A.M. to 9.25 A.M. based on social, economic, cultural issues, etc. In addition a weekly programme in Balti is broadcast every Sunday from 9.30 P.M. to 10.00 P.M. There is no scheme to increase the power of AIR transmitters in Laddakh.

(d) AIR has no proposal to start round the clock terrestrial broadcasting in this region. However, DTH radio channels are available in Ku Band round the clock.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Health Channel

1546. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to launch a full fledged Television Programme 'Health Chennel' to create awareness among the general public on health related issues and to educate them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the said channel is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) There is no proposal to launch a full-fledged TV Health Channel by Doordarshan as on date.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Employment Schemes for Surrendered Militants

1547. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made provisions to provide employment to the terrorists who have surrendered before the security forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of those terrorists who have been provided employment after surrendering during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to withdraw the said scheme in view of the recent incidents of terrorist attack; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) With the aim of encouraging person, who have been involved in activities relating to militancy/extremism/naxalism, to eschew the path of violence and come into the mainstream of society, surrender-cum-rehabilitation policies have been put in place in J & K and North Eastern Region. Some naxal affected States are also pursuing their own policies in this regard. The Central Government reimburses the expenditure incurred by the State Governments on this under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme. These schemes include grant of financial assistance/stipend (subject to good behavior), self-employment oriented vocational training, etc. However, there is no general policy or scheme of the Central Government for providing direct employment to surrendered militants.

[English]

Conversion of Women Cell into Police Stations

1548. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert the Crime Against Women Cell in Delhi to a full-fledged Police Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such Cells in other regions of the country are also proposed to be converted into full-fledged Police Stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by when such Police Stations are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) Crime Against Women Cell, Nanakpura has

already been converted into a Police Station under Delhi Police for registration and investigation of cases relating to crime against women as per the notification issued on 11th February 2008.

(c) and (d) Since 'Police' is a State subject, decision on conversion of Crime Against Women Cells into full-fledged police stations is to be taken by the respective State Governments.

Uniform System in Education

1549. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute an Authority to check irregularities in the private schools;

(b) if so, the time by when the said authority is likely to start functioning alongwith its powers and jurisdiction;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any policy for implementing uniform curriculum in private and Government educational institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Education is a concurrent subject and school education primarily comes under the purview of State Governments. It is for respective State Governments to take necessary action to check irregularities in the private schools.

(c) and (d) National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, inter-alia, envisages a National System of Education based on a National Curriculum Framework, with a common core. Accordingly, National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 has been formulated through a wide ranging consultation process. State Governments are expected to revise their respective curriculum based on NCF, 2005. So far as schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education is concerned, a uniform curriculum is implemented in all Government, Government aided & private unaided schools.

Setting up Regional Offices of CBSE

1550. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up one regional offices of the CBSE in various States;

(b) if so, the details including the funds required for this purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the time by when these offices are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has taken a decision to set up two new Regional Offices, one at Bhubaneswar, and the other at Patna. While Bhubaneswar office will have jurisdiction on CBSE affiliated schools of Chhattisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal, the office at Patna will cover schools of Bihar and Jharkhand. The expenditure is to be met from CBSE's own funds and there is no financial implication on the Ministry.

(c) The operationalisation of the new Regional Offices depends on completion of necessary formalities for which CBSE has already initiated action.

Deployment of PMF at Public Sector Undertakings

1551. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had deployed central arm military forces to provide security to the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has recovered the cost of deployment of forces from such PSUs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the total funds pending for recovery from these PSUs; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to recover the outstanding dues from these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been deployed for the security of 205 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in sectors like Coal, Steel, Oil, Gas,

Thermal and Hydro Power, Ports and Airports etc., and some PSUs located in militancy affected areas. The cost of deployment recovered during the last 3 years is shown in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Rs. 200.43 crore.

(f) The recovery of dues is closely monitored and follow up action taken wherever required. The PSUs have to deposit an amount equivalent to 3 months billing as security and there is also a provision for levy of interest @ 2% above the Prime Lending Rate (PLR) for delayed payment. Special drives launched for recovery of dues from time to time have also shown good results.

Statement

Statement showing the amount recovered from PSUs where CISF is deployed during the last 3 years including the current financial year 2007-08

(Rupees in crore)

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Amount recovered
1.	2005-2006	1067.67
2.	2006-2007	1025.38
3.	2007-08 (upto Jan'08)	869.04

Protection of Vital Installations in Private Sector

1552. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified certain vital installations in the private sector for extending protection in view of their being crucial to the national economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Providing security to the private installations within the perimeter is the responsibility of the management of concerned installation. The overall security cover lies with the State authorities concerned since 'Public Order' and 'Police' are the State subject as per the VIIth Schedule of Constitution of India. MHA issues advisories based on the security recommendations of the Central Security Agencies to the various State Governments/Ministries/Departments. Requests from Private Sector have been received by MHA for declaring their installations as Vital area/Vital Point. A series of meeting have been held in this regard and all the concerned Ministries/Departments have been requested to identify sensitive & important Vital Areas/Vital Points pertaining to both public and private sectors, which are really very vulnerable from security point of view and need security cover from acts of sabotage and terrorism, in consultation with the States.

[Translation]

Modernization of Para Military Forces

1553. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds provided by the Government for modernization of the Para Military Forces during each of the last three years, till date, force-wise;

(b) the total funds utilized/unutilized during the said period so far, separately force-wise; and

(c) the reasons for non-utilization of funds and the steps taken by the Government to utilize the funds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Government has approved the Five Year Plan for Modernisation of 6 Central Para-Military Forces (excluding Sashastra Seema Bal) with the total outlay of Rs. 3740.17 crore in the year 2002. The Government also approved the 3 year Modernisation Plan for SSB in 2005 with the total outlay of Rs. 443.33 crore. No separate allocation of funds year-wise exclusively for modernization was done. The normal budget for the CPMFs was suitably enhanced so as to cater to the requirement of funds. Year-wise and force-wise approved outlay is given below:

(All figures in crore of rupees)

Name of the Force	Outlay for 2002-03	Outlay for 2003-04	Outlay for 2004-05	Outlay for 2005-06	Outlay for 2006-07	Outlay for 2007-08
Assam Rifles	76.36	82.92	115.17	104.53	105.77	—
BSF	353.252	438.382	514.312	514.892	510.012	—
CISF	23.54	24.60	25.23	20.62	18.11	—
CRPF	103.49	119.31	104.56	110.18	105.21	—
ITBP	55.12	46.55	27.85	27.38	30.88	—
NSG	30.81	20.20	15.37	9.30	6.81	—
SSB	—	—	—	240.00	120.00	84.33
Total	642.572	731.962	802.492	1026.902	896.792	4185.04

(b) The total funds utilized during 2002-08 are as given below:

(All figures in crore of rupees)

Name of the force	Total outlay for 5 year	Expenditure during 2002-03	Expenditure during 2003-04	Expenditure during 2004-05	Expenditure during 2005-06	Expenditure during 2006-07	Expenditure during 2007-08 (till Feb 08)	Total fund utilized	Unutilised fund
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AR	484.75	21.91	54.32	52.33	94.87	42.53	34.08	300.04	184.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
BSF	2330.84	419.61	141.0	155.42	238.11	183.27	86.43	1223.84	1107.00
CISF	112.10	44.00	20.07	20.00	2.68	15.66	0.01	102.42	9.68
CRPF	542.75	153.76	90.07	89.80	53.43	46.99	4.35	438.40	104.35
ITBP	187.78	89.24	21.96	36.74	11.72	9.77	0.28	169.71	18.07
NSG	82.49	2.96	0.81	3.22	9.72	2.25	14.18	33.14	49.35
SSB	444.33	—	—	—	84.44	112.37	17.78	214.59	229.74
Total	4185.04	731.48	328.23	357.51	494.97	412.84	157.11	2482.14	1702.90

(c) Late finalisation of Qualitative requirements, non-availability of DGS&D rate contract for certain item like built up vehicles, frequent mid term review of modernization plan, constraints of the procurement wing of Ministry of Home Affairs are some of the reasons for non-utilisation of funds during the approved period of plan. The Government has approved extension of the modernization plan by another 3 years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010 so as to utilize the balance funds.

[English]

Vacancy in CSIR Laboratories

1554. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many posts of Directors in various laboratories of CSIR are lying vacant for quite some time;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. 10 posts of Directors are lying vacant, but at no point of time Laboratory/Institute was left without a Head. When a Director demits the office due to superannuation or otherwise, the charge of the post is given either to the senior most scientists of the Laboratory/Institute or to the Director of a sister laboratory with the approval of the Competent Authority.

- (b) (1) Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee;
 (2) Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow;
 (3) Central Leather Research Institute; Chennai;
 (4) Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research, Dhanbad;
 (5) Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi;
 (6) Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, Delhi;
 (7) Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow;
 (8) National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur;
 (9) National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies, New Delhi; and
 (10) National Institute of Science Communication & Information Resources, New Delhi.

The recruitment process for the post of Director has been kept in abeyance pending finalization of recruitment rules.

(c) Recruitment Rules are being finalized. Process of recruitment will be initiated soon.

Production of Gold

1555. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of Gold production and Gold reserves in the country alongwith its value, separately during each of the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the quantum of Gold imports in the country every year; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the

Government to boost the production of gold so as to reduce its imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), gold production in the country alongwith its value during the last three years, is given below:—

Gold Production and Value for Last 3 Years

(Quantity in Kgs., value in Rs. 000)

State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (P)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1. Primary Gold	3526	1943016	2880	2700033	2363	2171616
(i) Karnataka	3501	1927316	2846	2677014	2336	2146553
(ii) Jharkhand	25	15700	34	23019	27	25063
2. Secondary Gold# (Jharkhand)	0	0	167	122763	127	117513
3. By Product## (Gujarat)	5154	3108093	6710	4518311	10335	9393789

: Gold is recovered as by product from copper slime

P : Provisional

: By product recovered from imported raw material

The State-wise details of reserve/resources of gold are available in Indian Minerals Year Book, published by Indian Bureau of Mines, a copy of which has been supplied to the Parliament library.

(b) The import of gold in the last few years has been in the range of 700-800 tonnes per annum. Year-wise import of gold, as informed by Director General of Foreign Trade, during last 3 years is as follows:-

2004-05	—	782.86 tonnes
2005-06	—	723.79 tonnes
2006-07	—	715.80 tonnes

(c) Apart from regional exploration of gold undertaken by Geological Survey of India (GSI), detailed exploration for gold in 39 prospects has been done by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) since its inception in 1972. Central Government has also been giving prior

approvals for grant of reconnaissance permits for regional exploration and prospecting licenses for detailed exploration of gold to various applicants, including private companies.

Proposal from Assam to Ban Ultra Outfits

1556. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from the North Eastern States including Assam State Government to ban some ultra outfits operating in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details of these out-fits and the activities complained against; and

(c) the reaction of the Governments and responses thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the following organizations have been declared as 'Unlawful Associations' in the North Eastern States:

- (i) Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC) and Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) of Meghalaya; (ii) United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and (iii) National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) of Assam; (iv) National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and all Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) of Tripura and (v) Meitei Extremist Organizations, viz. The Peoples Liberation Army (PLA), The Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), the Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), the Mangleipak Communist Party (KCP), the Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL), and the Manipur Peoples' Liberation Front (MPLF) of Manipur.

The Government has not received any proposal for declaring any other outfit operating in the North Eastern Region as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

Overcharging by Taxi and Auto Drivers

1557. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overcharging by taxi and auto drivers in the Capital continues unabated particularly, at Railway Stations and Airport;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases registered and action taken against the auto/taxi drivers; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check overcharging by taxi and auto drivers in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) Some instances regarding overcharging by taxi and TSR (Three Seater Rickshaw) drivers have come to the notice of Delhi Police and the defaulters were

challenged immediately by them. The details of prosecution of Taxi drivers and TSR drivers for overcharging, misbehavior and defective/faulty meter are as under:

Year	Taxi drivers	TSR drivers
2005	82	7206
2006	54	11226
2007	92	7147
2008 (upto 29.02.2008)	10	257

(c) The steps taken by Delhi Police to check overcharging and refusal etc. by taxi and TSR drivers in the Capital include setting up of Pre-paid TSR Booths at Railway Stations, Inter-State Bus Terminals and Commercial centres; Pre-paid Taxi Booths at Airports to facilitate commuters and avoid harassment from taxi/auto drivers; setting up of a round-the-clock "Traffic Helpline" to register complaints regarding refusal/overcharging, misbehaviour and tempered meters; distribution of pre-paid complaint cards among general public to register complaints, launching of special drives from time to time to discipline TSR/taxi drivers.

Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana

1558. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed youths provided employment under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during each of the last three years and in the current year, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the total amount allocated to various States in the country under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the said period, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to make this scheme more effective;

(d) whether the entire amount has been disbursed during the said period;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The State/Union Territory-wise details of unemployed youths

provided employment under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during each of the last three years and current year are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The State/Union Territory-wise details of funds released for training and contingencies, are given in Statement-II enclosed. In addition, the Central funds for subsidy are routed through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which, in turn, passes them on to the implementing banks for crediting the amounts to the loan accounts of individual beneficiaries.

(c) The design parameters of the PMRY, in terms of family income limits for eligibility, project cost ceilings, corresponding ceilings of subsidy, rates of assistance to States towards training of beneficiaries, etc., have been improved with effect from 2007-08 for making the scheme more effective and attractive to the intended beneficiaries.

(d) and (e) The funds are provided by the Central Government to States/UTs each year for training and contingency expenditure on the basis of target and achievement. Surplus/deficit, if any, are adjusted in the subsequent year. The loans are disbursed to beneficiaries by the implementing banks. There is some gap between the amount of loan sanctioned and actually disbursed by

banks under PMRY. This is generally due to the applicants not fulfilling the disbursement requirements specified by the banks, delay/difficulty in the applicants obtaining necessary approval/clearance for undertaking the activity from the State/UT Government agencies concerned, delay in allotment of shed, power connection, water supply, etc., by the State/UT agencies, family members of the applicants being found defaulters of bank loans, etc.

(f) The steps taken to reduce the gap between sanctioned and disbursed cases include instructions to RBI/implementing banks not to under-finance projects and not to insist for collateral for PMRY loans upto Rs. 5 lakh, instructions to dispose of applications received within specified time limits, instructions to bank branches to endorse one copy of letter conveying sanction of loan to the applicants and also to the District Industries Centre (DIC) concerned for assisting the applications in completing pre-disbursement formalities, requesting the State Governments to give preference to PMRY beneficiaries in allotment of work place, electricity, water connection, specifying cut-off date for completion of disbursement of loans, periodical review of the progress of sanction and disbursement of loans, etc.

Statement I

Details of State/UT-wise number of unemployed youths provided employment under PMRY during last three years and for current year (2007-08)

Sl.No.	State/Union Ter.	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08 (upto December, 07)	
		No. of Cases disbursed loan	Estimated employment generated# (No.)	No. of Cases disbursed loan	Estimated employment generated# (No.)	No. of Cases disbursed loan	Estimated employment generated# (No.)	No. of Cases disbursed loan	Estimated employment generated# (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Haryana	7755	11633	9610	14415	11460	17190	4076	6114
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2853	4280	3015	4523	3480	5220	1604	2406
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	639	959	544	816	728	1092	184	276
4.	Punjab	8372	12558	8142	12213	8356	12534	1977	2966
5.	Rajasthan	12919	19379	14509	21764	15233	22850	5044	7566
6.	Chandigarh	206	309	107	161	48	72	135	203
7.	Delhi	819	1229	700	1050	588	882	353	530

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Assam	8256	12384	6414	9621	4623	6935	897	1346
9.	Manipur	387	581	455	683	258	387	72	108
10.	Meghalaya	568	852	568	852	455	683	38	57
11.	Nagaland	109	164	2379	3569	978	1467	1	2
12.	Tripura	1747	2621	2139	3209	2673	4010	1336	2004
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	440	660	462	693	327	491	24	36
14.	Mizoram	142	213	500	750	773	1160	59	89
15.	Sikkim	32	48	31	47	38	57	18	27
16.	Bihar	10396	15594	12136	18204	8011	12017	2465	3698
17.	Jharkhand	4804	7206	4660	6990	4892	7338	1472	2208
18.	Orissa	11339	17009	14264	21396	13932	20898	1677	2516
19.	West Bengal	3796	5694	4687	7031	3478	5217	2413	3620
20.	Andaman and Nicobar	142	213	153	230	118	177	64	96
21.	Madhya Pradesh	20642	30963	21265	31898	21299	31949	6600	9900
22.	Chhattisgarh	3276	4914	3700	5550	4128	6192	1914	2871
23.	Uttar Pradesh	42534	63801	40046	60069	43181	64772	14493	21740
24.	Uttaranchal	6637	9956	7584	11376	7166	10749	3829	5744
25.	Gujarat	6406	9609	6369	9554	6021	9032	4050	6075
26.	Maharashtra	21819	32729	24011	36017	20977	31466	8721	13082
27.	Daman and Diu	4	6	14	21	4	6	1	2
28.	Goa	45	68	43	65	21	32	17	26
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22	33	24	36	6	9	4	6
30.	Andhra Pradesh	22542	33813	22164	33246	16063	24095	7581	11372
31.	Karnataka	13931	20897	19377	29066	19463	29195	5730	8595
32.	Kerala	16553	24830	21507	32261	21487	32231	7801	11702
33.	Tamil Nadu	16902	25353	19717	29576	22052	33078	7185	10778
34.	Lakshadweep	4	6	5	8	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	329	494	368	552	336	504	80	120
	Not Specified	897	1346	1397	2096	886	1329	477	716
	All India	248264	372396	273066	409599	263539	395309	92392	138588

Source: RBI data

#estimated employment generated @ 1.5 per case disbursed.

Statement II

Details of funds allocated to various States/UTs for Training and Contingencies, under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three years and current year

(Amount Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Years			
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (as on 05.02.2008)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	293.34	176.72	191.95	199.28
2.	Assam	100.71	77.80	1.73	5.38
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.39	4.54	0.42	6.00
4.	Bihar	19.87	0.00	0.00	56.38
5.	Chhattisgarh	50.84	41.02	38.06	57.11
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.63
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38
8.	Gujarat	53.07	13.38	0.00	69.89
9.	Haryana	74.20	45.64	38.60	182.74
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.12	15.03	26.77	24.62
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	11.71	10.30	1.00
12.	Jharkhand	34.56	0.06	14.62	41.81
13.	Karnataka	173.19	124.08	165.91	306.22
14.	Kerala	175.75	176.63	202.33	377.94
15.	Madhya Pradesh	265.38	226.32	209.89	115.45
16.	Maharashtra	173.92	128.04	112.62	198.93
17.	Manipur	4.55	1.23	8.24	16.18
18.	Meghalaya	8.29	8.22	5.52	15.59
19.	Mizoram	3.24	8.22	0.00	7.59
20.	Nagaland	17.12	22.03	6.79	30.62
21.	Orissa	147.50	135.46	128.31	167.99
22.	Punjab	81.45	55.67	0.00	64.92
23.	Rajasthan	104.30	109.97	124.90	244.11

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	136.75	155.27	156.28	311.79
25.	Tripura	21.24	22.70	20.39	33.69
26.	Uttar Pradesh	644.91	422.85	388.87	659.39
27.	Uttaranchal	92.76	64.16	83.49	81.14
28.	West Bengal	19.12	29.10	4.96	256.85
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	2.51	0.55	0.89	1.17
30.	Chandigarh	1.02	3.98	1.15	1.03
31.	Daman and Diu	0.03	0.03	0.11	0.10
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.20	0.19	0.12	0.45
33.	Lakshadweep	0.14	0.05	0.04	0.07
34.	Pondicherry	4.74	0.57	3.38	8.63
35.	Sikkim	0.25	0.89	0.52	3.08
Total		2715.43	2082.12	1947.16	3550.12

District Industry Centres

1559. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the District Industry Centres all over the country during the Tenth Plan;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to revamp the District Industry Centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

High Drop Out Rate at Secondary Level

1560. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU YADAV:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of school dropouts was brought down considerably at the primary level but it remained as high as 62-63 per cent at the Secondary level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The drop out rates has come down, from 31.5 per cent in 2003-04 to 29.0 per cent in 2004-05 at primary stage (Classes I-V), and from 62.7

per cent to 61.9 per cent at Secondary stage (Classes I-X) during the same period.

(b) and (c) The socio-economic and school related factors affect dropouts. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing dropout rates. These include, inter alia, strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, interventions under SSA also aim at building community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, special provision to promote education of girls, as well as children with special need. The Mid-day Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates. Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored Scheme for Universalisation of Access to and Improvement of Quality of Education at Secondary Stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within 5 kilometer of every habitation. Besides, it is also proposed to set up 6,000 good quality secondary schools at block level, at the rate of one school in each block, which will serve as benchmark of excellence for other schools in the area. It has also been decided to implement various incentive schemes like (i) 'National Means cum Merit Scholarship', (ii) a National Incentive Scheme for Girls to pursue Secondary Education and (iii) a Scheme for Girls' Hostels for Girls studying in secondary classes; which would also help in reducing drop out rates.

Special Allowances to Para Military Forces

1561. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Para Military Forces (PMF) including CRPF and BSF have sought grant of special allowances for their personnel to compensate for the risk involved in their jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a demand from the PMF personnel to treat them as part of the army;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs), including CRPF and BSF have sought risk based compensation in terms of additional allowances ranging from 10% to 50% of the basic pay in their Memoranda submitted before the 6th Central Pay Commission.

(c) to (e) No, Sir.

Boarding and Lodging Facilities for Girl Students

1562. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve the boarding and lodging facilities for girl students of the rural areas in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the role of NGO in the said scheme;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) A Scheme for 'Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel facilities for Girl Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools' has been implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development since 1993. Under the scheme, a maximum grant of Rs. 10,000/- per boarder per year was provided to voluntary organizations for running girls' hostels. A one time grant of Rs. 3000/- per boarder was also provided to NGOs. Voluntary organizations from all States/UTs, including Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, were eligible for assistance under this scheme subject to fulfillment to requisite conditions. Based on an evaluation of the scheme conducted by the 'Tata Institute of Social Sciences', it has been decided to revise the scheme for implementation during 11th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to NGOs by NDMC

1563. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDMC is providing financial assistance to several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and makes payment of salary to the persons working therein;

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

(c) the total financial assistance granted to these organizations during each of the last three years, State-wise, organization-wise;

(d) whether fraud/corruption charges against the Senior officials of NDMC has come into the notice of the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of such cases registered during each of the last three years; and

(f) action taken against such of the officials, cadre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) The New Delhi Municipal Council provides financial assistance as grants-in-aid to various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in the fields of sports, education, medicine, social and cultural fields. The Council has not paid any salaries to the staff working in these Non-Governmental Organisations.

(b) and (c) The details of the financial assistance provided to various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) during each of the last three years are given in the enclosed statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

Financial Assistance provided by the New Delhi Municipal Council to Non-Government Organisation during the last three years

Year: 2004-2005

Sl.No.	Name of the Organisation	Amount (in Rupees)
1	2	3
1.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society	2,50,000/-

1	2	3
2.	All India Sports Council of Deaf	20,000/-
3.	Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Sansthan	25,000/-
4.	Chitra Kala Sangam	25,000/-
5.	Delhi Hindi Sahitya Sammellan	40,000/-
6.	R.K. Mission	20,000/-
7.	All India Federation of Deaf	15,000/-
8.	Blind Relief Association	50,000/-
Total		4,45,000/-

Year: 2005-2006

1.	Sanskriti School	2,40,000/-
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Year: 2006-2006 (Released in the year 2006-2007)

1.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society	2,50,000/-
2.	All India Sports Council of Deaf	55,000/-
3.	Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Sansthan	25,000/-
4.	Chitra Kala Sangam	50,000/-
5.	Delhi Hindi Sahitya Sansthan	40,000/-
6.	All India Federation of Deaf	30,000/-
7.	Blind Relief Association	50,000/-
8.	Institute for Blind	50,000/-
Total		5,50,000/-

Year: 2006-2007 (Released in the year 2007-2008)

1.	The Blind Relief Fund	50,000/-
2.	All India Federation of Deaf	30,000/-
3.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society	2,50,000/-
4.	Chitra Kala Sangam	50,000/-
5.	Institute of Blind	50,000/-
Total		4,30,000/-

*[English]***Visa Policy**

1564. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of Visa policy of the Government;
- (b) whether Visa is granted to the tourists on their arrival at the Airport;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken for modifying the rules in this regard;
- (d) the facilities provided to Non-Resident Indians with regard to granting of Visa;
- (e) the details of ceiling fixed in regard to issuance of Visa to visitors to India;
- (f) whether any provision has been made regarding issuance of Visa for International Programme; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (e) Every foreigner entering India must be in possession of a valid national passport or any other internationally recognized travel document establishing his/her nationality and identity and bearing his/her photograph and valid visa for India granted by an authorized Indian representative abroad.

A citizen of Nepal and Bhutan entering India by land or air over the Nepal or Bhutan border respectively does not require a passport for entry into India.

The salient features of the various visas being granted at present are as follows:-

Tourist Visa (T) is generally granted to a foreigner who does not have a residence or occupation in India, and whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sight seeing, a casual visit to meet friends and relatives etc. At tourist visa will be valid for entry and stay into India within the period of its validity unless specified

otherwise. It is generally valid with multiple entries into India for a total stay of six months from the date of issue. It is non-convertible and non-extendable.

Business Visa (B) is granted to a foreign businessman who wants to visit India to establish an industrial/business venture or to explore possibilities to set up industrial business venture in India, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. It is generally granted for six months with multiple entries upto a maximum period of 5 years.

Employment Visa (E) is granted to a foreigner desirous of coming to India for the purpose of employment. The employment visa is initially granted for one year, extendable upto a maximum period of 5 years with multiple entry. First extension is granted by MHA and rest by the local FRRO/FRO on a year to year basis, not exceeding five years.

Entry Visa (X) is granted upto 5 years in the case of Persons of Indian Origin and to dependents of holders of 'Employment', 'Business', 'Student' and 'Research' visas, for a period co-terminus with the validity period of the principal visa holder.

Student Visa (S) is granted to a foreign student coming to pursue regular, and full time academic studies in India. It is granted for the duration of the academic course of study or for 5 years, whichever is less, with single/double entry.

Research Visa (R) is granted for the duration of Research project or for a period of 5 years, whichever is less.

Medical Visa (M) is granted for the actual period of the medical treatment, but not exceeding 3 years. Such visa will be valid for a maximum of three entries during one year.

(b) and (c) At present, Visa on arrival is not granted to tourists at the airports in India due to security concerns and inadequate infrastructure at the international airports in the country. However, actions are already underway for upgrading and modernising the infrastructure as well as manpower at all the International Airports to facilitate the early implementation of the Visa on Arrival Scheme.

(d) The instructions governing the issue of a visa to a foreigner are equally applicable to a foreigner of Indian

Origin, wanting to come to India for meeting his relatives, holiday etc. The Missions can grant a visa for a period of five years at a time, with multiple entry facility, subject to usual checks. This would not require a prior reference to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(f) and (g) Visas are normally granted to bonafide foreign delegates for international conferences, seminars etc. which are held by Government bodies, Public sector Undertakings of Government aided bodies and NGOs if the Conference has been cleared by the nodal Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India/State Governments.

[Translation]

Most Wanted Criminals

1565. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has the list of most wanted criminals;

(b) if so, the details of such criminals;

(c) the number of criminals out of them, staying in foreign countries;

(d) whether the Government has requested for their extradition;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):
(a) to (f) The requisite information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Collaboration by Foreign Companies

1566. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any collaboration has been made by the foreign companies with indigenous private and public sector companies and undertakings in the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions thereof during each of the last three years and in the current year, State-wise;

(c) the share of foreign and domestic capital invested, in Indian currency during the said period; and

(d) the details of dividend earned by the foreign companies during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per extant policy, foreign collaborations, involving payment of lumpsum technical know-how fee of US\$ 2 million or royalty payment at 5% on domestic sales and 8% on exports are on the automatic route. Government has granted 349 foreign technology collaborations (FTC) approvals and 1225 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals in existing Indian companies during April 2004 to December 2007. State-wise Statements-I & II on FTC and FDI approvals in existing Indian companies during April 2004 to December 2007 are enclosed and Annex-B. The terms and conditions of technology collaboration are specific to the approvals granted.

(c) The domestic industrial investment intentions from August 1991 to October 2007 is Rs. 31,58,475 crore and the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from August 1991 to December 2007 is Rs. 2,83,284 crore.

(d) Data on dividend earned by foreign companies is not centrally maintained.

Statement I

State-wise Foreign Technology Cases (FTC) Approvals during April 2004—December 2007

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Approvals Technical
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15
2.	Assam	6

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Gujarat	52
5.	Haryana	42
6.	Himachal Pradesh	7
7.	Karnataka	22
8.	Kerala	5
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5
10.	Maharashtra	63
11.	Orissa	17
12.	Punjab	12
13.	Rajasthan	6
14.	Tamil Nadu	47
15.	Uttar Pradesh	13
16.	West Bengal	13
17.	Jharkhand	3
18.	Uttaranchal	3
19.	Delhi	11
20.	Goa	5
21.	State Not Indicated	1
Grand Total		349

Statement II

State-wise break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals during April 2004—December 2007

(Amount in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Approvals Financial	Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Approved (in Rs.)	% to Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	89	3,306.32	9.56
2.	Assam	2	35.51	0.10

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Gujarat	45	934.09	2.70
4.	Haryana	21	157.32	0.45
5.	Himachal Pradesh	3	61.63	0.18
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0.00	0.00
7.	Karnataka	147	6,126.20	17.71
8.	Kerala	13	6.27	0.02
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5	6.05	0.02
10.	Maharashtra	351	13,503.96	39.21
11.	Orissa	4	198.99	0.58
12.	Punjab	13	3,665.05	10.59
13.	Rajasthan	9	192.51	0.56
14.	Tamil Nadu	128	1,695.47	4.90
15.	Uttar Pradesh	23	37.64	0.11
16.	West Bengal	36	408.04	1.18
17.	Chhattisgarh	2	195.13	0.56
18.	Jharkhand	1	2.00	0.01
19.	Uttaranchal	2	8.70	0.03
20.	Chandigarh	8	127.76	0.37
21.	Delhi	206	1,695.26	4.90
22.	Goa	24	45.23	0.13
23.	Pondicherry	1	0.07	0.00
24.	Daman and Diu	1	3.57	0.01
25.	State Not Indicated	90	2,123.66	6.14
Grand Total		1225	34,596.40	

Units in Unorganised Sector

1567. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has estimated the number of units being run in the unorganized sector in the country;

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

(c) the basis of this estimate alongwith the details of the total capital investment in these units?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Exact data concerning the number of units operating in the unorganised sector are not available. However, based on the results of the sample survey of unregistered micro and small enterprises (MSEs) conducted along with 3rd all India census of registered MSE units (with 2001-02 as the reference year), the number of unregistered MSE units running in the country during 2006-07 were estimated to be 108.12 lakh with fixed investment of Rs. 2,07,307 crore. The State/Union Territory-wise details of unregistered MSEs are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of estimated number unregistered Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in the country during 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Estimated Number of Unregistered MSEs 2006-07
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	68944
2.	Himachal Pradesh	77433
3.	Punjab	372193
4.	Chandigarh	25076
5.	Uttaranchal	107350
6.	Haryana	219363
7.	Delhi	203229
8.	Rajasthan	472761
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1829164
10.	Bihar	554641

1	2	3
11.	Sikkim	230
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	1109
13.	Nagaland	15545
14.	Manipur	51877
15.	Mizoram	9877
16.	Tripura	27995
17.	Meghalaya	24334
18.	Assam	213739
19.	West Bengal	871972
20.	Jharkhand	134752
21.	Orissa	448653
22.	Chhattisgarh	273909
23.	Madhya Pradesh	822542
24.	Gujarat	460273
25.	Daman and Diu	1112
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
27.	Maharashtra	855042
28.	Andhra Pradesh	971405
29.	Karnataka	644929
30.	Goa	5565
31.	Lakshadweep	549
32.	Kerala	344768
33.	Tamil Nadu	690166
34.	Pondicherry	8398
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	2969
All India		10811863

[English]

Excesses by the BSF Personnel

1568. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the increasing excesses and harassments on flimsy pretexts committed by the Border Security Forces (BSF) personnel in the border areas of Bangladesh in Basirhat sub-division of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various local organizations have submitted representations to higher authorities to contain such activities; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to prevent such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) According to available information 6 complaints/representations were received by BSF from local organization and NGOs of Basirhat Sub-Division during the year 2007. On inquiry these were found to be without substance.

(d) An elaborate mechanism exists in BSF in this regard.

Doordarshan Kendras in Goa

1569. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of category and entitled Doordarshan Kendras set up in Goa State;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more Doordarshan Kendras in Goa State;

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

(d) the time by when such Doordarshan Kendras are likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Doordarshan Kendra comprising a small Studio (50 sq. mtrs.); two HPTs (DD1 & DD News) and Satellite uplink is presently functioning at Panaji. Additional Studio (150 sq. mtrs.) has also been sanctioned at Panaji.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Talent Improvement in Creative Industry

1570. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been creating opportunities to nurture talent by increasing awareness on the potential career opportunities and offering courses on various aspects of the creative industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Creative Industry is a very vast field, cinema and television being a part of this field. There are two film & television institutes under the aegis of this Ministry, primarily educational institutes imparting training in film and television related work creative as well as technical.

(b) The two Institutes imparting education and training in various courses related to Film and Television are:-

I. Film & Television Institute of India, Pune offers following courses:-

1. Three Year Post graduate Diploma in Film and Television:
 - Direction (Film & Television)
 - Cinematography (Film & Television)
 - Editing (Film & Television)
 - Audiography (Film & Television)
2. Two Years Post Graduate Diploma Course in Acting
3. One Year Post Graduate Certificate Course in Television
 - Direction
 - Electronic Cinematography
 - Video Editing
 - Audiography and TV Engineering
4. One Year Post Graduate Certificate Course in Feature Film Screen Play Writing

5. Two Year Post Graduate Diploma in Art Direction and Production Design
6. One and Half Year Certificate Course in Animation and Computer Graphics

The following short courses were also conducted by this Institute during the year 2007-08:-

- (i) Short course in "Writing for Television"
- (ii) Short Course in Videography DV-Cam
- (iii) Orientation Course in Multimedia
- (iv) Applications for TV Production
- (v) Short Course in Basic Videography for Jammu & Kashmir Police Photographers

II. Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata offers following courses, which are at post-graduate level:-

- Film Direction and Screenplay writing
- Motion Picture Photography
- Editing
- Sound Recording

Flood and Erosion in Assam

1571. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss incurred due to flood and erosion in Assam since 2004 in terms of life, property including land area, crops, animals, roads, bridges and embankments till December 2007;

(b) the total entitlement year-wise, amount demanded and actually disbursed to the State from CRF, NCCF and other sources during the same period alongwith the amount utilized and unspent balance thereof;

(c) the total number of families who have become landless and homeless alongwith the number of families rehabilitated year-wise by the State Government;

(d) the pending liabilities if any, from either side; and

(e) the additional assistance granted by the Centre during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (e) As per information received from the Government of Assam, based on their provisional assessment, the details of damage caused due to floods since 2004 in the State are as under:-

Years	No. of human lives lost	No. of cattle heads lost	No. of houses/huts damaged	Cropped area affected (lakh hectares)
2004-05	448	2256	589064	12.58
2005-06	27	—	735	0.33
2006-07	7	20	2367	0.11
2007-08	142	1660	414444	6.75

The State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural disasters. The distribution of relief on ground is also the responsibility of the concerned State. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support, where necessary. Such support is in accordance with the norms based on the recommendations of the Finance Commissions. As per prescribed items/norms, the CRF/NCCF should be used, to meet the expenditure for providing immediate relief and rehabilitation to the victims

of the listed natural calamities viz.; avalanches, cloud burst, cyclone, drought, earthquake/tsunami, fire, flood, hailstorm, landslides and pest attacks. The norms and guidelines inter-alia provide assistance for damage to crops, damage to houses, gratuitous relief, medical aid, provision for utensils/clothing, loss of animals, assistance for feed, fodder to animals and ex-gratia payment to families of deceased persons. The farmers are also entitled for compensation under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is being implemented by the State Government.

Expenditure on rehabilitation of families who are rendered landless due to erosion caused by floods is not covered under the guidelines of the scheme of CRF/NCCF. The concerned State Government is, therefore, required to meet such expenditure from its own resources/re-allocation of Plan funds. Similarly, assistance as per the approved norms is provided under the Scheme of CRF/NCCF to those people whose houses are damaged due to these natural calamities. The rehabilitation of

people who are rendered homeless due to floods etc. is also required to be undertaken by the concerned State Government from its own resources/re-allocation of Plan funds.

The allocation and release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and funds released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) during the years 2004-05 to 2007-08, to the State of Assam are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation under CRF	Central share	Center's share of CRF released	Released from NCCF
2004-05	123.36	92.52	92.52	211.55
2005-06	193.06	144.79	144.79	0.00
2006-07	198.62	148.97	148.97	0.00
2007-08 (as on 7th March 08)	204.48	153.36	153.36	0.00
Total	719.52	539.64	539.64	211.55

The State Government of Assam has submitted memorandum seeking additional Central assistance from NCCF for relief operations in the areas affected by floods during the year 2007. Union receipt of the memorandum, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team has visited the State during 5th-7th December 2007, for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. The report of the Central Team has since been received and processed. Certain clarifications have been sought from the State Government, which are still awaited. On receipt of clarifications, the request of the State Government will be placed before Inter Ministerial Group and High Level Committee for consideration and approval of additional Central assistance from NCCF. However, the entire Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 153.36 crore for the year 2007-08 has already been released to Assam.

Talks with ULFA

1572. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is initiating fresh talks with ULFA;

(b) if so, the demands and issues which have been spelt out and put forth by the ULFA for the talks; and

(c) the progress made so far alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) The Government has not received any formal proposal from ULFA for direct talks. However, the Government is open to talks with any militant groups including United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) provided they shun violence and abide by the Constitution of India.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Appraisal Report for Natural Calamities

1573. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Appraisal Reports of the Inter-Ministerial Central Teams for assessing Natural Calamities during each of the last three years and in the current year as on date, State-wise;

(b) the details of the assistance provided by the Centre to the State during the said period as against the Appraisal Reports of the Central Teams;

(c) the names of the States for which the norms were relaxed for the purpose of disbursement of NCCF assistance as per the reports of the Central Teams during the said period and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of assistance demanded by various States alongwith the assistance provided by the Union Government thereof during each of the last three years and in current year as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as the same becomes available.

[English]

Foreign Investment in Higher Education

1574. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for foreign investment in higher education and allowing foreign institutions to establish their centers in India;

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

(c) the details of the proposals suggested or on the anvil regarding public-private partnership models, if any, in higher education, State-wise and category-wise as on date; and

(d) the steps initiated/to be initiated on such proposals/programmes as on date, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February 2000 of the

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector, subject to notified Sectoral policy and equity caps. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) already has regulations in place for the entry and operation of foreign universities/institutes imparting technical education in India. A legislative proposal for regulation of entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in India is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The University Grants Commission has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. K.B. Powar, former Secretary General of Association of Indian Universities, to formulate the Action Plan for identifying various modes of public-private participation to promote higher education.

FDI during Five Year Plans

1575. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans;

(b) the average FDI inflow per year during the above Plan periods;

(c) the major areas of the economy attracting FDI in India and the FDI inflow in infrastructure during these plans year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage FDI in infrastructure during the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows during 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) was US\$ 16.33 billion and during 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007) the inflow was US\$ 30.80 billion.

(b) The average FDI inflow per year during the 9th Five Year Plan was US \$ 3.2 billion and during the 10th Five Year Plan the average per year was US \$ 6.16 billion.

(c) The top five sectors attracting FDI during April 2000 to December 2007 are Services Sector, Computer software & hardware, telecommunications, construction activities and automobile industry. Year wise FDI inflow in infrastructure sector during April 2000 to December 2007 is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(d) The extant policy for most of the infrastructure sectors permits FDI up to 100% on the automatic route. Statement-II showing FDI policy in the infrastructure sectors is enclosed.

Statement I

Year wise FDI inflows during April 2000 to December 2007

Infrastructure Sector

(Amount in US\$ million)

Sl.No.	Year	Amount
1	2	3
1.	2000-01 (Apr-Mar)	292.37
2.	2001-02	1,902.26

1	2	3
3.	2002-03	347.33
4.	2003-04	388.37
5.	2004-05	456.00
6.	2005-06	914.04
7.	2006-07	2,179.39
8.	2007-08 (Apr-Dec)	4,095.80
Grand Total		10,575.56

Note: Amount includes the Inflows received through SIA/FIPB route, acquisition of existing shares and RBI's automatic route only.

Statement II

Sector	FDI Cap/ Equity	Entry Route	Conditions	Relevant Press Note issued by DIPP www.dipp.gov.in
1	2	3	4	5
Airport	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation www.civilaviation.nic.in	PN 4/2006
(a) Greenfield projects				
(b) Existing projects	100%	FIPB beyond 74%	Subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation www.civilaviation.nic.in	PN 4/2006
Construction Development Projects, including housing, commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure, townships	100%	Automatic	Subject to conditions notified vide Press Note 2 (2005 Series) including: a. minimum capitalization of US\$ 10 million for wholly owned subsidiaries and US\$ 5 million for joint venture. The funds would have to be brought within six months of commencement of business of the Company.	PN 2/2005 & PN 2/2006

1	2	3	4	5
			<p>b. Minimum area to be developed under each project-10 hectares in case of development of serviced housing plots; and built-up area of 50,000 sq. mts. in case of construction development project, and any of the above in case of a combination project.</p> <p>[Note: For investment by NRIs, the conditions mentioned in Press Note 2/2005 are not applicable.]</p>	
<p>Petroleum & Natural Gas Sector (a) Other than Refining and including market study and formulation; investment/ financing; setting up infrastructure for marketing in Petroleum & Natural Gas sector.</p>	100%	Automatic	<p>Subject to sectoral regulations issued by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; and in the case of actual trading and marketing of petroleum products, divestment of 26% equity in favour of Indian partner/ public within 5 years. www.petroleum.nic.in</p>	PN 1/2004 & PN 4/2006
<p>(b) Refining</p>	<p>26% in case of PSUs</p> <p>100% in case of Private companies</p>	<p>FIPB (in case of (PSUs)</p> <p>Automatic (in case of private companies)</p>	<p>Subject to Sectoral policy www.petroleum.nic.in</p>	PN 2/2000
<p>Telecommunication (a) Basic and cellular, Unified Access Services, National/International Long Distance, V-Sat, Public Mobile Radio Trunked Services (PMRTS), Global Mobile Personal Communications Services (GMPCS) and other value added telecom services</p>	<p>74% (Including FDI, FII, NRI, FCCBs, ADRs, GDRs, convertible preference shares, and proportionate foreign equity in Indian promoters/ investing Company)</p>	<p>Automatic up to 49%</p> <p>FIPB beyond 49%</p>	<p>Subject to guidelines notified in the PN 5/2005 Series</p>	PN 5/2005

1	2	3	4	5
(b) ISP with gateways, radio-paging, end-to-end bandwidth.	74%	Automatic up to 49%. FIPB beyond 49%	Subject to licensing and security requirements notified by the Department of Telecommunications	PN 4/2001
(c) ISP without gateway, infrastructure provider providing dark fibre, electronic mail and voice mail	100%	Automatic up to 49%. FIPB beyond 49%	Subject to the condition that such companies shall divest 26% of their equity in favour of Indian public in 5 years, if these companies are listed in other parts of the world. Also subject to licensing and security requirements, where required.	PN 9/2005
(d) Manufacture of telecom equipments	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral requirements. www.dotindia.com	
Power including generation Sectoral (except Atomic energy; Regulations transmission, distribution and Power Trading			Subject provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 www.powermin.nic.in	PN 2/1998, PN 7/2000 & PN 4/2006
Ports	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations	PN 2/2000
Roads & Highways	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations	PN 2/2000
Shipping	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations	PN 2/2000

Calamity Relief Fund

1576. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a revised proposal for availing Calamity Relief Fund for permanent restoration of damages occurred during 2005 was presented to the Central Government by the Government of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat had submitted a revised memorandum seeking assistance for long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction in July 2007 for restoration of damaged infrastructure affected by natural calamities during the year 2005.

The Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) in consultation with the Planning Commission considered the above memorandum of State Government and thereafter, its recommendations were considered and approved by the High Level Committee in its meeting held on 6th October, 2007. At present, the same is under consideration of the Government.

Tender Price of Wheat Import

1577. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of valid bids received by Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) and other agencies for import of wheat during 2007-08 and 2008-09 indicating the quantum to be imported and the bid price;

(b) whether the prices quoted in the said bids is much higher in comparison to the bids is much higher in comparison to the bids received during the last round of tender process;

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

(d) whether there is any proposal to stop the import in view of the higher prices quoted;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the highest prices paid for procurement/import of wheat so far; and

(f) the steps taken to meet the likely shortage of wheat during the ensuing season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The details of bids received by MMTC and other agencies for import of wheat on Government account during 2007-08 are as under:-

(i) Government of India allocated a quantity of about 3,50,000 MT for import by MMTC Limited for the year 2007-08. MMTC floated only one tender for import of wheat the details of which are as given below:-

(Qty: 000 Tonnes/Price US\$ PMT C & F FO)

Name of Supplier	Month of Arrival	Port	Quantity	Price
1	2	3	4	5
Toepfer India	By 10.2.08	Mundra	65	413.51
		Kandla	45	423.40
		Chennai	40	419.00
		Visakhapatnam	40	433.40
Cargil World Trading	By 10.2.08	Mundra	65	397.03
		Kakinada	50	412.98
		Kandla	45	408.43
		Chennai	40	427.12
		Visakhapatnam	40	426.11
		Tuticorin	40	447.82
		Cochin	35	418.28
Glencore Grain India	By 10.2.08	Mumbai	35	403.89
		Mundra	325	407.00
		Kakinada	350	422.00
		Kandla	360	410.50
		Chennai	120	437.50
		Visakhapatnam	120	444.50
		Tuticorin	125	454.00
Mumbai	115	444.50		

1	2	3	4	5
Ameropa	Jan 08-12.2.08	Mundra	45	414.65
		Kandla	45	414.65
		Chennai	45	424.65
Rias Trading SA	Jan 08	Mundra	100	454.95
		Kakinada	100	467.95
		Kandla	100	454.95
		Chennai	100	467.95
		Visakhapatnam	100	467.95
		Tuticorin	100	487.95
		Cochin	100	487.95
AWB (Geneva)	Dec. 07-10.2.08	Mundra	60	432.00
		Mundra	50	441.00
		Kandla	50	438.00
		Chennai	40	460.00
		Tuticorin	40	448.00
		Cochin	35	453.00
		Mumbai	35	434.00
		Concordia Agritrading	By 10.2.08	Mundra
Kandla	50			429.46

MMTC imported a total quantity of 3,52,711.583 MT at a weighted average price of US\$ 400.11 PMT. MMTC did not float any tender for import of wheat during 2008-09.

(ii) PEC floated only one tender for import of 3.30 lakhs of wheat on Government account (for deliveries up to 10.3.2008) during the year 2007-08. The details of the bids received against this tender are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of Bidder	Port	Total Qty Quoted in MT	Qty per port in MT	Price Quoted in USD
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Cargill	Mundra	110,000	65000	433.20
		Kandla		45000	433.70

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Concordia	Mundra	65,000	65000	412.11
3.	Glencore	Mundra	100,000	65000	433.50
		Kakinada		90000	451.00
		Kandla		90000	437.50
		Chennai		80000	462.00
		Vizag		80000	468.00
		Tuticorin		80000	479.00
		Mumbai		90000	468.00
4.	Toepfer	Mundra	65,000	65000	442.51
		Kandla		45000	450.40
		Chennai		40000	448.50
		Vizag		40000	463.90
5.	Starcom	Kandla	40,000	40000	443.00
		Chennai		40000	459.00
		Tuticorin		40000	483.00
		Mumbai		6000 M- (CONT.)	470.00
6.	JK Intl.	Mundra	150,000	65000	395.88
		Kandla	(Option to	45000	398.97
		Tuticorin	increase	40000	418.95
		Mumbai	to 250,000)	35000	401.94

PEC imported a total quantity of 1,50,000 MT (+/-10%) at an average price of US\$ 396.91 PMT. PEC has not floated any tender for import of wheat during 2008-09.

(iii) The State Trading Corporation of India Limited (STC) floated three tenders during 2007-08. The details of valid bids received against Tender No. STC/wheat/imp/2/2007-08 opened on 4.7.2007 are as under:-

Qty: Lakh Tonnes/Price US\$ PMT

Port Name	Tendered Qty. (+/-5%)	August/September 2007			October/November 2007			
		Supplier Name	Price	Quantity (+/-5%)	Tendered Qty.	Supplier Name	Price	Qty. (+/-5%)
Mundra	1.95	Cargill	324.10	0.65	1.95	Toepfer	317.95	1.28 (Note 1)
		Rias	329.95	1.25 (Note 3)		Cargill	327.10	0.65
		Glencore	343.00	1.00 (Note 2)		Toepfer	328.95	1.28 (Note 1)
					Glencore	343.00	1.00 (Note 2)	
Kandla	1.35	cargill	343.95	0.45	1.65	Toepfer	328.95	(Note 1)
		Glencore	348.00	Note 2		Concordia	331.00	0.90

Grand Total Qty. after Negotiation with Bidders		Notes
Name of Supplier	Qty. (Lakh/MT)	
Glencore	7.40	Note 1:- Glencore has offered a total of 7,40,000 tonnes for all the Ports and arrival months
Cargill	0.80	Note 2:- Cargill has offered a total quantity of 80,000 tonnes for all the given Ports and arrival months
Ameropa	0.25	Note 3:- Ameropa has quoted for a total qty. of 25,000 tonnes for the given Ports and months arrival.
Toepfer	0.70	Note 4:- Toepfer has quoted a maximum qty. of 70,000 tonnes. However, quantities varies with respect to Ports such as for Mundra = 66,000 tonnes, Kandla = 50,000 tonnes, Vizag = 70,000 tonnes and Chennai = 50,000 tonnes
Starcom	0.05	Note 5:- Starcom has offered total qty. of 5,000 tonnes for Mumbai and Chennai
Grand Total Qty.	9.20	

STC imported 7.95 lakh tonnes of wheat at a weighted average price of US\$ 389.45 PMT C&F FO.

The details of valid bids received against tender No. STC/Wheat/Imp/04/2007-08 are as under:-

Port Name	By 15th April, 2008			
	Supplier Name	Price (\$)	Qty.	Notes
Mundra	Cargill	459.90	0.65 (+/-5%)	
	Glencore	462.00	1.40 (=/-10%)	Within overall 2.00 lakh MTs +/-10% Maximum qty. offered
	Toepfer	562.28	0.65(+/-5%)	Within overall 0.65 lakh MTs +/-5% Maximum qty. offered
Kandla	Glencore	465.00	2.00 (+/-10%)	Within overall 2.00 lakh MTs +/-10% Maximum qty. offered
	Toepfer	572.17	0.45 (+/-5%)	Within overall 0.65 lakh MTs +/-5% Maximum qty. offered
Mumbai	Glencore	509.00	1.80 (+/-10%)	Within overall 2.00 lakh MTs +/-10% Maximum qty. offered
Vizag	Glencore	505.00	2.00 (+/-10%)	Within overall 2.00 lakh MTs +/-10% Maximum qty. offered
	Toepfer	579.67	0.40 (+/-5%)	Within overall 0.65 lakh MTs +/-5% Maximum qty. offered
Chennai	Glencore	502.00	2.00 (+/-10%)	Within overall 2.00 lakh MTs +/-10% Maximum qty. offered
	Toepfer	574.27	0.40 (+/-5%)	Within overall 0.65 lakh MTs +/-5% Maximum qty. offered
Tuticorin	Glencore	517.00	2.00 (+/-10%)	Within overall 2.00 lakh MTs +/-10% Maximum qty. offered
Kakinada	Glencore	479.00	2.00 (+/-10%)	Within overall 2.00 lakh MTs +/-10% Maximum qty. offered

STC did not import any wheat against this tender. STC has not floated any tender for 2008-09.

(c) The reasons for higher prices quoted was due to the increase in price of wheat in the international market as well as increase in freight rates.

(d) and (f) In order to maximise procurement of wheat in (RMS 2008-09) and thereby to reduce the import of wheat, Government has taken the following steps:-

- (i) The MSP for wheat has been fixed at Rs. 1000 per quintal for RSM 2008-09, an increase of Rs. 250/- per quintal, in order to encourage farmers to grow more wheat;
- (ii) Orders for import of 18 lakh tonnes wheat was placed in 2007-08 which improved the stock position of wheat in the Central pool and the wheat stocks (as on 1.4.2007);
- (iii) Wheat exports on private account have been banned till further orders. Wheat exports from Central Pool are also banned;
- (iv) A Notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or firms or Individuals) Order 2008" has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 on 11.2.08. The Order provided that any company or firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 10,000 tonnes during 2008-09 shall furnish return to the Secretary, Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased, a return for purchase of wheat beyond 25,000 tonnes is required to be furnished to the Central Government.
- (v) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended up to 31st August, 2008, notification under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 enabling State Governments to impose stock limit on wheat;
- (vi) Import of wheat on Private Account at Zero duty has been permitted until further orders.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Fake Currency through Thar Express

1578. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake Indian currency are being smuggled into India through Thar Express train on a large scale;

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) No such incident has been reported so far.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the smuggling:-

- (i) Proper fence gate at zero line and fencing on both sides of the railway station has been erected to avoid throwing of the articles from the train by miscreants/smugglers.
- (ii) 06 numbers of Observation Posts (OP) Towers are being manned between zero line and Munabao railway station to keep surveillance in the area.
- (iii) The train is escorted by foot/vehicle patrolling on both sides of the track to ensure that no illegal activity takes place on this stretch.
- (iv) Proper floodlight is in place to illuminate the area.
- (v) After the passing of train through the area a search of the railway track is being carried out thoroughly.
- (vi) A proper SOP has been framed for opening of the border fence gate and escorting the train up to Munabao railway station.

[English]

Smuggling through Sea Routes

1579. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of smuggling of arms, ammunitions and narcotic drugs through sea routes are on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and in the current year as on date;

(c) whether the existing scanners in the Ports are capable of detecting smuggled arms and ammunitions and contra-band drugs; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such smuggling and to upgrade the existing security and scanning systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Intelligence inputs received from field formations indicate that the coastline along several States and Union Territories is vulnerable to illegal cross border activities including smuggling of arms/ammunitions and contraband drugs. However, no major seizures of these items smuggled into the country through sea route, have been made by Customs in the recent past.

(b) No, Sir, in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. At ports, imported cargo is subjected to physical examination as per prescribed norms so as to detect Misdeclaration with intent to evade payment of duty as well as to detect concealed contraband goods. Such physical examination is done on the basis of risk profiling of the containers. Also the containers are detained and examined on the basis of specific intelligence regarding smuggling of contraband goods. Thirdly, at Nhava Sheva Port, some containers are scanned using non-intrusive inspection equipment so as to detect concealed/misdeclared goods. Thus, physical examination as per norms, examination based on specific intelligence and non-intrusive inspection of containers are being used to detect smuggled contraband goods including arms/ammunitions/narcotics drugs.

[Translation]

Land Acquisition in SEZ

1580. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI
SHRI KIREN RIJUJU:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has revised the SEZ policy particularly to amend the ceiling limit for acquisition of land for setting up of SEZs recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received some requests from the State Governments for acquisition of land/rehabilitation/compensation to farmers whose lands has been acquired prior to taking a decision of SEZs proposals;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the revenue likely to be earned for such SEZ during the current year;

(e) the number of SEZs proposed/approved alongwith the total FDI received thereof, State and SEZ-wise; and

(f) the detailed break-up of agricultural, forest and the total areas allocated to the SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Pursuant to direction of the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) an upper limit of 5000 hectares of land has been prescribed for Multi-product SEZs. The State Governments have also been advised that the Board of Approval will not consider any proposal for SEZ in case the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory land acquisition for SEZs after 5th April, 2007. Land/land usage is a State subject and each State acquires land for various purposes as per their policy. There are no special provisions for acquisition of land for Special Economic Zones (SEZs). As regards rehabilitation and compensation issues, the Ministry of Rural Development has come out with a revised National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2007 inter-alia, providing for financial assistance, employment for displaced persons, rehabilitation grants, subsistence allowances, etc., which was notified on 31st October, 2007.

(e) and (f) After coming into force of the SEZ Act, 2005, 439 formal approvals have been granted out of which 202 SEZs have been notified. An investment of Rs. 67346 crore have been generated in these notified SEZs, including Foreign Direct Investment of approximately US\$ 800 million. The land area involved in the 439 formal approvals is to the tune of 60169 hectares, out of which about 20000 hectares is for SEZs to be set up by the State Industrial Development Corporations. Substantial portion of this land was already in possession of the SIDCs or the Developers at the time of approval. Statewise details of SEZ approvals is as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Formal approvals granted the	No. of SEZs notified out of 439 Formal Approvals
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70	54
2.	Chandigarh	2	2
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	
4.	Delhi	2	
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	
6.	Goa	7	3
7.	Gujarat	38	17
8.	Haryana	35	15
9.	Himachal Pradesh		
10.	Jharkhand	1	1
11.	Karnataka	40	20
12.	Kerala	11	8
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12	3
14.	Maharashtra	88	24
15.	Nagaland	2	
16.	Orissa	9	3
17.	Pondicherry	1	
18.	Punjab	7	2
19.	Rajasthan	6	4
20.	Tamil Nadu	57	30
21.	Uttar Pradesh	23	8
22.	Uttaranchal	3	1
23.	West Bengal	20	6
Grand Total		439	201
Total Land Involved		60169	26456

[English]

Schemes to Deal with Naxalism

1581. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-Ministerial Group has identified many districts in the country for fast track implementation of the centrally sponsored development schemes to deal with the Naxal problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a team of officers visited various naxal affected States last year;

(d) if so, the reasons unearthed for the rise of naxalism at those places; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Law and order being a State subject, action with respect to various aspects/issues related to naxalite activities lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments. The Central Government, however, supplements their efforts and resources by a variety of measures that include deployment of Central paramilitary forces which work under the control of the State Government concerned, sanctioning of India Reserve battalions, assistance for strengthening of the State police and Intelligence agencies, re-imbursment of security-related expenditure, assistance in training of State police forces, sharing of Intelligence, facilitating inter-State coordination and assistance in development works through a range of schemes of various Ministries, including various income-generating, public-utility and social-security schemes of Ministries like Rural Development, Agriculture, Youth Affairs and Sports, Panchayati Raj and Tribal Affairs.

The Central Government maintains a close and continuous watch on the activities of the naxalites, including periodic visits to the various States and detailed consultations with the State Government authorities about the various developments and the steps required to check and control naxalite activities.

Taking steps as appropriate and necessary, having regard to the situation obtaining, is a continuous process.

Special attention on planning, implementation and monitoring of development schemes is also being emphasized. An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG), under Additional Secretary (Naxal Management), with officers

from development Ministries and Planning Commission, oversees effective implementation of development schemes in naxalite affected areas for accelerated socio-economic development.

[Translation]

Crime Cases against Personnel of Delhi Police

1582. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Delhi Police Personnel against whom crime cases have been registered during each of the last three years, till date, rank-wise, crime-wise, including kidney cases;

(b) the steps taken by the Government against them;

(c) the number of such cases disposed of/pending as on date;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to dispose of all the cases;

(e) the number of cases out of the said cases in which the complainants have received relief alongwith the number of personnel in Delhi Police found guilty after inquiry; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) As per statement. The action taken against the police personnel involved in criminal cases includes initiation of departmental action, removal, dismissal, suspension, arrest and prosecution as per the law.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table.

(e) In no case, mentioned in the statement the Court has granted any monetary relief to the complainants. Decision regarding police personnel found guilty is subject to the completion of the investigation of the cases and trial by Hon'ble courts.

(f) The steps taken to prevent criminal/corruption cases in the Delhi Police include surprise checking by senior officers of the activities of personnel deployed for patrolling duty and in police pickets; keeping a watch on the personnel of suspicious character; transfer of personnel of criminal disposition to non-sensitive posts; stringent legal and departmental action against those found to be indulging in criminal activities; handling of criminal complaints against police personnel directly by officers of the rank of Joint Commissioner of Police and above; establishment of Public Grievances Cells in Districts/Units to keep a close watch on police personnel; surveillance by the Vigilance Branch on the criminal activities of personnel holding sensitive posts; maintenance of a register of complaints by the Deputy Commissioner of Police of Districts; and providing facility to the general public to make complaint against corrupt police personnel through e-mail.

Statement

Year 2005

MURDER/ATTEMPT TO MURDER

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	1	2	2	3

EXTORTION/ROBBERY

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	—	—	1

CHEATING/THEFT

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	—	1	3

RAPE/MOLESTATION

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	—	—	1

HURT

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	1	3	4	11

MISC

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
1	2	2	—	5	23

CORRUPTION

DCP	ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
1	1	2	11	4	3	10

Year 2006**MURDER/ATTEMPT TO MURDER**

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	1	1	10

CHEATING/THEFT

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	—	1	—

RAPE/MOLESTATION

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	2	—	—	1

KIDNAPPING

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	—	1	—

MISC

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	1	8	7	20	36

CORRUPTION

DCP	ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	1	2	6	9	7	9

Year 2007**MURDER/ATTEMPT TO MURDER**

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	—	1	—

CHEATING/THEFT

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	—	—	1

RAPE/MOLESTATION

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	—	—	1

KIDNAPPING

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	1	—	—	—

MISC

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
1	—	1	6	14	39

CORRUPTION

DCP	ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	1	1	10	8	9	19

Year 2008 (upto 29.2.08)**MURDER/ATTEMPT TO MURDER**

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	—	—	2

EXTORTION/ROBBERY

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	1	2	4

CHEATING/THEFT

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	2	—	—	—

RAPE/MOLESTATION

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	1	—	—	—

MISC

ACP	Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constable	Constable
—	—	—	2	—	5

*[English]***Complaint against the Functioning of AICTE**

1583. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU
YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a number of complaints against the functioning of All India Council of Technical Education;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints received during the last three years;

(c) the action taken by the Government on each complaint alongwith the action taken against the guilty officials;

(d) whether the Government has received some suggestions from the FICCI in regard to the functioning of AICTE; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government had received a total of 162 complaints/representations on the functioning of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) during 2005, 2006 and 2007. These relate mainly to the following:

- (i) Delay in grant of approval,
- (ii) Restrictive policy in approval of new courses and expansion in intake of existing courses,
- (iii) Lack of uniformity in applying norms and standards in grant of approval,
- (iv) Delay in payment of M. Tech. Scholarship,
- (v) Lack of action by AICTE on complaints against institutions relating to malpractices in admissions, and
- (vi) Irregularities in Regional Offices.

Representations of the above kind are sent to AICTE for appropriate action.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Deployment of Dogs

1584. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the breeds of dogs that can be trained and deployed in the forces for sniffing and other work;

(b) whether the Government proposes to deploy street dogs in the forces after suitable training/grooming; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) These breeds are:-

- (i) German Shepherd Dog (GSD)
- (ii) Labrador Retriever
- (iii) Cocker Spaniel
- (iv) St. Bernard (for snow rescue)
- (v) Alsatian
- (vi) Labrador
- (vii) Dobermann

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

User Fee in Higher Education

1585. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose a user fee while increasing the number of institutions in higher education;

(b) if so, the details and the rationale for imposing the user fees;

(c) whether the Government intends to give up the idea of imposing the user fees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) While the Government does not have any proposal to impose a "user fee", the Planning Commission, in the XI Plan document, has, inter-alia, suggested that since most university students come from top 10% of the population by income levels, they would be able to pay fees amounting to 20% of the operating cost of general higher education. The fees for professional courses could be much higher. The fee levels should, therefore, be increased gradually in existing institutions but the new norms could be implemented in new institutions from the start. An additional cess of 1% on Central taxes is being levied with effect from the financial year 2007-08 to fund Secondary Education & Higher Education and for the expansion of capacity of the existing institutions.

Revenue Earned from DTH Operators

1586. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the existing system, it is obligatory for the Direct-To-Home (DTH) operators to share the revenue earned by them with the Government as per DTH Licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of revenue received by the Government on this account from various DTH operators during each of the last three years, till date;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Article 3 of the Schedule containing terms & conditions of License Agreement, a DTH licensee has

to share 10% of the gross revenue every year as license fee.

(c) Out of six DTH licensees only three operators are providing their services so far. Dish TV India Ltd. which started its services in October 2003 has paid Rs. 2,04,87,187/- for 2004-2005; Rs. 2.5 crores for 2005-2006 & Rs. 10 crores for 2006-2007. M/s Tata Sky started its services in financial year 2006-2007 and has paid Rs. 8,84,90,208/- as license fee. M/s Sun Direct TV Pvt. Ltd. started its services in December, 2007. The license fee will be due at the end of the current financial year and is to be paid by licensees within one month of the end of the financial year.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Higher Education

1587. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended to make higher education more expensive;

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

(c) whether the Government has accepted the said recommendations; and

(d) if so, the basis thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In the XI Plan document, the Planning Commission has, inter-alia, suggested that since most university students come from top 10% of the population by income levels, they would be able to pay fees amounting to 20% of the operating cost of general higher education. The fees for professional courses could be much higher. The fee levels should, therefore, be increased gradually in existing institutions but the new norms could be implemented in new institutions from the start.

(c) and (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a Committee to formulate regulations for admission and fee structure for self-financing, private, professional institutes including deemed to be universities, and also for self-financing and aided courses in aided Universities/Colleges.

Regularisation of Academic Session

1588. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to regularise the academic session is under consideration of the Government according to which Universities have to declare the results between July and August every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission has issued regulations, namely, University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards of Instructions for the Grant of First Degree through Formal Education) Regulations (First Amendment), 2007 and University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards of Instructions for the Grant of Master's Degree through Formal Education) Regulations (First Amendment), 2007. It has been provided that every university shall ensure that the classes for courses in subjects other than professional courses for the first year students shall commence by not later than the first week of August and for the students of second year onwards, by not later than the third week of July. The results for all the courses shall be declared by not later than last week of June. A flexibility of upto two weeks may be allowed for professional courses in commencement of classes for students of 2nd year and later keeping in view the requirement of project work, summer schools and internship, etc. in professional courses.

Derecognition of Deemed Universities

1589. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has derecognised some of the deemed universities;

(b) if so, the names of such deemed universities derecognised during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for their derecognition university-wise;

(d) whether the Government intends to launch a special campaign against the deemed universities functioning in violation of the laid down rules so as to improve the quality of education;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) The model constitution of 'Memorandum of Association/Rules' as prescribed in the extant guidelines of the University Grants Commission on the subject matter of 'deemed-to-be-universities' provide for right to the UGC/ Central Government to cause an enquiry to be made in respect of any matter of 'deemed-to-be-university' institutions. Following such inspection/enquiry, the Central Government/UGC may issue directions to the institution, which shall be binding on it. In the event of failure on the part of the 'deemed-to-be-university' institution to comply with these directions, the status of 'deemed-to-be-university' conferred on the institution can be withdrawn by the Central Government on the recommendation of the UGC.

[English]

Chalk Mining in Gujarat

1590. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether chalk mineral is available only in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, whether marginal labourers/farmers are engaged in the Chalk mining activities;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to consider Chalk as a Minor Mineral instead of Major Mineral;

(d) if so, whether the Government has re-considered the request of Gujarat State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Production of mineral chalk is reported only from Gujarat. State Government has reported involvement of farmers in Chalk mining activities.

(c) to (e) State Government of Gujarat had sent a proposal for declaring Chalk as a minor mineral. After examining the proposal, the Central Government has decided that in the interest of scientific and systematic development, mineral chalk, should continue to be classified as a major mineral.

Mahila Samakhya Programme

1591. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UK has extended assistance for the Mahila Samakhya programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) assistance likely to be provided to India in the next 3 years under the above programme;

(d) the details of assistance extended to various States including Andhra Pradesh, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(e) the extent to which the programme is likely to benefit the girl children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Mahila Samakhya is an on-going Central Sector programme. The Mahila Samakhya Programme has a range of interventions that draw women and girls into the educational process and it has also forged linkages with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which is Government of India's flagship scheme for universalisation

of elementary education. The amount released to States/ Union territories in 2007-08 is given in the Statement enclosed. The Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom (UK) has agreed to provide assistance for an amount of 35 million pound sterling to the Mahila Samakhya programme for a seven-year period starting 2007-08.

Statement

Amount released during 2007-08

(Rs. in crores)		
Sl.No.	Name of State	Amount released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.00
2.	Assam	3.50
3.	Bihar	5.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.15
5.	Gujarat	2.30
6.	Jharkhand	0.70
7.	Karnataka	5.50
8.	Kerala	0.50
9.	Uttar Pradesh	7.35
10.	Uttarakhand	3.35
Total		33.35

[Translation]

Special Training to PMF

1592. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to provide special arms training to para military forces (PMF) to counter the problem of terrorism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of basic facilities likely to be provided at the training centres; and

(d) the time by when such special training is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Special arms training is an integral part of all the basic and in-service training courses.

(c) All the required basic facilities are available in the training centers of the CPMFs.

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

[English]

Export of Marine Products

1593. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI RAMESH DUBE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the US to ease norms for export of marine products in lieu of reducing import duty on its cut bike Harley Davidson as reported in the *Times of India* dated December 20, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of US thereon;

(c) whether the Marine Export Development Authority of India has recommended several steps to be taken by the Union Government to save the marine industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether export of marine products has declined during 2006-07 and 2007-08 as compared to the previous years;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) MPEDA has analysed the various factors that are hindering accelerated export growth of marine products. Some of the major recommendations made are, to encourage after taking all necessary precautionary measures, the production of those species which have lower costs and higher productivity; exempting import of raw material for reprocessing, value addition and re-export against advance licenses, from the requirement of obtaining a Sanitary Import Permit and inspection by Port Health Authorities; rationalization of air freight at par with IATA rates to promote export of ornamental fishes from India, reduction of customs duty on tune bait etc.

(e) and (f) As per available information (see table below), exports of marine products during 2006-07 increased by 19.62% in quantity, 15.43% in Rupee value and 12.89% in US Dollar realization compared to 2005-06. However during 2007-08, for which only provisional figures are available upto January, 2008 which does not capture the complete export data, exports have decreased due to poor price offers, poor landing and rupee appreciation.

EXPORT OF MARINE PRODUCTS FROM INDIA

Year		Exports	Growth	(%)
1	2	3	4	5
2004-05	Q:	461329	49312	11.97
	V:	6646.69	554.74	9.11
	\$:	1478.48	147.71	11.10
2005-06	Q:	512164	50835.1	11.02
	V:	7245.30	598.61	9.01
	\$:	1644.21	165.74	11.21

1	2	3	4	5
2006-07	Q:	612641	100478	19.62
	V:	8363.53	1118.23	15.43
	\$:	1644.21	208.72	12.69
2007-08	Q:	435873	-96214	-18.08
(Provisional up to Jan. 2008)	V:	6266.69	-957.87	-13.26
	\$:	1556.09	-35.48	-2.23

Q: Quantity In M. Tons V: Value Rs. Crores \$: US \$ Million

(g) As a result of efforts made, the anti-dumping duty of 10.17% imposed by the US on Indian shrimp since 2004 (as U.S.A. claimed India was selling shrimp to it at a price lower than that to any other country), was reduced to 7.22% in the first annual administrative review for the period August 2004 to January 2006 and thereafter again further reduced to 1.09 per cent for the 2nd period of review between February 2006 to January 2007.

MPEDA has prepared a vision document and proposed clearly defined objectives and interventions, such that India's marine exports increase to \$ 6 billion in 2015 from \$ 1.85 billion exported during 2006-07.

The main areas identified by MPEDA to increase the exports are:-

- (i) Promotion of value added products.
- (ii) Promotion of Tuna
- (iii) Diversification and extension of aquaculture.

Vacant Posts of Heads of Organisations

1594. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of heads of various organisations are lying vacant under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill all these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Details of vacant posts of heads of organizations

under Ministry of Human Resource Development are as under:

1. Chairperson, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)
2. Director, Central Tibetan School Administration (CTSA)
3. Director, National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSSL)
4. Director, Central Hindi Directorate (CHD)
5. Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
6. Directors, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram
7. Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Management (IIITDM), Kanchipuram
8. Directors of National Institutes of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTRs) at Chandigarh, Bhopal, Chennai and Kolkata.

Efforts are on to fill them up in accordance with recruitment rules.

Strengthening of Fire and Rescue Services

1595. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for strengthening of their Fire and Rescue Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Proposal to convert Fire Services into All-Hazard Emergency units has two main components:

- (i) purchase of equipment & vehicles.
- (ii) construction of fire & rescue station buildings.

(c) Government has drawn up a Scheme for Strengthening the Fire & Emergency Services in the Country during the Xlth Plan period at an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crore. The Scheme will be implemented in all the States including the State of Kerala.

[Translation]

Renovation of AVM Canal

1596. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from scientists and environmentalists to renovate the historic AVM canal in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Science and Research Foundation

1597. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up National Science and Research Foundations of international standards in the country;

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

(c) the proposed role and functions of such Foundations?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Government is planning to establish a Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) to serve as a premier multi-disciplinary research agency for planning, promoting and supporting high quality internationally competitive science in frontier and emerging areas.

Recognition to Schools

1598. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBSE affiliates/recognises schools for running their courses and de-recognises them as well;

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

(c) the details of the schools de-recognised by CBSE during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the names of the schools derecognised by CBSE during the last three years and affiliated/recognised again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Central Board of Secondary Education affiliates schools to conduct public examinations at classes X and XII. For affiliation purpose, a school has to fulfill the following main conditions as laid down in its Affiliation Bye-laws:

(i) 'No Objection Certificate' from the concerned State Government/UT Administration unless exempted.

(ii) Availability of requisite land area for the campus alongwith physical facilities, staff etc.

A school can be disaffiliated on grounds of non-adherence of affiliation conditions. It can be re-affiliated in case it removes the deficiencies for which it was earlier disaffiliated.

(c) and (d) A Statement of State/UT-wise details of schools disaffiliated by CBSE during last 3 years (2004-05 to 2006-07), and those which were re-affiliated from among them as on 07.03.2008 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

I. Statement containing State/UT wise details of schools which were disaffiliated by CBSE during last three years:

Sl.No.	State/UT	Year & name of the School
1	2	3
2004-2005		
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Yash Public School, Amlavidya Road, Housing Board Colony, Nagada, Dist. Ujjain
2005-2006		
2.	Uttar Pradesh	(i) Dr. S.R. Sr. Sec. Public School, Mainpuri, U.P. (ii) Apple Grove School, Delhi Road, Saharanpur (U.P.) (iii) Leelawati Public School, 12 GMP, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad (U.P.) (iv) Merry Angel's Public School, F-1, Sector 15, Noida (U.P.)
3.	Jharkhand	Mother's International Academy, Madhupur, undu Bari Road, Jharkhand
4.	Bihar	St. Karen's Sec. School, Danapur Cantt., Patna, Bihar
5.	Tamil Nadu	Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, T. Nagar, Chennai, T.N.
6.	Punjab	(i) Capt. Amol Kalia Model Sr. Sec. School, Naya Nangal, Ropar, Punjab (ii) G.M.T. Public School, Jal Bye-Pass Chowk, Ludhiana

1	2	3
2006-2007		
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Bal Bharati Public School, Vadalapudi, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
8.	Kerala	Khuthbuzzaman English Medium School, Chemmad
9.	Rajasthan	Indo Bharat International School, Kings Road, Shiv Shakti Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan
10.	Haryana	Karan Public School, Model Town, Jhajjar-124103, (Haryana)
11.	Orissa	(i) Children Paradise Public School, Badarukha, P.S. Dharamsala, P.O. Jarka, Distt. Jajpur (ii) Indira English Medium School, A.G. Square, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa
12.	Delhi	(i) Lord Chaitanya School, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi (ii) Dr. Radhakrishan International School, C-Block, Defence Colony, New Delhi
13.	Himachal Pradesh	Chamera Hydroelectric Project School, Bani Khet, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
II. Following of the above schools were granted re-affiliation as on 07.03.2008		
2006-2007		
1.	Punjab	Capt. Amol Kalia Model Sr. Sec. School, Naya Nangal, Ropar, Punjab
2.	Delhi	Dr. Radhakrishan International School, C-Block, Defence Colony, New Delhi
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Yash Public School, Amlavidya Road, Housing Board Colony, Nagada, Distt. Ujjain-456335 (MP)

1	2	3
	2007-08	
4. Kerala	*M.E.S. Public School, P.O. Vemballur, Kadungallu, Thrissur, Kerala	
5. Rajasthan	*Central Academy Senior Secondary School, Dadabari, Kota, Rajasthan	
6. Uttar Pradesh	(i) Apple Grove School, Delhi Road, Saharanpur (UP)	
	(ii) Leelawati Public School, 12 GMP, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad (UP)	

*School was disaffiliated but the Hon'ble Court has stayed the Orders passed by the CBSE.

[English]

Computer Education

1599. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the computer education in the country;

(b) the details of schemes being implemented for promoting computer education in schools and colleges/universities;

(c) whether the State Governments have asked funds for introducing computer study in schools and colleges;

(d) if so, the details of funds provided by the Union Government during each of the last three years so far, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Following are the main schemes/programmes of this Ministry under which Computer Education is being imparted in the country:

- (i) Computer Aided Learning (CAL) programme under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for schools at elementary stage.
- (ii) The scheme "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools" for Government and Government-aided secondary and higher secondary schools.
- (iii) UGC Network Resource Centres in colleges, and Establishment/UP-gradation of Computer Centres in universities, supported by University Grants Commission (UGC).

(c) to (e) Under the scheme "ICT in Schools", States and UTs request for funds through submission of Computer Education Plans (CEPs). State/UT-wise funds allocated/sanctioned under SSA and "ICT in Schools" Schemes are given in Statement-I & II enclosed.

Under the schemes of UGC following amount was allocated for colleges and universities during the last 3 years:

2004-05		Rs. 1000 lakh
2005-06	:	Rs. 1600 lakh
2006-07		Rs. 1100 lakh

Statement I

Funds allocated for "Computer aided Learning" under SSA to State/UT Governments during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl.No.	State/UT	Allocation in 2004-05 (Rs. in lakhs)	Allocation in 2005-06 (Rs. in lakhs)	Allocation in 2006-07 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30.00	30.00	58.19
2.	Andhra Pradesh	329.76	321.25	309.20

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	225.00	152.60	179.13
4.	Assam	102.74	230.00	345.00
5.	Bihar	1013.11	680.50	417.60
6.	Chandigarh	15.00	150.00	15.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	241.81	409.10	211.15
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	11.00
9.	Daman and Diu	30.00	20.00	30.00
10.	Delhi	113.76	248.31	303.92
11.	Goa	0	60.00	57.04
12.	Gujarat	375.00	375.00	750.00
13.	Haryana	517.96	313.87	300.00
14.	Himachal Pradesh	180.00	180.00	180.00
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	113.76	184.38	210.00
16.	Jharkhand	618.32	330.00	635.61
17.	Karnataka	405.00	810.00	810.00
18.	Kerala	310.30	318.70	226.68
19.	Lakshadweep	28.09	30.00	15.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1099.84	1216.91	989.29
21.	Maharashtra	418.00	487.48	994.51
22.	Manipur	109.95	13.68	40.00
23.	Meghalaya	105.00	0.00	105.00
24.	Mizoram	230.87	120.80	120.00
25.	Nagaland	120.00	128.18	120.00
26.	Orissa	450.00	450.00	450.00
27.	Pondicherry	60.00	60.00	60.00
28.	Punjab	240.00	255.00	255.00
29.	Rajasthan	231.00	384.00	480.00
30.	Sikkim	60.00	60.00	60.00
31.	Tamil Nadu	435.00	1450.00	435.00

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Tripura	40.00	60.00	60.00
33.	Uttar Pradesh	915.00	1050.00	2100.00
34.	Uttarakhand	195.00	195.00	195.00
35.	West Bengal	283.00	281.23	300.00
Total		9642.27	10920.99	11828.32

Statement II*Funds Sanctioned under "ICT in Schools" Scheme to State/UT Governments during 2005-06 and 2006-07*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount Sanctioned during 2005-06 (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount Sanctioned during 2006-07 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	60.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	1000.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	928.62	—
4.	Bihar	900.00	—
5.	Chandigarh	—	100.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	—	500.00
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	30.00
8.	Daman and Diu	75.00	—
9.	Delhi	—	375.00
10.	Goa	1150.00	—
11.	Gujarat	—	750.00
12.	Haryana	500.00	—
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	844.20	—
14.	Karnataka	2400.00	—
15.	Kerala	625.00	—

1	2	3	4
16.	Lakshadweep	—	60.00
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1150.00	—
18.	Maharashtra	—	1000.00
19.	Mizoram	306.18	—
20.	Nagaland	319.59	886.41
21.	Orissa	1000.00	—
22.	Pudducherry	—	125.00
23.	Punjab	1000.00	—
24.	Rajasthan	500.00	—
25.	Sikkim	621.09	—
26.	Tamil Nadu	625.00	—
27.	Tripura	—	1206.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	—	1000.00
29.	Uttarakhand	150.75	—
30.	West Bengal	1000.00	—
Total		14095.43	7092.41

Note: In 2004-05, no amount was sanctioned under "ICT in Schools" Scheme to any State/UT.

Import of Cement

1600. SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has permitted the Government of Tamil Nadu to import cement;

(b) if so, the total quantity and the country from which it is to be imported;

(c) whether such import of cement would be strictly in accordance with the standard prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);

(d) if so, the main features of the BIS guidelines;

(e) if not, the reasons for waiving the standard prescribed by BIS;

(f) whether such exemption of BIS guidelines for import of cement would be made applicable to indigenously manufactured cements and domestic consumers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) Cement can be imported only from those foreign cement manufacturers who have been granted licenses by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under Foreign Manufacturers' Certification Scheme. Thus imported cement should conform to specified BIS standards and also carry the standard mark of BIS. The Government has given a special dispensation to MMTC Limited, a Government of India enterprise, TANCEM, a State Government enterprise of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Agro Service and Industries Corporation Ltd., to import cement from even those foreign manufacturers, for a maximum period of 150 days, who have applied for BIS license. The imported cement from such manufacturers will not carry the standard mark of BIS but it still should conform to specified standards of BIS. TANCEM has already imported around 7250 tonnes of cement and is further planning to import 0.92 lakh tonnes from Pakistan through MMTC Limited.

(f) and (g) A domestic manufacturer is also granted exemption from the standard mark of BIS for a period of 150 days.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1601. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include high schools under the programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discrepancies have been reported under SSA;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the number of schools brought under Mid Day Meal Scheme in the country including Tamil Nadu, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to include high schools under the programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. However, Government of India has decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the 11th Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by ensuring availability of a secondary school within 5 kilometers of every habitation.

(c) to (e) The report on Performance Audit of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) submitted by Comptroller & Auditor General of India 2005-06 for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05 has classified an amount of Rs. 53 crores as expenditure not covered under SSA guidelines. Government of India issued instructions to the concerned States/UTs to refund the same to State SSA account. An amount of Rs. 32.36 crore has already been recouped to SSA account. The States/UTs have been strictly instructed to avoid recurrence of such instances in future.

(f) Details in respect of schools under Mid-Day Meal scheme, State and Union Territory-wise including Tamil Nadu are enclosed as Statement.

Statement**Mid-Day Meal Scheme***Number of Primary Schools, EGS & AIE centres for 2006-07 and upper primary schools as on 1.10.2007*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of Primary Schools				No. of EGS & AIE Centres				No. of Govt. schools having upper primary classes**
		Govt.	Local Bodies	Govt. Aided	Total (PS) [col 3+4+5]	EGS	AIE	Total (EGS/AIE) (col 7+8)	Total (PS+EGS/AIE) [col 6+9]	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5903	63829	2892	72625	2866	3280	6146	78771	13983
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2238	0	26	2264	206	0	206	2470	242
3.	Assam	30942	0	0	30942	6780	12475	19255	50197	Not available
4.	Bihar	50257	0	988	51245	10468	3537	14005	65250	16316
5.	Chhattisgarh	31137	371	2	31510	230	0	230	31740	6016
6.	Goa	0	949	174	1123	0	0	0	1123	Not available
7.	Gujarat	29777	1702	587	32066	0	7133	7133	39199	Not available
8.	Haryana	9168	170	5	9343	0	10399	10399	19742	873
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10621	0	11	10632	343	0	343	10975	237
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	15737	0	0	15737	5852	0	5852	21589	728
11.	Jharkhand	21067	0	850	21917	11470	205	11675	33592	118
12.	Karnataka	43133	0	2405	45538	250	0	250	45788	6387
13.	Kerala	4137	275	6501	10913	0	0	0	10913	Not available
14.	Madhya Pradesh	76336	5124	4636	86096	0	8809	8809	94905	15912
15.	Maharashtra	276	59382	12733	72391	7142	4946	12088	84479	87
16.	Manipur	2552	0	494	3046	1261	2241	3502	6548	Not available
17.	Meghalaya	2539	0	3312	5851	1789	0	1789	7640	468
18.	Mizoram	1273	0	6	1279	108	13	121	1400	21
19.	Nagaland	1749	0	0	1749	0	0	0	1749	50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20.	Orissa	46824	1500	351	48675	18923	0	18923	67598	8048
21.	Punjab	13021	0	77	13098	2739	0	2739	15837	1052
22.	Rajasthan	19814	513	31594	51921	18845	3313	22158	74079	4115
23.	Sikkim	782	0	0	782	38	79	117	899	Not available
24.	Tamil Nadu	1529	22802	5097	29428	247	5035	5282	34710	836
25.	Tripura	3465	0	57	3522	1917	182	2099	5621	299
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	88254	633	88887	2200	2100	4300	93187	15805
27.	Uttaranchal	28	11833	3	11864	1369	139	1508	13372	809
28.	West Bengal*	—	—	—	56111	18587	0	18587	74698	1900
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	306	0	2	308	30	8	38	346	Not available
30.	Chandigarh	110	0	5	115	275	0	275	390	Not available
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	197	0	12	209	0	0	0	209	75
32.	Daman and Diu	0	78	4	82	0	0	0	82	Not available
33.	Delhi	362	1880	182	2404	0	0	0	2404	Not available
34.	Lakshadweep	32	0	0	32	0	0	0	32	Not available
35.	Pondicherry	308	0	25	333	0	0	0	333	Not available
Total		425620	258662	73645	814038	113935	63894	177829	991867	94377

*In West Bengal, break-up of Primary School not available.

**Only Government schools including local body schools. It does not include Government aided schools or EGS/AIE Centres.
Source: AWP&B 2006-07

[Translation]

Corruption Cases in Para Military Forces

1602. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the incidents of corruption charges against the personnel of Central Para Military Forces;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases registered during each of the last three years, force-wise, rank-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such accused personnel; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) An increase has been noticed only in CISF as detailed below:

Year	Rank	No. of cases	Total
2005	Sub-Inspector/Exe	02	23
	Asst. Sub Insp./Exe	01	
	Head Constable/GD	04	
	Constable	16	

2006	Sub-Inspector/Exe	01	25
	Asst. Sub Insp./Exe	01	
	Head Constable/GD	05	
	Constable	18	
2007	Dy. Comdt	01	35
	Inspector/Exe	01	
	Sub. Inspector/Exe	07	
	Asst. Sub Inspector/Exe	03	
	Asst Sub-Insp./Clk	01	
	Head Constable/GD	07	
	Constable	15	

(c) Disciplinary action has been taken against the personnel involved in such type of activities as per instructions/guidelines issued by the Central Vigilance Commission and Government of India.

(d) To check such cases mechanisms like setting up of vigilance branches, regular briefing of officers and personnel, surprise checks, and other preventive and surveillance vigilance measures, have been established.

[English]

Harassment of Children in Schools

1603. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any recommendations from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) regarding harassment of children in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has written to all State Governments in April, 2007 to put in place a suitable

mechanism to stop physical harassment of children in schools. National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, inter-alia, provides that "corporal punishment will be firmly excluded from the educational system". Education is a concurrent subject and school education primarily comes under the purview of State Governments. Government of India has issued an advisory to all State Governments in December, 2007 to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools under their jurisdiction.

[Translation]

Educationally Backward Districts

1604. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the educationally backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, since when the districts were identified along with the names of the said districts, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted for identification of such districts;

(d) the steps taken to bring these districts educationally at par with other districts; and

(e) the achievement of the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) 105 Special Focus Districts were initially identified during the year 2005. The Schemes under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, however, target educationally backward blocks. Further, University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2007, has identified educationally backward districts mainly based on the criterion of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) less than National Average. The list of these educationally backward districts in enclosed Statement. The Government proposes to incentivise State Governments to establish one college in each of these districts during the XI Five Year Plan. These steps will significantly contribute in increasing the access of education along with inclusiveness in the educationally backward districts.

Statement	5. Bihar
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands Andaman and Nicobars	Araria Aurangabad
2. Andhra Pradesh Adilabad Anantapur East Godavari Kurnool Mahbubnagar Medak Nizamabad Prakasam Srikakulam Vizianagaram West Godavari	Banka Begusarai Darbhanga Gopalganj Jamui Kaimur Katihar Khagaria Kishanganj Lakhisarai Madhepura Madhubani Nawada W. Champaran E. Champaran
3. Arunachal Pradesh Changlang Dibang Valley East Kameng Lohit Lower Subansiri Tawang Tirap Upper Siang Upper Subansiri West Kameng West Siang	Purnia Saharsa Samastipur Saran Sheohar Sitamarhi Siwan Supaul Vaishali
4. Assam Bongaigaon Cachar Darrang Dhubri Goalpara Hailakandi Karbi Anglong Karimganj Marigaon Nagaon Sonitpur Tinsukia	6. Chhattisgarh Bastar Bilaspur Dantewada Dhamtari Durg Janjgir-Hampa Jashpur Kanker Kawardha Koriya Mahasamund

- Raigarh
 Raipur
 Rajnandgaon
 Surguja
7. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
 Dadra and Nagar Haveli
8. Daman and Diu
 Daman and Diu
9. Gujarat
 Amreli
 Banas Kantha
 Bharuch
 Bhavnagar
 Dohad
 Jamnagar
 Junagad
 Kachchh
 Kheda
 Mahesana
 Narmada
 Panch Mahals
 Patan
 Porbandar
 Rajkot
 Sabar Kantha
 Surat
 Surendranagar
 The Dangs
 Valsad
10. Haryana
 Fatehabad
 Gurgaon
 Jind
 Kaithal
 Karnal
 Panipat
 Sirsa
11. Himachal Pradesh
 Chamba
 Kinnaur
 Lahul and Spiti
 Sirmaur
12. Jammu and Kashmir
 Anantnag
 Badgam
 Baramula
 Doda
 Kargil
 Kathua
 Kupwara
 Leh
 Punch
 Rajauri
 Udhampur
13. Jharkhand
 Chatra
 Deoghar
 Dumka
 Garhwa
 Giridih
 Godda
 Gumla
 Kodarma
 Pakaur
 Palamu
 P. Singhbhum
 Sahibganj
14. Karnataka
 Bagalkot
 Bangalore Rural
 Belgaum
 Bellary
 Bijapur
 Chamarajanagar
 Chikmagalur
 Chitradurga
 Dakshina Kannada
 Gadag
 Gulbarga
 Hassan
 Haveri

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|-----|-----------------------|-----|--------------------|
| | Kodagu | | Satna |
| | Kolar | | Sehore |
| | Koppal | | Seoni |
| | Mandya | | Shahdol |
| | Raichur | | Shajapur |
| | Tumkur | | Sheopur |
| | Udupi | | Shivpuri |
| | Uttara Kannada | | Sidhi |
| 15. | Kerala | | Tikamgarh |
| | Kasaragod | | Ujjain |
| | Malappuram | | Imaria |
| | Palakkad | | Vidisha |
| | Wayanad | | West Nimar |
| 16. | Laskhadweep | 18. | Maharashtra |
| | Laskhadweep | | Buldhana |
| | | | Gadchiroli |
| 17. | Madhya Pradesh | | Hingoli |
| | Balaghat | | Jalna |
| | Barwani | | Raigarh |
| | Betul | | Ratnagiri |
| | Damoh | | Sindhudurg |
| | Datia | 19. | Meghalaya |
| | Dewas | | East Garo Hills |
| | Dhar | | Jaintia Hills |
| | Dindori | | Ri Bhoi |
| | East Nimar | | South Garo Hills |
| | Guna | | West Khasi Hills |
| | Harda | 20. | Mizoram |
| | Jhabua | | Champhai |
| | Katni | | Kolasib |
| | Mandia | | Lawngtlai |
| | Mandsaur | | Lunglei |
| | Morena | | Mamit |
| | Narsimhapur | | Saiha |
| | Neemuch | | Serchhip |
| | Panna | 21. | Nagaland |
| | Raisen | | Mon |
| | Rajgarh | 22. | Orissa |
| | Ratlam | | Anugul |
| | Sagar | | |

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|----------------|
| | Balangir | | Bharatpur |
| | Bargarh | | Bhilwara |
| | Baugh | | Bikaner |
| | Debagarh | | Bundi |
| | Dhenkanal | | Chittaurgarh |
| | Gajapati | | Churu |
| | Ganjam | | Dausa |
| | Kalahandi | | Dhaulpur |
| | Kandhamal | | Dungarpur |
| | Kendujhar | | Ganganagar |
| | Koraput | | Hanumangarh |
| | Malkangiri | | Jaisalmer |
| | Nabarangapur | | Jalor |
| | Nayagarh | | Jhalawar |
| | Nuapada | | Jhunjhunu |
| | Rayagada | | Jodhpur |
| | Sonapur | | Karauli |
| 23. | Pondicherry | | Nagaur |
| | Yanam | | Pali |
| 24. | Punjab | | Rajsamand |
| | Amritsar | | Sawai Madhopur |
| | Bathinda | | Sikar |
| | Faridkot | | Sirohi |
| | Fatehgarh Sahib | | Tonk |
| | Firozpur | | Udaipur |
| | Gurdaaspur | 26. | Sikkim |
| | Kapurthala | | East |
| | Mansa | | North |
| | Moga | | South |
| | Muktsar | | West |
| | Nawanshahar | 27. | Tamil Nadu |
| | Patiala | | Ariyalur |
| | Sangrur | | Coimbatore |
| 25. | Rajasthan | | Cuddalore |
| | Ajmer | | Dharmapuri |
| | Alwar | | Dindigul |
| | Banswara | | Erode |
| | Baran | | Kancheepuram |
| | Barmer | | Kanniyakumari |

Karur
 Madurai
 Nagapattinam
 Perambalur
 Pudukkottai
 Ramanathapuram
 Salem
 Sivaganga
 Thanjavur
 The Nilgiris
 Theni
 Thiruvallur
 Thiruvarur
 Thoothukkudi
 Tirunelveli
 Tiruvannamalai
 Vellore
 Viluppuram
 Virudhunagar

28. Tripura

Dhalai

29. Uttar Pradesh

Bahraich
 Balrampur
 Banda
 Barabanki
 Bareilly
 Basti
 Bijnor
 Budaun
 Bulandshahr
 Chitrakoot
 Etah
 Farrukhabad
 Fatehpur
 Gonda
 Hamirpur
 Hardoi
 Hathras
 Jyotiba P. Nagar
 Kannauj

Kanpur Dehat
 Kaushambi
 Kheri
 Kushinagar
 Lalitpur
 Maharajganj
 Mahoba
 Mathura
 Moradabad
 Muzaffarnagar
 Pilibhit
 Rae Bareli
 Rampur
 Saharanpur
 Sant Kabir Nagar
 Shahjahanpur
 Shrawasti
 Siddharthnagar
 Sitapur
 Sonbhadra
 Sultanpur
 Unnao

30. Uttaranchal

Bageshwar
 Champawat

31. West Bengal

Bankura
 Bardhaman
 Birbhum
 Dakshin Dinajpur
 Darjiling
 Haora
 Hugli
 Jalpaiguri
 Koch Bihar
 Maldah
 Medinipur
 Murshidabad
 Nadia
 North Twenty Four Parganas
 Puruliya
 South Twenty Four Parganas
 Uttar Dinajpur

*[English]***Ocenarium Complex and Marine Theme Park**

1605. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for establishing an Ocenarium Complex and Marine Theme Park for research and study of Ocean life;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to give financial assistance to this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the 11th Five Year Plan, Ministry has a scheme for setting up, an Ocenarium in the country.

Interface between Physics and Vedanta

1606. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any interface between physics and Vedanta bringing together physicists from the US and the scholars of the Sri Venkateswara Vedic University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to Sri Venkateswara Vedic University, Tirupati (AP) there is no such project presently in that university.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Marketing of Khadi and Agro Products

1607. PROF. M. RAMADASS:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme to promote marketing of Khadi and agro products both in domestic market and abroad;

(b) the number of agro clinics and agro business centres set up during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the employment generated through the above scheme during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The details of the assistance provided through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) under its various schemes to promote marketing of Khadi and Village Industry (KVI) Products, both in domestic market and abroad, are given below:

(i) Financial assistance is provided to implementing agencies for opening sales outlets in order to promote sales of KVI products.

(ii) Financial assistance for organizing exhibitions at various levels like districts, State, Zonal and national level also provided by KVIC from its budgetary sources at the following rates:

Sl.No.	Level of Exhibition	Assistance by KVIC (per event) (Rs. in lakh)
1.	National Level Exhibition	40.00
2.	Zonal Level Exhibition	25.00
3.	State Level Exhibition	10.00
4.	District Level Exhibition	2.50

During 2006-07, 106 exhibitions were organized.

(iii) KVIC is running 12 departmental sales outlets at various locations in the country.

(iv) Under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), financial assistance for backward and forward linkages is being extended to the entrepreneurs, which includes financial assistance for organizing district level exhibitions, in order to promote the sale of products of REGP units.

(v) For exploring international market, a scheme to conduct exhibitions/participate in trade fairs, etc. abroad, is in vogue, under which the khadi institutions/village industry units are provided with the following incentives:

- 75 per cent of the Air Fare Travel by economy class or train fare, as the case may be to one representative each of the participating units promoted by persons belonging to the general category while 100 per cent of such airfare is to be provided to one representative each of the participating units belonging to women entrepreneurs, SC/ST entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from North Eastern Region, etc.
- up to 50% of the space rent actually paid is reimbursed. In case of women entrepreneurs, SC/ST entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from North Eastern Region, etc., 100% of space rent paid is reimbursed.

- Assistance for space rent and travel expenses for each participating entrepreneur/unit would be limited to Rs. 1.25 lakh.

During 2006-07, KVIC participated in 5 international exhibitions/trade fairs organised in various countries.

(b) and (c) Setting up of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres, is not within the purview of the Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)/KVIC. The Government (in the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) is concerned with the subject. The State and Union Territory-wise number of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres set up during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 as furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture, are given in the Statement enclosed. Each established Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centre provided self employment to at least one unemployed graduate of Agriculture and allied subjects. Accordingly, the employment generated through the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres, during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is approximately equal to or more than the number of the above units set up during the corresponding years.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise number of Agri-Clinics and Agro-Business Centres set up and Employment Generated through them during 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Units set up*		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35	42	59
2.	Assam	8	3	0
3.	Bihar	113	124	103
4.	Chhattisgarh	13	29	21
5.	Goa	0	1	0
6.	Gujarat	41	50	17
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	11
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	5	3
9.	Jharkhand	3	1	1
10.	Karnataka	107	244	83
11.	Kerala	6	1	0

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	60	17	16
13.	Maharashtra	180	286	118
14.	Manipur	0	15	2
15.	Orissa	14	29	0
16.	Punjab	7	0	0
17.	Rajasthan	66	97	196
18.	Tamil Nadu	11	73	88
19.	Uttar Pradesh	116	339	354
20.	Uttarakhand	0	19	7
21.	West Bengal	0	39	2
Total		783	1415	1081

*Minimum employment generated @ at least one employment per unit set up.

Hindi Prachar Sabha

1608. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether P.R. Das Gupta Committee on administration of the Hindi Prachar Sabha in Chennai has given its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by when these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad recommendations of the Committee are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Committee were examined by the Government and it was decided to obtain the views of the UGC on Section 3 of the UGC

Act. The UGC vide letter dated 12.11.2007 informed that the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha (DBHPS) be requested to submit the proposal for Deemed to be University status to the Ministry of HRD as per the UGC guidelines and format prescribed for the purpose. Accordingly, the Department of Higher Education vide letter No. 806/2004-CHD dated 30.11.2007 has informed the Registrar, DBHPS, Chennai, to apply for seeking Deemed University status through the Ministry of HRD as per the UGC guidelines and prescribed format, after securing the approval of its Governing Body/Executive Committee. The DBHPS has not responded to the letter as yet.

Statement

The Broad Recommendations of P.R. Das Gupta Committee on the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha (DBHPS), Chennai and its Branches are as under:—

- The Sabha has done a remarkable job strengthening knowledge and usage of Hindi throughout India. However, despite this long history, a sense of ennui and lethargy has set in.
- Prantiya Sabhas have been set up and whatever the legality of their existence, they have come to stay.

- The Karnataka Prantiya Sabha, Dharwar, has amended its constitution, in a move which may not be strictly correct, to adopt and maintain professional colleges (Engineering, Medical colleges, etc.) where Hindi could also be taught. Though this amendment may appear to be taking the Sabha away from its core mandate, it also appears that these activities are the most prominent of the Sabha's activities. In any case, the professional colleges set up in Karnataka actually teach professional courses in Hindi.
- The office itself needs substantial administrative reforms and recommends immediate commissioning of an Organisation and Method (O&M) study.

Seismic Zones

1609. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Disaster Forecast Centres installed in the country particularly, in Tamil Nadu, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has analysed the earthquake affected seismic zones across the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to install more disaster forecast centres in the country;

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

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle such disasters in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Disaster Forecast Centres have been set up in the country for different types of disasters, details of which are given below:

- (i) Cyclone Warning: Six cyclone warning centres have been established in the country covering both East and West coasts.

(ii) Early Warning System for Tsunami: At Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, an Early Warning Centre for Tsunami covering the entire coastline of the country has been set up.

(iii) Flood Meteorological Offices: Ten such offices located, provide heavy rainfall warning to Central Flood Forecasting Division of Central Water Commission, which in turn issues the flood advisory/forecast.

No earthquake forecasting centre has so far been established since it is not yet possible, anywhere in the world, to forecast earthquake. However, sixty seven earthquake monitoring centres are in operation across the country to detect and locate earthquakes occurring in and around the country. State-wise list of the Disaster Forecast Centres are enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Based on scientific inputs received from a large number of agencies, the Bureau of Indian Standards has divided the country into four seismic zones *i.e.*, Zone-II, Zone-III, Zone-IV and Zone-V, out of which Zone V is the most seismically active region while Zone-II is the least active region. The geographical area as percentage of area of the country, in various seismic zones is as given under:

(i)	Zone II	—	41.40%
(ii)	Zone III	—	30.40%
(iii)	Zone IV	—	17.30% and
(iv)	Zone V	—	10.90%

The Building Materials Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) has prepared vulnerability atlas. As per this atlas 241 districts of the country have been categorized as multi hazard districts, out of which 229 districts fall under seismic Zone-IV and V.

(d) and (e) The disaster forecast centres available today are adequate to cater to the requirements of the country.

(f) Government is also implementing an Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project in 38 cities falling in Seismic Zones III to V and having a population of 5 lac or more. The project aims at reducing the vulnerability of these cities to earthquakes by preparation of response plans at various levels, training of architects and engineers in seismic safe construction practices, etc.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has laid down guidelines for the 'Management of Earthquakes' in April 2007. The guidelines prescribe measures for Central Ministries and Departments and State Governments to prepare disaster management plans having specific components on earthquake risk management.

Government also send advisories to State Government and Union Territory from time to time on disaster mitigation and preparedness measures including those relating to earthquake through adoption of modern building bye-laws. All new buildings and structures built after 30th June 2007 have to comply with the earthquake resistant building code and the National Building Code 2005.

NDMA is also planning to initiative a National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Project (NERMP) during the

11th Five Year Plan to address the needs of:

- (i) Capacity Building of 90,000 Engineers, 24,000 Architects, 225,000 Site Supervisors, 225,000 Contractors and 450,000 Lead Masons and Masons;
- (ii) Public Awareness on Earthquake Risk and Vulnerability;
- (iii) Strengthening enforcement and regulation of building bye-laws and earthquake resistant building codes;
- (iv) Strengthening the emergency response capabilities in the country; and
- (v) Carrying out the structural safety audit of district hospitals in the 229 district hospitals in seismic zones IV & V.

Statement

(a) List of Cyclone Warning Centres

Sl.No.	Location	Type of Service	Coastal Areas Covered	Major Activities
1.	Kolkata	Area Cyclone Warning	West Bengal coast and Andaman & Nicobar Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea area cyclone warning (>75 nautical miles) over north Bay of Bengal • Coastal Cyclone Warning (up to 75 nautical miles)
2.	Chennai	Area Cyclone Warning	Coastal States/UTs of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka Puducherry and Lakshadweep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea area cyclone warning (>75 nautical miles) over south Bay of Bengal • Coastal Cyclone Warning (up to 75 nautical miles)
3.	Mumbai	Area Cyclone Warning	Coastal states of Goa and Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea area cyclone warning (>75 nautical miles) over Arabian Sea • Coastal Cyclone Warning (up to 75 nautical miles)
4.	Visakhapatnam	Cyclone Warning	Coastal Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Cyclone Warning (up to 75 nautical miles)
5.	Bhubaneswar	Cyclone Warning	Coastal Orissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Cyclone Warning (up to 75 nautical miles)
6.	Ahmedabad	Cyclone Warning	Coastal Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Cyclone Warning (up to 75 nautical miles)

(b) List of Flood Meteorological Offices

Sl.No.	Location	Covered River Basins
1.	Delhi	Yamuna
2.	Lucknow	Ganga
3.	Agra	Yamuna
4.	Ahmedabad	Narmada, Sabarnati and Tapi
5.	Hyderabad	Krishna and Godavari
6.	Patna	Ganga
7.	Bhubaneswar	Mahanadi
8.	Jalpaiguri	Tista
9.	Asansole	Damodar and Ajay
10.	Guwahati	Brahmaputra

(c) State-wise list of Seismological Observatories operated by IMD

State	Names of Observatories
1	2
Tamil Nadu	Chennai; Kodaikanal; Salem
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada; Visakhapatnam
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Portblair
Assam	Lekhapani
Bihar	Valmikinagar
Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur
Goa	Goa
Gujarat	Bhavnagar; Bhuj
Haryana	Bahadurgarh; Sohna; Kurukshetra; Rohtak; Kundal
Himachal Pradesh	Kaipa; Dalhousie; Pong; Shimla; Sundamagar
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu; Srinagar
Jharkhand	Bokaro; Sahibganj
Karnataka	Mangalore

1	2
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
Lakshadweep Islands	Minicoy
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
Maharashtra	Karad; Latur; Akola; Pune; Mumbai; Nagpur
Manipur	Imphal
Meghalaya	Shillong; Tura
NCT of Delhi	Ridge, Delhi; Lodi Road; Aya Nagar
Orissa	Bhubaneswar
Punjab	Bhakra; Thein Dam
Rajasthan	Ajmer; Khetri; Jaisalmer
Sikkim	Gangtok
Tripura	Agartala
Uttarakhand	Dehradun; Lohaghat; Joshimath; Kalagarh; Pithoragarh
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad; Behraich; Jhansi; Varanasi; Ausora; Rataul; Bisrakh; Agra; Onchagaon
West Bengal	Siliguri; Kolkatta

Usage of IT by Terrorists

1610. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the usage of Information Technology by the Terrorists and extremist groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Government to check such usage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of usage of Information Technology by terrorist and extremist groups.

As per available information, terrorist and extremist groups are becoming increasingly techno-savvy in pursuing

their nefarious designs and agenda. They are reported to be making use of cyber technology and platform including the internet, satellite, phones, encryption, etc. besides state-of-the art wireless systems. In addition, they are using e-mail services for communication. They are also reported to be using advanced communication technology as a medium for espousing their cause, gathering new recruits and mobilizing funds and supports.

(c) Measures taken by the Government include the Information Technology Act, 2000, providing the legal framework to prevent cyber crimes. A Bill to amend the Act has been introduced in the Lok Sabha to address cyber crimes like phishing, spamming, online frauds, identity thefts, data-protection, etc. Government has also set up Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to provide support to fight cyber crimes.

Programme Generating Facility Centres

1611. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to establish Programme Generating Facility Centres (PGFC) in various cities of the country;

(b) if so, the status of such proposals; and

(c) the places identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to establish Programme Generating Facility Centres in various cities of the country. The details of such centres are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Programme Generating Facility Centres at various cities in the Country

All India Radio

Sl.No.	Location	State
1	2	3
1.	Anini	Arunachal Pradesh
2.	Bomdila	Arunachal Pradesh

1	2	3
3.	Changlang	Arunachal Pradesh
4.	Baporijo	Arunachal Pradesh
5.	Khonsa	Arunachal Pradesh
6.	Golpara	Assam
7.	Karimganj	Assam
8.	Lumding	Assam
9.	Junagarh	Gujarat
10.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand
11.	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh
12.	Amravati	Maharashtra
13.	Oras	Maharashtra
14.	Tamenglang	Manipur
15.	Ukhrul	Manipur
16.	Dawki	Meghalaya
17.	Champhai	Mizoram
18.	Kolasib	Mizoram
19.	Tuipang	Mizoram
20.	Phek	Nagaland
21.	Wokha	Nagaland
22.	Zunheboto	Nagaland
23.	Rairangpur	Orissa
24.	Dungarpur	Rajasthan
25.	Longthrai	Tripura
26.	Nutan Bazaar	Tripura
27.	Udaypur	Tripura
28.	Bageshwar	Uttarakhand
29.	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
30.	Haldwani	Uttarakhand
31.	Balurghat	West Bengal
32.	Darjeeling	West Bengal
33.	Cooch Behar	West Bengal
Doordarshan		
34.	Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh

Setting up of Central Universities and IITs

1612. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN:
SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Universities and Indian Institutes of Technology presently in operation in the North East Region and Fifth Scheduled Areas;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more Central Universities and IITs for providing higher education to the Scheduled Tribes in these areas;

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

(d) the details of other centrally funded higher learning educational institutions functioning in the North East Region and Fifth Scheduled Areas as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Nine Central Universities and one Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) are presently in operation in the North East Region. While no Central University or IIT is presently in operation in the Fifth Scheduled Areas, a Bill for setting up the Indra Gandhi National Tribal University with headquarters at Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh) falling in the Fifth Scheduled Area has since been passed by both the Houses of Parliament as also assented to by the President. The proposed University shall have powers to establish such number of its regional centers, viz off-campus constituted by the University and functioning as part of the University, in the areas inhabited by tribal population, as are, in the opinion of the University, necessary for furtherance of its objects, thereby covering the Scheduled Areas of ten States as well.

The existing Guru Ghasidas University, Koni, Bilaspur is proposed to be converted into a Central University. In addition, the Government proposes to open new Central Universities, IITs, Indian Institutes of Management, National Institutes of Technology, etc. during the XIth Plan. Some of these Institutes could be located in the Fifth Scheduled Areas.

House-cum-work Shed Scheme

1613. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for consideration under House-cum-Work-Shed Scheme, State-wise; and

(b) the total amount allocated for the scheme during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) During the XI Plan, the Government of India is not implementing the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for Handloom Weavers. As such no proposals have been received for 2007-08 under the scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

Package for J&K

1614. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial packages announced and sanctioned for the State of Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years, sector-wise;

(b) the details of utilisation of funds under the said packages along with the progress of implementation of the schemes/works, sector-wise;

(c) the time-frame for completion of major work especially power and road schemes; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the incomplete works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There are no financial packages as such announced during the last three years. However, the details of the schemes under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan for Jammu and Kashmir, announced in November, 2004 are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The State Government and respective Central Ministries/Departments are reviewing the progress and implementation of various schemes from time to time. The overall review and monitoring is done by Ministry of Home Affairs.

As per the latest reports, the time frame for completion and the progress made are given in Column 3 and 5 respectively of Statement enclosed.

The Government attaches highest importance to early implementation of the schemes at all levels.

Statement*PM's Reconstruction Plan, 2004*

Announced in 2004-05

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of the Project	Cost	Time frame for completion	Amount utilized	Progress
1	2	3	4	4
EXPANDING ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE				
POWER				
A thousand micro hydro-electric projects throughout the state Completing ongoing NHPC power projects in the Central sector (Dulhasti, Sewa-II & Baglihar) on schedule to add power generation capacity of 1,302 MW	14.02	2007-08	14.02	Out of 1000 projects, 998 have been completed and works of remaining 2 are in progress.
Dulhasti	4913.00	2007-08	5095.22	Dulhasti Project has been commissioned. Commercial operation started w.e.f. 7.4.2007
Sewa-II	783.00	2009-10	574.80	The project is under active construction stage.
Baglihar (Additional Central Assistance)	630.00 (ACA)	2008-09 (Revised)	493.97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transmission Line 100% completed • Civil & Hydro works 92% completed. • Electro mechanical works 97% completed.
Electrification of all villages across the state by 2007, and electrification for all households desiring a connection by 2009	709.84	2008-09 (Revised)	—	DPRs for Udampur and Kathua sanctioned for Rs. 29.30 Crore and Rs. 41.89 crore respectively. Work allotted. Tenders have been floated in respect of Anantnag & Kupwara. The DPRs of remaining districts are under process.
Strengthening power transmission & distribution network	1350.00 (Revised)	2010-11	240.70	34 grid stations are under various stages of construction/augmentation. 6 grid stations are targeted for completion during current financial year. Work on 883 Kms Transmission Lines are under progress.

1	2	3	4	4
Construction of access road to Sawalkot hydro-electric power project (600 MW)	119.00	2008-09	65.46	Pilot path of four meters (average) width completed upto 10.74 Kms out of 18.50 kms. Remaining works are in progress.
Pakal Dul project (1,000 MW), subject to environmental clearance	3480.00	X	67.17	DPR prepared and submitted by NHPC to CEA for techno economic clearance.
Bursar (multipurpose project, including 1,020 MW power generation), subject to environmental clearance	4378.00	X	44.96	DPR under preparation. Forest clearance accorded. The other environmental clearance are in process.
URI-II hydro-electric power project (240 MW)	1778.00	2010-11 (Revised)	278.62	All major civil works have been awarded and works going on fast track basis. Diversion tunnel has been completed. Head Race Tunnel excavation of 3650 Mtrs and Tail Race Tunnel excavation of 1903 Mtrs. have been completed.
Kishanganga hydro-electric power project (330 MW)	2413.83	2014-15	30.13	Revised environment clearance and PIB has been obtained. Revenue papers of power house colony and power house site have been prepared and submitted to Collector, Land Acquisition. 208 Mts. diversion tunnel completed. Technical bid for turn key execution has been finalized and price bid called for. Contract for main project being allotted.
Srinagar-Leh 220 kW transmission line	634.00	Deffered		The project has been decided to be kept on hold for the time being following decisions to implement two Hydro Electric Projects in Leh at Nimo-Bazgo and Chutak.
Nimo-Bazgo	637.97	2010-11	98.88	CCEA approval has been accorded and all major civil works awarded to M/s HCC Ltd. Work in progress.
Chutak	652.51	2010-11	75.04	Infrastructure work of Chutak is in progress.

1	2	3	4	4
ROADS				
Construction of Mughal Road to connect Poonch region with Jammu	255.00	2009-10 (Revised)	127.50	Survey work and land acquisition have been made partly. Environment clearance granted. 66.81 Hectares of Hirpur Wild Life Sanctuary de-notified by the Forest Department. Work is in progress.
Widening of Domet-Katra Road	34.92	2008-09 (Revised)	26.61	Land acquisition is under progress. 10 Km of roadwork completed. Works are in progress.
Advancing the schedule for completing the double-laning of Batote-Kishtwar Road (NH 1B) from the end of 2013 to the end of 2010	639.78	2010-11	124.29	Work is in progress for Kishtwar-Sinthan stretch approved at a cost of Rs. 206.91 crore. DPR for stretches from Sinthan to Anantnag & Batote to Kishtwar have been submitted.
Upgrading Srinagar-Uri-LOC road	497.39	2009-10 (Revised)	157.56	The road from 7 km to 14 km is being developed to NH 4-laning specifications. The stretch from Km 14 to Km 56 is being strengthened. 56 Kms onwards in being developed to NH double lane specifications.
Construction of Khanabal-Pahalgam Road	110.00	2008-09 (Revised)	51.35	13.50 Km of earth work completed and 31.50 Km of macadamisation done. 250 RM irrigation channel shifted. 32.50 Km of semi dense laid. 16102 RM of pucca drains completed. Remaining works are in progress.
Construction of Narbal-Tangmarg Road	116.00	2008-09 (Revised)	50.84	Kunzer, Magam and Narbal bridges completed. Widening of road by way of earth filling completed upto 5.07 lac Cum, 9141 RMs of round walls completed. The remaining works are in progress.
Double-laning of Srinagar-Leh Road via Kargil	807.03 (Revised) as indicated by BRO)	2011-12	92.50	88 Kms of the road has already been double laned and 30.5 Km of the road under upgradation to double lane.
Construction of Nemo-Padam-Darcha Road	270.27 (Revised) as indicated by BRDB)	2010-11	41.55	BRDB informed that the cumulative physical progress in 20.94 Kms upto December, 08.

1	2	3	4	4
Conducting a feasibility study for the construction of a 12 km tunnel to bypass the Zojila Pass	—	XX	—	'In Principle' approval has been accorded for carrying out the feasibility study for Zojila pass with Z-Morh by an expert organization. The extremely high cost of the consultancy work has delayed the progress. It has been re-tendered in November, 2007.
Examining the feasibility of opening of a Kibar-Korzok road via Parangla Pass to connect Leh with Shimla	—	XX	—	The concerned project authority has been instructed to examine the case and submit a formal proposal for conducting feasibility of construction of Kibar-Korzok road.
ASSISTANCE FOR EXTERNAL BORROWINGS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE				
Counterpart funding of state share (30%) for external infrastructure loan	1611.00	XX	165.41	ADB has sanctioned an investment of Rs. 1611 crore (\$358 millions). Out of Rs. 1611 crore, an amount of Rs. 1399 crore is meant for works and balance Rs. 212 crore for other administrative cost, consultancy charges etc. The counter part fund of Rs. 480 crore is provided in the Reconstruction Plan against which Rs. 270 crore have been released by GOI and placed with ERA.
EXPANDING PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES				
EDUCATION				
Extending total literacy campaign to remaining 3 districts (Kargil, Poonch & Doda)	1.00	XX	1.00	This is a CSS in which the Central Share is 80% and the State Share is 20%. Rs. 1 crore is provided as initial token sum for start-up activities. The State Share is available. The project is under implementation in Doda, Poonch & Kargil.
Full salary support for over 8,000 teachers (till the end of the Tenth Plan period) for the State Government's Initiative of teaching English in primary schools across the state from pre-school stage	54.00	2007-08	54.00	An amount of Rs. 54 crore over a period of 4 years has been provided in the Reconstruction Plan. The full amount has been spent.

1	2	3	4	4
Training to enhance skills of youth for the IT /BPO sector at Jammu & Srinagar	7.70	2008-09	5.80	2154 students have completed their training and 513 students got placement till January 2008.
(i) Starting 14 new degree colleges	49.00	XX	38.17	Construction work in all the 14 degree colleges is in progress.
(ii) 10 (additional) Degree Colleges sanctioned	35.00		2.28	Funds of Rs. 20.00 crore have been allocated during 2007-08.
(i) Setting up of 9 new Women's ITIs	30.60	XX	20.36	6 ITIs are completed and construction work in the remaining are in progress.
(ii) Setting up of additional 5 ITIs	22.50		1.18	Funds of Rs. 10.00 crore have been allocated during 2007-08.
HEALTH				
Anganwadis in every habitation (approx. 6,817 anganwadi centres), opening employment opportunities for around 14,000 women	20.00	XX	20.00	5931 Anganwadi centres have been made operational.
Covering J&K under new Central programme (on the anvil) for better healthcare	4010.00	2005-12 (under NRHM)	48.61	A project implementation plan under NRHM has been prepared and submitted to GOI.
Construction of health centre buildings across the state through external assistance	1051.56	XX		Proposal has been cleared by Planning Commission. It has been decided to explore the possibility of accommodating the proposal within the NRHM project.
Upgrading health facilities at the Jammu & Srinagar Medical Colleges to the level of AIIMS	120.00	XX	12.40	The construction of super specialty block has started for GMC, Jammu and the work for GMC Srinagar has been tendered.
PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CIVIC AMENITIES				
Developing a model village in each block with adequate infrastructure & amenities	142.80	—	102.09	119 model villages are being developed at a cost of Rs. 142.80 crore.

1	2	3	4	4
Sewerage & drainage for Greater Jammu	192.23	XX	11.63	DPR for the project has been prepared and submitted.
Augmenting & improving water supply in Greater Jammu	198.66	XX		The project proposals are being finalized.
Sewerage & drainage for Greater Srinagar	132.92	XX	11.96	DPR for the project has been prepared and submitted.
United grants-in-aid to the Autonomous Hill Development Councils for Leh & Kargil of Rs. 30 crore and Rs. 50 crore respectively	80.00	XX	17.39	LADHC, Leh has completed some works. LADHC, Kargil has identified the land for development of infrastructure.
THRUST TO EMPLOYMENT & INCOME GENERATION				
TOURISM				
Setting up of 50 tourist villages across the state	31.50	XX	3.88	Project reports for 9 villages have been approved.
Financial support for 6 Tourism Development Authorities at Patnitop Bhandarwah, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri & Lakhanpur-Sarthal	120.00	2009-10	10.33	Work has started in all the tourist development authorities.
Establishing a new tourist circuit (Lakhanpur-Basoli-Bani-Bhandarwah-Kishtwar-Sinthan-Srinagar)	21.79	XX	1.84	Land has been acquired for some sites and works are being started by CPWD.
Conservation of Manser Lake under the National Wetlands Conservation Plan	17.91	5 Years	0.00	Part-I and Part-II of the Management Action Plan have been submitted. Part-III and Part-IV are under preparation.
Conservation of Dal Lake under the National Lake Conservation Plan	298.76	2009-10	88.00	The project cost stands approved by CCEA and the project is under implementation.
Financial support for 4 Tourism Development Authorities at Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Kokernag & Sonamarg	80.00	2008-09	10.83	Work has started in all the tourist development authorities.

1	2	3	4	4
Assistance to travel agents for marketing in the form of support for sales-cum-study tours and participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad, printing of brochures, organising seminars/presentations abroad, participation in trade fairs etc., and joint advertising under existing Central Sector schemes	As required	XX	3.77	An amount of Rs. 3.00 crore has been spent for Print Media Campaign for Singhey Khababs Festival, printing of brochures, CDs, flyers, bookmark etc. State Government has been provided for upgradation of the IT equipment for their offices in the current year.
Conservation of Wular Lake (Baramulla district) under the National Wetlands Conservation Plan	386.39	XX	0.00	M/s Wetland International South Asia, New Delhi has been engaged as consultant and DPR submitted.
Training to tourism industry personnel for building their capacities through the Institute of Hotel Management & Catering, Srinagar	As required	XX	0.06	Training Programmes have started.
Developing skills of youth for employment/self-employment in tourism industry through one-year courses imparted by the Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar	As required	XX	1.21	Training Programmes have started.
Financial support for 2 Tourism Development Authorities at Leh & Kargil	40.00	XX	1.05	Work has started.
Conservation of Tsomoriri under the National Wetlands Conservation Plan	26.28	5 years (from the date of approval of Plan	0.60	The World Wide Fund India have been engaged as consultant and they have submitted the Management Action Plan.

1	2	3	4	4
AGRICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING				
Rehabilitation of horticulture industry	100.00	XX	2.82	6 different works have been started.
Assistance to agriculture graduates under agri-clinic scheme for self-employment	1.35	XX	0.0	Under Agri-clinic scheme, 388 agri-graduates have been trained at SKUAST, Jammu/Srinagar.
Construction of food storage facilities at Leh and Kargil	3.60	XX	0.00	3 projects have been framed under the scheme and financial appraisal of these project is under process.
50% subsidy support from ongoing scheme for setting up of solar driers	As required	XX	—	Financial appraisal of these project is under process.
OTHER INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION RELATED MEASURES				
Compensation to industries whose units have been used by security forces	2.82	XX	2.48	103 units assessed for the damages and Rs. 2.48 crore has been disbursed.
Creating modern passenger handling and infrastructure facilities at Srinagar airport and upgrading to international airport	101.33	2008-09	65.83	Physical progress is 88%. Remaining work is in progress.
OTHER EMPLOYMENT MEASURES				
Provision of self-employment opportunities for urban unemployed persons under programmes of the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation	14.43	XX	6.56	About 1645 units have been sanctioned by various banks and 2500 beneficiaries are under going skill development under various activities.
Raising 5 more India Reserve (IR) battalions for the state police affording employment opportunities for about 5,000 youth, and raising several Central (CRPF) and other security force battalions, opening employment opportunities for several thousand more youth	108.75	XX	15.94	Action taken for raising 4 IR Battalions. Action in hand for raising 5th IR Battalion.

1	2	3	4	4
RELIEF & REHABILITATION FOR THE DISLOCATED & BEREAVED				
ASSISTANCE TO THE DISLOCATED & THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF MILITANCY				
Construction of temporary shelters, rebuilding of village infrastructure, and repair & restoration of damaged houses for people on the international border/ LOC affected by cross-border shelling in the Jammu region	59.18	2008-09	22.58	Rs. 57.54 crore has been released and most of the cheques amounting to Rs. 20000 to each family for a pair of bullocks and utensils issued. 239.40 acres of agriculture land has been reclaimed in villages Chhani, Dewabi & Darh.
2-room tenements for Kashmiri migrants to be provided for all Kashmiri migrant families residing in the camps in the Jammu region and at Delhi; inter-ministerial team to prepare plan for rehabilitating the Kashmiri migrants	345.00	30.9.09	81.14	1024 flats have been completed and the remaining 4218 flats are under construction and will be completed by December 2009.
Measures to be taken to facilitate rehabilitation of persons coming from Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, who resettled in the state in 1947	6.17	XX	4.22	The State Government has made payment in respect of 1864 families amounting to Rs. 4.22 crore.
Enhanced outlay for Rehabilitation Council	3.00	—	3.00	Completed

X Works relating to Hydro Electric Projects have a long gestation period. Since the projects are at DPR stage the times frame has not been indicated.

XX The time frame of Reconstruction Plan for 2004-05 was four years which has further been extended by one year *i.e.* Upto 2010.

Employment in Rural Areas

1615. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is tremendous scope to manufacture products from raw materials available in

rural areas and exporting them to enable the people to get employment;

(b) if so, the details of schemes chalked out by the Government in this regard;

(c) the details of assistance likely to be provided by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has selected some districts for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has been implementing the following schemes through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in this regard.

(1) For Village Industry (VI) sector, a Central sector credit-linked subsidy programme, called the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for assisting the entrepreneurs in establishing VI units, in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000, by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects up to a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. During 2006-07, margin money assistance amounting to Rs. 349.79 crore was provided for various VI units assisted during the year, besides financial support amounting to Rs. 7.94 crore for various backward and forward linkages.

(2) For Khadi sector the financial assistance is provided through the following Schemes.

- (i) Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme for making the working capital available to the khadi institutions from banks at a concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum. The institutions have to pay an interest of only 4 per cent and the difference between the actual rate of interest and the 4 per cent is paid by KVIC as interest subsidy to the banks. For assisting the khadi institutions in undertaking their manufacturing activities, Rs. 214.61 crore was made available during 2006-07.
- (ii) Khadi institutions are permitted to retain the working capital earlier made available to them from the budgetary resources through KVIC, as working fund, so long as they maintain certain level of agreed production/sales. As on 31.03.2007, Rs. 424.59 crore was made available to the khadi institutions as working fund.
- (iii) Rebate on sale of khadi and khadi products. During 2006-07, Rs. 101.47 crore was provided as sales rebate to the khadi institutions under this scheme.

(3) For exploring international market, a scheme to conduct exhibitions/participate in trade fairs, etc. abroad, is in vogue, under which the khadi institutions/village industry units are provided with the following incentives:

- (i) 75 per cent of the Air Fare Travel by economy class or train fare, as the case may be to one representative each of the participating units of the general category while 100 per cent of such airfare is to be provided to one representative each of the participating units belonging to women entrepreneurs, SC/ST entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from North Eastern Region, etc.
- (ii) up to 50% of the space rent actually paid is reimbursed. In case of women entrepreneurs, SC/ST entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from North Eastern Region, etc., reimbursement of space rent is 100%.
- (iii) Assistance for space rent and travel expenses for each participating entrepreneur/unit would be limited to Rs. 1.25 lakh.

As a result of export promotion measures of KVIC, during 2006-07, khadi and village industry products valued at Rs. 53.73 crore have been exported.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas

1616. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals received from the State Governments/Public Undertakings for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas in their respective States during the last three years till date alongwith the status thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the number of proposals pending and cleared, State-wise; and
- (c) the time by when the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.

FATMI): (a) to (c) 104 proposals have been received from the State Government/Public Undertakings for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas during the last three years (2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07). Out of these, 27 Kendriya

Vidyalayas have been made functional till date. The present status is enclosed as statement. The sanctioning of Kendriya Vidyalayas depends, inter-alia, on receipt of viable proposals and availability of funds.

Statement

proposals received for opening Kendriya Vidyalayas during last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and till date (current year)

State	Sl.No.	Location in respect of KV under Civil Sector	Location in r/o K.V. under Public Sector Undertakings	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Hanamkonda, Distt. Warrangal		Orders have been issued on 30.8.2006 for opening of a K.V. in the District and the KV has been made functional.
	2.	Venkatagiri, Nellore Distt.		Orders for opening a K.V. at Venkatagiri, Nellore Distt. have been issued on 21.12.2006 and the KV has been made functional.
	3.	Tenali, Guntur Distt.		Proposal in prescribed format has been received from D.M. Guntur. However, land has not so far been allotted due to court case.
	4.	Nalgonda		Proposal has been received in prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	5.	Naidupet Distt. Nellore		Proposal in prescribed format has been received from D.M. Nellore. However, the proposed land & building were not found suitable.
	6.	Kalichedu, Distt. Nellore		Proposal in prescribed format has been received from D.M. Nellore. However, the proposed land & building were not found suitable.

1	2	3	4	5
	7.	Ongole, Distt. Prakasam		Orders were issued on 14.06.2007 for opening of a K.V. at Ongole and the KV has been made functional.
	8.	Adilabad		Positive response has been received from the Collector, Adilabad but sponsorship is not in the prescribed format.
Assam	1.	Rangia, Distt Kamrup		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
Arunachal Pradesh	1.	Dirang		Orders have been issued on 23.05.2007 for opening of a K.V. at Dirang and the KV has been made functional.
Bihar	1.	PPCL, Amjhore		The D.M. has been advised to obtain the clear title of land and building from PPCL for further consideration of KVS.
	2.	Aumgabad		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	3.	Maharanjganj		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
Chhattiegarh	1.	Rajnandgaon		Proposal in prescribed format has been received from the

1	2	3	4	5
				Sponsoring Authorities. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	2.	Khairagarh		Proposal in prescribed format has been received from the Sponsoring Authorities. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
Delhi	1.	Ambedkar Nagar		Proposal in prescribed format has not been received from the Sponsoring Authorities.
	2.	Khichripur		DDA has allotted 2 acres of land and Government's decision to open Kendriya Vidyalaya will depend on the approval of the competent authority.
Gujarat	1.	Amreli District		Proposal in prescribed format has not been received from the Sponsoring Authority.
Haryana	1.	Kosli (Rewari)		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	2.	Jind		Proposal in prescribed format has not been received from the District Administration.
	3.	Mewat		—do—
	4.	Fatehabad		—do—
	5.	Kaithal		—do—
	6.	Yamuna Nagar		—do—

1	2	3	4	5
	7.	Kurukshetra		—do—
	8.	Gurgaon		—do—
	9.	Bahadurgarh		—do—
	10.	Mahem Rohtak		—do—
	11.	Kalanaur, Rohtak		—do—
	12.	Rohtak		The proposal in prescribed format was received from the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, but conditions stipulated therein are contrary to the prescribed norms.
Himachal Pradesh	1.	No. 2 Shimla		The proposal in prescribed format has not been received from the Sponsoring Authority.
Jammu and Kashmir	1.	Beerwah		Proposal in prescribed format has not been received from the Sponsoring Authority.
	2.	Tangdhar, Distt. Kupwara		Orders have been issued on 21.01.2008 for opening of a K.V. in this District.
Jharkhand	1.	Latehar		Orders have been issued on 30.8.2006 for opening of a K.V. in this District and the KV has been made functional.
	2.	Garhwa		Orders have been issued on 30.8.2006 for opening of a K.V. in this District and the KV has been made functional.
	3.	Palamu		Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 for opening of a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide minimum infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.
	4.	Madhupur, Distt. Deoghar		Orders for opening a K.V. at Madhupur have been issued on 26.02.2007 and the KV has been made functional.

1	2	3	4	5
	5.	Gumla		Incomplete proposal has been received in prescribed format from the Sponsoring Authority.
Karnataka	1.	Haveri		D.M. has been requested to provide suitable land & temporary accommodation.
	2.	Belgaum		Orders have been issued on 12.04.2007 for opening of K.V. No. 3 Belgaum and the KV has been made functional.
	3.	Koppal		Proposal has been received. However, the proposed land has not been found suitable.
	4.	Gulbarga (Aland)		Proposal has been received in prescribed proforma. A.C. Bangalore has been asked to carry out site inspection and send the report.
	5.	Davangere		Proposal has been received in prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	6.	Gadag		Proposal has been received in prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	7.	Ramnagara		Proposal has not been received in prescribed format.
	8.	Chikkaballapur		Proposal has not been received in prescribed format.
	9.	Bagalkot		Orders for opening a K.V. at Bagalkot (Karnataka) were issued on 23.05.2007 and the KV has been made functional.

1	2	3	4	5
Kerala	1.	SAP Thiruvananthapuram		Orders for opening a K.V. at SAP Thiruvananthapuram have been issued on 21.12.2006 and the KV has been made functional.
	2.	Kollam		Orders have been issued on 30.8.2006 for opening of a K.V. in this District and the KV has been made functional.
	3.	Chenneerkara, Distt. Pathanamthitta		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	4.	Thrissur Distt.		Proposal and feasibility report have been received. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	5.		The Fertilizer & Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT), Ellor, Udyogamandal, Kochi, Kerala	The prescribed proforma were forwarded to the Project Authority, but no response has been received so far.
	6.	Idukki		The proposal in prescribed format has been received but the Sponsoring Authority could not arrange temporary accommodation so far.
Lakshadweep (UT)	1.	Andrott and Amini		Proposal in prescribed format has not been received from the Sponsoring Authority.
Madhya Pradesh	1.	Ashok Nagar		An incomplete proposal was received from the District Authorities.

1	2	3	4	5
	2. Betul			The proposal in prescribed format has been received from the concerned DM. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	3. Garha			Orders for opening a K.V. at Garha Distt. Jabalpur have been issued on 21.12.2006 and the KV has been made functional.
	4. Sheopur			Orders for opening a K.V. at Sheopur were issued on 5.07.2007 and the KV has been made functional.
	5. Panna			Orders for opening a K.V. at Panna have been issued on 21.12.2006 and the KV has been made functional.
	6. Mungaoli			Orders for opening a K.V. at Mungaoli have been issue on 12.09.2005 and the KV has been made functional.
	7. Civil Lines Satna			The proposal in prescribed proforma has been received from the Sponsoring Authority, but no temporary accommodation has been made available.
	8. Katni			An incomplete proposal has been received from the Sponsoring Authority.
	9. Maihar, Distt. Satna			Proposal in prescribed format has been received from the Distt. Collector. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.

1	2	3	4	5
	10.	Malanjkhand, Distt. Balaghat		Proposal in prescribed format has been received from the District Administration. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	11.	Datia, Distt. Datia		Orders for opening a K.V. at Datia have been issued on 29.02.2008.
Maharashtra	1.	Gadchiroli		Incomplete proposal has been received in prescribed format from the Distt. Administration.
Meghalaya	1.	Nongstoin, West Khasi Hills Distt.		Received in prescribed format from the Collector & D.M. but reiterated that no rent free temporary accommodation is available in Distt. Head Quarter.
Manipur	1.	Chandel		Positive response has been received from the Dy. Commissioner, Chandel but sponsorship is not in the prescribed format.
Orissa	1.	No. 2 Cuttack		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	2.	Bhanjanagar, Ganjam		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	3.	Murgabadi, Baripada		The proposal has been received in the prescribed

1	2	3	4	5
				format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	4.	Bhadrak		Orders for opening a K.V. at Bhadrak were issued on 20.08.2007 and the KV has been made functional.
	5.	Boudh		Orders have been issued on 30.8.2006 for opening of a K.V. in this District and the KV has been made functional.
	6.	Joda, Distt. Keonjhar		Incomplete proposal has been received from D.M. Keonjhar and the prescribed proforma were again forwarded to them, but no response has been received so far.
	7.	Malkangiri		Orders for opening a K.V. at Malkangiri (Orissa) have been issued on 30.08.2006 and the KV has been made functional.
	8.	Deogarh		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	9.	Nuapada		Proposal has not been submitted in prescribed format.
	10.	Sonepur (Subarnapur)		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.

1	2	3	4	5
	11.	Jajpur Diest.		Proposal has been received in the prescribed format, however, the proposed land has not been found suitable.
	12.	Aska, Diest. Ganjam		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	13.	Kandhamal		Orders for opening a K.V. at Kandhamal were issued on 5.07.2007 and the KV has been made functional.
Punjab	1.	Kapurthala		Orders for opening a K.V. No. II at RCF Kapurthala (Punjab) were issued on 21.12.2006 and the KV has been made functional.
Rajasthan	1.	Khetri Nagar, Diest. Jhunjhunu		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	2.	Chittorgarh		Orders for opening a K.V. at Chittorgarh were issued on 5.07.2007 and the KV has been made functional.
	3.		Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. Ramgarh	The prescribed proforma were forwarded to Project Authority, but no response has been received.
	4.		Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Barsingear Thermal Power Station, Diest. Bikaner (Rajasthan)	The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	1.	Shivganga		Orders for opening a K.V. at Shivganga (Tamil Nadu) have been issued on 21.12.2006 and the KV has been made functional.
	2.	Gandhigram, Dindigul Distt.		Orders for opening a K.V. at Gandhigram, Dindigul Distt. have been issued on 10.08.2007 and the KV has been made functional.
	3.	Virudhnagar		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	4.	Kanyakumari		Proposal has not been received in prescribed format.
	5.	Krishnagiri		Proposal has not been received in prescribed format.
	6.	Perambalur		Proposal has not been received in prescribed format and the same is under examination in KVS.
	7.	Pudhukkottai		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	8.	Theni		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.

1	2	3	4	5
	9.	Dharmapuri		Orders for opening a K.V. at Dharmapuri were issued on 5.07.2007 and the KV has been made functional.
	10.	Salem		The positive proposal received from the Deputy Commissioner, Salem but conditions indicated therein are contrary to the prescribed norms.
Tripura	1.	Dharmanagar (North Tripura)		Proposal has been received in prescribed format but the land offered was less than the prescribed norms.
Puducherry	1.	Karalkal		The proposal has been received in the prescribed format. However, the opening of a KV depends on fulfillment of pre-conditions by the sponsoring authorities and provision of budgetary allocation.
	2.	Mahe		Orders for opening a K.V. at Mahe (Puducherry) have been issued on 17.12.2007.
Uttar Pradesh	1.	Mati Akbarpur		Orders for opening a K.V. at Mati Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat were issued on 21.12.2006 and the KV has been made functional.
	2.		Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Tapit Vidyut Pariyojna (NTPC), Rai Bareilly)	The prescribed proforma were forwarded to Project Authority, but no response has been received.
Uttarakhand	1.	Deghat, Distt. Almora		Confirmation regarding land with clear title is awaited from the concerned Sponsoring Authority.
West Bengal	1.		Teesta Low Dam Project III, (NHPC), Reang, Darjeeling.	Orders for opening a K.V. at Teesta Low Dam Project-III were issued on 21.12.2006 and the KV has been made functional.
	2.	Hooghly		Positive response has been received from the Dy. Commissioner, Hooghly but sponsorship is not in the prescribed format.

*[Translation]***Lock Industry**

1617. CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether to develop the lock industry the Government proposes to set up a "Lock Research Centre"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, under the National Programme for Development of Indian Lock Industry (NPDLI), implemented jointly by UNIDO and Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), the Extension Centre of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) at Aligarh has been upgraded for rendering necessary design development and tooling support for the lock enterprises. The NPDLI was concluded in March, 2007.

*[English]***Quantum of Iron-Ore**

1618. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of iron-ore available and consumed in the country, till date separately, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the quantum of iron-ore exported to other countries during each of the last three years, till date, country-wise; and

(c) the details of cess fixed every tonne by the Union Government alongwith the share of the Union Government and State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) State-wise information on reserves of iron-ore are given in the Indian Mineral Year Book published by Indian Bureau of Mines, a copy of which has been supplied to the Parliament

Library. The domestic consumption of iron-ore (all industries) during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was 55.35 MT, 60.89 MT (provisional) and 68.50 MT (estimated) respectively.

(b) As per available information iron-ore exported (country wise) during the last three years are given below:-

(Quantity: in million metric tonnes)

Country	2005-06	2006-07 (Provisional)	2007-08 (April- December) (Provisional)
China	74.13	80.16	55.81
Japan	10.33	8.63	4.85
South Korea	1.32	1.91	1.33
Taiwan	0.14	—	—
Europe	2.10	2.07	0.73
Other countries	1.25	1.02	0.86
Total	89.27	93.79	63.58

(c) An export duty of Rs. 300 per tonne was levied on iron ore. For the iron ore with less than 62% Fe content the export duty was levied at Rs. 50 per tonne. The entire export duty accrued to the Union Government.

Transport Subsidy for Export of Coir and Marine Products

1619 DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced any transport subsidy package for export of Coir and Marine Products as in the case of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any request from the State Governments particularly, from Kerala to include coir and marine products under the said scheme;

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

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) In view of the above, question does not arise.

Bauxite Ore Deposits

1620. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Bauxite ore deposit/production in the country, including Orissa, district-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether any alumina processing industry has been set up based on Bauxite ore, in the country including Orissa State;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the production of Bauxite ore and other minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) as on 1.4.2005, the all-India resources of bauxite are 3289 million tonnes, out of which 899 million tonnes are in 'Reserves' and 2390 million tonnes are in 'Remaining Resources' category. The state-wise reserves/resources of bauxite in the country is available in the Indian Minerals Year Book, published by Indian Bureau of Mines, a copy of which has been supplied to the Parliament Library. The total production of bauxite in the country during 2006-07 was 15.66 million tonnes. State-wise/district-wise production of bauxite during 2006-07 is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Presently, seven alumina refineries have been set up in the country, out of which one alumina plant of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is located at Damanjodi in Orissa state and another plant has been set up by Vedanta Group at Lanjigarh (Orissa). The details of these refineries are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(d) Minerals including bauxite are produced by companies engaged in mining operations which adopt different methods including modern technologies or expansion projects, etc. for increasing production.

Statement I

State-wise/District-wise production of Bauxite during 2006-07

(in tonnes)	
State/District	2006-07 (Provisional)
1	2
India	15661220
Chhattisgarh	1592699
Kanker	—
Kawardha (Kabirdham)	331888
Sarguja	1260811
Goa	111097
South Goa	111097
Gujarat	5882413
Amreli	89685
Jamnagar	5577984
Junagarh	44000
Kachchh	57237
Kheda	7050
Porbandar	105522
Sabarkantha	935
Jharkhand	1488862
Gumla	767328
Lohardaga	721534
Karnataka	96710
Belgaum	7859
South Kanara	88851
Kerala	—

1	2	1	2
Kollam	—	Kolhapur	1062181
Madhya Pradesh	144172	Raigarh	—
Jabalpur	680	Ratnagiri	282265
Katni	57005	Orissa	4659317
Rewa	6644	Koraput	4623278
Satna	79843	Sundergarh	36039
Shahdol	—	Tamil Nadu	341504
Sidhi	—	Namakkal	194346
Maharashtra	1344446	Salem	147158

Statement II*Details of Alumina Plants in India*

Sl.No.	Name of the Plant	Location	Capacity (Tonnes per annum)
1.	National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)	Damanjodi, Orissa	1,575,000
2.	Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO)	Korba, Chhattisgarh	200,000
3.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Renukoot, U.P. Belgaum, Kamataka Muri, Jharkhand	1,160,000
4.	The Madras Aluminium Company Limited	Mettur, Tamil Nadu	85,000
5.	Vedanta Alumina	Lanjigarh, Orissa	1,400,000
Total			4,420,000

Setting up of Centres by KVIC

1621. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of centres set up by the Khadi and Village Industry Commission during the last three years for production and sale of Khadi;

(b) the incentives being given for the production and sale of the goods made by Khadi and Rural Industry;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated to give incentives to the weavers and the poor workmen; and

(d) the amount received from the Government and the amount spent out of this by KVIC during 2005, 2006 and 2007?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) 31 new khadi institutions were registered by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/Khadi and Village Industries Boards of States/Union Territories during the last three years.

(b) The Government has been implementing the following schemes through the KVIC to promote the production and sale of the goods made by Khadi and village industry:

(1) For Village Industry (VI) sector, a Central sector credit-linked subsidy programme, called the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for assisting the entrepreneurs in establishing VI units, in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000, by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects up to a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. During 2006-07, margin money assistance amounting to Rs. 349.79 crore was provided for various VI units assisted during the year, besides financial support amounting to Rs. 7.94 crore for various backward and forward linkages.

(2) For Khadi sector the financial assistance is provided through the following Schemes.

- (i) Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme for making the working capital available to the khadi institutions from banks at a concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum. The institutions have to pay an interest of only 4 per cent and the difference between the actual rate of interest and the 4 per cent is paid by KVIC as interest subsidy to the banks. For assisting the khadi institutions in undertaking their manufacturing activities, Rs. 214.61 crore was made available during 2006-07.
- (ii) Khadi institutions are permitted to retain the working capital earlier made available to them from the budgetary resources through KVIC, as working fund, so long as they maintain certain level of agreed production/sales. As on 31.03.2007, Rs. 424.59 crore was made available to the khadi institutions as working fund.
- (iii) Rebate on sale of khadi and khadi products. During 2006-07, Rs. 101.47 crore was provided as sales rebate to the khadi institutions.

(iv) Financial assistance is provided to implementing agencies for opening sales outlets in order to promote sales of KVI products.

(v) KVIC is running 12 departmental sales outlets at various locations in the country.

(vi) Financial assistance for organizing exhibitions at various levels like district, State, Zonal and national level is also provided from KVIC's budgetary sources as per details given below:-

Sl.No.	Level of Exhibition	Financial assistance to be provided by KVIC (Rs. in lakh)
1.	National Level Exhibition	40.00
2.	Zonal Level Exhibition	25.00
3.	State Level Exhibition	10.00
4.	District Level Exhibition	2.50

During 2006-07, 106 exhibitions were organized.

(3) For exploring international market, a scheme to conduct exhibitions/participate in trade fairs, etc. abroad, is in vogue, under which the khadi institutions/village industry units are provided with the following incentives:

- (i) 75 per cent of the Air Fare Travel by economy class or train fare, as the case may be to one representative each of the participating units of the general category while 100 per cent of such airfare is to be provided to one representative each of the participating units belonging to women entrepreneurs, SC/ST entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from North Eastern Region, etc.
- (ii) up to 50% of the space rent actually paid is reimbursed. In case of women entrepreneurs, SC/ST entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from North Eastern Region, etc., upto 100% of the rent fare is reimbursed.
- (iii) Assistance for space rent and travel expenses for each participating entrepreneur/unit would be limited to Rs. 1.25 lakh.

As a result of export promotion measures of KVIC, during 2006-07, khadi and village industry products valued at Rs. 53.73 crore have been exported.

(c) Government of India through KVIC, has formulated various schemes for the benefit of Khadi workers including weavers. A group insurance Scheme called Khadi Karigar Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) is already in existence, since August, 2003. Under this scheme, risk coverage on the events of natural death, death due to accident, permanent total disability, permanent partial disability, is provided to the khadi workers. As an add-on educational benefit under Shiksha Sahayog Yojana, the children of khadi artisans (upto two children) studying in IX to XII standard, including ITI, are eligible for scholarship of Rs. 1,200/- per year.

An Artisans' Welfare Trust Fund has also been created in States for the benefit of khadi workers. The artisans' welfare funds are used in order to provide assistance to khadi artisans, to meet expenses on the education of their children, marriage expenses of their wards, medical expenses of artisans or their dependents, to provide spinning and weaving equipment and to purchase spare parts, to meet expenditure on purchase of Khadi on the occasion of festivals, etc.

A new scheme called 'Workshed Scheme' for khadi artisans is also under the consideration of the Government under which it has been proposed to provide financial assistance upto Rs. 25,000/- for construction of Worksheds to the Khadi artisans, belonging to Below Poverty Line.

(d) The details of amounts received by KVIC from the Government and the amount & spent out of this by KVIC during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given below:

(Rs. Crore)		
Year	Funds released by Government	Funds spent
2004-05	460.90	505.35*
2005-06	559.32	550.39
2006-07	608.85	586.83

*Funds available with KVIC from previous year's closing balance was also utilized during 2004-05.

Exports of Fruits

1622. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of fruits exported especially, Mango and Banana during the last three years and as on date, year-wise and fruit-wise;

(b) whether the export is not commensurate with the extent of production;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to boost up the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The quantity and value of major fruits exported from India during the last 3 years is given below:—

(Quantity in metric tons; Value in Rupees in crore)

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Grapes	39338.95	128.45	54049.87	214.61	85897.78	301.92
Mangoes	53480.02	89.61	69606.60	128.11	79060.88	141.94
Pomegranates	14039.99	29.89	19652.15	56.70	21670.43	79.57
Apples	23225.21	26.35	30043.88	38.13	25970.79	31.39
Bananas	12817.74	13.43	14411.13	23.36	11475.56	16.07
Papaya	3700.96	5.31	6434.01	6.65	10344.41	11.60
Sapota	951.14	1.05	1180.94	2.24	2089.43	7.44
Pineapple	1765.64	2.45	4407.07	5.15	3785.04	3.61

(Source: DGCIS)

Detailed export data for fruits for the year 2007-08 is not available.

(b) The production of fruits in India during 2004 and export from the country in 2004-05 are given below:

(Quantity in metric tons)

Year	Production	Exports	% of fruit exported
2004	Quantity	Quantity	
	5048900	235624	4.66

(Source: Production: NHB; Export Data: DGC&IS)

(c) The comparatively low export of fruit from the country are mainly due to following reasons:-

- (i) Huge domestic consumption.
- (ii) Limited commercial varieties.
- (iii) Infrastructure bottle necks.
- (iv) Non tariff barriers imposed by importing countries.
- (v) Inefficient logistics and delivery system.
- (vi) Lack of high packaging standards.

(d) The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been taking various measures to promote export of fruits. These include:

- (i) Setting up of centers for perishable cargo at International Airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram, common pack houses, and other infrastructural facilities.

- (ii) Setting up and upgradation of testing laboratories and implementation of residue monitoring plans, development of packaging and preparation of pre and post harvest manuals for export of agri produce including fruits.
- (iii) Setting up of Agri Export Zones for agri produce including fruits.
- (iv) Participation in international trade fairs, organisation of promotional campaigns, buyer seller meets and training programmes for certification bodies and farmers.
- (v) Financial assistance to its registered exporters under its schemes for Financial assistance for infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research & Development and Transport assistance.

Export of Foodgrains

1623. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum alongwith the value in rupee of foodgrains exported and imported during each of the last three years and in the current year till date; and

(b) the steps being taken to boost the export of foodgrains during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The country has been exporting and importing a number of foodgrains, which includes cereals and pulses. The details are as below:

(Qty. in MTs Value: in Rs. crores)

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Export	8236646	9625.14	58489918	8347.83	5775541	8443.85	1627603 (April-June 2007)	2345.02 (April-June 2007)
Import	1346281	1784.25	1724469	2507.59	8358647	9754.54	1047393 (April-July 2007)	1919.97 (April-July 2007)

Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

(b) Government, in general has been promoting exports of foodgrains directly and through statutory bodies like Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards. In order to boost exports, the government provides various incentives through APEDA, Commodity Boards/Export Promotion Councils for infrastructure development, quality control, market development and promotion, packaging, publicity, information dissemination etc. However, in 2006-07 and 2007-08 certain restrictions have been put on foodgrain exports to be able to meet the domestic demand.

Special Retail Panel

1624. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Special Retail Panel;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms of reference;

(c) whether this panel has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said panel thereof; and

(e) the time by when its recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) Government has instituted a study to assess the impact of organized retailing on unorganized retail trade through Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). The terms of reference of the study are given in the statement enclosed. Government has also commissioned a study to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Growth linkages of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India which would focus on the impact of FDI on rural economy. The final reports are yet to be submitted by these organisations.

Statement

No. 12 (47)/2006—FC
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion
(FC Section)

New Delhi, dated the 2nd March 2007

To

The Director & Chief Executive,
Indian Council for Research on
International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
Core 6A, 4th Floor,
India Habitat Centre,
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003

Subject: The Impact of Organized Retailing on the Unorganized Retail Sector-A Study by ICRIER

Sir,

I am directed to convey the sanction of the Government of India to a Study to be assigned to the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) on the Impact of organized retailing on the unorganized retail sector.

Objective of the Study:

2. There has been considerable growth in organized retailing in the country in recent years and estimates show a much faster growth in the future. Major industrial houses have entered this area and have announced the future expansion plans. Transnational corporations are also seeking to come to India and set up retail chains in collaboration with Indian big companies. Divergent views have been expressed on the impact of the growth in the organized retail in the country. Concerns have been raised that the growth of organized retailing may have an adverse impact on the retailers in the unorganized sector. It has also been argued that growth of organised retailing will yield efficiencies in intermediary stages enabling higher prices or access to markets to producers (including farmers or small producers) or lower prices to consumers. To reconcile such variations, an in-depth analytical study on the possible effects of organized retailing in India is essential.

Terms of Reference

3. In order to assess the impact of growing organized retail on different aspects of the economy, ICRIER is appointed to carry out a study on organized retail focused on the following:

- (i) Effect on small retailers and vendors in the unorganized sector keeping in mind the likely growth in the overall market.
- (ii) Effect on employment
- (iii) Impact on consumers
- (iv) Impact on farmers and manufacturers
- (v) Impact on prices
- (vi) Overall impact on economic growth

ICRIER will analyse the above in the context of a growth scenario of 7-10 per cent per annum in the next 5 years and in the light of practice in other fast growing emerging market economies.

Methodology

4. The study by ICRIER will involve the following:

- Literature survey of existing studies
- 4-5 case studies of established retail chains
- Interviews of major players in the organized retailing, manufacturers, and of producers including associations of farmers.
- Questionnaire-based survey of unorganized retailers, including vendors especially around organized retail shops.
- Questionnaire-based survey of consumers around the organized retail outlets

Timeline

5. The study is proposed to be time-phased as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Inception | 1 March |
| 2. Literature Survey and Questionnaire design | 30 March |

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 3. Pilot Survey | 1-15 April |
| 4. Review Workshop-1 | 30 April |
| 5. Survey | 1 May—15 June |
| 6. Interim Report | 30 June |
| 7. Review Workshop-2 | 7 July |
| 8. Final Report | 15 July |

Budget

6. Government has approved the budget for the above study is at Rs. 59.80 lakhs which would be met by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

7. This issues with the concurrence of IF Wing vide their Diary No 4160/AS&FA dt. 1.3.2007.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Pramila Raghavendran)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Telefax; 23062327

[Translation]

Reserved Items under Small Scale Industries

1625. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of products reserved for small scale industries during each of the last three years and in the current year;

(b) the names of the products dereserved from the said list during the same period;

(c) the names of the products added to the said list during the said period;

(d) whether these amendments have benefited and encouraged the growth of small scale industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No items were reserved during each of the last 3 years and the current year. The reservation of items last took place in 1989.

(b) Number of items dereserved during 2005, 2006, 2007 and in the current year is 108 (including sub-groups), 180, 212 and 79 respectively. Names of these products are available at Development Commissioner (Micro Small

and Medium Enterprises)'s official website: <http://dcmsme.gov.in/publications/reserveditems/deserved>.

(c) No products were added to the said list during the said period.

(d) and (e) The micro and small enterprises have shown a trend of steady growth in the last three years, as indicated in the Tables below:

Table: Performance of Micro and Small Enterprises

Year	Number of units (in lakh)			Production (Rs. crore)		Employment (in lakh)	Exports (Rs. crore)
	Registered	Un-registered	Total	(at current prices)	(at 2001-02 constant prices)		
2004-05	18.24	100.35	118.59 (4.1)	4,29,796 (17.9)	3,72,938 (10.9)	287.55 (4.5)	1,24,417 (27.4)
2005-06	19.30	104.12	123.42 (4.1)	4,97,842 (15.8)	4,18,884 (12.3)	299.85 (4.3)	1,50,242 (20.8)
2006-07	20.32	108.12	128.44 (4.1)	5,85,112 (17.5)	4,71,663 (12.6)	312.52 (4.2)	N.A.

Table showing the Growth in Production of MSEs at constant prices As compared to growth in overall industrial sector

Year	MSE Sector (%)	Industrial Sector (as a whole) (%)
2004-05	10.0	8.4
2005-06	10.4	8.2
2006-07	12.6	11.5

[English]

Losses Suffered by Coffee Growing States

1626. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coffee growing States have suffered a huge loss in coffee production during 2007-08;

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

(c) the losses suffered by the growers and measures taken to compensate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major coffee producing states such as Karnataka and Kerala suffered loss due to heavy rainfall in the year 2007-08. The overall production has been estimated to be around 2.62 lac metric tons during the year 2007-08 as compared to 2.88 lac metric tons in the year 2006-07.

(c) The coffee growers have suffered crop loss due to excess rain, increased disease incidences and soil erosion. With a view to cover such rain-related risks of coffee growers, 'Weather (Rainfall) Insurance Scheme' of Government of India is under implementation from the first year of the XIth Plan i.e. 2007-08, with a provision of subsidy upto 50% of the premium amount. About 12,750 small growers bought this insurance during the year 2007-08.

Production of Mosquito Nets

1627. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the severe problems being faced by the domestic manufacturers and traders of mosquito nets; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of manufacturers traders and workers engaged in the production of mosquito nets in Karur, Tamil Nadu and other States and to boost its production, sales and exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There are approximately 3000 looms and 70 extrusion units in and around Karur for making mosquito net fabric. The total production in Karur district is approximately 6000 tonnes per day of mosquito knitted fabrics. There are 500 small mosquito net units with 2000 warp knitting machine. Ministry of Textiles have informed that the entire production is sold in the domestic market itself. However, the production, sale and export of mosquito nets are driven by market forces.

Opening of Campus outside India for Higher Education

1628. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of higher educational institutions, funded by the Union Government have requested for opening a campus outside India;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No such request has been received during the last one year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Export Insurance Account

1629. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has created the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA);

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof and total corpus of this account;

(c) the projects so far covered under the scheme; and

(d) the extent to which the Indian exports has increased after creating this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) Scheme is to ensure the availability of credit risk cover for medium and long-term high value projects which are commercially viable and desirable from the point of view of national interest, where re-insurance cover is not available or its cost is very high. As on date, the NEIA Trust has been provided with a corpus of Rs. 396 crores.

(c) The export credit insurance cover for the following projects, have so far been committed under NEIA:

(i) The development of Postal, Telecom & Information Technology sectors by TCIL, in Angola.

(ii) Setting up of "Sudan Electronic city by TCIL, in Sudan.

(iii) Laying of multiproduct gas pipeline by ONGC Videsh Ltd., in Sudan.

(iv) Setting up of 2x250 MW thermal power plant by BHEL, in Indonesia.

(v) Supply of aluminium conductors by Apar Industries Ltd., in Ethiopia.

(d) Exports worth Rs. 2261 crores have been made possible with the insurance cover from NEIA.

Cement Industry in Orissa

1630. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to set up cement industry in some States particularly Orissa in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cement plants set up in such States including Orissa during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any of the proposals to set up cement plants in such States have been pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Limestone is a basic raw material for production of cement. Hence, the cement plants are located in the vicinity of the large limestone deposits. Orissa is not known to have limestone deposits in large quantity. However, there is scope for setting up cement units. The details of cement plants set up in different States during the Tenth Plan are given in the Statement enclosed. No cement plant has been set up in Orissa during the said period.

(c) and (d) An industrial license is not required for setting up a cement plant. Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions including the location of industry are taken by entrepreneurs based on techno-economic considerations.

Statement*Statewise list of cement plants set up during 10th Five Year Plan*

State/Plant	Year					Total During 10th Plan
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan						
J.K-Gotan					0.10	
Total-Rajasthan					0.10	0.10
Meghalaya						
Meghalaya Cmts. Ltd.					0.30	
Total-Meghalaya					0.30	0.30
West Bengal						
Durga Hitech Cmt (G)				1.00		
Total-West Bengal				1.00		1.00
Andhra Pradesh						
Penna-Ganeshpahad			1.00			
My Home Indus. Ltd.				1.56		
Rain Industries Ltd. Un-II					0.50	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total-Andhra Pradesh			1.00	1.56	0.50	3.06
Kerala						
Malabar Cement (G)		0.20				
Total-Kerala		0.20				0.20
Gujarat						
Sanghi Indus. Ltd.		2.60				
Total-Gujarat		2.60				2.60
Maharashtra						
Maratha Cement	2.00					
Total-Maharashtra	2.00					2.00
Uttar Pradesh						
Jaypee Ayodhya (G)			1.00			
Total-Uttar Pradesh			1.00			1.00
Total-All India	2.00	2.80	2.00	2.56	0.90	10.26

Special Relaxation to North East

1631. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recognized the outstanding performance of the media in the North East;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to provide grants as special relaxation to the North-East media;

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

(e) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Media plays an important role in

spreading national integration as well as the Governmental activities relating to the development of the region.

(c) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Staff under SSA

1632. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enhance the salary of staff other than teachers engaged under SSA;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.

FATMI): (a) to (c) Under the framework of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), management staff are appointed on contract/deputation basis to the State SSA programme. The amount of salary/honorarium paid to different categories of management staff is decided by the States concerned.

Free Text Books under SSA

1633. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments, including Karnataka have sought financial assistance for providing free text books to the students under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

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

(c) the time by when the requisite assistance is likely to be provided to the State Governments; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to ensure proper utilization of financial assistance by the State Governments, including Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Under the scheme "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan", an amount of Rs. 768.79 Crores has been sanctioned for supply for free textbooks to 6.91 crore eligible children in 2007-08. State/Union Territory (UT) wise information is given in the enclosed statement. States/UTs have been requested to ensure timeliness in distribution of free textbooks to eligible children and a system of monitoring has also been put in place.

Statement

Amount sanctioned for Free Textbooks under SSA during 2007-08

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Children	Amount (in Rs. Crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	4203	6.31
2.	Andhra Pradesh	473010	709.52

1	2	3	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	244390	366.58
4.	Assam	3164867	4548.48
5.	Bihar	8683845	11051.69
6.	Chandigarh	38000	57.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	3255701	4883.56
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	988	0.74
9.	Daman and Diu	8139	12.21
10.	Delhi	238336	357.50
11.	Goa	67004	100.50
12.	Gujarat	504659	756.99
13.	Haryana	1406115	2109.17
14.	Himachal Pradesh	210844	302.77
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	803421	1205.13
16.	Jharkhand	3836549	5754.82
17.	Karnataka	442472	331.85
18.	Kerala	1740178	2610.26
19.	Madhya Pradesh	8285420	5355.89
20.	Maharashtra	8410346	12615.52
21.	Manipur	253465	380.20
22.	Meghalaya	687700	1031.55
23.	Mizoram	192894	289.34
24.	Nagaland	36842	55.26
25.	Orissa	3344515	2842.84
26.	Punjab	1687368	1181.41
27.	Rajasthan	493184	739.78
28.	Sikkim	19772	29.65
29.	Tripura	562797	619.07
30.	Uttar Pradesh	16707987	11699.65
31.	Uttarakhand	924433	1201.77
32.	West Bengal	2447944	3671.92
Total		69148388	76878.93

Mineral-based Industry in Orissa

1634. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments particularly, Orissa for setting up mineral-based industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the status of such proposals, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear such pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) No proposal from the State Governments particularly from Orissa has been received by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion for setting up of mineral based industries. Presently approval in the form of Industrial Licence is required only for setting up of industries in (i) Alcoholic Drinks; (ii) Cigars & Cigarettes; (iii) Electronic Aerospace and Defence Equipments; (iv) Industrial Explosives; and (v) Hazardous Chemicals sectors. For other sectors, investors are required to file Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM)/application for Industrial Licence (IL) for setting up of an Industry. Investment decisions, including the choice of location of industrial units, are taken by the entrepreneurs based on techno economic considerations, which in turn also takes into consideration the initiatives taken by the State Government by way of providing basic infrastructural facilities and other incentives.

Encroachment by Shopkeepers

1635. SHRI PRABUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines and policy formulated by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) for allowing shopkeepers to display their goods in verandahs meant for shoppers and to close exit points particularly, during Diwali festival;

(b) the details of shopkeepers who have been granted permission for the same during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the NDMC to ensure that no shopkeepers encroach upon verandah and exist points to enable Delhi Police to maintain proper vigil and law and order during Diwali festival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) The New Delhi Municipal Council does not permit shopkeepers to display their goods in verandahs and exit points. No separate policy in this regard has been made by the Council.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Export of Honey

1636. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian honey is being exported to various developing and developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantity and value of honey being exported from the country, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the honey growers are being educated to produce quality honey for export;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the foreign exchange earned through honey export on yearly basis;

(e) whether any steps have been initiated to provide incentives to the farmers to boost the honey exports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major markets for Indian honey are the United States of America, Germany, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, France, Japan, Malaysia, and South Africa. The details of export during the last three years are given below:

(Quantity in metric tons; value Rupees in crore)

2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
10523.24	68.26	16769.23	116.21	8135.00	60.91

Source: DGCIS

State-wise data for export of honey is not available.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Agriculture Universities are providing knowledge/training to the various beekeepers. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has also organized training programmes for beekeepers in Delhi, Kerala, Assam and West Bengal. Consultant from the leading honey testing laboratory from Germany has been associated with the programmes. Value of foreign exchange earned from export of honey has been given at (b) above.

(e) and (f) APEDA provides financial assistance to its registered exporters under following Schemes for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Research and Development to give impetus to export of agri products including honey APEDA is implementing a residue monitoring plan for control of residues of pesticides and drugs for export to the European Union.

Shortage of Pilots in BSF

1637. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Pilots in BSF Air Wing as reported in *Asian Age* dated February 14, 2008;

(b) if so, the reasons for the shortage and whether the same has affected the smooth functioning of BSF Air Wing;

(c) whether the Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Defence in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the BSF has hired helicopters from the Air Force;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total number of pilots required by BSF to meet their requirement and the time by when the Pilots are likely to be recruited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The operation of BSF Air Wing has been affected by shortage of pilots due to rapid increase in the overall demand for pilots in the country.

(c) and (d) The MoU signed with the Ministry of Defence Provides, inter alia, for deputation/re-employment of IAF officers to BSF Air Wing and use of IAF facilities for operation and maintenance of BSF aircraft and helicopters.

(e) and (f) IAF allot flying hours for evacuation of casualty, visit of supervisory officers to field locations in the remote areas and air tonnage for logistic support of air maintained BOPs.

(g) The authorized strength of 26 pilots is expected to be achieved following operationalisation of the MoU. As IAF will send officers on deputation taking into account its own operational requirements, it is not possible to fix a time limit.

Post Tsunami Reconstruction

1638. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint assessment team of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme had visited the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the year 2005 to define the quantum of assistance required for post Tsunami reconstruction activities;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance received from these agencies; and

(c) the work done so far as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Compensation to Riot Victims

1639. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant compensation to riot victims of Bhagalpur in Bihar on the lines of the compensation granted to the victims of anti-sikh riots of 1984;

(b) if so, the time by when such compensation is likely to be granted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar for grant of similar relief and rehabilitation package to the victims of Bhagalpur riots of 1989-90 as given to the victims of anti-Sikh riots of 1984. The proposal is under consideration in this Ministry and a final decision is yet to be taken.

Involvement of NGOs with Terrorist Organisations

1640. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are involved in assisting the terrorist organisations;

(b) if so whether the Government have got the matter investigated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Associations, which includes Non-Governmental (NGOs), having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme may accept foreign contribution by obtaining registration or prior permission from the Central Government under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976. As per the information available, there is no specific current input, from the FCRA perspective, suggesting direct involvement of any NGO in assisting the terrorist organisations.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Industrial Underdevelopment

1641. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any policy for intervention in districts with chronic unemployment and industrial underdevelopment;

(b) if so, whether the data on these districts is being collected by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion from 16 reports of the Planning Commission, some of which date back to 1960s;

(c) if so, whether the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Bharat Nirman initiative is likely to be focused in underdeveloped districts in eastern part of the country; and

(d) if so, the concrete programmes prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Various studies in the past have sought to identify industrially backward regions in the country. More recently, with a view to focus on districts specific cases of industrial backwardness, inter-departmental meetings have been held and the relevant data available is being analysed to finalise and implement concrete policy decisions to address purposively the causes of industrial backwardness in various districts in calibrated manner.

(c) and (d) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) was launched for securing the livelihood of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household. It has been decided to cover all rural areas of the country under NREGA with effect from 01.04.2008. The initiative also focused under Bharat Nirman in these districts are (i) Every village to be provided electricity (ii) Every habitation over 1000 population and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas) to be provided an all-weather road (iii) Every habitation to have a safe source of drinking water (iv) Every village to be connected by telephone (v) 100 lakhs hectares of additional irrigation capacity to be

created by 2009 (vi) 60 lakhs house to be constructed for the rural poor by 2009. Thus both the program will include districts which have remained underdeveloped including those in the eastern region of the country.

Konkan Speaking Persons

1642. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total number of persons who have declared Konkani as their mother tongue, State-wise as per the 2001 Census?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): A Statement showing State-wise number of persons who have returned Konkani as their mother tongue in 2001 Census is enclosed.

Statement

No. of Speakers of Konkani Mother Tongue, Census 2001

Sl.No.	India/States/UTs#	No. of Persons speaking Konkani as Mother Tongue
1	2	3
	India	2,420,140
1.	Goa	769,805
2.	Karnataka	755,544
3.	Maharashtra	609,280
4.	Gujarat	190,342
5.	Kerala	58,791
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli#	22,791
7.	Tamil Nadu	4,641
8.	Andhra Pradesh	3,083
9.	Delhi#	1,675
10.	Madhya Pradesh	956
11.	West Bengal	785
12.	Lakshadweep#	310
13.	Uttar Pradesh	290

1	2	3
14.	Rajasthan	266
15.	Daman and Diu#	229
16.	Haryana	187
17.	Chhattisgarh	161
18.	Jharkhand	157
19.	Tripura	131
20.	Assam	90
21.	Orissa	75
22.	Nagaland	69
23.	Chandigarh#	67
24.	Punjab	65
25.	Pondicherry#	63
26.	Jammu and Kashmir	50
27.	Uttaranchal	44
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands#	44
29.	Meghalaya	40
30.	Mizoram	39
31.	Arunachal Pradesh	17
32.	Sikkim	16
33.	Himachal Pradesh	15
34.	Manipur	13
35.	Bihar	9

Increasing Violence and Sexual Abuse In Schools

1643. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held discussions on alarming issues like violence and sexual abuse in schools;

(b) if so, the details of such deliberations and the decision arrived at; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such incidents in the schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) A workshop for Principals of schools of Delhi on safe environment for children was organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi on 25.1.2008. Major suggestions emanating in the work-shop were:

- Need to have more counselors in schools.
- Use of specialized professionals/resource persons to help organizing workshops in schools.
- Forming of parents' core group to take up counseling.
- Discussion on healthy boy-girl relationships.
- Introduction of nutrition monitor in schools.
- Workshops for teachers and parents at research and training institutes.
- Workshops on personality development and enhancing self esteem.
- Improvement of private sector.

(c) Education is a concurrent subject and school education primarily comes under the purview of State Governments. Government of India has issued advisories to all State Governments to ensure a safe environment for girls and to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools under jurisdiction of State Governments.

Rural Enterprises

1644. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 77 per cent of rural enterprises are unable to attract capital and technology due to the inherent constraints of being small family based enterprises; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide an environment which is conducive to the growth of the non-farm sector?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has been implementing *inter alia* the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for assisting the entrepreneurs in establishing village industry (VI) units, in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000, by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects up to a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Under REGP, on an average, 65 per cent of the finance is mobilized by the entrepreneurs from banks as loans. As per a sample study of projects assisted under REGP since its inception from 1 April 1995 and till the end of March 2001, more than 87 per cent of the entrepreneurs received finance from banks, within 3 months of sanctioning. The study also revealed that more than 5 per cent of projects set up are in small size with investment of up to Rs. 1 lakh. The credit flow to rural industries under the purview of KVIC has increased considerably after launching of REGP. The total availability of bank loans to the village industries since inception of REGP from 01.04.1995 and upto 31.3.2007 was around Rs. 5190 crore. The above position shows that entrepreneurs under the purview of KVIC are not facing many constraints after launching of REGP.

Organic coffee Hub in A.P.

1645. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to make Andhra Pradesh a hub for organic coffee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Trade Relations with Argentina

1646. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a business delegation from Argentina visited India recently to improve the bilateral trade between the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas of mutual interest between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A business delegation from Argentina visited India in July 2007 to explore opportunities for imports, exports, joint ventures and investment. It visited Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi and had interactive meetings with the Indian chambers of commerce and industry. Indian companies have made investment and joint ventures in Argentina in the areas of information technology, agro-chemicals, pharmaceuticals and automobiles.

Problems faced by Small and Medium Pharmaceutical Companies

1647. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has commissioned a study by the Institute of Studies in Industrial Development;

(b) if so, whether the study conducted by the Institute, in its final report submitted to the Government has brought to light certain problems being faced by small and medium pharmaceutical companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Central Government to enable the small and medium pharmaceutical companies to face the stiff challenges posed by big pharmaceutical companies?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in the Ministry of Science and Technology commissioned a study to "Institute for Studies in Industrial Development" on the subject—"Defining the Rule of Government in Trans-nationalization Efforts of Indian SMEs: A Case Study of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry".

(b) and (c) The Institute, in the final report submitted to DSIR, has highlighted certain weaknesses of pharmaceutical small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in their endeavour towards trans-nationalization and exports. These include: lack of expertise, training and finance for technological up-gradation and adoption of good manufacturing practices (GMP) by SMEs to meet global quality standards; limited exposure and expertise on IPR issues; limited adoption of information technology (IT) techniques in production and processes; low or negligible R&D expenditure which affects the ability of SMEs to offer innovative solutions; and the inability of SMEs to access finance on easy terms for import of capital goods and undertaking advertising and marketing activities.

(d) The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Central Government to enable the small and medium pharmaceutical companies to face the stiff challenges posed by big pharmaceutical companies include: availability of financial assistance up to Rs. 1 crore with 15% capital subsidy to small scale drug and pharma units for technology up-gradation under the credit linked capital subsidy scheme of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME); proposal of Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to extend 5% interest subsidy to pharma small scale units for technology up-gradation on the basis of Schedule 'M' of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945; support to high-risk pre-proof-of-concept research and late stage development in small and medium companies in the areas of agriculture, human and animal health, environment, diagnostics, immunobiologicals and various industrial products like antibiotics, industrial enzymes, vitamins etc. under the Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) scheme launched by the Department of Bio-technology. Ministry of MSME has also taken a step to enable small and medium companies, in general to face challenges of stiff competition by formulating a National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP), worked out by the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) in consultation with industry. Under this programme, a "major promotional package" has been announced to provide full support to the SMEs in the areas of credit, technological up-gradation, marketing and up-gradation of industrial infrastructure.

Reforms in Higher Education

1648. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has initiated a slew of measures to reform higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has urged the UGC to prepare an action plan and also to work out the modalities for drafting legislations to reform higher education;

(d) if so, the reaction of the UGC thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to make the implementation of UGC's recommendations on higher education reforms, mandatory for all the States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has proposed a number of steps for reforms in higher education. This includes mitigation of quality gaps in universities and colleges, revamping of Academic Staff Colleges, strengthening of Inter-University Centres, establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cells in universities and colleges, academic reforms in universities and colleges, designing of model curriculum, identification of various modes of public-private participation to promote higher education, etc.

While the Universities are autonomous, the UGC is a statutory body created for the co-ordination and determination of standards in universities. The powers and functions of the UGC have been defined in the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

[Translation]

Atrocities against Women

1649. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:
SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crime against women including foreign women tourists is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the total case of molestation/rape/harassment/killing of women including foreign women tourists registered during 2006-07 and 2007-08 as on date separately, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government against the accused persons;

(d) the number of such cases disposed of and pending in the court of law in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Separate data regarding crime against foreign women tourists is not maintained. However, a total of 154333, 155553 and 164765 cases of crime against women including foreign women tourists were registered during 2004-2006 respectively showing an increasing trend.

(b) to (d) As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) the State/UT-wise details of cases registered, persons charge-sheeted, persons convicted, persons arrested and cases pending trial under various heads of crime against women during 2006 were as given in the Statement. The NCRB compiles crime data annually and similar data for 2007 has not yet been compiled.

(e) The primary responsibility for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and prosecution of criminals lies with the State Governments as per the Constitution. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has from time to time been issuing advisory to the State Governments requesting them to give more focus attention on improving the law enforcement machinery to ensure prevention of atrocities on women.

Statement

Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CS), Cases Convicted (CV), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS), Persons Convicted (PCV) & Cases Pending Trial (CPT) for Crimes against Women during 2006

Sl.No.	State	Rape							Kidnapping & Abduction							Dowry Deaths						
		CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1049	821	154	1360	1252	226	2044	1329	709	71	1326	1250	156	1786	519	426	73	1274	1062	248	1044
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	37	29	1	40	29	3	400	51	37	3	51	37	5	338	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	1244	794	176	1290	841	203	3188	1544	798	102	1848	1011	113	2499	105	74	30	201	144	33	195
4.	Bihar	1232	772	178	1451	1111	232	3132	1084	643	118	1961	1350	218	3240	1188	749	138	2674	2255	355	3045
5.	Chhattisgarh	995	894	235	1211	1208	276	3180	178	156	45	177	175	57	638	103	99	23	273	267	69	292
6.	Goa	21	14	0	20	20	0	55	10	10	0	12	12	0	33	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
7.	Gujarat	354	332	50	539	551	69	2152	945	654	78	1142	1152	135	5305	50	43	3	150	133	5	487
8.	Haryana	608	497	97	772	749	153	727	431	263	55	395	403	64	659	255	215	69	533	514	169	473
9.	Himachal Pradesh	113	96	27	131	121	39	371	109	45	6	77	75	7	158	3	4	1	12	13	1	25
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	250	211	13	301	301	15	877	723	571	8	862	853	18	3365	10	8	0	12	13	0	29
11.	Jharkhand	799	599	185	943	1119	207	1726	410	250	25	378	289	42	902	281	170	60	557	474	140	491
12.	Karnataka	400	351	51	475	435	55	982	328	198	8	357	310	15	719	244	213	41	587	521	81	520
13.	Kerala	601	495	58	666	594	80	2949	202	149	4	219	175	10	532	25	21	6	39	37	13	138
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2900	2779	748	3878	3858	1139	6530	617	515	215	869	880	337	2095	764	735	280	2203	2187	863	1628
15.	Maharashtra	1500	1351	163	2162	2049	222	10503	921	609	36	1324	1155	60	5341	367	374	27	1348	1268	78	3141
16.	Manipur	40	2	0	20	2	0	52	79	0	1	49	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	74	35	2	71	41	2	338	25	10	0	27	15	0	93	6	3	0	0	2	0	3
18.	Mizoram	72	69	68	77	73	74	50	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	23	20	11	29	24	10	37	3	3	2	5	5	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	985	790	135	1020	995	186	3107	577	396	46	558	536	63	1563	457	317	44	969	990	123	1108
21.	Punjab	442	373	90	618	578	129	408	418	162	19	471	282	43	895	130	106	31	331	259	108	330
22.	Rajasthan	1085	740	262	1085	1083	377	1803	1553	546	225	1011	1012	571	3464	394	327	127	665	672	357	1329
23.	Sikkim	20	16	1	17	14	1	29	7	4	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	457	413	108	573	546	146	1261	718	350	58	1052	691	174	787	187	169	48	457	403	98	576

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25.	Tripura	189	177	25	167	145	20	385	62	27	8	61	42	5	35	35	22	10	25	11	8	69
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1314	1094	637	1770	1701	999	4208	2551	1815	903	4270	3965	2018	6653	1798	1464	695	5280	4944	2206	6995
27.	Uttaranchal	147	128	29	233	215	57	274	183	133	49	314	255	138	359	80	51	18	227	187	66	222
28.	West Bengal	1731	1520	137	2045	1774	180	8029	1199	838	120	1680	1251	180	5873	445	478	57	1058	1039	129	1590
	Total State	16682	15512	3641	22984	21529	5080	59075	18258	9882	2205	20477	17163	4437	47170	7487	6089	1781	18875	17394	4646	23435
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	7	1	7	10	1	37	5	7	0	10	10	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30.	Chandigarh	19	20	9	27	31	11	57	57	27	5	50	48	7	73	10	9	0	30	24	0	10
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	3	1	5	3	2	5	14	9	0	7	8	0	14	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
32.	Daman and Diu	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2
33.	Delhi UT	623	798	152	778	647	209	1250	1086	247	40	402	390	74	966	137	134	47	320	309	192	721
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	9	6	1	9	7	4	24	13	8	0	20	14	0	17	3	7	2	7	9	6	13
	Total UT	666	837	165	828	701	230	1377	1156	299	45	490	489	81	1094	151	151	49	359	343	198	748
	Total All India	19348	16349	3906	23792	22230	5310	60452	17414	10191	2250	20987	17632	4518	48264	7818	6220	1830	19234	17737	5144	24183

Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CS), Cases Convicted (CV), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS), Persons Convicted (PCV) & Cases Pending Trial (CPT) for Crimes against Women during 2006

Sl.No.	State	Molestation							Sexual Harassment							Cruelty by Husband and Relatives						
		CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4534	3528	398	4431	3971	895	5578	2411	2080	655	2816	2790	759	2185	9164	6258	697	19331	13883	1533	12157
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	63	33	9	40	36	11	262	2	1	0	2	1	0	6	14	6	3	8	9	3	52
3.	Assam	1290	749	121	1718	1097	260	1628	10	8	1	10	8	0	13	2548	1478	226	3880	2061	309	3208
4.	Bihar	530	449	80	720	743	117	1612	53	43	5	55	47	10	48	1899	1237	206	3124	2609	480	4301
5.	Chhattisgarh	1598	1554	362	1880	1850	495	6581	143	135	27	179	178	41	369	717	705	186	1932	1893	548	3382
6.	Goa	18	20	4	25	30	4	57	7	4	0	6	6	0	21	14	10	0	34	23	0	58
7.	Gujarat	738	700	26	957	950	38	6202	138	118	15	143	139	19	882	4977	4674	95	14878	14287	204	28000
8.	Haryana	486	393	115	653	618	133	1481	491	475	342	584	591	384	693	2254	1329	100	3538	3455	327	4534
9.	Himachal Pradesh	275	286	19	391	494	23	1037	31	26	5	34	35	5	83	299	205	11	508	497	22	953

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	880	887	85	2015	2015	113	2988	347	390	82	488	488	119	923	135	100	2	222	222	3	182
11.	Jharkhand	414	344	62	445	625	88	982	44	28	5	33	88	5	0	888	482	258	1141	678	0	971
12.	Karnataka	1883	1535	73	2445	2284	181	3577	38	33	9	42	40	7	88	2128	1828	87	3488	3388	185	3878
13.	Kerala	2543	2273	231	2851	2888	322	7888	222	178	18	230	228	19	388	3788	3288	238	6771	8481	887	11887
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8843	8172	1184	7285	7228	1485	24888	782	758	288	878	873	467	1888	2888	2888	1881	8418	8488	1841	11388
15.	Maharashtra	3478	3248	188	4248	4874	187	22888	884	814	41	1188	1188	43	8887	6738	6188	134	84888	22884	424	44842
16.	Manipur	42	1	2	28	1	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	8	0	0	4
17.	Meghalaya	57	34	5	58	38	8	135	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	6	0	8	5	0	12
18.	Mizoram	51	58	134	88	62	48	15	0	2	3	0	3	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	3	3	4	4	2	6	4	2	1	1	2	2	2	0	3	2	1	5	4	3	1
20.	Orissa	2415	2887	144	3885	3435	244	18888	247	214	28	311	388	28	747	884	1188	98	2881	2522	241	5835
21.	Punjab	314	282	44	422	381	88	878	88	43	18	75	83	28	42	881	584	67	1883	1377	278	2388
22.	Rajasthan	2582	2848	888	2875	2878	1243	8884	31	28	18	33	33	18	188	7888	4223	1884	8277	8288	2153	18378
23.	Sikkim	14	18	1	18	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	1	4	3	1	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	1178	1872	888	1887	1855	738	2875	852	745	283	857	838	348	887	1248	1881	182	2382	2355	488	2854
25.	Tripura	287	183	13	182	138	18	381	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	471	485	58	857	884	118	832
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2888	1814	888	2785	2783	1575	8438	2714	2715	1718	3852	3825	2312	8223	5284	3782	1558	14888	13288	5838	12837
27.	Uttarakhand	183	148	51	284	282	82	383	113	113	35	188	185	84	288	358	288	25	888	828	83	838
28.	West Bengal	1837	1828	118	2884	1784	142	7813	83	81	18	78	88	28	88	7414	8841	488	18884	12218	1358	38834
Total State		35882	31472	5878	44883	42128	8418	124844	9785	8872	3481	12188	12881	4722	22848	81284	48878	6748	133875	122817	18823	28488
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	14	13	0	18	18	0	115	4	4	0	8	8	0	14	7	8	0	7	18	0	28
30.	Chandigarh	28	18	6	28	25	6	88	13	12	3	28	28	3	48	182	48	0	188	185	0	257
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5	4	1	5	9	1	18	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	5	5	0	8	18	0	18
32.	Daman and Diu	2	1	0	5	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	14	14	0	11
33.	Delhi UT	718	678	88	887	678	131	2533	144	114	18	183	41	33	488	1728	738	113	3258	3888	167	1154
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
35.	Pondicherry	58	48	14	78	67	23	128	38	38	9	78	78	9	88	18	12	4	31	27	5	13
Total UT		815	785	118	1823	881	181	2888	281	188	31	288	148	45	881	1884	888	117	3585	3288	172	1475
Total All India		38817	32227	8887	45118	42821	8571	128818	9888	9241	3522	12428	12181	4767	23258	83128	48884	6887	137188	125277	18885	28431

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	70	26	491	536	127	146	628	400	286	1682	1579	843	1184
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	23	23	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	3	2
28.	West Bengal	1	11	1	2	23	1	14	86	59	72	188	124	79	150	25	18	10	27	38	16	73
	Total State	67	54	10	85	107	14	213	4417	4132	2589	11353	10855	5064	7848	4487	3014	624	7556	7074	1933	10367
29.	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	1	7	16	6	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	D&N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	5	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	185	89	376	369	103	439	15	21	7	23	12	16	64
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	3	42	42	28	5	2	12	2	2	14	2	16
	Total UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	200	93	430	432	137	500	17	33	9	25	28	18	81
	Total All India	67	54	10	85	107	14	213	4541	4332	2682	11783	11087	5201	8348	4504	3047	633	7581	7100	1951	10448

Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CS), Cases Convicted (CV), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS), Persons Convicted (PCV) & Cases Pending Trial (CPT) for Crimes against Women during 2006

Sl.No.	State	Importation of Girls							Immoral Traffic (P) Act							Dowry Prohibition Act						
		CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	657	617	283	1830	1772	704	943	474	342	28	705	515	71	645
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	29	30	8	124	66	18	31	31	58	19	49	77	19	167
4.	Bihar	42	36	8	66	60	13	181	13	15	0	30	31	0	93	909	544	68	1674	1621	156	3465
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	0	3	3	0	1	13	12	2	72	72	3	30	9	9	1	31	30	2	21
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	24	25	62	74	61	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	70	7	377	352	64	438	1	1	3	2	2	8	4
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	77	13	359	324	78	255	7	6	0	23	21	0	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	14	2	2	0	0	5	0	15
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	14	13	0	22	2	1	0	1	1	0	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11.	Jharkhand	5	2	0	0	15	0	8	11	10	1	34	35	3	32	345	244	32	578	432	60	883
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	786	740	409	2545	2495	1014	1110	478	353	28	1096	1040	51	1549
13.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	189	174	47	459	452	166	619	5	5	1	5	6	2	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	12	14	2	69	69	13	93	32	36	15	107	108	36	128
15.	Maharashtra	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	378	284	14	1645	1207	38	2564	55	51	1	178	167	4	218
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	7	7	19	15	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	38	3	131	141	18	97	1394	896	47	1193	1254	62	1683
21.	Punjab	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	67	45	6	269	168	45	142	7	3	0	7	6	0	8
22.	Rajasthan	3	3	0	4	4	0	2	143	141	52	387	389	237	495	3	1	1	5	5	4	16
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1732	1696	1631	2241	2292	2385	546	81	44	104	193	167	598	289
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	70	26	491	536	127	146	628	400	266	1682	1579	843	1164
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	23	23	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	3	2
28.	West Bengal	1	11	1	2	23	1	14	66	59	72	168	124	79	150	25	18	10	27	38	16	73
	Total State	67	54	10	85	107	14	213	4417	4132	2569	11353	10655	5064	7848	4487	3014	624	7556	7074	1933	10387
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	1	7	16	6	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	5	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	185	89	376	389	103	439	15	21	7	23	12	16	64
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	3	42	42	28	5	2	12	2	2	14	2	16
	Total UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	200	93	430	432	137	500	17	33	9	25	26	18	81
	Total All India	67	54	10	85	107	14	213	4541	4332	2682	11783	11087	5201	8348	4504	3047	633	7581	7100	1951	10448

*Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CS), Cases Convicted (CV), Persons Arrested (PAR),
Persons Chargesheeted (PCS), Persons Convicted (PCV) & Cases Pending Trial (CPT)
for Crimes against Women during 2006*

Sl.No.	State	Indecent Representation of Women							Sati Prevention Act							Total Crimes against Women						
		CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CPT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1347	1346	1250	1387	1306	1300	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21484	16138	3579	30880	27617	5892	26458
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	188	108	18	141	114	22	1057
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6801	3887	882	8438	5425	955	10812
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6740	4488	801	11757	9827	1591	19137
5.	Chhatisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3757	3885	861	5758	5676	1491	14484
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	83	29	159	186	85	244
7.	Gujarat	0	0	1	0	0	1	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7279	8982	276	18188	17586	543	41470
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4617	3255	791	6857	8885	1308	8833
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	792	645	69	1151	1153	97	2658
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2432	2142	170	3886	3887	268	8389
11.	Jharkhand	2	1	0	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2979	2110	629	4117	3733	526	5888
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6084	5252	718	11836	10484	1509	12822
13.	Kerala	89	70	15	88	88	40	158	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7554	6585	617	11408	10828	1159	23756
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	0	8	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14321	13950	3705	23783	23686	6081	48733
15.	Maharashtra	9	7	0	37	35	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14452	13020	584	36197	34067	1064	95444
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	3	3	104	3	2	90
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	176	88	7	188	101	10	584
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	128	209	138	139	128	85
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	36	28	64	52	38	51
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8825	5851	535	10408	10179	957	24202
21.	Punjab	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2242	1588	276	3882	3084	887	4888
22.	Rajasthan	182	100	24	104	103	29	358	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12834	8155	2719	14548	14585	4887	30858
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	34	3	39	34	3	39
24.	Tamil Nadu	35	28	21	51	40	34	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6489	5588	2823	9483	8887	4891	10316
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	964	834	106	1272	882	159	1782
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18375	13254	6800	34720	32589	15710	43565
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1038	836	207	2178	1885	523	2353
28.	West Bengal	4	0	0	4	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12785	11445	1001	22398	18226	2077	61849
Total State		1581	1688	1311	1863	1888	1484	855	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	158770	128861	28370	272801	251778	52833	500613

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	36	1	49	63	1	216
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	133	24	352	257	33	558
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	22	2	25	31	3	61
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	1	28	26	3	28
33.	Delhi UT	1	1	0	2	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4544	2909	565	6207	5637	925	7802
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
35.	Pondichery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	149	139	35	280	250	77	282
Total UT		1	1	0	2	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4895	3251	628	6922	6174	1042	8750
Total All India		1562	1557	1311	1965	1670	1404	863	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	184785	133102	28699	279823	257962	53675	508363

*[English]***Indian Prison Bill**

1650. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has advocated the replacement of the Indian Prison Act of 1894 by a Model Prison Bill which is uniformly applicable in the country;

(b) if so, whether the National Human Rights Commission has prepared and circulated a draft Model Prison Bill;

(c) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and

(d) the time by when the Government is likely to enact a new Prison Act in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had prepared an outline of a new Prison Bill to replace the existing Prisons Act, 1894. Based on the outline made by the NHRC, a draft Prison Management Bill was prepared by the Government of India and circulated to all the State Governments for their views, as "Prisons" is a State subject. In the absence of a favourable response from the States for legislation of a Central Act, no further action was possible.

Special Development Zones

1651. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to replace the SEZs by setting up Special Development Zones (SDZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would promote public-private partnerships in the new Zones;

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

(e) the time by when these new Zones are likely to be set up and become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) There is no such proposal. The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 came into effect from 10th February, 2006 and are currently in operation. SEZs are set up in the private sector or jointly with the State Governments or by the State Governments and its agencies on standalone basis. The SEZ Rules specifically provide that the letter of approval granted to a Developer shall be valid for a period of three years, within which time effective steps shall be taken by the Developer to implement the project.

Indo-Bangla Trade

1652. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to consider Fulbari as a full-fledged integrated check post for Indo-Bangladesh trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be opened for the Indo-Bangla trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As a part of improved Border Management practices, it was considered necessary to undertake integrated development of infrastructure at the India's entry points on land borders. Accordingly, Government of India has proposed for establishment of 13 Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) with our neighbouring countries. Out of these, 7 ICPs are at India-Bangladesh border, 4 at India-Nepal border and one each at India-Myanmar and India-Pakistan border. Fulbari does not figure in the proposed 13 ICPs. However, Fulbari is a Land Custom station (LCS) situated in state of West Bengal which provides Transit to exports from Nepal to Bangladesh through India.

Indian Exports to US

1653. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports to United States by Sea belie forecasts decline as reported in *Mint* newspaper dated February, 13, 2008;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No Sir. Indian exports to US by sea have been increasing. The figures for Indian exports to US by sea for the last 3 years with percentage increase are given below:

India's exports to U.S.A. by sea		(in \$ billions)			
Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	
India's Exports to U.S.A.	8.71	10.83	12.64	14.19	
Percentage change over previous year	—	24.25	16.74	12.21	

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census

(c) To increase and diversify Indian exports to US, the Government of India holds regular dialogue with the US Government, including under the Trade Policy Forum and Commercial Dialogue. Further, the Embassy of India and the four Indian Consulates (in the United States) undertake regular market promotion activities to increase Indian exports including assisting visiting business delegations from India, conducting market surveys and responding to the trade enquiries.

Social Violence

1654. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether social violence is posing a major threat to the general public in the country; and

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken by the Government to protect the Government's property and loss of human life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Government is aware that there have been incidents of violence arising from social tensions and conflicts in various parts of the country, from time to time, which is a matter of concern.

(b) Law and order is a State subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, and it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to deal with such incidents as per the law, including action to prevent damage to life and property, and take effective action

against those indulging in violence. However, the Central Government also closely and regularly monitors the law and order situation in the country. As a part of this process, the Central Government maintains close contact with State Governments whenever any such incidents may occur, besides sharing information with them and sending advisories from time to time with the aim of facilitating timely preventive action, as also emphasizing the need for firm enforcement action against elements indulging in violence. In addition, the Central Government, on the request of the State Governments also provides assistance in the form of deployment of Central security forces to aid the States to effectively deal with various situations.

All this is in addition to the long term measures being taken by the Central Government to strengthen and upgrade the Police in the States under the scheme for modernization of State Police Forces and liberal sanctions for raising of India Reserve Battalions, so that the State Governments are adequately equipped, in terms of force availability, training and equipment, to handle situation of violence, and act effectively to prevent damage and loss of life and property.

[Translation]

Fees in Private Institutes

1655. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provisions made regarding fees, admission, syllabus and other charges claimed by the private educational institutions;

(b) the name of the nodal agency enforcing these provisions;

(c) whether these provisions are strictly being enforced; and

(d) if not, the action taken under these provisions alongwith the outcome during each of the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Education being a concurrent

subject, the norms are prescribed by the State Governments for educational institutions coming under their purview. The norms regarding the school education at the central level are governed by the Affiliation Byelaws of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). The affiliation Byelaws, inter-alia, provide that fees charged should be commensurate with facilities provided by the institutions. CBSE may take action leading to disaffiliation of the school in the event of violation of norms.

Higher educational institutions affiliated to University Grants Commission (UGC) and those approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are governed by the provisions of their respective Act, which inter-alia have provisions for admission, fee and other administrative and academic matters.

[English]

National Marine Police Academy

1656. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a National Marine Police Academy;

(b) if so, the details including the proposed locations for the said Academy, especially in West Bengal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal of Marine Training Institute is being considered by the Government but it is still at conceptual stage. Location for this Marine Training Institute has not yet been decided. The proposals of the various State Governments including West Bengal for setting up the Institute in their States have been received in this Ministry. But, these State Governments have been informed that since the proposal is at conceptual stage, their proposals would be considered at appropriate stage.

Cluster Development Programme

1657. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers has been constituted to review the existing Cluster Development Programme;

(b) if so, whether the Government has extended financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 61 crores for the development of 156 clusters under the micro and small enterprises cluster development programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether diagnostic study of 172 clusters has been undertaken to understand the problems of these clusters and address them;

(e) if so, whether the Government provides 90% financial assistance for enhancing the productivity of a cluster;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Group of Ministers has submitted the report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of MSME has been implementing 'Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme' (MSE-CDP) under which 156 clusters have been taken up for development, and another 172 clusters taken up for diagnostic studies. State/UT wise details of Government of India assistance of Rs. 61 crore released for this purpose till 31.12.2007 is provided in the Statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) Under MSE-CDP, Government of India assistance is limited up to 80% of the project cost of Rs. 10 crore (90% of project cost in case of clusters owned/managed by women entrepreneurs), depending upon the nature of interventions, Common Facility Centres (CFCs), etc.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement

No. of clusters (State/UT-wise) taken up for development and amount released till 31.12.2007

(Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Clusters already taken up for development	Diagnostic study	Govt assistance released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21	9	390
2.	Assam	3	—	36
3.	Bihar	4	3	233
4.	Chhattisgarh	2	—	26
5.	Delhi	3	2	255
6.	Goa	1	2	20
7.	Gujarat	5	2	301
8.	Haryana	2	1	51
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	17
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	—	305

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jharkhand	1	2	22
12.	Karnataka	7	4	314
13.	Kerala	10	26	1057
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5	—	46
15.	Maharashtra	4	1	17
16.	Manipur	1	—	0.5
17.	Meghalaya	1	1	1.0
18.	Nagaland	1	1	46
19.	Orissa	6	12	198
20.	Punjab	9	5	352
21.	Rajasthan	18	3	552
22.	Tamil Nadu	3	20	111
23.	Tripura	—	2	1.0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17	74	599
25.	Uttarakhand	3	—	259
26.	West Bengal	26	1	363
27.	Miscellaneous work such as setting up for resource centre, training of cluster development executives, etc.			574
Total		156	172	6146.5

Shifting of Office of Development Commission

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

1658. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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

(a) whether the Government is re-considering the request of Gujarat to shift the office of the Development Commission (SEZ) from Kandla to Gandhi Nagar in view of the fact that as many as 51 SEZ have been approved in Gujarat;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration. However, two additional post of Development Commissioners for SEZs at Mundra and Dahej have been created and since filled up.

Growth of Small and Medium Enterprise

1659. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of Small and Medium Enterprises in the country during each of the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether the growth rate of Small and Medium Enterprises in the country during the last few years is higher than the country's industrial sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have increased in the country during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof the said period, State and Union Territories-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to enable Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises agro based industries to compete with multi-national companies and for increasing its exports?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Based on the Index of Industrial Production for micro and small enterprises (MSEs), with base year 2001-02, the rate of growth of production of MSEs vis-a-vis the overall industrial sector in the country during last five years is given in the table below. As may be seen, the rate of growth of production in the MSE sector has been consistently higher than that of the overall industrial sector.

Sl.No.	Year	Rate of growth (%)	
		MSE sector	Industry sector
1	2	3	4
1.	2002-2003	8.68	5.75

1	2	3	4
2.	2003-2004	9.64	7.02
3.	2004-2005	10.88	8.36
4.	2005-2006	12.32	8.15
5.	2006-2007	12.62	11.50

Since the medium enterprises were for the first time defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which came into force from 2nd October 2006, information in respect of growth rate in the medium enterprise sector is not currently available.

(d) and (e) State/Union Territory-wise details of estimated number of MSE units (both registered and unregistered) functioning in the country during last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(f) The programmes/schemes of the Ministry of MSME are primarily meant for increasing the productivity and share of MSE sector in the total manufacturing output and exports and enhance their competitiveness. Among these, the following recent initiatives taken for the promotion and development of MSEs are noteworthy:

- (i) Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises with the objective to double the credit flow to this sector in a period of 5 years;
- (ii) Enactment of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate promotion and development of MSMEs and enhancement of their competitiveness;
- (iii) According priority to the Cluster-based approach for holistic and integrated development of the MSE sector;
- (iv) Initiating the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) to address the technology, marketing and skill upgradation needs of the MSME sector; and
- (v) Undertaking a Package for Promotion of MSEs which comprises of the proposals/schemes having direct impact on the promotion and development of the MSEs.

Statement

Statement showing State/UT-wise details of estimated number of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) (both registered and unregistered) in the country during 2004-05 to 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of MSEs functioning		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	82547	86064	89726
2.	Himachal Pradesh	87194	91596	95572
3.	Punjab	413762	427401	441797
4.	Chandigarh	24739	25653	26612
5.	Uttaranchal	123524	130140	137618
6.	Haryana	245370	254028	263308
7.	Delhi	196215	203336	210905
8.	Rajasthan	498035	518371	538728
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1938524	2027020	2116791
10.	Bihar	582167	605049	629509
11.	Sikkim	437	455	474
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	1458	1516	1578
13.	Naaland	16824	17772	19024
14.	Manipur	53173	55115	57171
15.	Mizoram	12895	13554	14335
16.	Tripura	27054	28063	29141
17.	Meghalaya	25846	27153	28591
18.	Assam	218487	226890	235576
19.	West Bengal	856178	887697	921221
20.	Jharkhand	149697	156091	163220
21.	Orissa	434498	450946	468468
22.	Chhattisgarh	293468	304002	315118
23.	Madhya Pradesh	898650	937183	976981
24.	Gujarat	600569	624346	646379
25.	Daman and Diu	2800	4389	4579

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1397	0	0
27.	Maharashtra	909385	948028	989254
28.	Andhra Pradesh	970755	1005889	1043512
29.	Karnataka	740967	772234	804811
30.	Goa	8101	8401	8654
31.	Lakshadweep	616	644	675
32.	Kerala	507313	524969	542610
33.	Tamil Nadu	922118	962854	1006684
34.	Pondicherry	10301	10724	11120
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	3756	3902	4032
All India		11858821	12341475	12843773

[Translation]

Quality Education

1660. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the progress of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal Scheme to provide quality education to all, particularly weaker sections of the society;

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

(c) the achievements made in the country including Rajasthan, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) programme are being reviewed on on-going basis through monthly returns & quarterly progress reports. In addition 41 independent monitoring institutions submit six monthly reports on performance of these programmes. Under SSA independent studies have been

commissioned which include *inter alia*, study on out of school children, National evaluation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) programme, study on student & teacher absence and National Pupil Achievement Surveys. The latest biannual Joint Review Mission (JRM), the 7th JRM of SSA held in January 2008 has found the overall performance of States/UTs under SSA, satisfactory.

All children in the 6-14 age group in the country have been brought in the ambit of elementary education except 75.97 lakh out-of-school children (as on 31.03.2007), who represent the difficult to reach category.

State-wise enrolment for the years 2001-02 & 2004-05 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise enrolment during 2001-02 & 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Enrolment at elementary level (Classes I-VII)	
		2001-02	2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11716192	11335441
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	216412	244343

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	5599258	4900420
4.	Bihar	9722819	12251108
5.	Chhattisgarh	4034226	4615496
6.	Goa	192719	180274
7.	Gujarat	8875412	9026557
8.	Haryana	2958433	3258753
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1120481	1089609
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1535407	1426376
11.	Jharkhand	3630632	4371243
12.	Karnataka	9272741	8830209
13.	Kerala	4289578	4171452
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10952447	14178041
15.	Maharashtra	17253281	17574035
16.	Manipur	425276	486197
17.	Meghalaya	423242	604795
18.	Mizoram	184119	175219
19.	Nagaland	278137	309866
20.	Orissa	6274000	7059501
21.	Punjab	3066089	2943502
22.	Rajasthan	11238959	12486603
23.	Sikkim	101625	114832
24.	Tamil Nadu	9197793	10101274
25.	Tripura	626098	648799
26.	Uttar Pradesh	18049991	31677660
27.	Uttarakhand	1537238	1743757
28.	West Bengal	13361989	13503378
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	61714	63703
30.	Chandigarh	95048	1006624

1	2	3	4
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	38448	45481
32.	Daman and Diu	23654	24481
33.	Delhi	2177462	2283206
34.	Lakshadweep	12770	11163
35.	Pondicherry	167605	171095
Total		158711295	182008493

Source SES 2001-02 & 2004-05

[English]

Import of Garlic from Pakistan

1661. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to import garlic from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the names of companies which have been given licence for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding import of Chinese garlic *via* Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under the Foreign Trade Policy, no import licence is required for import of Garlic. However, under the provisions of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 a sanitary import permit is required for its importation which is issued by Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation. In Oct., 2007 Deptt. of Agriculture allowed import of garlic from Pakistan. Details of companies which have been issued import permit for import of garlic from Pakistan is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Import of Garlic from China and our neighbouring country was withheld in 2005 after interception of quarantine pests in garlic of Chinese origin and illegal import of Chinese garlic through neighbouring country. Recently, 14 consignment of garlic blubs imported from Pakistan arrived in Amritsar from 5.12.2007 to 5.1.2008. On sample testing of these consignments, it was found that all these were infected with quarantine pest Dry Rot (*Embellisia alli*). These were recommended for deportation/destruction.

Statement

List of Importer whom Import Permit was issued for import of Garlic from Pakistan

Sl.No.	Name of Importer
1	2

Import permit issued through Regional Plant Quarantine Station Amritsar.

1. M/s K.K. Enterprises, Gandhi Gall, Fatehpuri, Delhi
2. M/s Bajaj Sons, New Subjimandi, New Delhi
3. M/s Global India, Vasi, Mumbai
4. M/s Shaheen, International Traders, Sabjimandi, New Delhi
5. M/s Madhuri Agency, Kali Nagar, Gaziabad
6. M/s Jagdish Chander Sharma, Mewa Mandi, Amritsar
7. M/s Gurwinder Singh & Co. New Sabji Mandi, Amritsar
8. M/s Nihal Trading & Co. Hauz Khas, Delhi
9. M/s Vipco Exports, Sarswati Vihar, New Delhi
10. M/s P.N. Sons, Sabjimandi, New Delhi
11. M/s D.K. & Co. Fatehpur Delhi

Import permit issued through Regional Plant Quarantine Station Mumbai

12. M/s T.K.V. Marketing India P. Ltd., Mumbai, MS
13. M/s Var Agencies, Mumbai, MS

1	2
14.	M/s Surendra & Company, Amritsar
15.	M/s Abid Mohammad, Mumbai
16.	M/s M.M. International company, Junagarh, Gujarat
17.	M/s D.M.S. Impex, Nani Mumbai, MS
18.	M/s O.A. Associate, Delhi
19.	M/s Mahendra Kumar & Company, Mumbai
20.	M/s Erum Traders, Mumbai
21.	M/s Galico Industries Ltd., Mumbai
22.	M/s D.G.A.K.M.G. Energy Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai

[English]

Scam in Sarva Shiksha Abhyan

1662. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam under Sarva Shiksha Abhyan has come to the notice of Government wherein books were sold as waste paper;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of officials found guilty;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the officers found guilty; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Cases of selling of textbooks meant for free distribution as waste paper in districts Bhand and Betul has come to the notice of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The State Government suspended two cluster level officials allegedly involved in the sale of textbooks and an FIR was lodged against them. They were subsequently arrested. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has issued instructions to all District Collectors and District Project Coordinators to keep constant vigil in distribution of textbooks and to avoid recurrence of such instances in future. The Government of India has suggested various measures to avoid recurrence of such instances.

Canteen Facilities for Para Military Forces

1663. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide canteen facilities to the Central Para Military Forces and the general public;

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

(c) whether any canteen has been set up for the purpose as on date;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the Headquarters/ Regional Offices functioning at present thereof, location-wise;

(e) if not, the details of places proposed for setting up such canteens; and

(f) the sources from which the expenditure incurred is likely to be borne for setting up of such canteens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Central Police Canteen (CPC) has been set up for the benefit of Central Paramilitary Force (CPMF) and ex-CPMF personnel, and their family members, with its headquarter at Delhi. CPC has 115 Master Canteens and 638 Subsidiary Canteens as given in the Statement enclosed.

(f) Canteen is established on self sustained basis.

Statement*Details of Statewise Canteens*

Headquarter: Central Police Canteen, C/o Dte. Genl. CRPF, CGO Complex, New Delhi

State	Total Master Canteens	Total Subsidiary Canteens
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	3	18
Arunachal Pradesh	1	8

	2	3
Assam	7	59
Bihar	3	9
Chandigarh	2	12
Chhattisgarh	1	13
Delhi	5	12
Gujarat	4	23
Haryana	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	2	10
Jammu and Kashmir	9	137
Jharkhand	5	24
Karnataka	2	3
Kerala	3	6
Maharashtra	6	19
Manipur	2	13
Meghalaya	1	12
Madhya Pradesh	8	27
Mizoram	1	3
Orissa	2	16
Punjab	6	19
Rajasthan	7	25
Sikkim	1	1
Tamil Nadu	3	15
Tripura	3	25
Uttar Pradesh	15	49
Uttarakhand	3	13
West Bengal	8	64
Total	115	638

Vacant Posts of Teachers

1664. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make strict norms to fill up the vacant post of teachers/lecturers and to provide quality education at the middle and higher level in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Most schools come under the purview of State Governments. As regards these schools, it is for the respective State Governments to take a decision. So far as the schools under the control of Central Government are concerned, recruitment of teachers is made as per the laid down rules and procedures.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has prescribed norms regulating appointment of lecturers for quality education. They have also constituted a Committee namely "Mungekar Committee" to look into these aspects.

Minority Educational Institutions

1665. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding non-compliance of guidelines by minority institutions in providing higher education to the financially poor students of the respective communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the defiant attitude of these institutions towards the Self Financing Act promulgated recently by the Government of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any direction has been issued by the Court for framing regulations in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the law enacted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Central Government is not aware of any such directions to it.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Science and Technology

1666. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of science and technology centres opened/proposed to be opened in the country especially in West Bengal;

(b) the details of financial assistance alongwith incentives granted by the Government for the development and promotion of science and technology in the country especially in the North-Eastern Region and West Bengal during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received some proposals from the State Governments for the development of Science and Technology in the country, particularly Chhattisgarh during the last three years, State-wise;

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

(e) the number of proposals rejected/pending with the Government alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by when these pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) As per the available official statistics, there are 3960 R&D institutions in public and private sector in the country dealing with science and technology, out of which 260 Institutions are in West Bengal.

(b) According to available official statistics, the Union Government have funded 109, 132 and 271 research and development projects at a total cost of Rs. 11.83 crores, Rs. 11.43 crores and Rs. 24.33 crores during the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 respectively in the North Eastern States and 250, 253 and 340 research and development projects at a total cost of Rs. 40.95 crores, Rs. 59.81 crores and Rs. 93.42 crores during the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 respectively in West Bengal. The state-wise statement is enclosed. In addition, the Government has also supported plasma pyrolysis plants for waste disposal, micro hydel plants, water purification plants, patent information centres, etc., in North Eastern Region and patent information centre and iron removal plants in West Bengal. The S&T Centre can avail of

fiscal concessions, customs duty exemption, excise duty exemption etc. as provided in various statutes.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Union Government provides support to scientific research proposals received from research and development institutions, universities, voluntary organizations, state science and technology councils and other autonomous organizations in various states including the state of Chhattisgarh. The Union Government have funded 13, 9 and 20 research and development projects at a cost of Rs. 171.77 lakhs, 69.19 lakh and 209.04 lakh during the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 respectively in Chhattisgarh.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Sponsored R&D Projects

(Amount in lakh Rupees)

State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	No. of Projects	Approved cost	No. of Projects	Approved cost	No. of Projects	Approved cost
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	70.68	3	43.62	1	6.79
Andhra Pradesh	141	3217.09	188	5689.97	209	13932.61
Arunachal Pradesh	11	81.70	14	192.85	9	56.77
Assam	61	750.61	70	706.43	185	1723.83
Bihar	9	141.96	7	51.46	6	57.57
Chandigarh	51	937.90	41	1176.06	60	1571.11
Chhattisgarh	13	171.77	9	69.19	20	209.04
Delhi	238	6306.70	313	9363.52	359	12979.09
Goa	21	96.80	19	162.55	18	270.21
Gujarat	72	711.49	69	2262.57	107	3435.02
Haryana	50	389.20	28	709.19	44	791.19
Himachal Pradesh	33	460.66	34	404.94	40	732.22
Jammu and Kashmir	24	362.37	13	140.89	15	335.95
Jharkhand	37	1715.93	20	521.01	40	1080.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka	232	5539.78	258	6253.45	326	15090.48
Kerala	98	1593.92	103	1777.13	124	2811.18
Madhya Pradesh	40	657.99	46	836.57	111	940.84
Maharashtra	473	4872.99	363	5754.87	448	19121.37
Manipur	15	89.93	14	111.59	36	227.23
Meghalaya	6	51.36	6	52.59	16	222.58
Mizoram	5	55.75	1	5.85	4	94.04
Nagaland	5	36.16	1	4.20	5	61.62
Orissa	42	780.24	35	345.71	35	1208.29
Pondicherry	18	551.48	17	226.57	13	167.15
Punjab	69	811.72	54	614.79	59	1536.22
Rajasthan	48	626.90	48	969.15	97	1396.51
Sikkim	1	5.00	2	37.38	2	9.50
Tamil Nadu	234	4306.52	289	4805.56	372	11641.28
Tripura	5	111.50	4	32.24	14	37.57
Uttar Pradesh	338	3528.64	314	6267.24	337	11103.07
Uttarakhand	99	1631.55	113	1479.64	117	4186.64
West Bengal	250	4095.77	253	5981.22	340	9341.68
Total	2743	44762.06	2749	57050.00	3569	116380.14

Internal Security Central Projects

1667. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.I.T. has submitted 'internal security centre project' to the Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has accorded sanction to the project; and

(d) if so, the time by when it is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Russian Ban on Indian Tobacco

1668. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has imposed a ban on Indian tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government to save the Indian tobacco farmers;

(c) whether any steps has been taken by the Government to revoke the Russian ban on Indian tobacco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Russian authorities had imposed temporary restrictions on import of plant products including tobacco from India w.e.f. 28.01.2008. The matter was strongly taken by the Department of Commerce. This led to negotiations in Miscow on 5.2.2008 between Minister of Agriculture of Russian Federation and Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of India. This resulted in relaxation of restrictions on 11.2.2008. The import of unmanufactured tobacco to Russian Federation is now allowed subject to the following conditions:

1. Only unmanufactured tobacco and tobacco refuse covered by the ITC head HS2401 are permitted for import.
2. The imports of tobacco are allowed through the state border checkpoints of the Russian Federation, located in the regions of activity of Rosselkhozadzor departments in St. Petersburg, Leningrad and Kaliningrad regions.
3. Tobacco shipments from India shall be in compliance with Phytosanitary requirements of the Russian Federation.
4. The tobacco shall be shipped in packages manufactured without use of natural plant fibers.
5. The shipment shall be accompanied with the information about preventive disinfections of stocks and containers carried out by the agencies authorized by the Indian National Quarantine and Plant Protection Organisation.

Special Schemes for Border States

1669. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special schemes launched by the Ministry to supplement economic development of border area with both Pakistan and China with special reference to Border Area Development Programme (BADP);

(b) the details of fund sanctioned under various schemes to each Border State during the last ten years;

(c) whether the Government has issued fresh guidelines for the implementation of these schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to increase allocations under these schemes (especially for BADP) in view of increased threat perception from China in recent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Government of India launched a Special Scheme named Border Area Development Programme (BADP) in the Western region during the Seventh Five Year Plan period for ensuring balanced development of border areas through development of infrastructure and for promotion of a sense of security among border population. Subsequently the programme was revamped and now it covers all the border blocks of 17 States which constitutes international land borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Mynmar and Bangladesh. BADP has been a part of comprehensive approach to Border Management with focus on socio-economic development of border areas. The developmental activities under the programme relates to creation of social infrastructure, link roads, employment generation, education, health, agriculture and allied sectors. Funds are provided to the States as a 100% non-lapsable Central grant for supplementing the efforts of States. While Government of India lays down the broad guidelines, the schemes/projects under BADP are finalized and executed by the State Governments.

(b) A statement showing the funds released to various States under BADP during the last 10 years *i.e.* from 1997-98 to 2007-08 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The present guidelines of BADP are still in operation. However, the revision of guidelines based on the Report of the Task Force on BADP is under consideration and the same would be communicated to States in due course.

(e) The budgetary allocation of BADP has been increased to Rs. 635.00 crore for the year 2008-09

against the allocation of Rs. 520.00 crore made during 2007-08.

Statement

Statement showing the amount released during the last 10 years (1997-98 to 2007-08) under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) to various BADP States

(Rs. in Lakh)

Position as on 05.03.2008

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Amount released										
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	400.00	1100.00	1300.00	1351.00	1351.00	1351.00	900.00	1351.00	1935.49	4498.00	4733.00
2.	Assam	206.00	427.00	720.00	748.00	748.00	748.00	748.00	998.00	1081.00	2338.34	1969.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	700.00	364.00	0.00	728.00	728.00	728.00	1693.00	3119.00	3172.00
4.	Gujarat	858.00	888.00	987.00	1026.00	0.00	1026.00	684.00	1313.06	1106.00	2096.00	2249.72
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	400.00	400.00	816.00	1931.00	1098.00	416.00	1148.96	642.05	1269.00	1119.00
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	1034.00	3138.00	3352.00	3965.00	3485.00	10000.00	10000.00	8895.00	9999.97	9793.05	7483.00
7.	Manipur	400.00	400.00	400.00	416.00	416.00	416.00	277.00	555.00	592.00	1250.00	1121.00
8.	Meghalaya	395.00	411.00	452.00	470.00	536.00	800.00	705.00	900.00	494.00	1313.36	1029.00
9.	Mizoram	673.00	682.00	800.00	1232.00	1608.00	1632.00	1248.00	1556.00	903.48	2282.00	2086.00
10.	Nagaland	400.00	400.00	400.00	416.00	416.00	446.00	416.00	416.00	456.00	1577.00	1000.00
11.	Punjab	854.00	772.00	970.00	1008.00	1008.00	1008.00	1008.00	992.51	1308.00	3641.12	1870.00
12.	Rajasthan	8563.00	5662.00	3717.00	3032.00	3032.00	4032.00	3032.00	3695.29	3835.00	5731.36	7659.00
13.	Sikkim	0.00	400.00	550.00	463.00	572.00	572.00	572.00	1256.20	622.00	1566.04	1000.00
14.	Tripura	1096.00	1134.00	1247.00	1296.00	1296.00	1819.00	1296.00	2109.60	1296.00	2678.48	2282.89
15.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	400.00	1200.00	832.00	832.00	1745.00	832.00	1654.70	1399.01	2231.00	2173.55
16.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	800.00	416.00	208.00	523.00	416.00	1389.94	977.00	871.00	512.49
17.	West Bengal	1500.00	2928.00	3805.00	3799.00	1978.00	4556.00	2637.00	3739.95	4160.00	5765.25	6880.05
	Total	16379.00	19132.00	21800.00	21650.00	19417.00	32500.0	25915.00	32499.21	32500.00	52000.00	48339.70

Science News

1670. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to broadcast Science News in Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali and in other Regional languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that presently there are no proposals to broadcast Science News in Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali and in other Regional languages. However, adequate coverage of Science News is given in the news bulletins of AIR [Including concerned Regional News Units of News Services Division (NSD)] and DD. These include recent developments in the field of Science & Technology, issues on Environment, Climate change, Ocean Development, Disaster Management, Telecommunication, Information Technology, Space, Health Sciences etc.

Package for Micro and Small Enterprises

1671. DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced a special package for the promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including Andhra Pradesh, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the ailing traditional industries in the country are taken care of under such schemes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government has announced a package for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Lok Sabha on 27 Feb., 2007, which, *inter alia*, contains promotional support measures through legislation, credit, fiscal, cluster, technology and quality upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial and managerial training, empowerment of women, Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and strengthening of the data base. The Central

schemes/incentives are not state specific and are implemented uniformly all over the country.

(c) and (d) In addition to the initiatives announced under the Package for MSEs, (including traditional industries), the Government, with a view to revive and modernize the traditional industries, launched the 'Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries' (SFURTI), for the development of around 100 clusters of Khadi, village and coir industries over a period of five years beginning 2005-06 in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), which, *inter alia*, provides for need-based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centers (CFC), product development, quality improvement, improved marketing, training and capacity building, etc.

Further, in accordance with the "Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises" announced by on 10 August 2005, the RBI has issued detailed guidelines on 8th September 2005 relating to debt restructuring mechanism to facilitate restructuring of debt of all eligible MSMEs (including traditional industries).

Target and Achievement of DD and AIR

1672. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target to establish the Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) Stations in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

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

(c) whether the Government has achieved their target in this regard;

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

(e) the number of Doordarshan and AIR stations proposed to be set up/upgraded in the country including Orissa during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) The details of year-wise targets and achievements

in respect of Doordarshan and All India Radio are enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively.

(e) the 11th Five Year Plan has not yet been approved.

Statement I

Doordarshan Stations Targetted to be set up/set up during Tenth Plan

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of new Transmitters/Studios targetted to be set up under 10th Plan	Number of new Transmitters/Studios set up during 10th Plan					
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19	2					1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11	4	1	4	1		
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1		1				
4.	Assam	2				1		
5.	Bihar	6		1	4			
6.	Chhattisgarh	3		1		1		
7.	Delhi	1		1				
8.	Gujarat	6	3				2	1
9.	Haryana	7	2				2	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5		3	1			
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	32	28	3	1			
12.	Jharkhand	2	1	1				
13.	Karnataka	9	6	3				
14.	Kerala	4	3		1			
15.	Lakshadweep	6						
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2						1
17.	Maharashtra	13	8	2	3			
18.	Manipur	1		1				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Meghalaya	2		1	1		
20.	Mizoram	1		1			
21.	Nagaland	1		1			
22.	Orissa	1				1	
23.	Punjab	1					1
24.	Rajasthan	5		2	1	1	
25.	Sikkim	2	1	1			
26.	Tamil Nadu	11	5	4			2
27.	Tripura	1				1	
28.	Uttar Pradesh	3	1	1	1		
29.	Uttarakhand	6	3	2			1
30.	West Bengal	2			1		1
Total		166	67	31	18	10	11

Statement II*All India Ratio Stations Targetted to be set up/set up during Tenth Plan*

Sl.No.	State	AIR Stations targetted to be set up	No. of new AIR Stations set up during Tenth Plan				
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	0	1	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	1	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	1	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	1	0	0	0	0
6.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	1	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Haryana	2	0	0	1	0	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	0	1	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	3	0	1	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	1	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	4	0	1	1	0	0
14.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Maharashtra	5	0	0	1	0	0
17.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Nagaland	1	0	1	0	0	0
21.	Orissa	2	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Punjab	1	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Rajasthan	4	0	0	1	0	0
24.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	3	0	0	1	0	0
26.	Tripura	2	0	0	0	0	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7	0	2	1	0	0
28.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	West Bengal	1	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Daman and Diu (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Pondicherry (UT)	2	0	1	0	0	0
32.	L & M Islands (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	1	0	1	0	0	0
34.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total		52	4	8	8	0	1

Visit of Sri Lankan Delegation

1673. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a high powered business delegation visited Sri Lanka in February, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the areas of discussion with the Sri Lankan Delegation and the results thereof;
- (d) whether the current status of India-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Economic partnership Agreement was discussed; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) A business delegation led by Minister of State for Commerce visited Sri Lanka in February, 2008. The members of the delegation comprised representatives from major textiles and IT companies like Indo Rama, Vardhman, Aditya Birla, Arvind Mills, Textprocil, Virtusa, Qaurto, Mahindra & Mahindra, IOC, Reliance etc. During the Round Table Discussion held between the Government of Sri Lanka and Indian business delegates, various issues of bilateral and economic and commercial cooperation with focus on investment in Sri Lanka by Indian companies were discussed. During the visit of Indian business delegation, the following concrete agreements were signed:

- (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation and the Ceylon Electricity Board agreed on a timeline for implementation of the Coal Thermal Power Project in Trincomalee District of Sri Lanka.
- (b) An agreement between Mahindra & Mahindra and Sri Lankan Board of Investment to develop a \$ 100 million IT Park at Katunayake was also signed.

The issue of ongoing negotiations between the two countries on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was also discussed and noted for early conclusion.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra

1674. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released to Maharashtra State under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme during the year 2006-2007 and in the current year alongwith the number of children covered thereby;

(b) the amount utilised by the State Governments indicating the reasons for under utilisation;

(c) whether additional number of children are likely to be covered during 2007-08; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Funds released and children covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra during 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as under:-

Year	Number of children covered	Funds released including payment made to FCI (Rs. in lakhs)
2006-07	81,47,690 (Primary)	45,328.13
2007-08 (as on 7.3.08)	85,92,257 (Primary-81,87,366 and Upper Primary-4,04,891)	32,995.85

(b) The State Government had reported an unspent balance of Rs. 3240.55 lakh as on 31.3.2007 from the Central Assistance released during 2006-07. Out of the unspent balance of Rs. 3240.55 lakh, Rs. 2113.95 lakh (recurring grant) was adjusted from the grants released during 2007-08. The unspent balance of Rs. 1126.60 lakh (non-recurring grant) released for procurement of kitchen devices etc. has been allowed to be carried forward for utilisation during current year, for the same purpose.

(c) and (d) With effect from 1.10.2007, the scheme has been extended to children studying in upper primary (Classes VI-VIII) in 43 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in Maharashtra covering 4,04,891 additional children.

Bilateral Trade between India and Switzerland

1675. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether bilateral trade between India and Switzerland has been growing in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether Switzerland has shown their interest for a free trade agreement with India;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Bilateral trade between India and Switzerland during the last three years has been as follows:

(US\$ million)			
Year	Export	Import	Total Trade
2004-05	540.89	5939.93	6480.81
2005-06	479.52	6555.80	7035.32
2006-07	466.15	9116.32	9582.47

(b) to (d) Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Switzerland, as part of EFTA, had proposed establishment of an India-EFTA Joint Study Group to examine measures to promote bilateral trade and investment flows and to explore the possibility of a bilateral broad based Trade and Investment agreement.

This JSG was established on 1 December 2006 and has met four times in 2007. The report of the JSG has been submitted to the Governments on both sides recommending that the Governments of the EFTA States and India enter into negotiations for a broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement.

Headend in the Sky (HITS)

1676. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce the Scheme 'Headend in the Sky' (HITS);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its features as compared to the ongoing services; and

(c) the time by when the Scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations on 'Headend-in-the-Sky' (HITS) are under examination in consultation with other Ministries/Departments in order to formulate policy guidelines.

(b) HITS is a digital delivery platform to distribute multiple channels via satellite straight to cable operators. The essential difference between a HITS operator and the operation of Multi-System operator (MSO) is that the former transmits the bundle of channels to the cable operators using a satellite, whereas the latter does the same through a cable. HITS operator's area of coverage spans the whole country, whereas the MSO's area of coverage is confined to a limited geographical area (typically a town or a city) close to his headend. Cable operators subscribing to services of a HITS operator will be able to provide a larger number of channels with better picture quality and choice of channels to their subscribers than the conventional analog services. The introduction of HITS services will speed up the process of migration from analog to digital mode of transmission and distribution of television signals resulting in benefits to all stakeholders including subscribers, cable operators, broadcasters and the Government.

(c) The policy on "Headend-in-the-Sky' (HITS) is under finalization. However, no time frame could be given on such policy issues.

Tea Industry

1677. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the demand from the tea industry to declare it as an Agro-based industry;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the likely benefits for the industry;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Union Government has any proposal to fix a floor price for the raw tea leaves and the processed tea also;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by when the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal to fix a floor price for the raw tea leaves and the processed tea, however, a price sharing formula is in vogue under which price of made tea is shared between the growers of tea leaf and the manufacturers. This ratio in the case of Nilgiri areas is 65:35 in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal it is 52:48 and in other parts it is 60:40.

Extraction of Gem Stones

1678. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Gemstones available in the country, State-wise, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to explore Gem stones in the country including western Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for extraction of Gem Stones in some parts of the States including Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) State-wise information on estimated deposits of gem stones is given in the Indian Minerals Year Book published by the Indian Bureau of Mines, a sub-ordinate office of the Ministry of Mines. A copy of this book has been supplied to the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) Exploration of mineral resources including gem stones in the country is a continuous process. Exploration agencies like Geological Survey of India, National Mineral Development Corporation, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Orissa are actively engaged in exploration of gem stones in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh, Kamataka and particularly in Baragarh, Nuapada, Jharsuguda, Sundergarh, Sambalpur and Sonepur district in Orissa.

(d) Mining of minerals depends broadly on availability of mineral resources, economic viability, demand of the market etc. The Central Government has been conveying prior approval for grant of mineral concessions for exploration of precious stones as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

International Convention on Tea

1679. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board had organized a three day "India International Tea Convention" on November 22-24, 2007 at Gujarat;

(b) if so, the schemes and strategy, worked out to boost production and exports of Tea in the light of deliberations thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Tea Board had organized a 3 day India International Tea Convention at Guwahati, Assam from 22nd November to 24th November, 2007.

(b) The Convention acted as a one stop forum and took into account the diverse cross section of Indian teas produced in the country. It gave importers and buyers sufficient exposure to enable them to make informed decisions on tea to be purchased.

The Convention attempted to evolve strategies for strengthening export and marketing of tea-and particularly the tea produced in the Northeastern part of the country with main focus on expansion of marketing, tea tourism and bringing the entire tea producing fraternity of the country under one umbrella.

(c) Based on deliberations in the Convention, the steps taken so far for tea development, quality improvement, promotion of exports etc. of tea would be continued and further strengthened. These include:

participation in International and/or specialised Fairs and Exhibitions; organizing Buyer-Seller Meets in India and abroad; media publicity with logo promotion; promotion and protection of Geographical Indications of Indian tea; Field sampling at specialty stores and/or principal markets/ in store promotions & road shows; lending promotional support to Indian exporters/foreign importers in their promotion and marketing of Indian tea brands; public relations activities to establish closer link between importers and exporters; exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries; assistance to Tea Councils where India is a member for the generic promotion of Tea such as the UK, German, US and Canadian Tea Councils; and production of publicity material for distribution etc.

A number of developmental schemes are being implemented by the Tea Board for enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of tea produced in the country. The outlay of Tea Board for various Plan schemes have been enhanced to Rs. 800 crore during XI Plan period from Rs. 350 in the X Plan period.

Regeneration of Traditional Industries

1680. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of "Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries" (SFURTI);

(b) whether the work of development of any of the proposed clusters under the scheme has started;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), 118 clusters (33 Khadi, 59 Village Industry and 26 Coir clusters) have been approved for development. The State-wise list of the clusters approved under SFURTI has been given in the Statement-I enclosed. Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) and Coir Board are the Nodal Agencies through which the Scheme is being implemented. Implementing Agencies have been identified in all these clusters and various works, related to cluster development activities like obtaining the consent of the State Governments where these clusters are developed, execution of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Nodal Agencies and Technical Agencies, execution of MoU between the Nodal Agencies and Implementing Agencies, appointment of Cluster Development Executives, formation of Cluster Development Co-ordination Group (CDCG), etc. have been completed in most of the clusters. Besides, 14 (11 Khadi and 3 Village Industry) clusters have been inaugurated throughout the country. The details of these clusters have been provided at Statement-II enclosed.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise list of approved clusters under SFURTI

Sl.No.	State	Khadi	Village Industries	Coir	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Haryana	1	3		4
2.	Himachal Pradesh		1		1
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	3		5
4.	Punjab	2	3		5
5.	Rajasthan	2	2		4
6.	Assam	1	2	1	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Manipur		3		3
8.	Meghalaya		1		1
9.	Nagaland	1	1		2
10.	Tripura		2	1	3
11.	Arunachal Pradesh		1		1
12.	Mizoram		1		1
13.	Sikkim		1		1
14.	Bihar	1	2		3
15.	Jharkhand	1	1		2
16.	Orissa		2	2	4
17.	West Bengal	2	2	1	5
18.	Andaman and Nicobar			1	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	1	2		3
20.	Chhattisgarh		1		1
21.	Uttar Pradesh	5	7		12
22.	Uttaranchal	1	1		2
23.	Gujarat	2	1	1	3
24.	Maharashtra	1	3		4
25.	Goa			1	2
26.	Andhra Pradesh	2	4	2	8
27.	Karnataka	2	2	4	8
28.	Kerala	2	2	4	8
29.	Tamil Nadu	3	5	6	14
30.	Lakshadweep			1	1
31.	Puducherry	1		1	2
Total		33	59	26	118

Statement II**Khadi Clusters**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Cluster
1.	Rajasthan	Bassi Khadi Cluster
2.	Uttaranchal	Haldwani Khadi Cluster
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur Cotton Khadi Cluster
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Tikamgarh Khadi Cluster
5.	Gujarat	Cotton Khadi Cluster
6.	Kerala	(1) Thiruvananthapuram Khadi Cluster (2) Thalappilly Cotton Khadi Cluster
7.	Haryana	Kurukshetra Cotton Khadi Cluster
8.	Karnataka	(1) Hebbally Cotton Khadi Cluster (2) Belur Khadi Cluster
9.	West Bengal	Behrampore Cotton Khadi Cluster

Village Industries Clusters

1.	Jammu and Kashmir	Baramulla Ajas Manda Gabba Embroidery Cluster
2.	Punjab	Phulkari Cluster, Patiala, Patiala
3.	Haryana	Radaur Handmade Paper Cluster

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

1681. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drop out rate in elementary schools covered under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is 30 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch a new scheme named Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan;

(d) if so, the details and salient features of the scheme; and

(e) the allocation earmarked for the scheme and the time by when it is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The dropout rate at elementary level (class I to VIII) during 2004-05 was 50.8 percent. The main reasons for children dropping out, inter-alia, include distance to school, social and cultural barriers to girls education, inadequate school infrastructure, teacher vacancies, teacher absenteeism, skewed teacher deployment, lack of community involvement, etc.

(c) to (e) Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalization of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the 11th Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing one secondary school within 5 kilometer of every habitation. The proposed scheme envisages: (i) provision of necessary infrastructure and resources for the existing secondary schools and for improvement in quality of learning in the schools; (ii) provision for filling the missing gaps in the existing secondary schools system; (iii) provision of extra support for education of girls and children of disadvantaged sections of the society; and (iv) a holistic convergent framework for implementation of various schemes in secondary education.

Some of the major components of the proposed scheme are, (i) new schools buildings, (ii) additional rooms including classrooms, laboratories, computer room, library room, toilet etc., (iii) teaching-learning aids, (iv) School grant, (v) teachers' in service training, (vi) additional teachers, (vii) research and innovation, (viii) curricular reforms and (ix) Examinations reforms etc. The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 20,120 Crore for the 11th Five Year Plan for various components of this scheme.

Encroachment on Roads in Delhi

1682. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Police has any proposal to remove encroachments from roads and pavements for security reasons and to ensure smooth traffic flow in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when such encroachments are likely to be removed in Delhi, area-wise including R.K. Puram, Munirka, Palam, Dwarka, Lajwanti Garden etc; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to clear encroachments from the markets and roads in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Removal of encroachments from roads and pavements is done basically by the civic agencies in their respective jurisdiction. Delhi Police is taking action to keep highways and important roads clear for the free flow of traffic. However, in pursuance of the order of the Hon'ble Court of Delhi dated 26.03.2007 in W.P. (C) No. 16565/2006 and W.P. (Cr.) No. 207/2004, land owning agencies are informed of such encroachment by Delhi Police from time to time. Moreover, the civic agencies are provided necessary police assistance, whenever such encroachment removal is undertaken by these agencies.

Industry Status to Cable Industry

1683. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to confer industry status to cable industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Small Scale Industries has recognised the installation and operation of cable TV networks as Small Scale Service & Business (Industry Related) Enterprises (SSSBEs).

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of South Asian University

1684. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any Inter Governmental Steering Committee for setting up of South Asian Universities in the country including in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said Committee;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken, by the Government to set up the said university in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The decision to establish the South Asian University in India was taken at the 14th SAARC Summit and an Inter-Governmental Agreement for establishing South Asian University has been signed. Subsequently, an Inter Governmental Steering Committee was set up to finalize the modalities for operationalisation of the University. The Inter Governmental Steering Committee at its first meeting in May 2007 had agreed to establish a Project Office for the main campus of the University. This Office will be responsible for acquisition of land, overseeing construction, drawing up Charter, Byelaws, business plans etc. of the South Asian University. It was agreed that the Project Office will be headed by an interim CEO from the host country with appropriate academic and administrative credentials and experience of running a large institution/university. The Government has already initiated action in this regard.

Entrepreneurship under Rural Employment Generation Programme

1685. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Employment Generation Programme has provided an opportunity to women and ex-servicemen to start industries in villages;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked the banks to be liberal in providing loans to applicants; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the unemployed youth in the country have been benefited?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), implemented through the Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC), special consideration is being given to women and ex-servicemen by providing the margin money at the rate of 30% as against 25% in the case of entrepreneurs belonging to general category, for a project costing upto Rs. 10 lakh (and 10% of the project cost over and above Rs. 10 lakh upto Rs. 25 lakh) in conjunction with bank credit. In addition, own contribution from entrepreneurs belonging to women and ex-servicemen categories, has been kept at 5% as against 10% for beneficiaries or entrepreneurs belonging to general category.

(b) and (c) There are no specific guidelines from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to Banks, to be liberal in providing loans to REGP applicants. While formulating the REGP, consultation was made with RBI also, which subsequently issued circular letters to Chairman of all Scheduled/Commercial Banks well as Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) forwarding REGP guidelines and asking the latter to implement REGP as per the guidelines. RBI has also issued letters to public sector banks and their RRBs asking them to provide collateral free loans to REGP entrepreneurs.

The details of estimated employment opportunities generated under REGP during the last three years are as below:

Year	Estimated Employment Generated (Number of persons)
2004-05	530025
2005-06	567676
2006-07	595451

[Translation]

Development of Biotechnology

1686. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any concrete action plan for the development of bio-technology in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the development of bio-technology will facilitate the study and research works in the field of agri-gene in the country;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the details regarding the total number of agri-genes available so far in the country including those genes on which research work is being carried out?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology formulated a National Biotechnology Development Strategy. This strategy was based on 2 years long National and international consultation; review and comments from medical, agricultural, veterinary and environment experts, scientists, industry, regulators and all other ministries and departments. Various actions and programmes of this strategy have been suitably integrated while formulating the 11th Five Year Plan proposals to facilitate implementation. The strategy envisages major expansion in human resource development; industrial R&D promotion and development particularly in health care and agriculture; streamlining of regulatory system; and establishment of new institutes and infrastructure in cutting edge areas of biotechnology. Detailed strategy document is available at www.dbtindia.nic.in for further information.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Under the Biotechnology Development Strategy, a major emphasis has been given to facilitate research and development of agri-biotechnology. In addition to on-going programmes on agricultural crop improvement through genetic engineering and molecular/gene assisted breeding, it envisages setting up of National Institute of Agri-Food Biotechnology and launching of grand challenge programmes for bio-prospecting and utilisation of useful genes. Already, several hundred genes have been isolated in various government-funded projects involving genome sequencing and functional genomics of crop plants and wild biodiversity. Genes important in pest and disease

resistance, nutrition and productivity improvement are being utilized for research work on cereals, pulses and oilseeds. Detailed information is available at www.igmoris.nic.in

(English)

Inclusion of Chapter in History Books

1687. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to include a chapter on the contribution of Jai Rajguru and Bakshi Jagabandu on this valiant efforts and sacrifices in the history books; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

FDI in Mining Sector

1688. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy for allowing 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of various proposals signed and the actual FDI investment made in the mining sector during each of the last three years as on date, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has fixed any targets for the mining sector during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) if so, the details and achievements made so far during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is allowed under the automatic route in Mining sector covering exploration and mining of diamonds & precious stones; gold, silver and minerals. This is subject to Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

The FDI policy, permitted FDI up to 74% in Atomic minerals in the policy on mining of beach sand minerals notified vide Government of India Resolution dated 6.10.1998.

In the recent review of the FDI policy, Government has approved FDI up to 100% with prior approval of the Government in Titanium bearing minerals & ores and its value addition subject to the sectoral regulations and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. FDI for separation of titanium bearing minerals & ores will be subject to the following additional conditions:

(i) value addition facilities are set up within India along with transfer of technology;

(ii) disposal of tailings during the mineral separation shall be carried out in accordance with regulations framed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

No FDI is permitted in mining of atomic minerals.

(c) A State-wise statement on FDI approvals given and inflows received in the mining sector during the last three years is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions, including choice of location, are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic judgements and commercial considerations. No target is fixed for FDI including in the mining sector.

Statement

Statement on year-wise RBI's Regional Offices (with State covered) received FDI inflows from April 2004 to December 2007

Sector: Mining

(Amount in US\$ million)

Sl.No.	Regional Offices of RBI	States Covered Apr-Mar	2004-05 Apr-Mar	2005-06 Apr-Mar	2006-07 Apr-Mar	2007-08 Apr.-Dec.	Cumulative Total
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	0.08	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.12
2.	Guwahati	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura	2.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.91
3.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	2.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.17
4.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	1.26	2.22	0.40	7.74	11.62
5.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27
6.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.18	0.00	0.02	378.82	379.83
7.	New Delhi	Delhi, Part of UP and Haryana	2.00	2.20	6.16	4.24	14.60
8.	Region not Indicated		0.04	1.73	0.00	25.33	27.10
Grand Total			9.92	6.15	6.62	415.93	438.62

Foot Note: 1. Includes 'equity capital component' only.

2. The above State-wise inflows are classified as per RBI's Region-wise inflows furnished by RBI, Mumbai.

Legislation for Media

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

1689. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(e) the time by when the new legislation is likely to be introduced?

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new legislation to regulate the entire media;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor media-wise;

(c) whether the views of all sections of the media and other stakeholders have been taken;

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) The draft of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill for electronic media is under consultation with stakeholders. Concerns have been expressed by stakeholders on Cross media and ownership restrictions, autonomy of proposed Broadcasting Regulatory Authority under the Bill, public service broadcasting obligations and

role of Prasar Bharati etc. The Comments of States/UTs have also been asked for on the proposed Bill. The final Bill will be drawn up after considering the views of stakeholders.

(e) In view of reply of part (a) to (d), no time limit can be given in this regard.

Tea Trade

1690. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reached an agreement with Sri Lanka and Russia with regard to trade in tea;

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

(c) the details of the foreign exchange earned by the

Government after the said agreements become operational; and

(d) the quantity of tea exported to both countries so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India has signed trade agreements with Sri Lanka and Russia which include matters relating to trade in tea. Under the agreement with Sri Lanka signed in 2000, India has granted concessional rate of duty on import of tea from Sri Lanka on a quantity not more than 15 million kgs. in a year. Under the agreement with Russia in 2007, Russia shall grant legal protection for Geographical Indications (GIs) for 'Darjeeling Tea', 'Assam Tea' and 'Nilgiri Tea' among other goods.

(c) and (d) The tea exported by India to Sri Lanka and Russia and the value thereof is given below:

(Qty. in thousand kg)
(Value in Rs. lac)

Year	Sri Lanka		Russia	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2000	1244	922.87	85870	62129.76
2001	966	910.99	66878	46882.97
2002	1441	1260.25	48296	31199.89
2003	1835	1482.10	43002	27582.32
2004	3425	2734.90	38206	27183.68
2005	2087	1951.39	35887	26784.40
2006	3186	3062.46	36993	29076.75
2007 (Estimated)	2880	2441.00	34410	27759.00

[Translation]

Direct-to-Home Service

1691. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Direct Plus Group and some other Groups providing free of cost Direct-to-Home (DTH) services to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, group-wise along with the names of the T.V. Channels provided;

(c) whether DTH platform of Doordarshan is being made available to the private TV Channels for telecasting free to air channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to bring all the TV Channels showing commercial advertisements under the ambit of free to air TV Channels on the lines of the system adopted by other countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Only Doordarshan DD Direct Plus (DTH) is providing DTH services free of cost of the consumers. Private DTH Service licensees are not providing their DTH Service free of cost.

(b) The list of the TV Channels on DD Direct Plus is enclosed as statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. Subject to the payment of carriage free and suitability of such channels for DD Direct Plus platform.

(d) The details of private channels are given in the Statement.

(e) and (f) No such proposal is under consideration.

Statement

Present Status of DD Direct+

20 DD Channels, 22 Private TV Channels

DD Channels

1. DD-I
2. DD (News)
3. DD-Sports
4. DD-India
5. DD-Bharati
6. DD-Urdu
7. DD-Bangla

8. DD-Chandana
 9. DD-Gujarati
 10. DD-Kashir
 11. DD-Lok Sabha
 12. DD-Rajya Sabha
 13. DD-Gyan Darshan
 14. DD-North-East
 15. DD-Oriya
 16. DD-Podighai
 17. DD-Sahyadri
 18. DD-Saptagiri
 19. DD-Malayalam
 20. DD-Punjabi
- Private TV Channels**
21. Enter 10 Channel
 22. PTC News (Punjabi)
 23. Time TV (Hindi)
 24. Zee Jagaran (Hindi-Spiritual)
 25. Smile TV (Hindi-Entertainment)
 26. Total TV (Hindi)
 27. Win TV (Tamil)
 28. MH 1 (Hindi-Music)
 29. KBS
 30. Music India (Hindi)
 31. Aastha TV (Hindi-Spiritual)
 32. IGNOU-II (Gyan Darshan)-II
 33. Kalaingar TV (Tamil)
 34. MEGA TV (Tamil)
 35. Makkal (Tamil)
 36. ETC (Hindi-Music)
 37. Jaihind TV (Malayalam)
 38. Kairali TV (Malayalam)
 39. INX Media Channel 9X
 40. Star Utsav
 41. B4U Music
 42. DW TV

*[English]***Reforms on Domestic Regulations in WTO**

1692. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make efforts to revive negotiations on the service sector in the next Doha round of trade talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Government has highlighted the importance of reforms on domestic regulations in the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is actively participating in discussions being held at the WTO, Geneva. At present, discussions in the Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services of the WTO and bilateral meetings with some of India's major trading partners are under way.

(c) The discussions at the WTO inter-alia relate to disciplining of domestic regulations. The Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration mandates disciplining of domestic regulations before the conclusion of the Doha Round. India's view is that disciplines in domestic regulations complement the market access commitments. The Chairman of the Working Party on Domestic Regulations has come out with a Text. Currently, discussions based on the Chairman's Text are under way.

Strengthening of CISF

1693. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional responsibilities and duties are proposed to be assigned to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF);

(b) if so, whether there is a need to strengthen the CISF to meet the new challenges; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Besides protecting the PSUs, CISF has been assigned the duty of protecting Airports, Delhi Metro, Central Government buildings in Delhi, some important monuments, VIPs etc.

(b) and (c) Augmentation of personnel training and modernization of the Force is an on-going process and the required posts and fund are sanctioned from time to time as per the requirement.

Regulation of Entertainment Industry

1694. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to regulate multiple areas in entertainment industry like controlling piracy on intellectual property rights and protection, developing India as a talent hub, promoting Indian films globally and preventing restrictive trade practices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) This Ministry has taken the following steps in respect of the issues raised:

(i) Government has been discussing the comprehensive proposed draft of Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill for electronic media with stakeholders. The proposed Bill is comprehensive in nature and would cover all issues relating to electronic media. However, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 does not bar the application of other laws such as Cinematograph Act, 1952, Copyright Act 1957, the Trade & Merchandise Marks Act, 1958, etc. as per Section 21 of the said Act. Further the Rule 6(1)(n) and Rule 6(3) of Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 has specifically provided for carrying the programmes as per provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952 and Copyright Act, 1957.

(ii) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee regarding issues pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights

and Piracy. Similarly, Ministry of HRD also regularly holds meetings with different Ministries and stakeholders in matters of copyright. Ministry of I&B participates in such meetings.

- (iii) The proposal regarding designated special courts and setting up of economic offence cell dealing with piracy is being taken up with the State Government and in the meeting of sub-group constituted as per recommendation of SIMCON.
- (iv) This Ministry is examining an Optical Disc Law draft prepared by FICCI.
- (v) This Ministry is currently considering modification/ amendment of Cinematograph Act 1952.
- (vi) This Ministry through plan schemes like 'Export Promotion through Film Festivals in Indian and Abroad' and 'Participation in Film Market', facilitates increase of the visibility of Indian films abroad. The scheme relating to film market provides a platform for producers and buyers to interact by participating in different international film festivals/markets, viz., Cannes Film Festival/Market, American Film Festival/Market, MIPCOM, Rome Film Festival, Berlin Film Festival, etc. Film festivals provide an opportunity for interaction with the cast and crew of the film.
- (vii) This Ministry, through its two existing training institutes at Kolkata and Pune imparts training in film and television related areas, both creative as well as technical.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Science and Technology

1695. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage on the total GDP being spent currently for the development of science and technology in the country;
- (b) whether efforts will be made to increase the expenditure on science and technology, keeping in view its importance for the development of the country;
- (c) the scientific objectives of the satellite mission; and

(d) the extent to which progress has been made under the mission mode programme during the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) According to the official statistics, 0.8 percent of the GDP is spent on Research & Development in Science and Technology in the country.

(b) The Government have taken various measures to increase the expenditure on Science & Technology in the Country. These measures include higher allocation for scientific research from Plan to Plan for setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, induction of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for R&D in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, national awards for outstanding R&D etc. Accordingly, the Government have enhanced XI Plan allocation for Scientific Departments to Rs. 75,304.00 crores from Rs. 25,301.35 crores during X Plan.

(c) and (d) The scientific objective of space science satellite missions (like Chandrayaan-1, Astrosat) includes conducting scientific investigations in the fields of astronomy, atmospheric science and planetary science. The entire Space programme is implemented in the Mission/Project Mode and the significant progress achieved during the current 11th Five Year Plan include: successful testing of indigenous cryogenic stage to enhance the self reliance in launch vehicle technology, launching of INSAT-4CR, a high power satellite carrying 12 Ku band transponders onboard India's GSLV F04 to boost the INSAT system capacity for DTH and satellite communication services, launching of two foreign satellites on commercial basis and a Deep Space Network with large antennae (32 meter and 18dia) have been established at Bangalore for India's First unmanned Mission, Chandrayaan-1.

[English]

Exports of Leather Garments

1696. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the exports of leather garments has declined during the last three years and in the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the exports of leather garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The value of export of leather garments during year 2005-06 was US\$ 333.30 million as against US\$ 329.44 million in 2004-05. However, the export of these commodities declined in the year 2006-07 to US\$ 308.98 million. In the current year the value of export of leather garments, from April to October, has been recorded as US\$ 204.59 million which shows a growth of 6.82% over the corresponding period of 2006-07. As per data available from 'World Statistics-ITC, Geneva', the global import of leather garments has been showing a declining trend for the past five years.

(c) The measures taken by Government to increase the export of leather garments, inter-alia, include setting up of an Integrated Design Centre, financial assistance to organize participations in Leather Garments specific international events, financial assistance for modernization and upgradation of production facility in leather garments industry, and concession/exemption in import duties for import of specified raw materials, machineries etc. used in manufacturing of leather garments.

National State Integration Council

1697. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted the National Integration Council (NIC);

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

(c) the number of meetings held by NIC during the last one year;

(d) the details of the States that have constituted the State Integration Council in their respective States; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to constitute State Integration Council in every State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Integration Council (NIC)

was last reconstituted by way of Press Note dated 2.2.2005. The re-constituted NIC, headed by the Prime Minister, has 138 Members comprising Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories which have legislatures, Leaders of National Political Parties and Regional Political Parties, Chairpersons of National Commissions, Media Persons, Eminent Public Figures and Representatives drawn from Business, Labour & Women.

(c) No meeting of NIC has been held during the last one year.

(d) and (e) The NIC in its meeting held on 24.4.1981 recommended setting up of National Integration Committees at the State and District levels. Further NIC in its meeting held on 31.8.2005 again reiterated the need for setting up of State level Committees on the pattern of NIC. Accordingly, all the State Governments and Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry were urged to consider setting up such committees. State and District level Committees were constituted in the States of Assam, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. Committees at State Level only were constituted in the States of Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Goa, Maharashtra & Punjab. In addition, Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Manipur and Rajasthan are in process of constituting such Committees. Government of Arunachal Pradesh has informed that there is no need for such Committee as no communal tension prevails in the State.

Promotion of Foot-wear Industry

1698. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are vast scope to promote Foot-wear industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to develop old townships for setting up such industries in the country;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage unemployed youths to set up such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is the World's second largest producer of leather footwear, with an estimated production of over 900 million pairs per annum. Of all the leather products, footwear has registered the highest growth rate of 18% CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) in 2005-06. Exports in 2005-06 were valued at US\$ 786.76 million, which accounts for 28% of total export of Leather products. In the last 5 years, India's overall footwear export has been growing at 12% per annum. India has one of the highest potential for footwear consumption, given the rapid increase in the disposable income among the younger population. However, presently, around 70-80% of footwear units are in unorganized sector and therefore, it is necessary to increase production capacities of footwear units in order to meet the increasing demand and to capture the available opportunities in global footwear market.

(c) and (d) In order to increase the production capacities, development of Footwear Complexes/Parks was encouraged by the Central Government and during the 10th Plan, financial assistance towards establishment of a Footwear Complex and a Footwear Component Park at Chennai under the Plan Scheme, Indian Leather Development Programme was provided.

(e) During the 10th Plan period training and marketing support were provided to primary workers and artisans thereby increasing employment opportunity in the sector.

Remedial Teaching for SCs/STs under SSA

1699. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has demanded an annual hike of Rs. 65 lakh per district under a key provision of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), catering to remedial teaching for SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereon; and

(c) the further steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), there is a provision for remedial teaching for students in every district, including scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students. In 2007-08 funds for remedial teaching have been sanctioned for about 50 lakh students, including SC and ST students.

FDI in Infrastructure Sector

1700. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks second among the world's favoured FDI destination;

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

(c) the details of FDI inflow in various sectors including infrastructure sector during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage FDI in the country, especially in the infrastructure sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The UNGTAD World Investment Report (WIR) 2007, in its analysis of the global trends and sustained growth of FDI inflows, has reported India as the second most attractive location for FDI for 2007-2009. India has also retained the second place in A.T. Kearney's 2007 Foreign Direct Investment Index, a position it has held since 2005.

(c) A statement-I on FDI inflows in various sectors including infrastructure sector during the last three-years is enclosed.

(d) The extant policy for most of the infrastructure sectors permits FDI up to 100% on the automatic route. Statement showing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the infrastructure sectors is enclosed as statement-II.

Statement I*Statement on Year-wise FDI inflows from April 2004 to December 2007*

(Amount in US\$ million)

Sl.No.	Sector	2004-05 Apr-Mar	2005-06 Apr-Mar	2006-07 Apr-Mar	2007-08 Apr-Dec	Cumulative Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Metallurgical Industries	182.39	146.89	172.85	481.07	983.20
2.	Mining	9.92	6.15	6.62	415.93	438.62
3.	Power	52.94	87.09	157.47	227.82	525.12
4.	Non-Conventional Energy	0.01	0.11	2.11	7.57	9.80
5.	Coal Production	0.00	0.00	1.30	0.00	1.30
6.	Petroleum & Natural Gas	113.47	14.17	89.37	316.44	533.45
7.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0.54	0.00	3.31	0.97	4.82
8.	Prime Mover (Other than Electrical Generators)	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.33
9.	Electrical Equipments	97.70	35.18	76.85	588.92	798.65
10.	Computer Software & Hardware	538.52	1,374.84	2,614.43	1,136.14	5,663.93
11.	Electronics	86.16	39.05	41.45	13.81	180.47
12.	Telecommunications	124.53	623.55	477.74	1,043.01	2,268.83
13.	Information & Broadcasting (Including Print Media)	10.24	55.95	43.56	215.81	325.56
14.	Automobile Industry	122.17	142.97	275.73	330.31	871.18
15.	Air Transport (Including Air Freight)	4.11	10.27	92.14	88.85	195.37
16.	Sea Transport	34.91	53.63	72.52	87.78	248.84
17.	Ports	13.04	0.50	0.00	0.00	13.54
18.	Railway Related Components	4.48	14.67	25.82	4.35	49.32
19.	Industrial Machinery	8.89	42.80	19.27	18.55	89.51
20.	Machine Tools	11.04	23.00	37.34	46.15	117.53
21.	Agricultural Machinery	0.00	92.71	25.19	6.10	124.00
22.	Earth-moving Machinery	0.10	50.87	0.99	66.09	118.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering Industries	12.34	51.26	64.32	179.32	307.24
24.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipments	14.12	25.54	44.88	6.15	90.89
25.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	5.25	1.53	13.43	3.24	23.45
26.	Industrial Instruments	1.08	0.38	0.00	2.23	3.89
27.	Scientific Instruments	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.00	0.20
28.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing Instruments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Fertilizers	13.46	4.24	5.01	1.17	23.88
30.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	198.07	389.77	205.43	189.12	982.39
31.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	6.30	0.00	2.81	52.84	61.95
32.	Dye-Stuffs	1.18	0.00	0.00	1.93	3.11
33.	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	292.07	172.44	214.84	223.05	902.40
34.	Textiles (Including Dyed, Printed)	43.04	94.33	125.26	72.57	335.20
35.	Paper and Pulp (Including Paper Products)	2.70	27.38	5.08	22.62	57.78
36.	Sugar	2.94	3.00	16.54	10.07	32.55
37.	Fermentation Industries	9.13	169.83	27.58	25.85	232.39
38.	Food Processing Industries	38.51	41.74	98.24	15.84	194.33
39.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	9.09	12.31	16.22	0.26	37.88
40.	Soaps, Cosmetics & Toilet Preparations	0.89	88.51	6.04	3.79	99.23
41.	Rubber Goods	40.06	34.01	18.75	5.88	98.70
42.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	0.44	1.11	8.26	5.28	15.09
43.	Glue and Gelatin	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.71	1.71
44.	Glass	8.36	0.81	1.43	10.37	20.97
45.	Ceramics	26.79	5.59	57.46	90.29	180.13
46.	Cement and Gypsum Products	0.16	452.08	242.69	9.36	704.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
47.	Timber Products	0.07	0.33	0.00	0.38	0.78
48.	Defence Industries	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
49.	Consultancy Services	254.61	46.89	115.36	167.21	584.07
50.	Services Sector	443.55	543.42	4,663.65	2,532.10	8,182.72
51.	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	25.16	32.53	38.14	160.51	256.34
52.	Education	1.91	4.53	47.29	23.23	76.96
53.	Hotel & Tourism	37.01	71.78	194.83	228.84	532.46
54.	Trading	14.56	27.82	115.42	538.55	696.35
55.	Retail Trading (Single Brand)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.68	1.68
56.	Agriculture Services	3.83	7.59	15.11	106.12	132.65
57.	Diamond, Gold Ornaments	8.33	15.37	61.78	37.57	123.05
58.	Tea and Coffee (Processing & Warehousing Coffee & Rubber)	0.00	1.43	6.20	3.65	11.28
59.	Printing of Books (Including Litho Printing Industry)	12.03	9.52	51.19	19.50	92.24
60.	Coir	0.47	0.59	0.04	0.01	1.11
61.	Construction Activities	152.00	150.58	985.36	1,044.89	2,332.83
62.	Housing & Real Estate (Including Cineplex, Multiplex, Integrated Townships & Commercial Complexes etc.	0.00	38.04	467.34	1,485.62	1,991.00
63.	Miscellaneous Industries	123.91	198.92	319.62	320.99	963.44
	Sub Total	3,218.71	5,539.70	12,491.73	12,699.54	33,949.68
64.	Stock Swapped	0.00	6.23	3,234.42	0.00	3,240.65
65.	Advance of inflows	540.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	540.25
	Grand Total	3,758.96	5,545.93	15,726.15	12,699.54	37,730.58

Statement II

Sector	FDI Cap/ Equity	Entry Route	Conditions	Relevant Press Note Issued by DIPP www.dipp.gov.in
1	2	3	4	5
Airport (a) Greenfield projects	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation www.civilaviation.nic.in	PN 4/2006
(b) Existing projects	100%	FIPB beyond 74%	Subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation www.civilaviation.nic.in	PN 4/2006
Construction Development Projects , including housing, commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure, townships	100%	Automatic	Subject to conditions notified vide Press Note 2 (2005 Series) including: a. minimum capitalization of US\$ 10 million for wholly owned subsidiaries and US\$ 5 million for joint venture. The funds would have to be brought within six months of commencement of business of the Company. b. Minimum area to be developed under each project-10 hectares in case of development of serviced housing plots; and built-up area of 50,000 sq. mts. in case of construction development project, and any of the above in case of a combination project. [Note: For investment by NRIs, the conditions mentioned in Press Note 2/2005 are not applicable.]	PN 2/2005 & PN 2/2006
Petroleum & Natural Gas Sector (a) Other than Refining and including market study and formulation; investment/financing; setting up	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations issued by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; and **in the case of actual	PN 1/2004 & PN 4/2006

1	2	3	4	5
infrastructure for marketing in Petroleum & Natural Gas sector.			trading and marketing of petroleum products, divestment of 26% equity in favour of Indian partner/ public within 5 years.	
			**removal of the condition has been approved www.petroleum.nic.in	
(b) Refining	26% *in case of PSUs	FIPB (in case of (PSUs)	Subject to Sectoral policy www.petroleum.nic.in	PN 2/2000
	*Revision of cap to 49% has been approved	Automatic (in case of private companies)		
	100% in case of Private companies			
Telecommunication (a) Basic and cellular, Unified Access Services, National/International Long Distance, V-Sat, Public Mobile Radio Trunked Services (PMRTS), Global Mobile Personal Communications Services (GMPCS) and other value added telecom services	74% (Including FDI, FII, NRI, FCCBs, ADRs, GDRs, convertible preference shares, and proportionate foreign equity in Indian promoters/ investing Company)	Automatic up to 49% FIPB beyond 49%	Subject to guidelines notified in the PN 5/ 2005 Series	PN 5/2005
(b) ISP with gateways, radio-paging, end-to-end bandwidth.	74%	Automatic up to 49%. FIPB beyond 49%	Subject to licensing and security requirements notified by the Department of Telecommunications	PN 4/2001
(c) ISP without gateway, infrastructure provider providing dark fibre,	100%	Automatic up to 49%.	Subject to the condition that such companies shall divest 26% of	PN 9/2005

1	2	3	4	5
electronic mail and voice mail		FIPB beyond 49%	their equity in favour of Indian public in 5 years, if these companies are listed in other parts of the world. Also subject to licensing and security requirements, where required.	
(d) Manufacture of telecom equipments	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral requirements. www.dotindia.com	
Power including generation Sectoral (except Atomic energy; Regulations transmission, distribution and Power Trading			Subject provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 www.powermin.nic.in	PN 2/1998, PN 7/2000 & PN 4/2006
Ports	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations	PN 2/2000
Roads & Highways	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations	PN 2/2000
Shipping	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations	PN 2/2000

Discovery of Bauxite, Tungsten and Graphite Reserves

1701. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has discovered some new reserved areas for Bauxite, Tungsten, Graphite and other mineral in the country including Orissa;

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

(c) the expected quantum of these minerals available in those areas; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the exploitation of these minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has discovered new deposits of Bauxite, Manganese and Iron Ore in the State of Orissa. Iron Ore has also been discovered in the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and Graphite was discovered in Tamil Nadu. However, Tungsten deposit

has not been found by GSI. The other major mineral discoveries by GSI are:

Gold deposits in Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Karnataka; Basemetal (copper, lead, zinc) in the States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh; Platinum Group of Metals in Karnataka; Limestone deposits in the States of Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu and Clay in Kerala.

(b) and (c) The details of resources of these minerals State-wise as provided by GSI for Field Season 2006-07 are as under:

Sl.No.	Mineral	State	Resources million tonnes
1	2	3	4
1.	Bauxite	Orissa	1.97
2.	Manganese	Orissa	7.20
3.	Iron Ore	Tamil Nadu	14.03
		Karnataka	8.00

1	2	3	4
4.	Graphite	Tamil Nadu	0.76
5.	Gold	Rajasthan (2005-06 & 2006-07)	7.48
		Karnataka	0.48
6.	Base metals (Copper, Lead, Zinc)	Rajasthan	37.29
		Maharashtra	1.48
		Madhya Pradesh	1.84
7.	Platinum Group of Metals	Karnataka	0.54
8.	Limestone	Meghalaya	280.80
		Tamil Nadu	33.74

(d) Exploitation of minerals is done by mining companies through mining leases obtained in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation [MMDR] Act, 1957.

Ban on Imports

1702. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Foreign Trade Act in order to restrict the cheap imports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) At present, Central Government is empowered, under Section 3(2) of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act,

1992 to impose restrictions on import of goods into India, and also to levy safeguard duties under Customs Tariff Act, 1975. A proposal to amend Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 to provide for specific safeguard measures in the form of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) to address surge in imports is also under consideration.

Recruitment Drive Conducted by MMTC

1703. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and its major promoters have conducted recruitment drives among the local tribals in Chhattisgarh during 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of tribals benefitted from such drives;

(c) the details of the various welfare activities of the MMTC in the State for the tribals during the said period; and

(d) the details of other facilities proposed to be provided for the tribals living in mineral dominated areas in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) and (d) MMTC does not have any office located in the State of Chhattisgarh. There are no plans for the present to undertake any program focused towards tribals in the State.

Cement Plants

1704. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the private and Government cement factories in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of their production capacity and demand and supply of cement during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether a number of cement plants in various States have been closed during 2006 and 2007;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government for revival of these closed cement plants so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The details of cement factories along with their capacity and production are given in the statement enclosed. The data on demand are not available.

(c) to (e) According to Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA), only one cement plant namely ACC Mancherial, Andhra Pradesh was closed during 2006-07. This plant is now in the process of being revived.

Statement

Public Sector Units Statewise Cement Capacity and Production 2004-2005 to 2006-2007

(000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	Region/State/Plant	2006-2007		2005-2006		2004-2005	
		Capacity Installed	Cement Prod.	Capacity Installed	Cement Prod.	Capacity Installed	Cement Prod.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
Haryana							
1.	Charkhi Dadri	172.00	Nil	172.00	Nil	172.00	Nil
	Haryana	172.00	Nil	172.00	Nil	172.00	Nil
Himachal Pradesh							
2.	Rajban	200.00	191.00	200.00	196.65	200.00	167.56
	Himachal Pradesh	200.00	191.00	200.00	196.65	200.00	167.56
Delhi							
3.	Delhi (G)	500.00	Nil	500.00	Nil	500.00	Nil
	Delhi	500.00	Nil	500.00	Nil	500.00	Nil
Jammu and Kashmir							
4.	J&K Ltd.	200.00	154.46	200.00	159.35	200.00	140.50
	Jammu and Kashmir	200.00	154.46	200.00	159.35	200.00	140.50
	Northern Region	1072.00	345.46	1072.00	356.00	1072.00	308.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Eastern Region							
Assam							
5.	Bokajan	200.00	135.01	200.00	128.34	200.00	119.12
	Assam	200.00	135.01	200.00	128.34	200.00	119.12
Meghalaya							
6.	Mawmluh Cherra	200.00	101.21	200.00	100.23	200.00	93.16
	Meghalaya	200.00	101.21	200.00	100.23	200.00	93.16
Chhattisgarh							
7.	Akaltara	400.00	Nil	400.00	Nil	400.00	Nil
8.	Mandhar	380.00	Nil	380.00	Nil	380.00	Nil
	Chhattisgarh	780.00	Nil	780.00	Nil	780.00	Nil
	Eastern Region	1180.00	236.22	1180.00	228.57	1180.00	212.28
Southern Region							
Andhra Pradesh							
9.	Adilabad	400.00	Nil	400.00	Nil	400.00	Nil
10.	Tandur	1000.00	696.73	1000.00	617.48	1000.00	519.24
	Andhra Pradesh	1400.00	696.73	1400.00	617.48	1400.00	519.24
Tamil Nadu							
11.	Alangulam	400.00	200.14	400.00	258.03	400.00	235.67
12.	Ariyalur	500.00	533.11	500.00	526.82	500.00	570.25
	Tamil Nadu	900.00	733.25	900.00	784.85	900.00	805.92
Karnataka							
13.	Kurkunta	200.00	Nil	200.00	Nil	200.00	Nil
	Karnataka	200.00	Nil	200.00	Nil	200.00	Nil
Kerala							
14.	Malabar Cements	420.00	467.50	420.00	502.22	420.00	445.49
15.	Malabar Cements (G)	200.00	153.64	200.00	180.70	200.00	115.63
	Kerala	620.00	621.14	620.00	682.92	620.00	561.11
	Southern Region	3120.00	2051.12	2120.00	2085.25	3120.00	1886.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Central Region							
Uttar Pradesh							
	Churk	—	—	—	—	475.00	Nil
	Dalla	—	—	—	—	432.00	Nil
	Chunar (G)	—	—	—	—	1680.00	Nil
	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	2587.00	Nil
Madhya Pradesh							
16.	Neemuch	400.00	Nil	400.00	Nil	400.00	Nil
	Madhya Pradesh	400.00	Nil	400.00	Nil	400.00	Nil
	Central Region	400.00	Nil	400.00	Nil	2987.00	Nil
Total—Public Sector		5772.00	2632.80	5772.00	2669.82	8359.00	2406.61

Private Sector Cement Units Statewise Cement Capacity and Production 2004-2005 to 2006-2007

(000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	Region/State/Plant	2006-2007		2005-2006		2004-2005	
		Capacity Installed	Cement Prod.	Capacity Installed	Cement Prod.	Capacity Installed	Cement Prod.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
Punjab							
1.	Ambuja Cmt-Ropar (G)	2500.00	2831.96	2500.00	2672.11	2500.00	2351.76
2.	Ambuja Cmt-Bhatinda G	500.00	582.02	500.00	570.74	500.00	415.84
3.	Grasim-Bhatinda (G)	1200.00	1240.50	1200.00	1214.77	1200.00	1026.94
	Punjab	4200.00	4654.48	4200.00	4457.82	4200.00	3794.54
Rajasthan							
4.	Lakheri	600.00	652.88	600.00	715.45	600.00	703.36
5.	Birla Cement	720.00	830.61	720.00	782.11	720.00	795.31
6.	Chandaria Cement	1280.00	1582.02	1280.00	1526.00	1280.00	1403.24
7.	Mangalam Cement	400.00	522.76	400.00	548.08	400.00	517.93
8.	Neershree Cement	600.00	894.00	600.00	1062.32	600.00	851.16
9.	Aditya Cement	1750.00	1878.82	1750.00	1731.48	1750.00	1415.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	J.K.-Nimbahera	3300.00	2638.49	2800.00	2533.03	2800.00	2414.20
11.	J.K.-Mangrol	750.00	1000.30	750.00	977.99	750.00	912.42
12.	J.K.-Gotan	100.00	2.04	—	—	—	—
13.	Lakshmi Cement	3400.00	2845.70	2230.00	2663.46	2230.00	2442.70
14.	J.K. Udaipur Udyog	900.00	Nil	900.00	Nil	900.00	Nil
15.	Ambuja Cmt-Rabriyawas	1800.00	1699.40	1800.00	1773.27	1800.00	1626.85
16.	Shree Cement	4500.00	4799.31	4500.00	3219.95	2600.00	3015.59
17.	Binani Cement	2200.00	2428.36	2200.00	2313.02	2150.00	2240.24
18.	Shriram Cement	200.00	369.25	200.00	393.63	200.00	320.75
	Rajasthan	22500.00	22143.94	20730.00	20239.79	18780.00	18659.63
	Himachal Pradesh						
19.	Gagal-I	2000.00	1707.00	1800.00	1558.63	984.00	1165.36
	Gagal-II	2400.00	2037.24	1716.00	1908.33	1716.00	1810.79
20.	Ambuja Cmt.-H.P.	1600.00	1211.31	1600.00	1147.82	1600.00	966.53
	Himachal Pradesh	6000.00	4955.55	5116.00	4614.78	4300.00	3942.68
	Northern Region	32700.00	31753.97	30046.00	29312.19	27280.00	26396.85
	Eastern Region						
	Meghalaya						
21.	Meghalaya Cmets. Ltd.	297.00	294.75	—	—	—	—
	Meghalaya	297.00	294.75	—	—	—	—
	Bihar						
22.	Kalyanpur Cement	1000.00	587.08	1000.00	456.72	1000.00	368.97
	Bihar	1000.00	587.08	1000.00	456.72	1000.00	368.97
	Jharkhand						
23.	Chaibasa	870.00	684.64	870.00	556.96	612.00	459.63
24.	Sindri	600.00	855.00	600.00	859.45	600.00	738.35
25.	Lafarge-Jojobera (G)	3000.00	2821.21	3000.00	2748.11	3000.00	2577.07
26.	Lemos Cement	109.00	Nil	109.00	Nil	109.00	Nil
27.	Sone Valley	254.00	Nil	254.00	Nil	254.00	Nil
	Jharkhand	4833.00	4360.85	4833.00	4164.52	4575.00	3775.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Orissa						
28.	Ultra Tech-JCW (G)	800.00	893.06	800.00	881.65	800.00	778.21
29.	OCL India Ltd.	1800.00	1874.54	1275.00	1583.09	1275.00	1351.51
30.	Bargarh Cement Works	960.00	869.83	960.00	840.63	960.00	788.78
	Orissa	3560.00	3637.43	3035.00	3305.37	3035.00	2918.50
	West Bengal						
31.	Damodhar Cmt Works G	525.00	534.63	525.00	502.29	525.00	500.50
32.	Durgapur (G)	600.00	579.02	600.00	633.43	600.00	683.00
33.	Durga Hitech Cmt. (G)	1000.00	77.98	1000.00	8.64	—	—
34.	Ambuja Cmt.-Sankrail G	1000.00	1267.77	1000.00	1133.81	1000.00	1093.43
35.	Ultra Tech-WBCW (G)	1000.00	1057.15	1000.00	971.70	1000.00	947.19
	West Bengal	4125.00	3516.55	4125.00	3249.87	3125.00	3124.12
	Chhattisgarh						
36.	Jamul	1584.00	1170.49	1584.00	1007.90	1584.00	938.37
37.	Century Cement	1800.00	1797.00	1800.00	1711.21	1800.00	1708.09
38.	Grasim Cement-Raipur	2060.00	1973.36	2060.00	1992.23	2060.00	1725.70
39.	Arasmeta	1600.00	1448.60	1600.00	1348.57	1600.00	1307.68
40.	Ultra Tech-HCW	1600.00	1745.92	1600.00	1407.16	1600.00	1391.85
41.	Ambuja Cmt.-Bhatapara	1000.00	891.92	1000.00	695.91	1000.00	751.31
42.	Lafarge-Sonadih	400.00	405.68	400.00	476.09	400.00	506.02
	Chhattisgarh	10044.00	9432.97	10044.00	8639.07	10044.00	8329.02
	Eastern Region	23859.00	21829.63	23037.00	19815.55	21779.00	18515.66
	Southern Region						
	Andhra Pradesh						
	Mancherial	—	—	331.00	87.06	331.00	185.36
43.	Kesoram Cement	900.00	1057.17	900.00	1046.61	900.00	984.79
44.	Orient Cement	1600.00	1427.78	1600.00	1336.68	1600.00	1309.29
45.	Zuari Cement	2200.00	2023.39	2200.00	1770.31	2200.00	1698.08
46.	Vijaywada (G)	240.00	Nil	240.00	Nil	240.00	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
47.	Vizag (G)	500.00	161.46	500.00	92.01	500.00	286.53
48.	Nadikude Durga Cmt.	1000.00	449.62	1000.00	228.98	1000.00	461.78
49.	Chilamkur Works	1300.00	1355.70	1300.00	1210.53	1300.00	976.57
50.	Visaka Cement	1120.00	1186.49	1120.00	1178.19	1120.00	1012.69
51.	Yerraguntla	520.00	576.35	520.00	555.22	520.00	451.47
52.	Raasi Cement	2300.00	2414.75	2300.00	2234.93	2300.00	1238.12
53.	Sri Vishnu Cement	1200.00	1172.17	1200.00	1068.21	1200.00	831.20
54.	Jayantipuram	1600.00	1340.98	1600.00	1047.30	1600.00	742.81
55.	Ultra Tech-APCW	2300.00	2088.25	2300.00	1996.46	2300.00	2244.04
56.	Kistna	214.00	Nil	214.00	Nil	214.00	Nil
57.	K.C.P. Ltd.	660.00	605.40	575.00	531.50	575.00	484.55
58.	Panyam Cements	531.00	342.91	531.00	9.10	531.00	75.67
59.	Rain Comdt. Ltd. Un-I	1000.00	1039.30	1000.00	963.68	1000.00	787.03
60.	Rain Comdt. Ltd. Un-II	500.00	582.60	—	—	—	—
61.	Penna-Tadipatri I & II	1500.0	1670.05	1500.00	1523.74	1500.00	1274.03
62.	Penna-Ganeshpahad	1000.00	1006.79	1000.00	810.43	1000.00	739.00
63.	My Home Indus. Ltd.	1560.00	1718.62	1560.00	1626.60	—	—
	Andhra Pradesh	23745.00	22219.78	23491.00	19317.54	21931.00	15783.01
	Tamil Nadu						
64.	Madukkarai	960.00	840.85	960.00	858.60	960.00	947.09
65.	Grasim South	1030.00	1249.23	1030.00	1182.97	1030.00	911.88
66.	Sankarnagar	1550.00	1541.01	1550.00	1569.69	1550.00	1388.03
67.	Sankaridurg	720.00	605.20	720.00	540.83	720.00	421.30
68.	Dalavoi	1300.00	1080.00	1300.00	1145.00	1300.00	1017.46
69.	Ramasamyraja Nagar	750.00	1294.09	750.00	1186.72	750.00	1105.43
70.	Alathiyur Works-I	1360.00	853.03	1360.00	758.02	1360.00	535.70
	Alathiyur Works-II	1760.00	1933.60	1760.00	1558.24	1760.00	1279.10
71.	Chettinad-Karur	600.00	1002.91	600.00	1165.31	600.00	1098.94
72.	Chettinad-Karikkali	1200.00	1680.83	1200.00	1195.25	1200.00	1112.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
73.	Dalmia Cement	3500.00	2736.57	1234.00	1558.27	1234.00	1293.41
74.	Ultra Tech-ACRW (G)	1200.00	928.18	1200.00	785.37	1200.00	683.69
	Tamil Nadu	15930.00	15744.50	13664.00	13504.27	13664.00	11794.36
	Karnataka						
75.	Wadi	2110.00	1623.12	2110.00	1801.00	2110.00	1696.78
76.	Wadi-New	2600.00	2645.67	2600.00	2694.60	2600.00	2505.70
77.	vasvadatta Cement	2000.00	2473.13	2000.00	2075.87	1200.00	2131.05
78.	Rajashree-Malkhed	2600.00	3081.25	2600.00	2940.33	2600.00	2688.74
79.	Mysore Cement	570.00	295.73	570.00	361.85	570.00	361.35
80.	Shahabad	476.00	Nil	476.00	Nil	476.00	Nil
81.	Bagalkot Udyog Ltd.	330.00	15.43	330.00	101.99	330.00	134.21
	Karnataka	10686.00	10134.33	10686.00	9975.64	9886.00	9517.83
	Southern Region	50361.00	48098.61	47841.00	42797.45	45481.00	37095.20
	Western Region						
	Gujarat						
82.	Sikka	1075.00	928.10	1075.00	897.41	1075.00	765.91
83.	Saurashtra Cement	1164.00	1361.11	1164.00	1069.23	1164.00	790.32
84.	Gujarat Sidhee Cmt	1200.00	1279.51	1200.00	930.64	1200.00	550.83
85.	Porbandar	198.00	Nil	198.00	Nil	198.00	Nil
86.	Ultra Tech-Gujarat	5300.00	3523.78	5300.00	3591.89	5300.00	3018.30
87.	Jafrabad	400.00	204.43	400.00	182.59	400.00	191.13
88.	Magdalla (G)	700.00	559.73	700.00	577.86	700.00	453.01
89.	Ambuja Cement	1500.00	1616.23	1500.00	1517.90	1500.00	1558.10
90.	Gajambuja Cement	3000.00	3332.69	3000.00	2960.10	3000.00	3163.99
	Tata Chemicals	—	—	—	—	440.00	—
91.	Sanghi Indus. Ltd.	2600.00	2413.00	2600.00	1828.09	2600.00	1228.74
	Gujarat	17137.00	15218.58	17137.00	13555.71	17577.00	11720.33
	Maharashtra						
92.	Chanda	1000.00	1058.98	1000.00	1028.11	1000.00	971.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
93.	Manikgarh Cement	1500.00	1444.41	1500.00	1620.43	1500.00	1437.77
94.	Rajashree-Hotgi (G)	1400.00	1629.95	1400.00	1527.33	1400.00	1473.49
95.	Ultra Tech-ACW	3300.00	3363.14	3300.00	3122.53	3300.00	3151.09
96.	Ratnagiri (G)	400.00	271.01	400.00	190.27	400.00	162.69
97.	Indo Rama Cement (G)	1000.00	546.92	1000.00	489.45	1000.00	601.53
98.	Orient Cmt-Jalgaon G	800.00	750.49	800.00	775.45	800.00	705.18
99.	Maratha Cement	2400.00	3014.16	2400.00	2622.69	2400.00	2539.16
	Maharashtra	11800.00	12079.06	11800.00	11376.26	11800.00	11042.00
	Western Region	28937.00	27297.64	28937.00	24931.97	29377.00	22762.33
	Central Region						
	Uttar Pradesh						
100.	Tikaria (G)	2000.00	2276.27	2000.00	2150.05	2000.00	2015.58
101.	Birla Cmt.-Raebarell G	630.00	603.93	630.00	647.46	630.00	641.91
102.	Diamond Cmt.-Jhansi (G)	500.00	807.60	500.00	740.35	500.00	750.08
103.	Churk	475.00	Nil	475.00	Nil	—	—
104.	Dalla	432.00	Nil	432.00	Nil	—	—
105.	Chunar (G)	1680.00	Nil	1680.00	Nil	—	—
106.	Jaypee-Sadva Khurd G	600.00	576.40	600.00	587.43	600.00	553.06
107.	Jaypee Ayodhya (G)	1000.00	876.60	1000.00	756.02	1000.00	267.12
	Uttar Pradesh	7317.00	5140.80	7317.00	4881.31	4730.00	4228.35
	Madhya Pradesh						
108.	Kymore	1700.00	1615.17	1700.00	1333.34	1700.00	1179.46
109.	Birla Vikas	800.00	870.95	800.00	853.72	800.00	839.09
110.	Satna Cement	750.00	711.95	750.00	698.95	750.00	654.58
111.	Maihar Cement	3000.00	3508.03	3000.00	3304.22	3000.00	2924.18
112.	Vikram Cement	3000.00	3343.21	3000.00	3162.36	3000.00	3134.86
113.	Diamond Cmt-I	525.00	557.19	525.00	489.66	525.00	416.76
	Diamond Cmt-II	500.00	475.08	500.00	453.66	500.00	506.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
114.	Jaypee Rewa	2800.00	3206.79	2500.00	2819.77	2500.00	2561.64
115.	Jaypee Bela	2200.00	2414.14	2000.00	2152.72	2000.00	2046.31
116.	Prism Cement	2510.00	2199.14	2510.00	2128.48	2510.00	1903.25
	Madhya Pradesh	17785.00	18901.65	17285.00	17396.88	17285.00	16166.23
	Central Region	25102.00	24042.45	24602.00	22278.19	22015.00	20394.58
	Total-Private Sector	160959.00	153022.30	154463.00	139135.35	145932.00	125164.62
	Total-All India (Public & Private Sector)	166731.00	155655.10	160235.00	141805.17	154291.00	127571.23

Objectives of Indian Institutes of Management

1705. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- the objectives and original intent in setting up the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at various cities;
- whether IIMs are largely catering to MNCs; and
- if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to review the utility of these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have been established with the objective of imparting education, conducting research and providing consultancy services, of high quality in the field of management.

(b) A substantial number of IIM pass-outs are getting initial placement in Multinational Companies (MNCs).

(c) The Government has setup a Committee in October, 2007 to review the functioning of IIMs.

Measures to Curb Piracy

1706. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entertainment sector has been suffering losses due to piracy;

(b) if so, the total amount of losses suffered during each of the last three years till date;

(c) whether any study group has been set up on this issue;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said group; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The entertainment sector has been suffering losses due to piracy. However, the entertainment sector in India is largely in private hands. This Ministry does not maintain data regarding the amount of losses.

(c) and (d) A Core Group had been set up in 2006, comprising representatives from the film industry under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Shabana Azmi to look into the issue of piracy. The recommendations of the Core Group regarding piracy are as follows:

- Constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Group (Min. of I&B, Information Technology, Human Resource Development, Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Telecommunications and Home Affairs) for recommendations to Cabinet on policy and legal matters concerning anti-piracy measures.

- (ii) Min. of HRD have assigned collective administration of copyrights of film and TV serials to Society for Copyright Regulations of Indian Producers of Film & Television (SCRIPT) which is practically non-functional, therefore, industry was unable to get the benefit of public performance of cinematograph films.
- (iii) Designated special courts to be set up for dealing with criminal cases related to piracy of films. Courts may be designated to deal exclusively with film piracy matters under the Criminal Procedure Code.
- (iv) Economic Offence Cell (special police cell) be set up in every city to deal with piracy.
- (v) Legislation may be effected to enable implementation of the Optical Disc Law (in accordance with the model legislation recommended by the International Intellectual Property Alliance). It is also recommended that the actual user condition for import of Optical Disc Production Equipment be made stringent. A restriction on imports of Optical Disk Equipment by producers owning less than a minimum number title of films may be included in the Import Export Policy as an anti-piracy measure.
- (vi) Certificate be made valid for all formats in perpetuity, as against the current practice for theatrical release/video etc. for a period of 10 years. Display of certificate number and category on any electronic format and device should be treated as valid proof of Certification. A colour code be adopted instead of printing Certificate on home videos as education of an A4 size certificate to fit the CD inlay card is creating its own anti-piracy problems.
- (vii) The Government may consider exclusive tax benefits for creation of Digital Cinema Infrastructure, with a view to enabling reduction of piracy, like an Income Tax holiday under Section 80 IB of the Income Tax act, 100% depreciation benefits on equipment and exemption from Customs Duty on import of equipment pertaining to Digital Cinema theatres (Digital Projector and Digital Movie Compressor). It is also recommended that exemption from payment of service tax may be given to digital cinema operators and distributors to persuade

an impetus to this sector. The Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs may also recommend exemption from Lease Tax on rent of digital equipment (which is being levied presently) to State Governments.

(e) Steps taken on the recommendations of the Core Groups are as follows:

- (i) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee regarding issues pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights and Piracy. Similarly, Ministry of HRD also regularly holds meetings with different Ministries and stakeholders in matters of copyright.
- (ii) The recommendations relating to the administration of copyright of films and television serials by a society called "Society for Copyright Regulations of Indian Producers of Film & Television" (SCRIPT) have been referred to Ministry of Human Resource Development for further necessary action.
- (iii) The recommendations regarding designated special courts and setting up of economic offence cell are being taken up with the State Government in the meeting of sub-group constituted as per the recommendation of SIMCON.
- (iv) This Ministry is examining an Optical Disc Law draft prepared by FICCI.
- (v) This Ministry is currently considering modification/ amendment of Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- (vi) The Finance Act 2007 had given the status of 'Project' to digital cinema with customs duty at 7.5% (proposed custom duty at 5% in Finance Bill 2008) and exempted the transmission of digital content of the cinematograph film from payment of Service Tax.

New Policy on Special Economic Zones

1707. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review the policy formulated and in effect, for the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons why the changes are proposed to be brought out; and

(c) the details of the changes proposed in the new SEZ policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 came into effect from 10th February, 2006 and are currently in operation. The SEZ Rules are reviewed and amended from time to time as per requirements and three amendments have already been carried out on 10th August, 2006, 16th March 2007 and 12th October, 2007.

Out of School Children

1708. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the data collected from 562 out of 584 districts has revealed that there is a decline in the number of out of school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more girl children are now going to school;

(d) whether the enrolment of SC and ST children in the schools is still very less;

(e) if so, whether the Government has considered any survey report in this regards;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps the Government proposes to take to improve the enrolment of children in the schools particularly, children from SC/ST communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (g) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has made considerable progress in enhancing access to elementary education. The number of out of school children has declined from 4.4 crore in 2001 to 75.97 lakh as on March, 2007 in 6-14 age group.

The enrolment of girls, SC and ST children has increased at the elementary level of education. As per Selected Educational statistics 2004-05 gross enrolment ratios for girls, SC, ST and all students in the elementary stage in the year 2004-05 were 89.9%, 98.8%, 102.4% and 93.5% respectively.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for inter-alia, strengthening of school infrastructure, more access to schools, certain educational incentives, additional support through National Programme of Education of Girls at Elementary Level and residential facilities at upper primary level under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme. Further, to target SC and ST children, interventions, inter-alia, free textbooks, remedial teaching and innovation are provided. The Mid Day Meal Scheme provides for cooked meals to school children, helping in improving retention.

Allocation for Minorities Education

1709. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total fund required and allocated/earmarked for minorities education in the country during the 11th Plan;

(b) whether his Ministry has expressed distress over the less allocation made for minorities education for the 11th Plan, as it is insufficient to implement Sachchar Committee's recommendations;

(c) the reasons for allocating/earmarking less allocation;

(d) whether any Committee has also recommended higher allocation for minorities education in the 11th Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the further steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Allocations for the education sector as a whole have been considerably enhanced for the 11th Five Year Plan period and benefits of the same would accrue to all sections of the population, including

the minorities. Certain area based schemes approved by the National Development Council (NDC) for the 11th Five Year Plan would in particular, address the recommendations of the PM's High level Committee (Sachchar Committee) on social, Economic and Educational status of the Muslim Community of India, through their coverage of minority concentration Districts and Blocks. These are (i) incentivising State Governments to establish 370 degree colleges in districts with low access to higher education including 88 muslim Minority Concentration Districts; (ii) establishing new Polytechnics, Women's hostels in polytechnics and construction of girls hostels in Muslim Minority Concentration Blocks; (iii) establishing Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in Muslim Minority concentration Blocks and; (iv) the programme of modern education in Madarsas volunteering to introduce such education. The outlays approved by the NDC would enable the Central Government to implement Sachchar Committee's recommendations.

[Translation]

Target and Achievement in Mineral Exploration

1710. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed and actual achievements made from mineral exploration during each

of the last three years, mineral-wise;

(b) whether the targets fixed has not been achieved;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the fixed targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) The details of the targets fixed and actual achievements made for mineral exploration by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) during each of the last three years, mineral-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) According to GSI, almost all the targets set for mapping have been achieved and there has been some shortfall in drilling targets.

(c) The targets for drilling could not be achieved due to (i) non-availability of forest clearance, (ii) law and order problem, and (ii) geological formational problem. Soft formations in the boreholes also hindered progress in some areas.

(d) Ministry of Mines has taken up the matter regarding forest clearance with Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Statement

Details of Target and Achievements of Mineral Exploration by Geological Survey of India for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07

Mineral Commodity	Nature of Work	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gold	LSM+DM	236.24	218.64	137.20	151.81	326.10	284.92
	D	9800.00	9081.35	7600.35	6937.75	10275.00	9502.00
Diamond	LSM+DM	5.00	5.50	105.00	124.00	10.00	10.50
	D	1150.00	309.00	250.00	764.00	800.00	59.90
Platinoid Group of Elements	LSM+DM	30.00	36.50	33.00	45.53	255.25	225.00
	D	—	—	Nil	601.30	800.00	1469.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ferrous Group	LSM+DM	304.50	303.65	172.00	278.50	291.0	223.37
	D	1500.00	1253.80	1500.00	1663.11	3500.00	895.55
Basemetal (Copper, Lead, Zinc)	LSM+DM	162.75	159.55	458.60	315.05	62.30	73.60
	D	16385.50	13935.50	16385.00	13539.80	10800.00	8309.90
Others	LSM+DM	95.91	100.00	152.10	160.67	334.25	296.20
	D	5150.00	3768.35	4300.00	2281.35	4100.00	3956.20
Total	LSM+DM	834.40	823.84	1057.90	1075.56	1278.90	1113.58
	D	33985.50	28348.00	30035.35	25787.31	30275.00	24192.95

LSM: Large Scale Mapping (Sq. Km.)

DM: Detailed Mapping (Sq. Km.)

D: Drilling (In meters)

Naxal outfits in the Country

1711. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of naxal outfits operating in the country at present, State-wise alongwith their area of operations; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check the spreading naxal operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Several naxal outfits under different names are operating at present, some of them in more than one State.

Law and order being a State subject, action with respect to various aspects/issues related to naxalite activities lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments.

The Central Government maintains a close and continuous watch on the activities of the naxalites, including detailed consultations with the State Government authorities about the various developments and the steps required to check and control naxalite activities.

The Central Government also supplements the efforts and resources of the concerned State Governments by a

variety of measures that include deployment of Central paramilitary forces which work under the control of the State Government concerned, sanctioning of India Reserve battalions, assistance for strengthening of the State police and Intelligence agencies, re-imbursment of security-related expenditure, assistance in training of State police forces, sharing of Intelligence, facilitating inter-State coordination and assistance in development works through a range of schemes of various Ministries.

[English]

Streamlining of Literacy Programme

1712. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the Government of Karnataka for streamlining the literacy programme, opening and upgradation of primary schools in villages and provision for computer education in secondary schools in urban and semi-urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals cleared and pending till date; and

(d) the time by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) In the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) for 2008-09, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Karnataka has proposed opening of 330 New Primary Schools, upgradation of 450 Primary Schools to Upper Primary and adding 101 classes of VIII standard in Upper Primary. The Project Approval Board in its meeting held on 27.02.2008 has approved the above proposals.

With regard to provision for computer education, Government of Karnataka has been sanctioned 1571 Government Secondary Schools and 708 Pre-University Colleges (+2 institution) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Information and Communication Technology in Schools in 2007-08.

In so far as literacy programme is concerned, Total Literacy Campaign and Post Literacy Programme have been completed in all districts of the State. Currently, Continuing Education Programme for providing library and reading room facilities and life long education for neo literate is being implemented in 26 districts. Projects for Residual Illiteracy have been sanctioned in 14 districts for extending functional literacy to illiterates in the 15-35 age group.

Expansion of Distance Education

1713. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand the scope of distance education;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to upgrade the technology to promote distance education at a minimal cost;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the impact of distance education;

(e) if so, the contribution of distance education to the development of knowledge based human resources; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to make distance education more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has launched a scheme, namely, Convergence of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Conventional Systems of Education in order to contribute towards the achievement of targets of 15% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education. Under this scheme, the universities and colleges, which have been in existence for more than ten years, may collaborate with IGNOU to offer its Under Graduate and Post-Graduate programmes through mixed mode by using printed Self Learning Material (SLM) and face-to-face academic counseling enabled by technology.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Distance Education Council (DEC) provides academic, technical and financial support to Open and Distance Learning institutions to make distance education more effective.

Science and Technology Education Centres

1714. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up science and technology education centre at district level in the country including Gujarat;

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

(c) the time by when such centres are like to be set up in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) There is no proposal in the Department of Science & Technology to set up science and technology education centres at district level in the country.

Universalisation of Education

1715. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has universalized education in the country;

(b) if so, the number of open schools and central universities functioning as on date in the country, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expand such schools/universities to enable the backward population living in the remote/hilly areas of the country to get benefits of such schools and universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D PURANDESWARI): (a) India is a signatory to the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations (UN) and accordingly aim to provide Universal Primary Education for All (EFA) by the year 2015. As part of India's commitment to UN the Government has launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the year 2002 which aims to achieve Universalisation of elementary education in a time bound manner by the year 2010. The Central Government has decided to implement during the XIth Plan a centrally sponsored scheme for Universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within five kilometres of every habitation. It is also proposed to set up six thousand good quality secondary schools at Block level, at the rate of one school in each Block, which will serve as benchmark of excellence for other schools in the area.

(b) The number of Open Schools and Central Universities functioning as on date in the country, State and Union Territory-wise is as follows:-

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of State Open Schools	No. of Central Universities
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1
3.	Assam	—	2
4.	Delhi	—	4
5.	Haryana	1	—

1	2	3	4
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	—
7.	Karnataka	1	—
8.	Kerala	1	—
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1	—
10.	Maharashtra	—	1
11.	Manipur	—	1
12.	Meghalaya	—	1
13.	Mizoram	—	1
14.	Nagaland	—	1
15.	Punducherry	—	1
16.	Punjab	1	—
17.	Rajasthan	1	—
18.	Sikkim	—	1
19.	Tamil Nadu	1	—
20.	Tripura	—	1
21.	Uttar Pradesh	—	4
22.	West Bengal	1	1
Total		10	23

(c) National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is committed to spreading education amongst educationally backward groups and has significantly expanded its network of accredited institutions for its Academic, Vocational and Basic Education Programmes which has now increased to more than 3400 all over the country and abroad. NIOS has set up eleven Regional Centres and has opened three Sub-Centres to facilitate learners. NIOS is pursuing State Governments to open State Open Schools and upgrade already existing State Open Schools.

The XIth Plan envisages the setting up of 30 more Central Universities in addition to the existing 23 Central Universities in the country.

Sickness in Small Scale Units

1716. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick micro, small and medium enterprises/units in each State and Union Territory (UT) as on December 31, 2007;

(b) whether the sickness trend in these enterprises/units has been increasing during the last few years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of enterprises/units out of the above sick enterprises/units closed down in the country including Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal during each of the last three years, State-wise and UT-wise;

(e) whether any assessment was made by the Union Government on the sickness of these units in various States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As per the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from the scheduled commercial banks, the number of sick micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country as at the end of March 2007 (latest available) was 1,32,081. The State/UT-wise number of sick MSMEs as at the end of March 2007 is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) and (c) As per the data compiled by the RBI from the scheduled commercial banks, the number of sick MSMEs declined from 1,40,337 as at the end of March 2006 to 1,32,081 as at the end of March 2007.

(d) Information on MSMEs closed due to sickness is not maintained centrally.

Accordingly to the Third All-India Census of the Small Scale Industries (SSIs), 8,87,427 registered units were found closed out of the total of 22,62,401 units registered upto 31 March 2001. The State/UT-wise distribution of these closed units is given in Statement-II enclosed.

(e) and (f) As per the Third All-India Census of SSIs (reference year 2001-02) conducted by the Government, the top five States in terms of sick micro and small enterprises (MSEs) were West Bengal, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Various measures have been taken to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick

MSEs. These include setting up of State Level Inter-Institutional Committee in each State under the convenorship of RBI. Further, the RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks in January 2002 on detection of sickness at an early stage and taking remedial measures, and for rehabilitation of sick MSEs identified as potentially viable. These guidelines include, inter alia, change in the definition of sick MSEs, norms for deciding their viability, concessional finance, etc., with a view to helping the banks in detecting sickness at an early stage and taking corrective action for revival of the potentially viable sick MSEs. In line with the 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' announced by the Government in August 2005, the RBI has issued guidelines in September 2005 to the banks regarding debt restructuring mechanism for SMEs to facilitate restructuring of debt of all eligible SMEs. The RBI has also constituted Empowered Committees at its Regional offices to review various issues relating to SME sector particularly, the progress in SME financing and rehabilitation of sick units.

Statement I

*State/UT-wise number of sick MSMEs
as at the end of March 2007*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Number of sick MSMEs
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	588
2.	Himachal Pradesh	160
3.	Punjab	1169
4.	Chandigarh	33
5.	Uttarakhand	822
6.	Haryana	658
7.	Delhi	1407
8.	Rajasthan	4903
9.	Uttar Pradesh	13542
10.	Bihar	5988
11.	Sikkim	14
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	20
13.	Nagaland	41

1	2	3
14.	Manipur	363
15.	Mizoram	16
16.	Tripura	3169
17.	Meghalaya	44
18.	Assam	5466
19.	West Bengal	38183
20.	Jharkhand	2075
21.	Orissa	3609
22.	Chhattisgarh	1302
23.	Madhya Pradesh	8449
24.	Gujarat	10432
25.	Daman and Diu	69
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	95
27.	Maharashtra	7545
28.	Andhra Pradesh	3567
29.	Karnataka	3737
30.	Goa	87
31.	Lakshadweep	—
32.	Kerala	4517
33.	Tamil Nadu	9974
34.	Pondicherry	37
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—
	All India	132081

Source: Reserve Bank of India

Statement II

State/UT-wise distribution of closed SSI units as per Third All-India Census of SSIs (2001-02)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Total number of closed units
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	22709
2.	Himachal Pradesh	6509

1	2	3
3.	Punjab	82731
4.	Chandigarh	1405
5.	Uttarakhand	12100
6.	Haryana	27546
7.	Delhi	8357
8.	Rajasthan	36847
9.	Uttar Pradesh	122282
10.	Bihar	20525
11.	Sikkim	155
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	248
13.	Nagaland	129
14.	Manipur	1226
15.	Mizoram	1313
16.	Tripura	1077
17.	Meghalaya	1908
18.	Assam	10338
19.	West Bengal	26080
20.	Jharkhand	13822
21.	Orissa	9708
22.	Chhattisgarh	27830
23.	Madhya Pradesh	65649
24.	Gujarat	39159
25.	Daman and Diu	454
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	423
27.	Maharashtra	54243
28.	Andhra Pradesh	38582
29.	Karnataka	46611
30.	Goa	2327
31.	Lakshadweep	16
32.	Kerala	74832
33.	Tamil Nadu	127185
34.	Pondicherry	2586
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	515
	All India	887427

Exclusive Economic Zone for Mineral Resources

1717. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has notified exclusive economic zone for the development and regulation of mineral resources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invite private investment in the mineral sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the responses from the private sector received during 2007-08 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Two proposals have been received for setting up of sector specific Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for Mineral Products. In principle approval has been granted in respect of one SEZ and in respect of another, it is pending approval.

(b) The two proposals for sector specific SEZs are (i) the proposal of M/s Saraf Agencies Pvt. Limited for setting up of Special Economic Zone for Beach Sand Mineral Sector at Chhatrapur, Dist-Ganjam, Orissa and (ii) the proposal of M/s Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas (Jabalpur) Limited for setting up of SEZ for Mineral and Mineral based products at Village Hargarh, Tehsil Sihora, District Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inter-Ministerial Task Force for Exporters

1718. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to constitute an inter-ministerial task force to resolve the issues of exporters in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by when the task force is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Government has been constantly reviewing the position in respect of various issues of exporters in the country and, presently, there is no move to constitute an inter-ministerial task force for this purpose.

Monitoring of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal Scheme

1719. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently reviewed the implementation of the Government's flagship programme on education recently;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister has stressed the need for effective online monitoring of implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken a decision to extend Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme to all the upper Primary Schools in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) In the meeting of the Planning Commission held on 13th September, 2007, the Prime Minister stressed on aspects of quality under the programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), ways to meet minimum standards by all schools, paying special attention to districts with concentration of SC, ST and minority population and expansion of Mid-day-Meal Scheme to the upper primary level.

(d) and (e) The Mid-day Meal Scheme has been extended to upper primary level in Government, (including local bodies), Government aided schools and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) Centres with effect from 1.10.2007 in 3479 educationally backward blocks. In 2008-09, the scheme envisages coverage of all children in Government (including local bodies), Government aided & EGS/AIE Centres at upper primary level.

Setting up of Diamond Park

1720. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for setting up of a Diamond Park in various parts of the country including at Jamnagar, Rajkot;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Till date no proposal for Diamond Park has been received under the Industrial Park Scheme of the Central Government. Diamond cutting and polishing by hand and manufacture of precious stone jewellery are among the manufacturing activities permitted in the Industrial Parks under the Scheme.

[Translation]

Telecasting of Programmes on Television and Radio

1721. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of programmes prepared by the Government for telecasting on TV and radio for providing information regarding different welfare schemes through Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of rules laid down for this purpose;

(c) whether these rules have been violated during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):
(a)

Year	No. of programmes broadcast/telecast	
	Audio	Video
2005-06	41	80
2006-07	20	27
2007-08	10	25

(b) The details of rules laid down for this purpose is already available on DAVP website at www.davp.nic.in.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Increasing Education Fee

1722. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the National Information Commission regarding higher education includes an increase in the education fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment on the impact of increasing in education fee on the education sector and the students;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has formulated any action plan in the light of the recommendations of the National Information Commission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (f) While the Government is not aware of any Commission by the name of National Information Commission, it may be mentioned that the National Knowledge Commission has, inter-alia, recommended that as a norm, fees should meet at least 20% of the total expenditure in universities.

In the XI Plan document, the Planning Commission has, inter-alia, suggested that since most university students come from top 10% of the population by income levels, they would be able to pay fees amounting to 20% of the operating cost of general higher education. The fees for Professional Courses could be much higher. The fee levels should, therefore, be increased gradually in existing institutions but the new norms could be implemented in new institutions from the start.

Tampering of Records in Arms Licence Office

1723. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:
SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the tampering of records in the Arms Licence Office as reported in 'Nav Bharat Times' dated January 16, 2007;

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

(c) the number of Licences bearing the all India seal and for which record is available and the number of counterfeit ones withheld;

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the number of persons whose licence validity has been extended to cover all India level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The said news item was published in 16.06.2007 and not on 16.01.2007.

(b) An FIR u/s 420/467/468/471/380/120-B/201 IPC, was registered at Police Station Defence Colony, New Delhi, which is under investigation.

(c) to (e) As per information obtained from Deputy Commissioner (Licensing), New Delhi, 33285 number of valid Arms Licences exist as on 25.01.2008. Out of these, 14676 licences are having all India validity. 123 arms licences have been withheld till date. A Departmental enquiry have been initiated by the office of the Deputy Commissioner (Licensing), New Delhi.

[English]

Export of Rice

1724. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the steep rise in the prices of the rice recently in the domestic market is due to rise in export of the commodity;

(b) if so, the total quantity of rice exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Government is planning to stop the export of rice to meet the domestic needs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of rice in domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The rise in price of rice in India is in line with increase in prices of rice globally over the last few years.

(b) The details of exports of rice from India during last three years is as given below:

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Basmati Rice	1162989	282390	1166563	304309	1045715	279281
Non-Basmati Rice	3615110	394502	2921602	317817	3702192	424308

Qty. MTs
Value: Rs lakhs

(c) to (e) The Government, with the aim to control the prices of the rice in the domestic market, has sought to restrict the exports of rice. It has introduced a 'Minimum Export Price' (MEP) for export of both basmati and non-basmati rice which is currently the FOB price of US \$ 900 per ton (Rs. 36000 per ton) and US \$ 650 per ton (Rs. 26000 per ton) respectively. Further export of rice has been restricted through four ports only, which are Kandla, Kakinada, Kolkata and JNPT, Mumbai.

Marine Products Development Authority

1725. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the marine Products Development Authority is planning to promote cage farming prevalent to Vietnam and Scandinavian countries;

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

(c) the manner in which it is likely to be useful for our country; and

(d) the areas selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has recently signed a MoU with a Norwegian Government Company for technical collaboration to undertake cage culture in Indian waters. The Norwegian

experts have conducted a preliminary survey along the Indian coast to identify suitable sites for the proposed projects.

(c) Production from cage culture can help to boost marine exports from the country and open new avenues for employment, especially for the fishermen community. It is also envisaged that rural infrastructure facilities like transportation, communication etc. will be improved. The socio-economic conditions of the coastal population is also likely to improve as a result of adaptation of sustainable cage farming along the coast belt.

(d) Suitable areas along the Indian Coast as well as islands will be finalized only after detailed investigations.

Import of Farm Products

1726. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural products, including oil seeds imported during each of the last three years and in the current year as on date, products and value-wise; and

(b) the details of the foreign exchange incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Details of agricultural products including oil seeds imported during each of the last three years and during April-July, 2007 of the current financial year, product-wise, value-wise are as under:—

ITC (HS) Chapter-wise Import of Farm Products during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-2007 and April 07-July, Value in Rs. Lakhs

Chapter Code	Description	2004-05 Value	2005-06 Value	2006-07 Value	April 2007- July, 2007 Value
1	2	3	4	5	6
06	Live Trees, Bulbs, Roots, Cut Flowers & Ornamental Foliage	1138	1796	2941	875

1	2	3	4	5	6
07	Edible Vegetables & Certain Roots & Tubers	201873	282304	457860	201453
08	Edible Fruits & Nuts; Peel/Citrus Fruit/Mellons	291165	348468	373664	106399
09	Coffee, Tea, Mate & Spices	64778	84552	80182	28141
10	Cereals	667	3046	586263	5377
11	Products of Milling Industry; Malt, Starches, Insulin, Wheat Gluten	3720	3708	6545	2582
12	Oil Seeds, Oleaginous Fruits, Industrial/ Medicinal Plants etc.	25671	32051	42917	15311
13	Lac, Gums, Resins & Other Vegetable Saps & Extracts	21030	24131	31966	11331
14	Vegetable, Plaiting Materials, Vegetable Products N.E.S.	1110	1492	2179	518
15	Animal/Vegetable Fats & Oils, Prepared Edible Fats Animal/Vegetable Waxes	1137275	1015170	1026137	383040
16	Preparation of Meat, Fish/Crustins Molcs/other Aquatic Invbrts Etc.	365	804	613	327
17	Sugar and Sugar Confectionary	132160	78387	12031	7728
18	Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	9452	11287	13506	2952
19	Preparation of Cereal, Flour, Starch/Milk, Pastrycooks Products	11088	12512	12034	2927
20	Prepration of Vegetable, Fruit, Nut/other Parts of Plants	8447	9720	14059	5290
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	7512	10769	11622	5296
22	Beverages, Spirits & Vinegar	75866	96753	50489	15906
23	Residues & Waste from Food Industries; Prepared Animal Fodder	38282	42598	39022	16717
24	Tobacco & Manufactured Tobacco Substitutes	11104	7939	10283	2005
Grand Total		2042703	2067487	2774293	814155

Violation by DTH Operators

1727. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Direct-To-Home (DTH) operators are violating the interoperability clause of DTH guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those operators found violating the DTH guidelines;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to protect the interest of the consumers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) Complaints have been received on non-interoperability of STBs provided by service providers using MPEG2 Compression format. It has also been brought to the notice of the Government that the Set Top Boxes being provided or proposed to be provided by the new DTH licensees wishing to go on MPEG4 compression format are not in compliance with the technical interoperability clause of DTH license agreement. The entire issue of interoperability requirements and whether there is a need to modify the DTH Guidelines was referred to TRAI for recommendations which has since submitted its recommendations on the subject. Subsequently a meeting was held on 22nd February, 2008 with the DTH licensees, TRAI, Bureau of Indian Standards, Prasar Bharati Officials and Consumer Electronics & Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) to discuss the issue. In view of the technological issues involved the issues raised in the meeting are under examination.

[Translation]

Export of Polished Diamonds

1728. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities for exporting polished diamonds are not available at Surat and consequently people have to export diamonds from Mumbai;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to facilitate exports of polished diamonds from Surat;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a Special Economic Zone in Surat to facilitate the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Facilities for export of cut and polished diamonds are available at Surat in Surat Hira Bourse and there is an appraising officer from the Department of Revenue at the Surat Hira Bourse to facilitate import and export. Besides, export of cut and polished diamonds also takes place from the Special Economic Zone in Surat.

(c) and (d) Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are set up in the private sector or jointly with the State Governments or by the State Governments and its agencies. In Surat, there is an existing private sector SEZ, which was established in the year 1994, as an Export Processing Zone and subsequently converted as Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Bharat Ratna Awards

1729. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons who have been conferred 'Bharat Ratna' so far;

(b) the criterion conferring the 'Bharat Ratna';

(c) whether a number of persons were proposed for Bharat Ratna Awards during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) A list containing the names of persons who have been conferred 'Bharat Ratna' so far enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) Bharat Ratna is awarded for exceptional services towards the advancement of Art, Literature and Science, and in recognition of public service of the highest order. Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for the award. The decoration may be

awarded posthumously. No formal recommendations for this are necessary. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President. The Prime Minister is free to consult or obtain advice from any one he chooses.

(c) and (d) The names of the persons recommended for Bharat Ratna in the last three years are indicated in the list is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I

List of Recipients of Bharat Ratna

Sl.No.	Name
1	2
1.	Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari
2.	Dr. Sarvapali Radhakrishnan
3.	Dr. Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman
4.	Dr. Bhagwan Das
5.	Dr. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya
6.	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
7.	Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant
8.	Dr. Dhondo Keshave Karve
9.	Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy
10.	Shri Purushottam Das Tandon
11.	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
12.	Dr. Zakir Hussain
13.	Dr. Pandurang Vaman Kane
14.	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri (Posthumous)
15.	Shrimati Indira Gandhi
16.	Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri
17.	Shri Kumaraswami Kamraj (Posthumous)
18.	Mother Mary Taresa Bojaxhu (Mother Teresa)
19.	Shri Acharya Vinobha Bhave (Posthumous)
20.	Shri Abdul Ghafar Khan

1	2
21.	Shri Marudur Gopalan Ramachandran (Posthumous)
22.	Dr. Bhim Rao Ramji Ambedkar (Posthumous)
23.	Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
24.	Shri Rajiv Gandhi (Posthumous)
25.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Posthumous)
26.	Shri Morarji Ranchhodji Desai
27.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Posthumous)
28.	Shri Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata
29.	Shri Satyajit Ray
30.	Shri Gulzarilal Nanda
31.	Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali (Posthumous)
32.	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
33.	Smt. Madurai Sanmukhavadiyu Subbulakshmi
34.	Shri Chidambaram Subramaniam
35.	Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan (Posthumous)
36.	Professor Amritya Sen
37.	Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi (Posthumous)
38.	Pandit Ravi Shankar
39.	Sushri Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar
40.	Ustad Bismillah Khan

Statement II

Recommendations Received for Bharat Ratna in 2005

Sl.No.	Name (S/Shri)
1	2
1.	Amar Muni Ji Maharaj
2.	Amarjevi Potti Sreeramulu
3.	Baba Ramdev
4.	Babu Jagjivan Ram

1	2
5.	Bahadur Shah Zaafar
6.	Bhagat Puran Singh
7.	Bhimaraya Hogara
8.	Bibi Dr. Inderjit Kaur
9.	C.R. Rao
10.	Deepchand Savraj Gardi
11.	Dr. E. Sreedharan
12.	Dr. Bala Murali Krishna
13.	Dr. Balaram Kumar
14.	Dr. Dashrathi Banerjee
15.	Dr. Manmohan Singh
16.	Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh
17.	Dr. Sivaji Ganesan
18.	Dr. Swaminathan
19.	Dr. T.K. Murthy
20.	Dr. Verghese Kurien
21.	E. Sreedharan
22.	Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore
23.	Hari Singh Gour
24.	HD Shourie
25.	His Holiness Hishok Bakula Rimpoche
26.	Justice P.N. Bhagwati
27.	Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer
28.	Kapurri Thakur
29.	Lal Bahadur Shastri
30.	Late Kishore Kumar
31.	Late Maulana Imtiaz Ali Khan Arshi
32.	Late Mohammed Rafi
33.	Late Nana Shankar Sheth

1	2
34.	Late Nani Palkhivala
35.	Late Pitrambar Dev Goswami
36.	Lt. Gen Jagjit Singh Arora
37.	Madan Mohan Malviya
38.	Mahatama Jyotirao Phule
39.	Major Dhyan Chand
40.	Master Hamidao Chandso Sheikh
41.	Ms. Swaminathan
42.	Ms. Nirmla Deshpande
43.	Narayana Vishnu Dharmadhikari
44.	Narinder Singh Kapany
45.	Navaid Hamid
46.	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
47.	Om Prakash Jindal
48.	Onkar Lal Ji Bairwa
49.	Pandit Balamurali Krishna
50.	Pandit Bhimsen Joshi
51.	Pitambar Dev Goswami
52.	P.V. Narsimharao
53.	Ramraro Krishnanarao Patil
54.	Ratan Tata
55.	R.S. Natrajan
56.	Savitribai Pule
57.	Shankar Bhaurao Chavan
58.	Smt. Sonia Gandhi
59.	Smt. Ansari Rashida Anees
60.	Smt. Gangubai Hangal
61.	Smt. Kallaben Dhirubhai Ambani
62.	Smt. Shanti Devi Brahman

1	2
63.	Sri Laxmi Mittal
64.	Swami Mohandasji Maharaj
65.	Swami Ramdev
66.	Tara Singh
67.	Tukdoji Maharaj
68.	Udham Singh
69.	Ustad Ali Akbar Khan
70.	Yogendra Narayan Mathur

Recommendation received for Bharat Ratna in 2006

Sl.No.	Person Recommended
1	2
1.	Amarajeevi Potti Sreeramulu
2.	Baba Amte
3.	Babu Jagjeevan Ram
4.	C.N. Annadurai
5.	Ch. Bansi Lal
6.	Dr. Bhanumati Ramakrishna
7.	Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Sikarwar
8.	Dr. Hari Singh Gaur
9.	Dr. John Marr
10.	Dr. K.M. Karunanidhi
11.	Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
12.	Dr. Shivakumar Swamiji
13.	Dr. Suraj Bhan Ji
14.	Dr. Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin
15.	Dr. Verghese Kurien
16.	Dr. Vijay Singhania
17.	Dr. Zakir Naik

1	2
18.	Hafiz Amjad Hussain Hafiz
19.	Homi Jahangir Bhabha
20.	J.C. Bose
21.	Jaya Prakash Narayan
22.	Justice P.N. Bhagwati
23.	Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer
24.	Karpoori Thakur
25.	Late Dr. Madurai Somasundaram
26.	Late Dr. Raja Ramanna
27.	Late Havaladar Shri Chander Singh Garhwal
28.	Late Mohammed Rafi
29.	Late Pt. S.N. Ratanjankar
30.	Late Shri Amarjeevi Pottisriramulu
31.	Late Shri Jagjivan Ram
32.	Late Shri Shivaji Ganeshan
33.	Late Tipu Sultan
34.	Mahatma Gandhi
35.	Nani Paikhivala
36.	Pandit Ravi Shankar
37.	Pramod Shankar Pandey
38.	R.S. Natrajan
39.	Rakesh Shrivastava
40.	Ramoji Rao
41.	S.J. Jindal Trust
42.	S.N. Subbarao
43.	Shri Acharya Mahaprajna
44.	Shri Biju Pattanaik
45.	Shri Bimal Kumar Chatterjee
46.	Shri Chandrasekhar Azad

1	2
47.	Shri Dhirubhai H. Ambani
48.	Shri Dhyan Chand
49.	Shri Justice P.N. Bhagwati
50.	Shri Maiku Lal
51.	Shri Naushad Ali
52.	Shri R.S. Natrajan, VSM
53.	Shri Shankarrao Bhaurao Chavan
54.	Shri Swami Ramdev
55.	Shri Varun Muni Ji Maharaj
56.	Shri Vijay Kumar, JE
57.	Smt. Rajashree Birla
58.	Smt. Sonia Gandhi
59.	Shri Ravi Shankar Gurooji
60.	Swami Rajdeojee
61.	Tukdoji Maharaj
62.	Vaidya Pramod S. Pandey
63.	Varges Kurian
64.	Vijay Kumar
65.	Vikram Sarabhai

*Bharat Ratna Award Recommendation
Received in 2007*

Sl.No.	Person Recommended (S/Shri)
1	2
1.	Acharya Shri Mahapragyna
2.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
3.	Babu Jagajeevan Ram
4.	Bansi Lal
5.	Bhagat Singh
6.	Bharat Bharti

1	2
7.	Biju Pattnaik
8.	Ch. Charan Singh
9.	Ch. Ranbir Singh
10.	Chandrasekhar
11.	D. Malviya
12.	Damodaran Sanjeevalah
13.	Dilip Kumar
14.	Dr. A.J. Selva Pandian
15.	Dr. A.S. Subba Rao
16.	Dr. Balamurali Krishna
17.	Dr. Bhupen Hazarika
18.	Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak
19.	Dr. D. Veerendra Hedge Dharmadhikari
20.	Dr. Dillip Mahalanabis
21.	Dr. Ernest P. Fritschi
22.	Dr. Hari Singh Gaur
23.	Dr. Ida S. Scudder
24.	Dr. Kailashji Agrawal
25.	Dr. Karmveer Bhaurao Patil
26.	Dr. M. Karunanidhi
27.	Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
28.	Dr. M.V. Reddi
29.	Dr. Mathew Varghese
30.	Dr. Panjabrao @ Bhausaheb Deshmukh
31.	Dr. Raj Kumar
32.	Dr. Rajammal P. Devadas
33.	Dr. Shiv Pujan Rai
34.	Dr. Shivakumar Swamiji
35.	Dr. Shrikant Jichkar

1	2
36.	Dr. Sri Sri Sivakumara Swamy
37.	Dr. Suraj Bhan
38.	Dr. V. Kurien
39.	Dr. Verghese Kurien
40.	Dr. Y.S. Parmar
41.	Field Marshal General Cariyappa
42.	H.K. Diksena
43.	Harjinder Singh Bhasin
44.	Jagat Narain
45.	Jagjivan Ram
46.	Justice P.N. Bhagwati
47.	Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer
48.	K. Takhur
49.	Kabir Das
50.	Kanshi Ram
51.	Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil
52.	Kashi Ram
53.	Keshab Mahindra
54.	Khushwant Singh
55.	Lalu Prasad Yadav
56.	Late Damodaram Sanjeevaiah
57.	Late Shri Bijayananda Pattanik
58.	M. Karunanidhi
59.	M.F. Hussain
60.	M.K. Gandhi
61.	Mahatma Jyoti Bhapule
62.	Manoj Kumar
63.	Maqbool Fida Husain
64.	Mohd. Rafi
65.	Ms. Sunita Willians
66.	Mulayam Singh Yadav
67.	N.T. Rama Rao

1	2
68.	Narayan Murthy
69.	P.C. Sorcar (Senior)
70.	P.V. Narasimha Rao
71.	Pandit Bhimsen Joshi
72.	Prof. Calyampuri Radha Krishna Rao
73.	Prof. Kuttan Mahadevan
74.	Punjabrao Deshmukh
75.	Rajashree Birla
76.	Ram Sharad Lal
77.	Ramdev
78.	Ratan Tata
79.	Ravi Das
80.	S. Nijalingappa
81.	Sardar Vallabhai Patel
82.	Savitri Bai
83.	Sharad Lal
84.	Shri Bahadurshah Zafar Foundation
85.	Shri Ramswarath Lal
86.	Silambu Chelvar Ma Po. Sivagnanam
87.	Sir Syed Ahmed Rao
88.	Smt. Jamanabai
89.	Smt. Sonia Gandhi
90.	Sri Sahuji Majaraj
91.	Swamy Baba Ramdev
92.	Tara Singh
93.	Tukdoji Maharaj
94.	V.P. Singh
95.	V.R. Krishna Iyer
96.	Veer Savarkar
97.	Venu Gopaldaswamy
98.	Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
99.	Virsa Munda

*[English]***National Book Trust**

1730. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to restart the Programmes of National Book Trust in Konkani language;

(b) if so, the details of the advisory committee for Konkani language; and

(c) the time since when the last book in Konkani was published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Publishing books in Konkani language is a continuous process and so far National Book Trust, India has published 31 books in Konkani language.

(b) The Advisory Committee for the Konkani language was initially constituted in 1993. It has been reconstituted in 2000. So far three meetings of Advisory Committee have been convened.

(c) Two books have been published in 2007-2008.

*[Translation]***Global Recession**

1731. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various global recessions will not have much effect on India, as India's growth story is based on domestic consumption rather than on exports;

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

(c) whether the Government has undertaken any State-wise specific studies regarding the demand and supply in various sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) With the global economy getting increasingly integrated, no economy can remain totally insulated from the effect of cyclical fluctuations of output and growth of the world economy and global risk factors. Most projections of the world economy suggest a moderate but not severe slow down in world growth. This will impact the demand for India's exports. However, keeping the dynamics of growth of the Indian economy in view, the economy is likely to remain domestic demand driven in the medium term.

(c) No, Sir. The Government has not undertaken any State-wise specific studies in this context.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Free Trade Agreements**

1732. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any Free Trade Agreement (FTA)/Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with any country particularly, Singapore and Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the terms of reference of these agreements, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment on the impact of such agreements on domestic industries/farmers;

(d) the extent to which Indian exports will be increased thereafter; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to monitor and safeguard the interest of domestic industries/farmers against the adverse impact of such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India has signed the following Free Trade Agreements (FTA)/ Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA) on goods with its trading partners:-

Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing	Date of Implementation	Tariff Liberalisation Programme on Sensitive/Negative List and Tariff Rate Quota items
India-Sri Lanka FTA	28th December, 1998	March, 2000	Zero duty entry of Sri Lankan goods since March, 2003. Sri Lanka to do it in 2008
Agreement on SAFTA	4th January, 2004	1st January, 2006 (Tariff concessions implemented from 1st July, 2006)	Zero duty for LDCs (from 1.1.2008 by India) and 0-5% for Non-LDCs in 7 years.
India-Singapore CECA	29th June, 2005	1st August, 2005	Zero Duty entry in April, 2009.
India-Nepal Treaty of Trade	6th March 2002	Agreement valid	Zero duty entry of goods already allowed.

(c) to (e) While finalizing the list of items on which tariff concessions are offered, the Government consults the related Ministries/Departments as well as the domestic stakeholders/industry to understand the likely impact of trade liberalisation. In respect of certain agricultural products, reduction in customs duties are offered taking into account the sensitivities of the Indian Agriculture and the volume of trade in these products. These agreements have provisions to safeguard certain items through a Sensitive/Negative list as well as preferential safeguard mechanism against surge in imports. Generally, India has a favourable balance to trade with its FTA/PTA partners. India's average value of exports & imports with its main FTA partners during 2004-2007 is as follows:

(Value in US \$ Million)
(Source: DGCI&S Data)

Country	India's exports to	India's imports from
Bangladesh	1641.11	138.3
Bhutan	80.42	100.4
Maldives	61.3	1.88
Nepal	843.87	343.88
Pakistan	853.29	199.26
Sri Lanka	1897.81	475.58
Singapore	5148.99	3825.11

[Translation]

Kandhar Hijack Issue

1733. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Court in its decisions in Kandhar IC 814 hijack issue has pointed at the involvement of same neighbouring country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of developments leading to the above decision;

(d) whether the Government will apprise the concerned country of the decision of the Court; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) The judgement of the court is being examined and the requisite information will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the Following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956: —

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8173/2008]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8174/2008]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Field, for the year 2006-2007;

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Field, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8175/2008]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Four Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8176/2008]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8177/2008]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8178/2008]

(5) A copy of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Investment of Moneys Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.284 in Gazette of India dated the 22 December, 2007 under sub-section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8179/2008]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.281 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2008 notifying the sporting events mentioned therein as the events of national importance, issued under sub-section (1) of section (2) of the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Rules, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8180/2008)

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Official Languages (Use in Official Purposes of the Union) Amendment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 162 in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2007 under sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Official Languages Act, 1963.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8181/2008)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8182/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the State Mission Authority, Nagaland, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the State Mission Authority, Nagaland, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8183/2008)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the U.P. Education for All Project Board, Lucknow, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the U.P. Education for All Project Board, Lucknow, for the year 2006-2007.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8184/2008)

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, 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 Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8185/2008)

- (7) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the

Annual Report and Audited Accounts* of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8186/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:—

- (1) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. PA 6 of 2008) (Indirect Taxes-Central Excise, Service Tax and Customs)—(Performance Audit) for the year ended the March, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8187/2008)

- (2) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. CA 7 of 2008) (Indirect Taxes-Central Excise, Service Tax and Customs)—(Compliance Audit) for the year ended the March, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8188/2008)

- (3) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. PA 7 of 2008) (Direct Taxes)—(Performance Audit) for the year ended the March, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8189/2008)

- (4) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. CA 8 of 2008) (Direct Taxes) for the year ended the March, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8190/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.246(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2008 making certain

amendments in Notification No. S.O.477(E) dated the 25th July, 1991 issued under section 29B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8191/2008)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8192/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, for the year 2006-2007 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8193/2008)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8194/2008)

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, for the year 2006-2007.

*Annual Report and Audited Accounts were laid on the Table on 4.3.2008.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, for the year 2006-2007.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8195/2008)
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mizoram University, Aizawl, for the year 2006-2007.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mizoram University, Aizawl, for the year 2006-2007.
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8196/2008)
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2006-2007.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2006-2007.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8197/2008)
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- (11) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8198/2008)
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Manipur University, Imphal, for the year 2006-2007.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Manipur University, Imphal, for the year 2006-2007.
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8199/2008)
- (14) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, 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 8200/2008)
- (15) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Audited Accounts of Aligarh Muslim University, 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 8201/2008)

12.01 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES**

[English]

21st Report

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Twenty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances regarding requests for dropping of assurances.

12.01¹/₂ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL,
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE**

24th Report

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Sir I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Twenty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the Working of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

12.01³/₄ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS**

184th Report

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, I beg to lay the 184th Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Seventy-fourth Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

12.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in one hundred eightieth Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay the statement about the status

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 8202/2008

of implementation on the actions taken by the Government on One hundred eightieth Report on the recommendations contained in the One hundred seventy first Report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. This report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) for the year 2007-08. The Committee reviewed the progress made by DSIR during the reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2007-08) in detail.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of DSIR, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Department and presented the 171st Report thereon to the House on the 26th April 2007. The Department has furnished a detailed Action Taken Note on these recommendations to the Committee in May 2007. I have made a statement in the house on 23rd November 2007 in this regard. The Committee has made further comments on Action Taken Report vide 1801 Report which was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 27th November 2007. The report contains fifteen recommendations which are both advisory and appreciative. Significant ones mainly relate to:

- making efforts to spend funds which have been allocated and taking due care to make proposal which could be practically implemented within the time frame set up by the Department;
- popularization and dissemination of new technologies;
- encouragement to individual innovators by way of providing increased support;
- technological upgradation of cottage industries and other such industries falling in the unorganized sector;
- making efforts to encourage the start-up companies and monitoring their growth trajectories so as to improve and encourage the culture of entrepreneurship in the country;
- dissemination of information regarding commercializing of indigenous technologies and inventions in order to create market for such technologies;

- carrying out proper groundwork before making a demand for allocation in order to escape the embarrassing situation of not being able to spend money it initially demanded for its projects;
- appreciation of the decision of the Department to break its various programmes being run by National Laboratories under sub-divisions: Supra Institutional Projects, Network Projects, Inter-Agency projects and Facilities which would be helpful in developing core-competencies and bringing in professional focus;
- recognition of the need of monetary incentives to attract young talent to research field;
- appreciating the idea of pro-active and planned patenting; and
- satisfaction of the Committee over the benefits arising from NMITLI scheme to both Department and the industrial partner.

All the fifteen recommendations of the Committee on the Action Taken Note have been considered in the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the appended Annexure.

12.03 hrs.

SUGAR DEVELOPMENT FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008*

[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): On behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 and the Sugar Cess Act, 1982.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 and the Sugar Cess Act, 1982."

The motion was moved.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2 dated 11.03.2008

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

12.04 hrs.

SUGAR DEVELOPMENT FUND (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2008***

[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): On behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No. 4 of 2008)

12.05 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Business transacted during the last week

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

During Question Hour, out of the 60 starred questions listed, only 14 could be answered orally. The replies to the remaining starred questions along with the replies to 556 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

As regards Legislative Business, two Bills were introduced during last week. The House discussed the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address for 12 hours and 33 minutes. The discussion was concluded with the reply of the Prime Minister and thereafter the Motion of Thanks was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

***Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 8203/2008

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. The International Women's Day is over!

The Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08 and the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) 2005-06, were presented before the House by the Minister of Railways on 5th March, 2008. Thereafter, the House had a combined discussion lasting for 3 hours and 54 mts. on a Statutory Resolution disapproving the Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008, Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008, General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) - 2008-09, Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) - 2008-09, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) - 2007-08 and Demands for Excess Grants (Railways)-2005-06. The discussion remained inconclusive.

Five Statements were made by the Ministers on important subjects in the House.

During the last week, members raised as many as 47 matters of urgent public importance. Also, 39 matters were raised under Rule 377.

The Departmental-Related Standing Committees presented five Reports, during the last week.

The sitting of the House fixed for Friday, the 7th March, 2008 was cancelled as per majority decision taken in the Business Advisory Committee.

While we lost 1 hour and 7 minutes due to interruptions and adjournments last week, the House sat late for 4 hours and 16 minutes to compensate for the lost time.

While I convey my sincere thanks to the hon. Members for the help extended in the conduct of the proceedings, I further look forward to the continued cooperation in the smooth conduct of the proceedings.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Acharia, if you want to raise that issue, first you have to satisfy me how can it be raised in Parliament?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just speak one by one. I have not asked you Mr. Dasgupta. First, you satisfy me that it can be raised in this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear you one by one. I cannot hear you together.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I am asking him. If he cannot satisfy me, I will not allow him. Mr. Malhotra, you do not have any doubt about that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I will not repeat a single word.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not repeat but you satisfy me. I have not allowed any State matters to be raised. This is the law and order problem relating to the State concerned.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is not the State matter. Yesterday, almost all the political parties condemned the incident that had taken place in Delhi itself. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a State matter. It does not arise here. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing this. Why are you saying this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow this. It is a State matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen your notice. It relates to a State matter. I cannot allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12.30 p.m.

12.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

12.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice. When almost all the political parties condemned the issue... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed that.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have given a notice... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran, you may raise your matter.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, a series of incidents have taken place... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S.K. Kharventhan.

Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to your notice that there are employees in Indian Airlines and Air India who have been working for the last 20 years but they have not been regularized as yet. They were on 20 days hunger strike also but they have not been regularized and the Government did not pay heed to them. ...(*Interruptions*) I, therefore, urge that such employees should be regularized.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Railway Minister, you may start your speech at 1.30 p.m.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 p.m.

*Not recorded.

12.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

13.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*]

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 16, namely, Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be laid on the Table of the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) **Need to relax the norms of physical and educational standards for youth from border areas of Uttarakhand for gaining an entry in the Indian Army**

LT. GEN. (RETD.) TEJPAL SINGH RAWAT (Garhwal): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise the issue of unemployment amongst youth inhabiting the border areas of the State of Uttarakhand. It is indisputable that the border area adjoining China and Nepal of the State of Uttarakhand is mainly a backward region. Thus, there are no employment opportunities for the youth living there. The education standard of the people of the border areas is also low. Due to lack of requisite qualification for joining army, the youth from these border areas are migrating to towns and cities in search of jobs. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take necessary steps for encouraging youth living in the border areas of Uttarakhand to join army which includes inter alia, reduction in physical standards particularly the height to 163 cm. and education upto high-school pass without any Division instead of the present requirement of high-school pass with IInd Division. Such a gesture from the Government would facilitate and help in preventing the youth in these border areas from migrating to other cities and towns.

*Treated as laid on the Table

(ii) Need to ensure adequate and timely supply of LP.G. in Ahmedabad, Delhi and other parts of the country

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): There is an acute shortage of LPG Cylinders all over the country, particularly in the cities of Ahmedabad and Delhi, due to which the common man especially the poor and middle class is severely hit and they have to cough up more money from their pocket to get the Cylinder from black market. I also want to bring to the notice of Government that the waiting time for getting the LPG Cylinder after the booking is nearly three weeks which is very high.

Sir, I request the Government of India to look into the matter seriously so that the common man of our country can get the LPG Cylinder at a reasonable rate and also request that the waiting time to get the LPG Cylinder after booking should be 1 or 2 days.

(iii) Need to expedite the process of upgradation and expansion of Surat Airport, Gujarat

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): The Government of Gujarat has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Airport Authority of India in September, 2003. As per this agreement the Surat Airport is to be handed over to the AAI with a condition that airport will be operationalised within two years. The Government of Gujarat has also provided Surat airport with an asset of Rs. 8.98 crore including cost of 312.67 hectare land. The Government of Gujarat has also provided power connection of 1200 KV HT and pipeline for water supply.

The AAI has requested for an additional 1065 hectares of land for expansion of Surat Airport. The State Government has started the process of acquiring this land. However, the State Government wishes to request AAI that they should take up work of expansion of runway for big cargo plane and make necessary night landing and parking facility for airline and cargo planes within the present existing airport land.

It is also requested that the work of terminal building may be expedited for facilitation of passengers.

The AAI may take up the case for increasing the number of flights and air connectivity for Surat Airport.

AAI should make a plan for optimum utilization of the present land till such time the additional land requested, is acquired. I often requested for starting up

of international airport at Surat with cargo handling capacity which may be incorporated by AAI in their development plan of existing airport.

I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to satisfy the demand of the people for full-fledged Surat Airport.

(iv) Need to ensure adequate supply of food-grains under PDS in Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the border districts of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli in Maharashtra fall under tribal dominated and inaccessible areas. Poor beneficiaries of the districts are facing tremendous hardships due to unavailability of required quantity of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System for the last few months. Beneficiaries of BPL and Antyodaya scheme are on the verge of starvation due to lesser supply of foodgrains than the quantity specified by the Central Government. The local ration shopkeepers are unnecessarily bearing the brunt of anger of the beneficiaries in the absence of proper action by the state government and the local administration in this regard. The local administration is saying that it is not able to provide foodgrains to the beneficiaries in the specified quantity in the absence of required foodgrain supply from the Food Corporation of India. Sometimes lesser quantity of rice and sometimes lesser quantity of wheat is being provided as on date. There is imminent danger of beneficiaries facing huge deficiency of nutrients due to non supply of rice and wheat in equal quantities as required under the local conditions.

Failure of the Railways in providing sufficient number of rakes is being stated as the reason behind the difficulty being faced by the FCI in providing the required supply of foodgrains on right time in these border districts. In view of the fact that common man has failed to avail the benefit of the PDS foodgrains amidst the counter claims made by the FCI and the Railways, the Government should ensure immediate proper action to provide sufficient quantity of foodgrains in all the parts of these districts and provide relief to the poor and the persons belonging to BPL category in these districts.

(v) Need to expedite four laning of National Highway No. 3 between Shilpuri and Dewas in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the UPA Government had made an announcement

that national highways would be constructed and strengthened all over the country. Hon. Prime Minister had also stated that special attention would be paid to the basic amenities so that the country could achieve the economic growth rate of 10% per annum. The Madhya Pradesh Government has forwarded DPR to the Central Government regarding four laning of national highway no.3 between Agra and Mumbai, a major part of which passes through Madhya Pradesh. Please sanction the said proposal at the earliest. In view of heavy traffic between Shivpuri and Dewas, please expedite the work of four-laning of this road.

(vi) Need to reverse the decision of closure of the Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): It is surprising that to give avenues to private operators, the Government is giving concession to them by closing down the operational profit making public sector airports simultaneously with the commissioning of the newly set up Private Airports. The matter has neither been discussed in the House nor with the representatives of the employees. The Parliamentary Standing Committee in its report tabled in the House on 5th March have recommended not to close down the two public sector Airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad and the employees have also rightly demanded to the Civil Aviation Ministry to act accordingly. The present decision of the Government to close down the Bangalore and Hyderabad Airports on 14th March and 30th March respectively in favour of the Private Greenfield Airports is in total contravention of the recommendation given by the Parliamentary Standing Committee as well as the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA.

While the setting of new establishment is not opposed by the employees, alike other industrial establishments the Green Field Airports should also be asked to compete with the existing Public Sector Airports so that a level playing field is made available to all. In case this decision is not reversed, the Joint Employees' Forum would be forced to resort to non-cooperation movement from 12th March 2008.

Sir, in view of this, I urge upon the Union Government to reverse the decision of closure of the Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports and allow them to run in its present form in order to serve the interest of public sector as well as the employees of the establishments.

(vii) Need to open a Regional Passport Office in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the largest state in our country. A large number of people from Eastern districts of this state go to Arab, European, American and south-eastern countries for work. These districts have age old connections with coastal Island of Mauritius, Trinidad and British Guinea. However, the passport offices are located in Bareilly and Lucknow only which is causing hardships for lakhs of people of Eastern districts. It is in the public interest to open a passport office in Azamgarh to solve the problem of people of these districts of Uttar Pradesh. Azamgarh is a division headquarters as well as it is situated in the middle of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. I urge the Minister of External Affairs to open a Regional Passport Office in Azamgarh to solve the problem of lakhs of people.

(viii) Need for effective implementation of National Prohibition Policy

[English]

DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam): Alcoholism is spreading like wild fire across the country with the introduction of more and more liquor brands. It is now a trend among the college/school students. It has become a fashion of the day and those who do not drink are considered backward.

Farmers become alcoholics. The number of victims belonging to below/above poverty line families is increasing everyday and it is alarming. As a result their living condition has gone from bad to worse. Economically they are weaker, their children do not go to schools. Many die due to alcohol addiction and they consume liquor out of sheer frustration. Their families are deprived of proper food and clothes due to alcoholism.

Many of the Government Schemes are implemented to employ the poor but even the purpose of the schemes is defeated due to alcoholism.

Our party Founder Leader Dr. S. Ramadoss has taken a Vehicular Propaganda Rally from Tuticorin to Chennai covering the whole of Tamil Nadu for implementation of Prohibition.

Instead of adhering to the directive principles of Article 47 of the Constitution of India, some of the State Governments are involved in selling liquor through

Government run retail shops. It is a gross violation of the Constitution. These Governments encourage the people to drink by opening more liquor shops and also by extending the timings to serve liquor in Bars.

Further around 25% cases in the Courts of different states relate to crime done under the influence of liquor. Government should discourage the use of liquor and make some laws to save the people of this Country.

I urge upon the Government to relook at the National Prohibition Policy and issue necessary instructions to the State Governments/Union Territories to take appropriate steps to discourage the people from drinking liquor. Further, new licences for opening of Liquor Shops/Night Club Bars should not be given. The Central Government should take strict action against those who violate the Rules and Regulations of the licences already given.

(ix) Need to set up a bench of High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN (Thiruvananthapuram): The Kerala Assembly has passed resolutions twice demanding setting up of a Kerala High Court Bench with case filing authority at Trivendrum, the capital city of the State. The setting up of a bench in the capital city is necessary for the efficient functioning of the State Secretariat and it can reduce the State expenditure to a great extent as the present High Court at Kochi is about 300 kms away from the capital. So, I request the Government to take steps to fulfill the desire of the people of Kerala to set up a High Court Bench at Trivendrum at the earlier possible.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item Nos. 17 to 22 may be taken up together. The hon. Minister may reply to the discussion now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, please allow me first. A series of incidents have taken place throughout the country. All our offices are being attacked.
... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members can lay their speeches on the table of the House if they want. Now please listen to the reply from Shri Lajuji.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to what Shri Laju ji is saying.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to Shri Lajuji.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you please allow me to speak first. ...

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Please listen to me first. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the morning when Shri Achariaji had raised this issue, the hon. Speaker had considered it during the meeting of leaders, had stated that it could not be allowed. If one party is given a chance to speak, we have to allow other parties also. Therefore, I would like that you may listen Shri Laju ji's reply to the discussion on Railway Budget first, then we can take up this matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You please give an assurance.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

Please give an assurance that you will allow me after the reply of the hon. Minister. ... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: He is saying that the matter would be taken up later on.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You are saying that we would be allowed after Lalu ji's reply.. *.(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Lalu ji is saying.

.. *.(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please listen to what Shri Lalu ji wants to say and what he is going to do for the country.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.33 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
DISAPPROVAL OF RAILWAYS
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2008
RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008
RAILWAY BUDGET (2008-2009)—GENERAL
DISCUSSION
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT
(RAILWAYS), 2008-2009
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 2007-2008
AND
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
(RAILWAYS), 2005-2006—*contd.***

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make the following points in the discussion on Railway Budget:

Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways has tried to provide relief to the people through the budget presented by him,

**Not recorded.*

***The Speech was laid on the Table.*

however, it should be implemented fully and the new trains announced should be introduced as early as possible. Sir, he has announced to construct new railway lines but the work on the old lines approved since 2001 e.g. Etawah-Mainpuri and Guna-Etawah railway lines, is going at a slow pace. It is often interrupted. I feel that the work on these lines cannot be completed even in 50 years with such a slow pace. Therefore, I request that the work on these lines should be completed immediately. Sir, I have been requesting in this regard since 1999 and during the term of the 13th Lok Sabha, however no action has been taken. Therefore, I am just reminding.

Either a level crossing or an over-bridge should be constructed at the eastern end of Balrai railway station. Sir, the existing level crossing has come in between the loop lines constructed at this crossing causing goods and other trains to stand there for hours together. Three Inter colleges and a temple of Brahbhashi Mata are situated on both sides of this railway crossing. A large number of people visit this temple. Students have to pass from under the trains in order or cross the line. Therefore, I again request that either the level crossing or an over bridge be constructed at the eastern end of Balrai railway station.

Etawah to Fatak Kothi Chandanpur line should be extended.

Generators should be provided at Etawah railway station to make arrangements for lighting in case of power cuts.

Toofan Express should be provided a halt at Balrai railway station as three Inter colleges and a temple of Brahbhashi Mata are located there.

Few Agra bound trains stop at Etawah station. More such trains should be given stoppage at this station.

Garib Rath should also be provided a halt at this station so that poor people of Etawah, Oraiya, Mainpuri and other adjacent areas going to Delhi can avail this facility.

Etawah-Agra Passenger train should be provided with a halt at Fafud railway station to facilitate the employees of NTPC, GAIL, Dibiyapur and the common people.

The over bridge at Etawah railway station should connect Friends Colony because population on this side has grown manifold and a ticket window should also be constructed there.

[Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya]

Jaswant Nagar bye-pass is ready for use. The construction of railway over bridge on Agra road has not yet started. This work be started.

The construction of Railway Bridge on Farukhabad railway level crossing is on the verge of completion. It be opened for use immediately after construction. Sir, these demands should be included and action be taken on them. Once again I request immediate construction of Balrai railway crossing at the eastern end as has been approved.

*SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Sir, first I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for Railways for presenting a universally popular budget for the fifth time running. The untiring efforts on part of the hon. Minister has changed the face of Indian Railways and surprised us all by yielding record-breaking profits year after year. He has shown humanitarian side of the government by giving something to every section of the society. The overhauling of Indian Railways has poised it to provide world-class rail services to the country. I welcome the Rail Budget for 2008-2009 and support this historical budget. The hon. Railway Minister has made it possible for all classes of people to travel in comfort by giving concessions in passenger fare across all categories in the Rail Budget. This is a progressive budget and I believe that Indian Railways would soon come to be counted amongst the best railways in the world.

I would like to express my gratitude as well as give thanks to hon. Railway Minister for starting an additional train from Ramnagar to Delhi and starting a Garib Rath from Kathgodam to Jammu Tawi.

I hope that the hon. Railway Minister would also take positive steps to fulfil the pending demands for expansion of other railway services in Uttarakhand.

Sir, I would also like to draw the attention of the House towards the other steps taken in the Railway Budget for providing state of the art and better facilities to all categories of passengers. Being a sportsperson I am very happy that sports persons of Indian Railways won medals in various championships during 2007-08 and made the country proud.

Sir, the measures to end the long queues at ticket windows, facilities for purchasing train tickets through mobiles, railway inquiry call center facility, online information about reservation availability, arrangements for

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

onboard cleaning of passenger trains, construction of foot over-bridges, installation of lifts and escalators, anti-collision equipments, fire safety, and the historical announcement of appointing coolies as gangmen and on other group 'D' posts are all commendable measures. Free monthly season tickets for students, 50 percent concession in train fares for female senior citizens, concessions for Ashok Chakra awardees and AIDS patients, special drives to fill up vacant posts reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, appointment of OBC candidates, 10 new Garib Rath trains, 53 other new trains, extension of routes of 16 trains and increasing the frequency of 11 trains are other commendable measures.

Sir, Uttarakhand is not only a major tourist destination but also a newly formed state. I have been requesting for expansion of railway facilities in Uttarakhand for the last four years. Certain other important proposals of public interest in Uttarakhand have not been included in the rail budget. Uttarakhand is a tourist destination, hence it needs a comprehensive railway network because such destinations create an image of the country as a whole in the eyes of the world. Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to expand the railway services in Uttarakhand. Over-bridges are needed on National Highway at Kathgodam, Kashipur and Bajpur and Railway crossings need to be built on national highways running through the major cities in the State.

AC I and II coaches need to be provided in Ranikhet Express from Delhi to Ramnagar.

All the railway stations in Uttarakhand have to be computerized and beautified.

The railway line needs to be extended upto Poonagiri, a famous place of pilgrimage situated in Champavat district in the Kumaon region, which is visited by thousands of pilgrims but they have to face difficulties due to lack of adequate transportation facilities. The pilgrims would find other travels easier if rail linkages are also provided along with road linkages. Hence, the railway line from Bareilly should be extended upto Poonagiri which is 15km from Khatima via Kathgodam, Bareilly (Bhajibura), Pilibhit and Tanakpur. Also, the train services are hampered due to the fact that the railway line in Kumaon division is meter gauge. Hence the railway lines upto Kumaon division need to be converted into broad-gauge.

Kashipur-Jaspur-Ghampur railway line needs to be constructed in Uttarakhand so as to link Bhawar Terai

belt from corner to corner. Construction of a direct railway line from Tanakpur to Dehradun would enable the farthest points in the plains of Uttarakhand to be linked. The tourists as well as residents would be benefited by construction of Kiccha Sitarganj rail route from Kashipur to Najibabad.

A 11rd AC coach needs to be attached to the train from Ramnagar to Lucknow which is attached to Janata Mail at Moradabad. A daily train needs to be run from Dehradun to Kathgodam. All trains should be given a stoppage at Mahuakhedaganj. Uttarakhand Sampark Kranti Express does not stop at Haldi Sthan before reaching Haldwani although it is the stoppage point for the famous Govind Ballabh Pant Agriculture University and a huge, newly constructed industrial site. All the trains need to be given stoppages at this place. New rail routes need to be constructed between Rishikesh and Dehradun, Rishikesh and Devprayag/Badrinath, Ramnagar and Chaukhatia and between Tanakpur and the famous place of pilgrimage Poomagiri. A nullah needs to be constructed along the stretch between Bajpur road railway crossing which falls under Kashipur railway station and Sugar Factory road railway station premises. I had earlier forwarded an estimate regarding the construction of the said nullah. The railway department is requested to bear the entire expense for the construction of the said nullah.

Sir, Uttarakhand is visited by foreign and domestic tourists, pilgrims, nature lovers, tourists enchanted by the Himalayas, wild life enthusiasts, film-makers throughout the year whose numbers far exceeds the population of the state. Hence, I would request you to integrate the proposals earlier submitted by the State Government with those given by me in the rail budget for 2008-2009 in view of public interest. I would like to conclude by thanking the Rail Minister for expansion of railway services in Uttarakhand and express my support for this people friendly rail budget.

*PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on Rail Budget. I would like to draw attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the problems of my constituency Jalesar and I would also want an assurance from him for resolution thereof.

Sir, Tundla Junction under Northern Railway falls in my constituency Jalesar. There is a need to provide stoppage to 2397DN/2398UP New Delhi-Gaya Mahabodhi Express at Tundla in public interest as people go to Gaya to offer oblation to their forefathers. Therefore, in

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

view of religious sentiments of the people there is a need to provide a two minutes halt of Bodhgaya Express at Tundla Junction. At the same time, there is a need to provide stoppage of 2367UP/2368DN Vikramshila Express also at Tundla Junction. Let Tundla Junction not be considered a town station. Delhi,

Howrah or Orissa, Bengal, or Bihar bound passengers of Agra city have to board the trains from Tundla only. Therefore, in the interest of passengers of Agra city, there is a need of providing stoppage of each train at Tundla.

Sir, the area of Tundla, Agra and Firozabad district is predominantly an area of followers of Jainism and the followers of this religion go to Shikharji to have darshan of Shikharji. Providing stoppage of Neelanchal Express at Tundla would facilitate journey of followers of Jainism. Similarly, it will be in the interest of local people if stoppage of Rewa-Satna Express is also provided at Tundla.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to a serious problem. As I have already stated, Tundla is located on Agra-Delhi-Jhansi rail route and it is just 20 Kms away from Agra. People going to Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, northern eastern states, Assam from Agra have to board the trains at Tundla Junction. Therefore, my submission is that in view of Tourism importance of Tajmahal, also there is a need for providing stoppage of each train at Tundla. In this connection I would like to say that Delhi-Bhopal Shatabadi Express, via Agra halts at Agra for the benefit of people of Agra and similarly, Lucknow-Delhi Shatabdi Express should be provided a stoppage at Tundla Junction for the benefit of people of Agra-Firozabad, Hathras, Mathura and Etah as Lucknow is the capital of U.P. and all the government offices are also located here, including the State Legislative Assembly and the bench of Lucknow High Court also, a large number of Agra bound tourists visit Lucknow also. Therefore, there is a need to provide stoppage of Lucknow-Delhi Shatabadi at Tundla Junction.

Sir, Enquiry Counter at Tundla Junction is located outside the station. The passengers willing to have any train related enquiry have to go outside. Therefore, my submission is that the Enquiry counter should be opened on platform itself. There is no shade for passengers at platform number one at Tundla Junction. The passengers have to wait in open even during scorching heat or when it rains. Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister to construct a shade on the said platform.

[Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel]

Sir, in view of importance of Agra from tourism point of view, all Sampark Kranti trains should be provided a stoppage at Agra cantt. and quota for passengers of Agra should also be increased. Agra Fort station is dilapidated, it should be renovated.

There is a need to provide stoppage to Muri Express, Katihar Express and Mahananda Express at Barhan and stoppage to Gomati Express at Jalesar Road Station, a central point of Hathras, Etah and Agra districts and also at Hathras Junction.

The foundation stone of Agra-Etawah rail line was laid by the former prime minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayi. Adequate funds are needed for laying of the said line and there is a need to extend Etawah-Mainpuri railway line upto Etah.

Sir, I would like to draw his attention to a very small missing link of railway line. If railway line is laid in this stretch of 25 kms. it will benefit lakhs of people. Sir, I am referring to a stretch of 25 kms. between Etah and Kasganj. Barhan and Etah already have rail connectivity and if a line is laid on Etah-Kasganj a distance of 25 kms, route it would connect Etah to Bareilly, Lakhimpur, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow and Pilibhit.

I would urge the hon. Minister to approve railway line on this 25 kms. long stretch.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a burning issue. There is a railway station-Agsauli on Sikandrarao-Kasganj line under NER. I have been told that the said Agsauli station is being downgraded to a halt which has caused resentment amongst the people of that area and they are agitating. Around 20 thousand people had sat on dharna demanding restoration of status quo on the said station. I, along with my wife Smt. Madhu Baghel, who contested Sikandrarao assembly election as a Samajwadi Party candidate, visited the troubled area and listened to their problem. Based on the number of passengers Agsauli a railway junction is a central point of Hathras district. From Agsauli crossing, one road leads to Kachora, another to Wazidpur, one to Sikandrarao and another one to Kasganj, Agsauli station is more than 100 years old constructed during British period. The farmers cultivate rose crop here and they travel to Bareilly and Delhi for selling roses. The local students go to Hathras and Kasganj for higher studies. Converting station into a halt will also reduce the number of trains halting here and it

will also dent the development. Fewer passengers alighting at the station will also be exposed to the risk of being looted. Sir, it has caused resentment among the local populace. The old, young and children have resorted to a 15 days relay-dharna protesting against downgrading of station to a halt. Sir, you will be surprised to know that a pregnant lady delivered a baby while on dharna. It indicates how deeply their feelings have been hurt by converting the said station into a halt. I, too, had to sit on dharna twice in this regard, I led a group of their representatives to General Manager, NER, Gorakhpur. Though he had assured that the status quo on the station will be restored. Still I would urge the hon. Minister to maintain status quo in this regard and at the same time I would also urge for providing drinking water, providing stoppage of all the trains, construct a waiting room, a shade, and raising the level of platform and adequate facilities for loading and unloading of goods. Agsauli and Sikandrarao stations should be beautified, provided standard—one waiting room, provision for computerized reservation facilities and reservation quota of seats from Sikandrarao should be increased.

Sir, I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister of Railways to fulfil my demands and I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to raise the problems of my constituency.

*SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Sir, gauge conversion work from Pipad Road to Bilada in my Lok Sabha constituency Jodhpur is nearly complete but no provision for starting of any work has been made in this year's budget even after completion of the survey of the Bilada-Bar railway line. Sir, Bar-Bilada railway line is a very important line as it will make the train route for Ajmer and South India bound trains direct and it is an important route strategically also.

Sir, a survey was conducted of the Pokharan-Balotra-Kandla route from Falori city in my Lok Sabha constituency Jodhpur. This railway route is also a very important route strategically but there is no provision in this year's budget for construction of this route.

Sir, a survey of the new railway route from Nagaur to Falori had been conducted many years ago but there is no provision for it in this year's budget. This is a very important route in the border area.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, most of the trains from my constituency Jodhpur to Chennai, Secunderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai etc. are running one or two times in a week. There is need to increase the frequency of trains to the said cities.

*SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Panaji): Sir, the hon. Railway Minister has presented the Railway Budget. It was hoped that every state will get something in view of the demand from people all over the country. On presentation of budget, it was revealed that this budget is not for the whole country but for Bihar and few other states only. Population is growing day by day. Development has its own place and so do the problems. Situation of big cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata is very bad. It would be proper to provide more services and more trains there.

Sir, Goa is considered a good international tourist spot. Lakhs of tourists from all over the world come to Goa and go to other states from there. Whether it is the people willing to travel Tirupati in Andhra or Velakini Church in Kerala or beautiful spots of Maharashtra or Karnataka, railways is a good means of transport for them. Therefore, I put my demands before you.

Sir, a large number of people from Goa visit Tirupati for darshan of Shri Venkatesh. Haripriya Express, running between Goa and Tirupati, has been discontinued. Now, it goes to Tirupati via Kolhapur, Maharashtra. I request that two sleeper coaches and a three tier coach should be added to Haripriya Express from Londa Junction so that people get facility to travel to Tirupati.

Sir, tourists to Goa come from Delhi, Mumbai stations etc. Panaji is the capital of Goa. It is 9 kms from the Karmali station. But, most of the trains do not halt at the Karmali station. These trains halt at Madgaon station which is 32 kms away. I demand that all the trains should halt at the Karmali station so that people do not travel 23 kms. extra.

Sir, Konkan Railway had started a Sky Rail Project in Madgaon, Goa four years ago and its testing was also done. This good project is lying pending due to lack of funding. I demand that the Railway Ministry should provide funding and start it again.

Sir, Goa is a small and beautiful state of the country. Many attractive places including Dugdhsagar waterfalls

are there. Thousands of people come to see this natural place. But, a train running from Vasco-Da-Gama railway station to this place has been discontinued now. Students and other people are unable to go there, Therefore, I demand that a train should be run from Vasco-Da-Gama railway station to Dugdhsagar waterfalls immediately.

Sir, people of a smaller state like Goa have contributed by giving their land for the Konkan Railway project but it is regrettable that they have not been provided employment so far. Whether it is Konkan Railway or South Central Railway, both are doing injustice to the land losers and other youth Goa as far as providing job opportunities is concerned. I demand that the youth of Goa should be given priority in the jobs created in Goa.

[English]

*SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): The Hon'ble Railway Minister has tried to portray to the nation that his current railway budget has been directed to the aam admi. But Sir what has done for the haduti region of Rajasthan. Sir, in this region of Rajasthan the district of Jhalawan and Baras is located. Sir, the proposed train line from Ramganj madni to Bhopal has reached its momentum speed. The allocation for this for the proposed train line is only 30 crore while the estimated cost of the proposed train line is 750 crore plus. In the previous Rail Budget, we were allocated only 30 crore. But Sir, due to inflation of diesel rates, the project has been escalated.

Sir the entire country is facing severe power crises. On the Kalsindh river in Jhalawan district, the Power Ministry has proposed a Mega Power Project. To aide the growth of the power project we need to have railway link to Jhalawan to push the Kali Siindh electricity power project. I urge the Railway Ministry to enhance allocation for the Ramganjmandi Bhopal train line.

Sir, the Union Government has planned to set up a train line from Ramganjmandi to Ujjain via Jhalwar. The survey work is being done. I urge the Union Government to give further sanction to the survey work for the proposed project which is Ramganjmandi to Ujjain via Jhalawar.

Sir, during consultation with the railway personals at the Kota we the MPs of Region have requested the railway to assist the people from the region by providing them Jaipur-Shamgarh train (193) to be extended to Nagda. Along with it a Kota Nagda train will also assist the commonman of the region.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Dushyant Singh]

Sir, we need to computerize the Bhawanimandi and Choumela train station it will assist the common man the people of Jhalwar district.

Sir we have requested the railway ministry to give us few stoppage of train such Jaipur-Bardra Jaipur (2979-2980) stoppage at Bhawanimandi and Choumela Jaipur-Pune (9087-9088) at Bhawani Mandi Station. Jaipur-Puri (8474-8475) stoppage at Bhawanimandi Station. Jaipur-Indore (2974) stoppage at Bhawanimandi & Choumela Station respectfully. Sir, we need to link the state of Gujarat to Rajasthan by stopping Ahmedabad-Jammu Tawi at Bhawani Mandi Station.

Sir, I want to thank Laluji as he has announced the electrification of Kota-Baran-Bina Line. I hope it is not a election announcement and the work is done at quick pace.

Sir, the railway need to ensure that Stations are kept clean and hygiene and station is maintained. At present moment there is no sanitation which can be seen at the station.

Sir, we need to ensure the safety of passenger of region. We hope that railways has taken measures for ensuring safety at railway crossings and its tracks from any mishaps.

Sir, in the district of Dholpur the Bhopal-Delhi Shatabadi does not stop while the train is stopping at Mathura, Agra and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh the train makes a halt at Murena Gwalior and Bhopal. The train passes through the State of Rajasthan. We need to be given our right and Bhopal-Shatabdi must be stopped at Dholpur Junction in the district of Dholpur.

I urge the Railway Minister to take steps which assist the common man from the region. By providing the train stoppages new train line, computerization of stations and safety of the passenger.

I only hope to considers to my demand at the earliest.

Thanking you Sir, for giving the time to me to put my view across.

[*Translation*]

*SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI (Washim): Through you, I request the hon. Minister that the Washim-Badnera new railway line, for which a survey

*The speech was laid on the Table.

has been approved, should be extended to Jaina via Shidkhedraja and should be taken up for a survey. The other new railway line between Mulljapur-Achalpur should be converted into broad gauge. A new route between Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded was taken up for survey in 2006-07 and the state government is ready to provide 40% of the cost, therefore, the railway Ministry should provide funds to start work on it. The quality of the broad gauge work going on Pune-Akola line in my constituency is not good which can lead to losses for railway passengers and the Railway Ministry in future. I would also like to bring to your notice that the quality of work at some stations in Washim is not good. Work at Uda-Jauruka railway station is also of not good quality and there are many bridges about which people have complained to me regarding their poor quality. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I demand on inquiry into such works.

Sir, many villages are demanding for RUB/ROB. For example, about 10 villages are demanding for an RUB near Devla crossing but the officials are not paying attention to it leading to rising discontentment among the people who are going to start demonstration. In view of this, Sir, there is a need to take a decision in this regard. Sir, this Pune-Akola line, where broad gauge work is going on, passes through Hingoli also where people have become landless and are getting very little compensation as their land had been acquired for the broad gauge work. They are demanding that their compensation should be increased and one person from each family should be given job. Sir, the decision of the hon. Minister not to increase the fares in the Railway Budget has not provided relief to the railway passengers. For example, a passenger has to pay Rs. 10 surcharge on his ticket for travelling from Akola to Shetraw and he has to pay the same amount of surcharge for travelling directly from Akola to Mumbai. Surcharge should be charged keeping in mind the distance between the two stations but short distance passengers are feeling uncomfortable due to this anomaly. Therefore, through you, I urge upon the hon. Minister to withdraw this surcharge and provide relief to the passengers.

*SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Several hon. Members have opposed this budget presented by hon. Minister of Railways. This budget has done grave injustice to Gujarat state. Rail fare has been reduced by 2 to 5 percent, however, no concessions have been given to poor people who travel in general coaches. There is no emphasis on development and railway infrastructure seems to be weakening.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

We try to achieve economic development of backward areas through Railway Budget so as to ensure a balanced development in the country and also to provide an affordable mode of transport to poor labourers and farmers to reach their work place in time. However, I am sorry to inform the House that a grave injustice has been done to Gujarat in this budget. This budget has failed to provide the essential and basic railway facilities which were used to be provided in previous budgets. A major part of Western railways lies in Gujarat but Gujarat has been deprived of Western railway zone till now. This budget makes no mention about laying of new rail lines, gauge conversion and laying of rail lines in the areas where rail lines have so far not reached.

For the last five years there has been a demand to undertake gauge conversion of meter gauge lines into broad gauge in the backward areas of my parliamentary constituency Bharuch in Gujarat. These lines are: Bharuch-Samni-Jabbnosar 2. Rajpeepa to Ankaleshwar 3. to start the Ankaleshwar-Netrang-nandpadi broad-gauge line 4. Kosanba-Umarpada metergauge line. My parliamentary constituency is a tribal dominated area. Many industries and chemical zones have been set up in Dahej, Ankaleshwar, Pannali and Jhagaria. However, the labourers from adjacent areas are facing difficulties in moving to and fro. It would facilitate the people of tribal and OBC areas if the Rajpeepa, Ankaleshwar, Bharuch, Netrang, Kosanba, Umarpada, Bharuch-Dahej, Bharuch-Samani-Jambosar meter gauge lines are converted into broad gauge.

People from Bihar and Western Uttar Pradesh come to my parliamentary constituency Bharuch Ankaleshwar to work as labourers in the industries here. Several people from Rajasthan also come here for business purposes. We are demanding stoppage of all the trains coming from Mumbai to Bharuch and Ankaleshwar at Bharuch. People of U.P. and Bihar have submitted in writing but except one or two trains, none has been given a stoppage there. Therefore, my demand is that all the trains passing through Ankaleshwar-Bharuch should be provided a stoppage there.

In the end, railway connectivity should be provided to all the small and major ports in Gujarat. A share holder agreement has been signed among RPNL Gujarat Maritimes Board, Dahej Sejhali Adani Port Lee, for gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej rail line. It should be implemented with in laid down time frame.

The demands for over bridges, under bridges, model railway stations in parliamentary constituencies of all the members should be accepted and justice should be done to Gujarat, this is what I demand from the Union Railway Minister.

*SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): While supporting the Railway Budget for the year 2008-09, drawing the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways. I regret to say that though railways has earned a profit of Rs.25 thousand crore without enhancing the railway fare under his stewardship, Railway is meant to provide transport facility to the people to move from one place to other, it is not a business enterprise of the Government. The profits earned by the railways should be spent on improving the passenger's amenities. The hon. Minister has introduced 10 Garibraths and 53 new trains. As many as 16 trains have been extended and the frequency of 11 trains has been increased. Target of doubling of 500 kms. and then 1000 kms has been achieved.

In spite of this, no attention has been paid towards Howrah-Jammu Tawi, the main railway line connecting eastern and northern parts of our country and Uttarakhand & Western Uttar Pradesh of Northern India. This area has been ignored in all respects. The electrification work between Saharanpur and Lucknow which was to be completed in 2004-2005 is still incomplete. Besides, electrification of Moradabad-Ghaziabad, Maujammapur-Gajraula, Luxar-Dehradun and Moradabad-Kathgodam rail lines should also be completed so as to avoid the use of diesel engine. The Minister has not formulated any future plans in this regard which is an essential step to bolster profits for Railways. The railways has set out a target to complete the ongoing construction of new railway lines with total length of 155 km and to lay new lines with total length of 350 km. during the year 2007-08.

The distance of rail route connecting Gharwal area of Uttarakhand to Delhi can be cut short. The department has already undertaken survey of the Bijnaur-Hastinapur, Meerut rail line. Laying of only 30.6 km of rail line will shorten the distance by 40 km for connecting Uttarakhand and Kotdwar. However, no attention has been paid towards this new rail line which requires an expenditure of only Rs.100 crores. It should be done on priority basis. No efforts have been made in the previous five budgets to connect Northern India's Western Uttar Pradesh and Kotdwar, Garhwal areas of Uttarakhand directly to Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai through rail line. Despite a constant demand made by me in each budget, no attention has been given to it.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Munshi Ram]

Therefore, Kotdwar, Bijnaur and Moradabad should be directly connected to Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai through rail line as a large number of people from these areas are working in Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai. They first go to Delhi by road and then board the train for Chennai, Hyderabad or Mumbai. Therefore, there is an urgent need to connect these areas directly through rail line.

In view of the number of vehicles mounting on road, flyovers should be constructed on each railway level crossing. There is a need to undertake it on priority basis. It is, therefore, necessary to assess the number of such schemes completed in the last four budgets along with the percentage of work completed thereunder.

Computerised railway tickets should be provided at small station so as to check the selling of fake tickets.

Railway reservation facility should be provided at small stations also so that a passenger need not go beyond 10 km to get the reservation.

My home town Nagina is an important place for handicrafts, however, not a single suitable train is running from there. I have been demanding to provide a stoppage for two trains. I hope Amritsar-Saharsa Jansewa Express (5209-5210), Amritsar-Darbhanga Jannayak Express (5211-5212) would be provided stoppage at Nagina. Besides, no superfast train has been provided stoppage at Nazibabad junction between Saharanpur and Moradabad at a distance of about 100 km. Moreover, stoppage of Upasana Howrah-Dehradun (2327-2328) Superfast train and Akaltakhat Syaldah-Amritsar (2317-2318) which were having stoppage here for the last 10 years, has been discontinued from this month. It must be restored.

The hon. Minister of Railways is the Minister of entire country. He should pay attention to provide facilities all over the country at par. Railway Budget should not give an impression that he is the Railway Minister of Bihar only.

While supporting the Railway Budget, I conclude and hope my demands will be taken up seriously.

[English]

*SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Indian Railways is one of the greatest public

*The speech was laid on the Table.

sector undertaking in the world carrying a long chequered history with it.

It has been amply proved by Railway that anyone who performs sincerely with an objective sooner or later he will be succeeded.

By virtue of a slew of innovations in view of prevailing transport scenario, the Indian Rail really has got a legendary dimension.

It is mind-boggling to note that before paying dividend it has held a cash surplus of 25000 crore.

The Performance of Railways is always determined by the operating Ratio it incurs where it has made an excellent job by maintaining it to the tune of 76.3%. This is first instance since independence when return on capital invested in railways will reach an historic level at 21%.

Infrastructure always plays a significant if not pivotal role in the growth of economy. We are proud of our Railway which is simultaneously playing the dual role of commercial viability and social commitment. Passengers and freight traffic are like the Siamese twin of this trade whereby Rail matters the most.

The passenger services will be governed by two words comfort and convenience, for freight business, the emphasis is on commitment and connectivity.

I must appreciate the ministry for its long-term infrastructure development plan.

It is easy to conceive that it is an imperative need to augment capacity in view of the fact that 75% of Railways goods traffic moves on about 20,000 km of Railways high density network, coal and iron ore routes and port connectivity, railway lines which is either saturated or on the verge of saturation.

An investment of about Rs. 75000 C is proposed in the span of 7 years to augment the capacity of these routes.

Railways is moving ahead to make massive investments for the expansion of the network including modernization and upgradation of the technology and for providing world class facilities to the customers in the coming years and planned to invest 2,50,000 lac crore on P.P.P model in the next five years.

Indian Railways is an example of success. It has rekindled the hope and aspiration of other dying P.S.U. It has now become a subject of intense interest in the corporate world. The history of its turn-around is now being emulated by various organizations.

Without even deflating an ounce of body the health of Rail is maintained and growing into robust.

It is following the dictum "Driving down unit cost, reducing tariffs and increasing market share to achieve record profits. The focus is on increasing yield/train rather than increasing tariff/passenger/ton.

I prefer to submit a few most necessary proposals in the occasion of Rail Budget discussion for kind consideration.

In inviting a reference to the subject mentioned above I have to state that two Railway Lines, one from Sealdah to Lalgola in the Sealdah-Lalgola Section, Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway and the other from Howrah to Farakka via Bandel, Katwa, Azimgunj (the part of which from Katwa to Azimgunj is the BAK Loop Line) in Howrah Division of Eastern Railway run through this district. The total length of the rail lines stretching through this district are 75 Km from Rejinagar to Lalgola in the first section and 100 + Km from Salar to Farakka in the other. Thus the position of this district in the railway map is nothing more than a microscopic dot.

Now, in the advent of influx of population and changes in life in every sphere—social, economic, educational, cultural, inter alia, the demand of life has proliferated in different ways, and accordingly the railway communication, which is second to none as the means of communication, has become part and parcel of human life. But it is strange as well as unfortunate that even in the days of scientific and technological development this district has been languishing in the sphere of development in this sector and this has been creating immense problems, which are to be done away with. The following schemes are to be taken up with earnestness and implementation.

First, the introduction of new Railway Line from Salar to Sainthia via Kandi is a long-standing demand of the people of three districts, Murshidabad, Birbhum and Bardhaman. Proposals for introduction of this rail line were submitted in different times and this has been lying pending for the last three decades.

In this context it is mentionable that this line will run through Bharatpur II and I Blocks of Kandi Subdivision of Murshidabad district touching the outskirts of three Gram Panchayats of Bardhaman district and the Mayureswar II of Rampurhat and Sainthia-Ahamadpur Blocks of Birbhum District and nearly fifty lakhs of people of this vast region will be benefitted if this railway line is introduced. These people will get the benefit of availing themselves of the opportunity of railway services and as the major percentage of the people living in this area belong to agriculture and this will develop the trade and commerce and facilitate marketing of their products.

In view of the importance and exigency of the issue an immediate step should be taken for implementation of the scheme.

Secondly, the narrow-gauge Katwa-Ahamadpur line was in operation since the days of pre-independence and once it ran its boom stage. Now this line has become almost defunct and consequently a large number of people have to bear with immense inconveniences for this.

Now there is no proper means of communication for the people of the area through which this line runs and the people of the locality left no stones unturned for its renovation, development and conversion into broad gauge.

Accordingly this line should be renovated and converted into broad gauge to fulfill the long-felt demand of the people.

Thirdly, the proposal for construction of two FLY OVERS at Berhampore in the Sealdah-Lalgola Section was submitted previously. Now Berhampore, a Railway station in the Sealdah-Lalgola Section has become a heavily populated town with nearly 2,00,000 people and every day thousands of people come over to this town for different reasons by rail and road, the major portion by rail. The railway track runs through the heart of the town and crosses NH 34, which also stretches through this Town at two strategic points, one at Chuanpur (Railway gate no.-131 of Sealdah- Lalgola section) and the other at Panchanantala (Railway gate no. 132 of Sealdah-Lalgola section) and round the clock thousands of people, innumerable buses, trucks and other vehicles ply crossing this railway tracks. Different roads from different directions meet these crossings. At the time of arrival of trains (up and down) these level crossings are closed for movement and this creates stagnation of movement for long. In the peak hours the office goes,

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

students, general public etc. have to bear with lots of inconveniences for stagnations. This creates a colossal fiasco and in many occasions accidents including loss of human life and property took place.

Accordingly this problem requires immediate solution and this can be done only by construction of FLYOVERS on these two junctions.

Fourthly, the Katwa-Azimgunj line in BAK Loop is a single line without electrification, Consequently running of trains on time are put into jeopardy for crossing of trains. This consumes lots of time and delays running of trains.

This creates lots of problems to the commuters in various ways and also causes problems in respect of proper running of train. This situation has been prevailing since inception and requires improvement to cope with the demand of the people.

In view of this it is suggested that this line should be converted into double line with electrification as it is done in other parts of the country.

Again in this context it is stated that the entire Kandi Subdivision is ravaged by flood every year and it is a regular feature. Now the prevailing railway bridges in the above line causes stagnation of flood water and the capacity of the release of flood is quite inadequate. This creates a hellish condition during flood.

Now the bridges between Chowrigachha to Tenya should be reconstructed to save the people of the locality from the grip of flood every year.

Fifthly, Satellite Reservation System should be given effect in this district.

- (a) Beldanga Rly. Station should be brought under this systems,
- (b) Second shift of reservation from 14 hrs. to 20 hrs. should be introduced at Berhampore,
- (c) Spot reservation system at Sealdah in the second shift at 3103 UP Bhagirathi Express should be introduced,
- (d) Computerized reservation centers should be opened at Kandi.

Sixthly, few new trains should be introduced to cater to the need and necessity of the passenger:

- (a) Daily service of Hazarduari Express should be introduced with its timing of departure at 5 PM at Murshidabad in down direction,
- (b) New trains are to be introduced from Howrah to Maldah at day time as thousands of people suffers for inadequacy of trains in this section.

Seventhly, the high rising platforms at platform Nos 1 & 2 of Rejinagar, Sargachhi, Bhagwangola Stations in Sealdah-Lalgola should be constructed with OVER BRIDGES in these Stations.

Eighthly, the platforms of Krishnapur Station of Sealdah-Lalgola Section should be extended.

Ninthly, proper steps should be taken and arrangement should be made for the following stations to make these model stations:—

- (i) Berhampore,
- (ii) Murshidabad, and
- (iii) Beldanga stations in Sealdah-Lalgola Section.

Both Berhampore and Murshidabad are important stations with historical legacy and tradition and thousands of tourists come over these places in season and out of season. Beldanga is important from commercial point of view apart from other things.

- (iv) Salar,
- (v) Khagraghat in BAK Loop Line.

Both these two stations are important freight earning stations.

Lastly, Murshidabad is arsenic affected zone and the curse of arsenic has been ravaging the district of Murshidabad and it has left a great impact upon social life adversely. Accordingly, arsenic free tube wells should be sunk in different stations after conducting a proper survey on this regard.

In consideration of the facts stated above I have, lastly, to appraise you that all the proposals as referred to herein above are long-felt demands of the people of the locality and they have plausible grounds to emphasize

upon implementation of their proposals as these are some sort of fundamental rights to them.

In view of the facts stated above I have to request you to apply your mind to these facts and to do the needful for the implementation of these schemes within some time-bound limit to alleviate the difficulties confronted by the people and to fulfill their grievances.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): The hon. Minister of Railways, presenting the rail budget for the year 2007 had announced that 5 main meter gauge lines, which include Udaipur, Ahmedabad, Ratlam and Khandwa also, will be converted into broad gauge during the Eleventh Plan period. No allocation was made for gauge conversion of these lines during the previous year. This year, the hon. Minister has again announced the gauge conversion of these lines. Though allocation of funds is needed to undertake the said works during the 11th plan. Yet no allocation seems to have been made in this regard.

The gauge conversion of Udaipur-Ahmedabad line can be completed by the end of the 11th Plan i.e. upto March, 2012 if an allocation of Rs.100 crore is made in the Budget 2008-09.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to his Nathdwara and Udaipur visit on 8, 9 January, 2008. During his visit he had announced that gauge conversions of Mavali-Nathdwara railway line will be started this year itself. Perhaps, since he was preoccupied with budget, he could not remember this announcement. Nathdwara is a famous pilgrim centre of lakhs of devotees of the Vaishnav sect. It is a main pilgrim centre of Lord Krishna. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to carryout gauge conversion of the Manali-Nathdwara railway line this year itself.

The survey for the Bari Sadri-Mavali gauge conversion would also be completed in the financial year 2008-09 itself.

The gauge conversion work of Mavali-Marwar Junction should be got expeditiously approved with the cooperation of the Ministry of Defence.

The announcement of upgrading Rana Pratap Nagar Station as a model station should be translated into action expeditiously.

The proposal for operating Udaipur-Ajmer Bandra train 4 days in a week from Udaipur and 3 days from Ajmer should be approved.

Udaipur-Ajmer Intercity should be extended upto Jaipur and Puja Express upto Udaipur.

Two passenger trains were in service before gauge conversion work started on the Ajmer-Udaipur route. Both these trains should be restored.

The Udaipur-Delhi Chetak Express used to run daily. In the Budget speech, it has been announced that it would run thrice a week after gauge conversion. My submission is that its frequency should not be decreased and status quo should be maintained in this regard.

Onset of development era in railways

On 15 August, 2002, the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had announced a railway development scheme with an investment of Rs. 15,000 crore. 'Rail Vikas Nigam' was also set up that year. Golden Quadrilateral Project was also launched during the NDA's regime. The augmentation of goods carrying capacity and development of the railway infrastructure was also started during the NDA rule. The present profit earning position of the railways is the result of the long term policy with regard to augmentation of passenger and freight carrying capacity evolved by the NDA Government. A marginal increase of one crore tonne of goods results in an increase of approximately Rs.800 crore in the form of freight for the railways. It is a simple arithmetic of profit in the railways. There is no jugglery in it.

Neglect of gauge conversion

During his Budget speech 2007 the hon. Minister had said that metre gauge tracks comprise 20 percent of our total railway network, whereas, it earns only one per cent of the total revenue. He said that most of the metre gauge lines will be converted into broad gauge during the 11th Plan. We are in the second year of the 11th Plan, whereas, no such efforts seem to have been made in the budget so far. During 2007-08 there was an allocation of Rs.2404 crore for this purpose. This year a provision of Rs.2489 crore has been made. It is lesser than the last year's allocation keeping the rate of inflation in mind.

*The speech was laid on the table.

[Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari]

Service Charge on E-ticketing

Issuing tickets through E-ticketing involves less expenditure for the railways than old window practice. So, there is no rationale in charging any additional charges on this account. It should be rolled-back.

Passenger fare and freight rates

It is totally untrue that passenger fares and freight charges have not been hiked for the last four years. In 2004, freight charge on certain major goods such as cement, iron-ore etc. was increased from 4 to 8%. The freight was increased, by re-categorising the goods. Similarly, majority of express trains were upgraded to super fast ones and increased fare is charged from passengers. On all 'Tatkal Tickets', fare is charged from the passengers from terminal to terminal. It is indirect hike in the fare.

The reduction in passenger fares is token reduction

The reduction of passenger fares is just token reduction and it provides no special benefit to the passengers. It is just for popularity and a publicity stunt. It would have been better for the passengers if the railways had emphasized on developing common gauge in the country, increasing passenger amenities at small stations making more coaches available, construction of road over bridges.

Railway Protection

The Rail Budget contains quite popular announcements in this regard but the financial provisions speak otherwise. During 2007-08, a provision of Rs. 6600 crore was made for the protection of railways, whereas, during current year a provision of only 6400 crore has been made for this purpose.

Dedicated Freight Corridor

During his Budget speech 2007, the hon. Minister of Railways has said that the work on the East and the West Dedicated Freight Corridors will start in 2007-08 itself. Its estimated cost was stated to be around Rs.30 thousand crore and it is scheduled to be completed during the Eleventh Plan. It is second year of the plan. The hon. Minister in his current year's Budget speech announced that the said project will be started in 2008-09 but no budgetary provision has been made for this

capital intensive project. Nor any funding pattern has been envisioned before the nation for such an important project.

A large number of announcements have been made in the Budget speech but little efforts have been made for their execution. It is just an attempt to claim credit for the surge in income of the railways, on the basis of policy evolved by the NDA Government, and to mislead the common man and so far as budgetary provisions are concerned, injustice has been done with the NDA and the BJP ruled states.

*SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, hon. Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasadji, has presented the Railways Bill for 2008-09. It took sometime for the common man and the media to understand the Railway Budget since the day it was passed. In the beginning, the budget was applauded but later on even media started exposing it when it became known as to how tricky the Railway Budget tried to woo the common man. The common man started losing interest as the budget contains lofty, attractive promises but makes a passenger lose out a lot of money, be it in the name of 'Tatkal Reservation' or Garib Rath or conversion of Mail trains into fast trains or removal of the passengers' facilities by adding an extra berth in third AC coaches. Earlier, reservation could be made 60 days in advance which has now been increased to 90 days and the period of return of money has also been kept at 90 days. Thus, the Railway Ministry can keep passengers' money with it indirectly for upto 6 months and use it the way it wishes. Concessions have been announced but for a few months only and not for the whole year. New trains have been announced but they will run after the completion of the gauge conversion work. Many railway lines were taken up for gauge conversion in the previous budget including approval for conversion from metre gauge into broad gauge of the railway line from Botad to Ahmedabad in my constituency Dhandhuka. But, no funds have been allocated for it in this budget. Thus voters of my parliamentary constituency have been befooled. Direct trains from Bhavnagar to Delhi and Mumbai had been demanded but this demand, too, has not been accepted. After many years, Veeramgaon Mehsana line was converted from metre gauge to broad gauge, but only two local trains are plying today. There is a need for an additional train from Mehsana to Veeramgaon at noon time so that the people, out of their houses since morning, can return home at noon after finishing their work. Similarly, Ahmedabad local train is being run, but it

*The speech was laid on the Table.

remains so overcrowded that it becomes impossible for the children, women and the elders to enter the coach. There is hardly any space to even put one's feet. Therefore, not only the daily passengers feel the problem but the farmers, traders, and students going to far away places for their studies also face difficulty.

My demand, therefore, is that the number of coaches should be increased in the local trains. Besides, I have always been saying that the reservation quota for the trains from Bhavnagar to Delhi and Mumbai and passing through Ahmedabad should also be increased. The quota for Delhi and Mumbai from the railway stations like Botad, Dhanduka, Dhaulka, Bawla, Sanand, Veeramgaon, Katosar etc. in particular is very less and I urge you to increase it.

Broadening of the small nullah located on the Ahmedabad-Botad route for which gauge conversion has recently been cleared should be included in the plan as in the case of the small nullah at Bawla and an RUB/ROB should be constructed at the crossing after the Dhaulka station. An RUB/ROB should be constructed at the Dhanduka Rampur level crossing. An RUB/ROB should also be constructed in Rampur. Gatekeepers should be appointed at the crossings falling under Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad divisions. Similarly, the frequency of the trains going from Ahmedabad towards Mehsana and upto Surat should be increased. The needy students should be allowed to sell items of daily needs in trains during school or college vacations.

The family members of the deceased employees of the Western Railways should be given jobs on compassionate grounds.

The increase in licence fee for ice-cream and tea trolleys and other small stalls at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Kalol, Mehsana stations etc. should be reduced and justice should be done to these small hawkers.

Lastly, I request the hon. Minister that since the Western Railways is the highest profit making zone with most of the trains running on full capacity with very few ticketless travelers, more trains should be run from Ahmedabad railway station keeping in view the profits earned by it. I request that Ahmedabad should be linked with religious places of the country like Amritsar, Haridwar, Allahabad, Rameshwaram, Guwahati, Tirupati, Jagannath Puri. A direct train from Ahmedabad to Kanyakumari should also be introduced so that the people of Gujarat

can travel from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Jagannath Puri easily as you may be aware that Gujaratis are number one in travelling within the country and abroad. As the Gujarat Government and its Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi are also number one, people from all over the country can travel to Gujarat easily to see its development.

I hope that you will accept my demands and do away with the injustice being done to Gujarat for many years.

*SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU (Chittoor): In this Railway Budget, no funds were allocated by Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav to the projects for which service were conducted. The details of such projects are :

In 2004 a survey was conducted to lay a railway line of 255.4 km. between Cuddapah and Bangalore. The estimated cost was Rs. 1000.23 crores. No funds were allocated in this Budget.

In 2004, a survey was conducted to lay new railway line of 55 kms. between Jaggaiah Peta and Vishnupuram, for which the estimated cost was Rs. 155 crores.

In 2004, a survey was conducted to lay a railway line of 87.45 kms. Between Ongole and Dhonakonda which was found to be a profitable corridor. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav did not gave his green signal to the project.

A survey was conducted in 2004 to lay a railway line of 308.7 kms between Nadikudi and Srikalahasti, for which the estimated cost was Rs. 935.02 crores. The survey was submitted to the Railway Board on 19th September, 2007, but there is no mention of this project in the new railway budget.

A survey was conducted in 2004 to lay a railway line between Bhadrachalam Road and Kovvur of 150.9 kms. Stretch. To lay a railway line of 188 kms. between Jadcherla and Nandiyal, a survey was conducted in 2005. Both these surveys were not approved.

A survey is to lay a railway line of 190 kms. between Manuguru and Ramagundum was conducted in 2005. The survey report for Bitragunta-Dhonakonda Railway Line is with the Railway Board. A survey was conducted in 2006, to lay a railway line between Kambham and Proddutur of 110 Kms. length. These surveys were totally ignored.

*English translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Telugu

[Shri D.K. Audikesavulu]

A survey is in progress to lay new lines between Kondapalli-Kothagudem, Thadikalapudi-Koyagudem collieries, Gadwal-Macherla and Gudur-Duggarajapatnam. A survey was conducted to lay third line between Markapuram Road and Srisaillam. Sri Lalu Prasad Yadav ignored these surveys as well.

Newly Introduced Trains

Sri Lalu Prasad Yadav has ignored a demand to provide additional trains between Hyderabad-Vishakapatnam and Hyderabad-Tirupati.

For Jagityal-Nizamabad railway line, the estimated cost was Rs. 300 crores, but only Rs. 15 crores were allocated.

For Mahbub Nagar-Munirabad railway line, the estimated cost was Rs. 497 crores, whereas only Rs. 50 crores were allocated.

For Gulbarga-Bidar railway line Rs. 40 crores were allocated and for Raichur-Gadwal line Rs. 25 crores were allocated.

There is no mention of other railway lines in the Budget.

Inadequate Funds for Doubling Works

In the State of Andhra Pradesh, though there is a urgent need to take up doubling works, the allocations made are inadequate. Rs. 800 crores were required to complete doubling works in A.P. But only Rs. 71.03 crores were allocated.

To double the railway line of 15.6 kms. between Kakinada and Samarlakota, an estimate of Rs. 97.61 crores was prepared. Till date, only Rs. 10 crores were spent. In this Budget Rs. 657 crores were allocated.

For doubling railway line of 115 kms. between Hospet and Guntakal, an estimate of Rs. 268 crores was prepared. Till date only Rs. 57 crores were spent and no fresh allocations were made in this Budget.

For doubling railway line between Raichur and Guntakal, an estimate of Rs. 145 crores was prepared. Till date only Rs. 507 crores were spent and no fresh allocations were made in this Budget.

For Guntur-Krishna Canal railway line only Rs. 57 crores were allocated.

For doubling railway line between Guntur and Tenali an estimate of Rs. 121 crores was prepared in 2004. This proposal is yet to get green signal.

For gauge conversion between Guntur-Guntakal and Kalluru-Dharmavaram of 470 kms. length, an expenditure of Rs. 573 crores was estimated, but only Rs. 20 crores were allocated in this Budget.

[English]

*Trains To Be Stopped At Chittoor Railway Station

Guntakal Division

South Central Railways.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Eswanthapur-Howrah | Train No: 2863 |
| Howrah-Eswanthapur | Train No: 2864 |
| 2. Madurai-Manmad | Train No: 6733 |
| Manmad-Madurai | Train No: 6734 |
| 3. Eswanthapur-Tata | Train No: 2890 |
| Tata-Eswanthapur | Train No: 2889 |

Chittoor is the District Head-Quarters locating all District Offices and two Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), MLA, Chittoor and the Deputy Speaker of APLA, Hyderabad are residing in Chittoor. In addition to this Chittoor Railway Station is situated at the fag end of Andhra Pradesh connecting both Karnataka and Tamilnadu States. Sri Kanipakam Vara Sidhi Vinayaka Swamy temple is situated at a distance of 11 Kms. from Chittoor Railway station and world famous Sri Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple, Tirumala (Tirupati) is also situated at a distance of 70 Kms. Recently Golden Temple was constructed at Tirumalakodi, Vellore, North Arcot District, Tamilnadu which is situated at a distance of 40 Kms. from Chittoor Railway Station.

Hence, there is dire necessity of stoppage of the above Express Trains at Chittoor Railway Station for the convenient of the public not only to Chittoor but also to the public of Tamilnadu and Karnataka.

Construction of Gadwal-Macherla-New line to be taken up.

Construction of ROB at L.C. No. 47, Secunderabad and Dronachalam Section at Jadcherla Railway Station may be sanctioned.*

*...This part of the speech was laid on the Table in English.

*SHRI RANEN BARMAN (Balurghat): With your due respect I want to lay the following details in respect of Railway Budget:

- i. **Balurghat to Hilly—New Line.** Hilly is International gateway for Bangladesh, so the new line will definitely give a good revenue generation to the Indian Railways and it will also give relief to the local people.
- ii. **Buniadpur to Kaliyaganj—New Line.** Now people from Kaliyaganj are travelling to Kolkata by a very long route, which also takes a long time. If this route is approved then the people of Kaliyaganj will travel at least 40 kms. less and will also save their time for travelling to Kolkata.
- iii. **Ektakhi to Balurghat—Doubling of line, signaling on all Stations and upgradation of the Stations.**
- iv. **Balurghat to Gauhati—a new Train.**

*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): The Honourable Railway minister Shri Lalu Prasad ji has created a sort of a record in the history of railways. He has presented 5th Consecutive Railway budget without increasing the railway Passengers Fare. Indian railway is earning Substantial Profits. Hence, I congratulate the honourable ministers Shri Lalu Prasadji and R. Veluji and Rathwa Ji for their great achievement. Shri Laluji has achieved several other landmarks. He has successfully banned smoking in the railway stations and in the Railway Ministry premises.

His kind attention towards passengers who are physically challenged is highly commendable. He has provided a number of facilities for the physically challenged passengers. But at the same time I would like to make a small request to the Hon'ble Minister that the concession which is being provided to the physically challenged persons is only in ordinary trains and ordinary classes. When you are extending so many facilities then why don't you wholeheartedly make the concession available to them in all trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi etc, in all classes.

The Railway minister also ensured that the present budget is women-friendly budget. The railway fare concession for Senior Women Citizens has been raised from 30 to 50% and girls and young women will be

eligible for free seasonal passes on suburban trains until their graduation. Monthly free tickets have been extended only up to Class XII. Therefore I would earnestly request you to make it upto Graduation for both boys and girls, so that there should not be any discrimination in the field of education. And while extending concessions to senior citizens, he has given 50% concession on travel to women only. But I hope his realistic wisdom and down to earth approach will make him set right the imbalance. Let the people of this country remember you not only as a record creator but also as a great HUMANIST. I hope the hon'ble minister will make a positive announcement in this regard while replying to the railway budget discussion.

The railways move of reducing the fares, announcing various other concessions is a welcome step. A 7% cut in AC-I, 4% cut in AC-II class 5% in Second Class fares and etc. is discriminatory. But I would like to make a humble submission to the hon'ble minister to make this reduced fares in reverse order. So, it would be a great benefit for the common man as most of them prefer to travel in Second Class. It would not be difficult for the Hon'ble Minister as he has great ability to feel the pulse of the common Man. Even after discounting Mr. Laluji's promises and claims, one cannot refute the fact that the railways, over the years, have been improving their performance. A lot of amenities were unthinkable even 2 decades ago. Both Mr. Lalu Prasadji, Mr. R. Veluji and Rathwaji, have certainly given the organisation an additional meaning and sense of commitment. Operationally the Indian Railways is one of the top performing organisations in the country.

Apart from the achievements Indian Railways need to pay attention towards the crucial requirement of on time service. Many a times trains just refuse to leave and once they leave they refuse to reach the destination. Apart from the Shatabdis and Rajdhanis there is literally no train worth talking about, in terms of speed and punctuality. So I hope the Hon'ble ministers Shri Laluji and Shri Veluji, are looking into the matter and take necessary action to improve the on time service.

Another point I would like to mention is that the Hon'ble Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Ji introduced the much talked train for the common man GARIB RATH in his last budget. Though it was claimed that the RATH Would give the lower strata of our society, high comfort at throw away prices the AAM AADMI TRAIN, has been a big disappointment. Late arrivals and departures has become a norm rather than an exception for this common

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

man train. To add on that the bogies are extremely congested making it difficult for the thinnest of men to sit comfortably. The much hyped AC seems to work only at will.

I would like to draw kind attention of Hon'ble Railway Ministers about the condition of second class unreserved compartments. Sir travelling in these compartments is really a hell. Its condition is very worst as against the capacity of 108 seats one can find over 250 people travelling in many popular trains. Hence I earnestly request both the Hon'ble Railway Ministers to increase no. of ordinary coaches in all the male express A passenger and fast passenger trains before introducing new GARIB RATH COACHES. With these words I once again wish to congratulate both the Hon'ble Railway Ministers Shri Lalu Prasad Ji, Shri R. Velu Ji and Rathwa Ji as they deserve credit for adding a new shining chapter to the History of Indian Railways and I conclude my speech.

*SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I table the following issues to draw the attention to Hon'ble Minister of Indian Railways for immediate redressal.

- Extension of dedicated freight corridor from Dankuni to Haldia Port.
- Construction of 2nd line from Rajagada to Haldia departmentally Kolkata Port Trust is not willing to participate in this project.
- New halt station on Panskura Haldia Line at Krishna Nagar.
- Leave crossing on Panskura Haldia Line to be manned.
- R.O.B. on Panskura Haldia line at Ranichak
- Fort Bridge at Bhagpur Station on Panskura Howrah Line
- New line from Digha to Jaleswar of Orissa
- New line from Mechada to Rajagada station
- New line from Nandakumar on Tamluk Digha line to Haldia station for circular rail
- Stoppage of Gitanjali Express, Coromondal and Falaknuma at Mechada Station.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who participated in the discussion on the Railway Budget presented for the year 2008-09, the demands for vote on account for the year 2008-09 supplementary demands for grants for the year 2007-08, demand for additional grants for the year 2005-06 and Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008. I would like to assure all the hon. Members that all of their suggestions would be considered seriously and proper action would be taken. The supplementary demand of Rs.2370 crore for the current year is being made for fuel, costs and extra expenditure under various heads, more appropriation for the payment of dividend in the Railways and for the additional amount earmarked for the current national project. The supplementary demands for grants have been presented to regulate the extra expenditure related to the year 2005-06.

Sir, submitting my clarification, I thank all the hon. Members, irrespective of their party affiliations, as they bring matters of public interest here and being a Minister of the entire Railways of the country, I try to accommodate as many people as possible. Most of the hon. Members have appreciated this historic budget which has won accolades and appreciation for India in the world.

The main newspaper of the RSS and Sangh family 'Organiser' has also accepted the reality and I thank its editor for doing so and appreciating the turnaround of the Indian Railways. But, some hon. Members of their party do criticize and their criticism for me is natural too.

Sir, I want to tell you that many hon. Members have given suggestions for providing halts. It is not a matter of budget but I invite everyone to meet me in the Railway Ministry and I would definitely have discussion on matters of public interest.

I agree that it is an election year and all of you will contest elections after one year and people of your constituency will ask whether you had raised Questions in Lok Sabha or not? Therefore, it is good that you have raised the Questions. ...(*Interruptions*) you can tell the people that you had put all the demands but what could you do if no action was taken?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have carried out work for them.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I have worked for each and every one. Sir, the financial condition of the Railways during the NDA regime is not hidden from anyone's eyes. I am not complaining, nor am I a sort of person who is always complaining. My friend hon. Lalan Singh ji is not here, he always accompanied hon. Nitishji. Sir, a committee headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan was constituted during the NDA regime. Dr. Rakesh Mohan is a renowned economist of the country and the terms of reference for his committee included suggestions for sorting out the mess into which the Indian Railways was at that time and that committee stated in its report in 2001 that the Indian Railways was debt-trapped. If the situation was not improved soon, then the government would have to pay the debt to the tune of Rs. 61,000 crore on behalf of the Indian Railways. The railways had not paid the dividend of Rs. 2823 crore in 2001-02. Hon. Member Shri Lalanji was referring to the dividend but now he is not present in the House. In fact, we have paid the outstanding dividend to the tune of Rs. 2473 crore during the last four years. Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee and my younger brother and Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumarji had submitted a status paper and he acknowledged this fact and it is no secret now. I would like to quote that with your permission.

[English]

"Until 1998-99, the Railway has been generating net surplus but owing to the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, the Railway finances have deteriorated very sharply. As a result, the IR had to defer payment of dividend partly during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02. The operating ratio has also worsened..."

[Translation]

This is a reference from the status paper. Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee had stated clearly in its report about the Indian railways that the fare would have to be increased and surcharge would have to be levied every year. The railways used to beg for money from the Government. But now the situation has changed. My friends, who call it Lalu's magic or jugglery or show-off of accounts, can go to the Reserve Bank of India and verify the fact.

Sir, people often tell me about the debt-crisis and *tatkal sewa*. *Tatkal sewa* has been in existence since long. What happened in the case of *tatkal sewa* or

surcharge, I do not want to drop names, because all my predecessors in the office are respectable for me and some of them are no more. We have not disturbed the railway system and have got the cooperation of all of you. The existing lines of the Indian railways are totally saturated and there is great congestion. We run 11000 trains. 14,000 people have been directly employed. There are 7500 stations and many more stations are being constructed. It is the same railways, same set of employees and officers. Each and every officer of the railways was scared of retrenchment. The railways is a government department. I know that everywhere in the world, be it NCR, Harvard or Ahmedabad, our children are taught that when any corporate or department runs into loss, then reduce the man-power and talk about giving it to private sector. Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee had also stated the same thing and recommended an annual increase in fare during the NDA regime and my predecessors in office followed that. There is a chart of increase in fare and I have got complete details of the accidents occurred and the loss of lives during the NDA regime.

The financial condition of the railways was not good and on the other hand people were scared of travelling in the trains due to the major accidents. The employees of the railways were apprehensive of the railways going to the private sector. 10 percent posts were abolished. Honourable Atalji was the Prime Minister at that time. He had written to every department to abolish ten percent posts. India is a country having 110 crore population. Where would the people go after being retrenched? Where would these 10 percent people go? When I took over the office, I saw all these things. I will tell you the main points. I will refer to the figures in my written statement. The manpower in the railways continued decreasing. The railways provide jobs to 14 lakh people and crores of people are indirectly benefited from the railways. Railways is the life-line. It operates 11,000 trains which carry one and a half crore passengers. I do not want to accuse any person. After all where was this income going? We have not brought this income from heaven. I have given the details of 69,000 crore rupees in the previous three or four budgets.

This year it has been 25,000 crore rupees. There is surplus income of 69,000 crore rupees after deducting all the expenses and payment of pension and dividend. We have showed this amount in expenditure column of the budget. The government had to pay 17,000 crore rupees. The bogies needed to be changed, the engine and tracks

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

needed repair and there were no funds for these things. Where was the income going? Through you, I would like to assure the House and my countrymen, that I would not let the Indian Railways, the core sector, go to the private sector. It is a golden bird. When we slashed the fare, it was said that the traders would have to be taken into confidence. If trade did not increase, only the passenger fare would not be sufficient. What is required for the people of the country, especially the poor? It is necessary to run the trains on time. Yes, I do admit, sometimes, there is delay because the railway lines are saturated and we keep on diverting the trains on these lines only, as well as we keep on repairing these lines. Whenever the signal is up at some place the train has to halt for five minutes. We are taking steps to avoid this five minutes' delay and introduce new trains. We want the sixty percent of goods, which is being transported by roads, at present, to be transported by the trains. Therefore the Prime Minister had announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort that the people would not get food from the heaven, we will get it only when we will have electricity, rail network and highways.

Sir, they started the golden quadrilateral scheme. Infrastructure is required for everything. I have acknowledged that we would make the Indian Railways, currently ranked 3rd in the world, number one in the world. We are moving forward in that direction with your cooperation and about to reach the top. We have not disturbed anything. The same quantity was transported earlier. But the freight for only 15 tonne was charged when actually 50 tonne was loaded. That is why transport sector was earning profit. We treat all the officers and employees as family members. We respect everyone. We have posted right persons at right posts. I only sign the proposals. I do not add anything on my part. All the goods trains were diverted. The trains were diverted in Kolkata. We carried out a random check of the trains and enquired about the receipts from the guard of the train. There was a sea of difference in the receipt. The mafia used to book the tickets of 'Tatkal sewa' and the passenger had to buy the tickets in black from them. The people did not get seats in the trains as the mafia groups used to buy all the tickets. So we started e-ticketing and provided this facility in post offices, banks and even in remote places so that every needy person may get a ticket. Now some people say - Lalu Prasad is a magician. Different types of stories are doing the rounds in the villages which people wouldn't appreciate here. Hence I do not want to repeat those stories. But my critics ask whether Lalu is a magician. There is a story

of magic and I remember the song "Jaadugar Salyaan Chhoro Meri Balyan, Ho Gayi Aadhi Raat, Ab Ghar Jaane Do." I say that I am not going to shirk my responsibility, I am here to stay out and am working for taking the Indian railways to new heights ...*(Interruptions)*. Hemamalini had sung this song in the movie - 'Nagin'.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): This song was picturised on Vijyantimala.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Yes, this song was sung by Vijayanti Mala. See, I was wrong, I had said that this was sung by Hemamalini and Jaiswalji has also seen this song being sung, he told that Vijayanti Mala had sung it. We have reduced the ratio of expenditure in the railways. When I took over as the Minister of Railways then 69000 crores*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record except the speech of the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I would not have said anything but students who visit from outside, who come from Harvard and Bangladesh and from all over the world ask as to what magic I have done. Now it has become history, these sources of income were already there. Now, there are trains, local trains, Passenger trains, Jan Shatabdi or Express trains and these are our earning horses. We have been putting these trains into loop line and even today, we put them into the loop line. People ask about the Dedicated Freight Corridor? The idea behind the dedicated freight corridor and our resolution to this is that the existing lines have saturated and we want to run the trains fast for which we have come up with the third line which is in the first stage right now. This was inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister and I was present there at that time. In the western corridor, Delhi to Mumbai is in the first phase and Mumbai to Chennai is in the second phase and then there is Chennai to Howrah, after which we will see the feasibility in the North. We have not delayed this and tenders have been invited for the same and in the month of May the Western Corridor is to be started. When the hon. Prime Minister of Japan visited India and our hon. Prime Minister visited their country, the Prime Minister of Japan had assured us that they would invest in the Indian Railways, in respect of the Corridors and that they would do this on the lowest rate. Today, the Prime Minister has changed but we can

not remain sitting idle. There is no shortage of funds. Till yesterday, the Indian Railways was out of the market and now everybody wants to invest in it. We have clearly decided that we are not going to bother about investment. If we get it, its fine and if not, then also we have money with us. With this money we are going to expedite the entire work and start the corridor work very soon and a tender has already been finalized for the same. The tender is going to be awarded soon. I would like to thank Mr. P. Jethmalani ji because he had told me that if I could solve the problem of human excreta on the Railway tracks, then my name will go down in history. We have made a provision of Rs.500 crore for this purpose. We have met our Scientists at Kanpur and in the coming three years we will solve this problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you visited a railway station during the tenure of the NDA government, you would have found flies all over at the stations, now we are going to clean that also. With the dedicated Freight corridor we will shift the present pressure and will shift the goods train on the double line.

Recently a meeting of the technicians of the Engineering Department from all over the country and the states was held to discuss about our existing lines. Those people who have never produced any results are blaming me that the next Minister of Railways will tear his hairout. The next Minister will not do that, in fact, on the existing lines we are spending a lot of money for making new bridges and laying new railway lines. The scientists have clearly expressed their opinion, recently a meeting was held at Vigyan Bhavan regarding maximum loading capacity. At present, when our goods trains travel 50 kilometers in an hour, the businessmen think that there goods are not reaching on time. But I would like to say that our goods trains can run at the speed of 70 kilometers per hour. Therefore, we have cleared the way for dedicated freight corridor and are taking this work further by inviting tenders. We are not dependent upon the Government of India and the Minister of Finance. We have increased the amount in yesterday's budget as well as in the today's budget so that our projects may meet with success. We take money from the Government for the national projects only. Indian Railways is an earning field. Today our estimated surplus is Rs.69 crore. I have roughly made a target that I will leave this office with a surplus of Rs. One lakh crores at the time of completing my tenure here *...(Interruptions)* and I am not going to tell as to where I will go when I come back. They will remain there only and we shall remain here

...(Interruptions) Many people talk about the Indian Railways. . *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I would like to tell those people who talk about Women Reservation that it could not be done during the tenure of the NDA Government. But, now, when our Government come to power and the elections are approaching they have started talking of Women organizations and are demanding that provision for Women reservation be made. Our Government is paying attention towards the literacy of girl child and women who are the future of our nation. The daughters of our country who are becoming graduate are unable to get proper exposure. They do not get admission in good Universities, there are no Professors and their guardians are poor. We have announced and are going to write to the Colleges of all the areas that all those girls who want to go to Colleges and Universities in big cities from small towns shall be issued free passes by the railways. Besides, the students of class 12 will also be given the same facility. For senior citizens and women we have increased the concession from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. The next time we will see that this concession is increased further for Senior Citizens. We have kept this at 5 percent for all the classes and it shall be implemented during the peak time and not during the non-peak time. They say that Lalu Yadav will implement this when new bogies are added.

14.00 hrs.

We are going to add new bogies. We have reduced the fare by 5 per cent during this financial year. If a person travels from Saharsa, Delhi and Patna to anywhere in the country like—Ludhiana, Delhi, Mumbai or Surat by the General class and if the fare for the General class is Rs.248 then with the reduction of the fare by 5 per cent, the fare would be reduced by Rs.12 or 13 for a single person and by saving this money that person can either have breakfast or a meal.

This Garib Rath is not the last. I had said earlier that all trains in the country would become fully air-conditioned in future. People do not lack money. Earlier, travel in air-conditioned trains used to cost Rs. 1500. Now it costs Rs. 500. That is why the demand for AC coaches in trains has seen a rise. But we face a shortage of factories. We have factories at Kapurthala and Channal. That is why, I have given orders for manufacturing of

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

coaches at a rapid pace so that all the State capitals in the country could be linked. I would like to provide this facility for other places also. Outsiders ask me if the railways would be able to maintain it. By this, they mean whether it would continue even after I am no longer the Railway Minister. Sir, I would like to tell you that it has all been done within rules and regulations and as I have told you, railways have a cash surplus of Rs. 23000 crore in hand after deducting all expenses. I would also like to remind you that while presenting the budget, I had invited this August House to feel free to check upon our accounts. Our achievements have been made through transparent means. All the income and receipts are directly deposited in the bank and the bank is none other than the Reserve Bank of India. Some people say that this is merely jugglery of figures on Lalu Yadav's part and he is misleading the people. But, I would like to tell you that I have not misled but ensnared the people who were in the wrong and put them in the right direction to take the Indian Railways forward...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to inform the august House that there was a time during 2001 when the retrenchment of lakhs of employees had become a distinct possibility. The earlier Minister of Railways had agreed to this step and had written to the Prime Minister in this regard. But, I did not sanction the said proposal and the affected persons were reinstated and now the backlog vacancies are also being filled up. I have taken care of the interests of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, OBCs, General classes, Urdu-speaking people in States where Urdu is recognized as a State language so that the people are assured that their interests are not harmed. All the sections of the society-forward, backward, poor, minorities, traders, labourers or coolies-have praised Indian Railways wholeheartedly. And now the Indian Railways has been praised in the editorial of the RSS mouthpiece. Now you have no excuse for ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): You should join RSS.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: There are some good people there too ...*(Interruptions)* Now you can imagine what is going to happened to you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our priority is safety and security. As I said in my speech, equipments have been installed everywhere and this work has been accorded priority. I am paying attention to these aspects.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Indian Railways have been running 23 tonnes axle load trains on KK line since 1970. A Railway Engineers Seminar was organized recently to consider the feedback received during the last three years. Scientists had deemed our decisions to be faulty but our engineers have said that the railways have taken a correct and timely decision.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, where has my friend Lalanji gone? Perhaps he has gone to give away tickets. It was pointed out that NDA Government had created a special Railway safety Fund of Rs. 17000 crore. Provision for DRF has been increased by three times in order to replace obsolete assets.

It is no longer so. We are spending Rs. 8500 crore. It was said that but we are not discussing their helplessness and failure. They might be listening to me and feeling as if they are being struck with hard blows. How can they hide their dismay! Actually I, myself used to say* and for our achievements they say...*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Railways signed an MOU with NTPC for thermal power station in Nabinagar. It was election time. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji had laid the foundation stone at Nirmali*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not present in the House.

(Translation)

He is not present in the House so please delete his name.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have only given a broad outline.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, survey for a new railway line between Jhargram-Purulia and doubling of Jeerat-Katwa railway line will be conducted and action will be initiated as per the demand of the hon. Members of West Bengal. Keeping in view the rise in traffic in the Durgapur region, a survey for the doubling of the Damodar-Mohishila railway line will be done. Action will be taken to sanction a new railway line from Prantik to Siuri and doubling of Burnpur-Asansol railway line. A consultant shall be appointed to prepare an integrated scheme for the

*Not recorded.

development of coach and freight terminal in the Kolkata region in consultation with the West Bengal Government. Feasibility survey will be carried-out for electrification of Pandabeshwar to Senthia junction and Khana junction to Rampur halt railway line ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Adhir Chowdhury, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the famous temple city Nathdwara will be linked with Mawali by broad gauge.....*(Interruptions)* Shri Rajiv Gandhi had breathed his last in Sri Perumbudur, hence survey for construction of a new railway line from Awadi to Sri Perumbudur via Thirumajhisai, Thandalam Irukatukottai will be carried-out anew and action will be taken to sanction the said line..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, not now, ask later.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You tell me, I am ready to listen to you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Later on.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, similarly further action will be taken regarding construction of a new railway line from Hisar to Sirsa via Agroha. After carrying out a survey for a new line from Gajraula to Mainpuri via Sambhal, Badayun, Etah and gauge-conversion of Pathankot-Joginder Nagar track, further action will be taken for approval thereof.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several honourable Members have expressed their doubts about gauge conversion and proposal of new trains after laying of new railway lines. People say that it will take ten years to introduce new trains after gauge-conversion at Phulvaria and other places. It is not so. Wherever 99 per cent work is completed or the work is scheduled to be completed in this April-May, new trains will be introduced. Hence, I will clear all your doubts by introducing all these trains in this very financial year after gauge conversion.

Several honourable members have demanded additional trains. EMU trains having 12 bogies instead of nine will be introduced on a few busy routes in Kolkata suburban train service in 2008-09. Keeping in view the feelings of the honourable Members, following new trains are being introduced. A shuttle train from Agra to Achnera and new train from Kanpur to Jammu Tavi will be introduced. People may go there for 'Darshan' of Maata Vaishno Devi and the people travelling in these trains must come with a clear conscience. The weekly Garib Rath from Bapudham Motihari to Delhi (Anand Vihar) will be introduced. Garib Rath running from Howrah to Puri will run two days a week. Chhapra-Gorakhpur Intercity Express, announced earlier, will run six days a week. It is a busy route. Dhanbad-Patna Intercity train will run six days a week. Kolkata Terminal Haldiwadi via New Jalpaigudi 2503-2504 will run in place of Sialdeh-New Jalpaigudi Superfast Express. A weekly express train will be introduced between Bhagalpur to Yashwantpur. I announce increase in the frequency of the following trains.

Porbandar Express from Bapudham Motihari will run twice a week instead of once a week. The train from Adarsh Nagar, Azadpur Mandi to Saharsa will run twice a week instead of once a week. The vegetable-sellers and people going to Poorvanchal will be benefited from it. Jammu Tavi Express from Rajendra Nagar will run twice a week instead of once a week.

Sir, a historic event is going to take place between India and Bangladesh. We are in favour of friendship with our neighbours. Sir, Maitri Express will be introduced between Kolkata and Dhaka to strengthen the bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh. It has been decided to introduce this train on Bengali new year i.e. the first day of Baisakhi i.e. 14th April, 2008. It will help increase the number of travellers from both the countries and the traditional relations between the two countries will be strengthened. The proposed Hajardwari Express between Kolkata and Murshidabad will run four days a week instead of once a week.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Laluji, please run this train daily.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: It's O.K., it will run daily.....*(Interruptions)* You are always lagging behind. He has got the train to run daily. This train will run on daily basis. Officers may correct it. In addition to this, a special train will be run between Vaidyanath Dham and Varanasi on the demand of pilgrims as per the

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

requirement. Ahinsa Express running between Pune and Ahmedabad will be extended to Viramal (Somnath) from where Advaniji had started his 'Yatra' ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhariji, honourable Member from Katihar, is not present today. Yesterday, he said that he is looking forward to my speech. Earlier Tata Link Express used to run between Katihar and Tata. That train was discontinued but now it will be introduced again. Additional coaches will be added to Hate bazaar Express as per the requirement. Construction work of 24 well out of 40 in respect of the bridge being constructed on Kosi river in Nirmali is going on at a full swing. Members have referred to the delay being caused in the construction of the under construction rail-cum-road bridge on the Ganges river near Dighaghat and Monger. Infact, Bihar Government had not made the total land acquired for these bridges available despite repeated requests. In addition to this, works related to diesel loco factory in Madhaura, electric loco factory in Madhepura, rail coach factory in Raibareilly and laying of new railway line and doubling of railway line were getting impeded due to delay in the land-acquisition. In view of this we have presented the Railway Amendment Bill, 2008 so that the important railway projects may be completed in a time-bound manner. We have identified the land at all the places and we will ensure that the rates of these stretches of lands do not increase.

Sir, we have an ambitious plan with regard to the eastern and western dedicated freight corridor. As I have already informed the House at the time of presenting the budget that we have got the Government's approval for construction of the corridor from Ludhiana to Dankuni near Kolkata and from Delhi to JNPT. The work of primary survey has been completed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): I had asked for Amritsar ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We have already included your demand. I have kept your demand in view. ...*(Interruptions)* We want to carry the Work further behind. ...*(Interruptions)* All the works relating to land have been completed.

Sir, I have taken cognizance of all the issues raised by the honourable Members. I invite all of you day after tomorrow. I will consider all the demands with regard to stoppages halts of trains or other minor missing links related to you. Honourable Devegowdaji has drawn my attention towards the missing link of 40 kilometres between Manglur-Hassan. We will take action after survey.

I have had always respect for you and I will continue to do so.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please consider the demand of the Kolkata metro rail workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The report regarding metro rail has been submitted and we are going through the report ...*(Interruptions)* We will consider that also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Lалуji's statement will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Speak one by one. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I had asked for making Ahmedabad a world class station ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I announce that Ahmedabad will be made a world class railway junction. ...*(Interruptions)* All the coolies are our strength. I salute all of them and I will ensure their promotion so that they may work in a better way. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.18 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish. If you have anything to say, I will consider.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You make your point after Lалуji's speech is over.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Since all the hon'ble Members have supported me, therefore, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to them. I shall now put the vote on

*Not recorded.

Account (Railways) for 2008-09, Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2007-08 and Demands for Excess Grants for 2005-06 and Appropriation Bill thereon to the vote of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would urge all the four hon'ble Members including Shri Prabodh Panda to withdraw their resolution moved for disapproval of the Railway (Amendment) Bill and I would also urge the House to pass the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2008. Most of these demands are not related to the Budget. These are routine work. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): What did he do for Azamgarh station? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Azamgarh station will be made a model station. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker Sir, now the demands be passed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. Let us see.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, there cannot be a fresh debate on this.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri H.D. Devegowda. A few hon. Members who could not participate...

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devegowda.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Sir, he has already promised. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are satisfied. That is good.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The Members who are dissatisfied can send a note. I will forward those notes to the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2008-2009 to the vote of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, the hon. Minister has assured to ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot hear anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please send a written slip.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2008-2009 to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

*Not recorded.

Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2008-09 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account Submitted to the vote of the House
1	Railway Board	22,10,17,000
2	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	80,52,83,000
3	General Superindence and Services on Railways	527,67,79,000
4	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	901,28,32,000
5	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	428,41,60,000
6	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriage and Wagons	905,89,27,000
7	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	493,08,57,000
8	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock and Equipment	673,37,70,000
9	Operating Expenses—Traffic	2381,87,62,000
10	Operating Expenses—Fuel	2278,31,54,000
11	Staff Welfare and Amenities	386,38,65,000
12	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	402,30,25,000
13.	Provident Fund Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	1617,62,48,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	4731,12,33,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	4,28,12,000
16	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	10,00,00,000
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>	
	Capital	4989,80,82,000
	Railway Funds	4339,91,67,000
	Railway Safety Fund	216,65,00,000
	Total	25390,64,73,000

The Motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)***[Translation]*SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Railways that Gandhinagar is an important station. Therefore a Garib Rath should be started from there. *...(Interruptions)*SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, respecting the demand of the hon. Member I announce in the House that a Garib Rath will be started from Gandhinagar. *...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is without my sanction. However, I allow it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-2008 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2008, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 10, 12, 14, 15 and 16."

Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Supplementary Demands for Grants submitted to the vote of the House
10	Operating Expenses—Fuel	10,59,75,000
12	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	43,57,58,000
14	Appropriation to Funds	1608,15,54,000
15	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	309,58,00,000
16	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Other Expenditure	
	Capital	365,00,00,000
	Total	2334,90,87,000

*The motion was adopted.**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2005-2006 to the vote of the House. The question is:

**Not recorded.*

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 4, 6, 10, and 16."

Demand for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2005-06 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Excess Grants submitted to the vote of the House (Rs.)
4	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	10,12,01,942
6	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	27,74,14,978
10	Operating Expenses—Fuel	95,14,29,679
16	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Capital	2184,17,21,520
	Total	2317,17,68,119

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabodh Panda, I believe that you are going to withdraw the Motion.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, this is a very important legislation. This sort of legislation has not yet been discussed in the Standing Committee or in the Consultative Committee. This legislation has been clubbed with other matters. Several other Members who participated in this debate did not even touch upon this point. But this is a very important legislation with regard to land acquisition. The National Policy with regard to Land Acquisition has been introduced in this House itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, subject to protest you withdraw.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, please let me say. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to do something for the interest of the bargadars in regard to land acquisition. Nothing is said about the bargadars. They should get at least 50 per cent of the compensation, and nothing is said about the rehabilitation. This should be incorporated in this legislation itself.

Sir, with this protest and considering the gravity of this legislation, I beg to withdraw this Statutory Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Prabodh Panda be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I am sure that your point is noted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 22.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.28 hrs.

**APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) VOTE
ON ACCOUNT BILL, 2008***

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 23.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): I resolve that beg to move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 24.

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.30 hrs.

**APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2 BILL,
2008***

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to

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[Shri Lalu Prasad]

introduce a bill to provide for authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2006 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2006 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir. I beg to move

"That the bill to provide for authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2006 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2006 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move.

'that the Bill be passed'.

Sir survey work for the railway line for which demand has been raised by Lal Singhji shall be carried out, the survey for conversion of railway line into broad gauge as demanded by Madan Lal Sharmaji shall also be carried out. Survey for all pending works shall be carried out.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to you for your taking one very correct decision of the new rail in my Constituency.

The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House shall take up Item Nos. 29 to 31 together.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, before Laluji started replying to the debate on Railway Budget we were assured that we will be allowed to speak on this issue. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Has zero hour started. *... (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No.

... (Interruptions)

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will not refer to the State. I will refer to the incident only.

MR. SPEAKER: No. This is not the time Mr. Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is nothing but an assault on democracy. So, we should be allowed to speak. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, it is enough. Now please take your seat.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: In a proper manner I will allow you. Shri Ananth Kumar to speak now on Item Nos. 29 to 31.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will not refer to the State, Sir. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House. The hon. Members who wish to go out may go out quietly.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, I have called Shri Ananth Kumar. Tomorrow I will see. Give a proper notice, we will see.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is not the way to behave in the House. Every hon. Member cannot come to the Minister. This cannot be done. I would not allow this. There is a proper place and time for everything.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation. No talk in the aisles please. You cannot discuss anything in the aisles.

14.33 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL, 2008*

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 25.

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THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move:

"that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-08 for the purposes of Railways."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-08 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, I introduce* the Bill.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 26.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-08 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-08 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move:

"that the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.35 hrs.

**KARNATAKA BUDGET (2008-2009)-
GENERAL DISCUSSION DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (KARNATAKA), 2008-2009
AND
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS (KARNATAKA), 2007-2008**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall take up Item Nos. 29 to 31 together.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue—Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 28."

Demands for Grants on account (Karnataka) for 2008-09 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. & Name of the Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3
1 Agriculture & Horticulture	770,44,37,000	11,69,63,500
2 Animal Husbandry & Fisheries	259,84,40,000	19,67,00,000
3 Finance	2664,95,36,000	5,03,32,000
4 Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms	183,43,84,500	2,50,00,000
5 Home & Transport	1046,78,11,500	174,51,56,500
6 Infrastructure Development	1,66,03,500	222,94,58,000
7 Rural Development & Panchayati Raj	880,72,83,000	794,75,55,000
8 Forest, Ecology & Environment	250,45,25,500	1,37,15,000

	1	2	3
9	Co-operation	154,79,06,500	4,00,42,500
10	Social Welfare	706,40,54,500	135,61,89,000
11	Women & Child Development	427,41,02,000	49,50,00,000
12	Information, Tourism & Youth Services	91,66,55,000	11,04,00,000
13	Food & Civil Supplies	350,20,00,500	4,00,00,000
14	Revenue	830,64,84,500	37,80,00,000
15	Information Technology	9,37,13,500	6,68,57,000
16	Housing	262,05,99,500	175,59,01,000
17	Education	4197,96,88,000	98,14,40,000
18	Commerce & Industries	677,14,55,000	65,28,50,000
19	Urban Development	2133,38,27,500	328,29,23,500
20	Public Works	788,04,68,000	847,53,19,500
21	Water Resources	157,70,79,000	2113,29,61,000
22	Health & Family Welfare	871,11,81,500	190,31,50,000
23	Labour	133,71,62,500	-
24	Energy	1043,61,77,000	209,00,00,000
25	Kannada & Culture	69,46,29,500	2,33,00,000
26	Planning, Statistics, Science & Technology	131,92,24,500	-
27	Law	130,33,27,000	-
28	Parliamentary Affairs & Legislation	32,03,36,000	-
	Total	19257,30,92,500	5510,72,13,500

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India,

out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2008, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 5 and 7 to 28."

*Supplementary-II Demands for Grants on account (Karnataka) for 2007-2008
submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. & Name of the Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1 Agriculture & Horticulture	232,28,52,000	7,60,00,000
2 Animal Husbandry & Fisheries	13,74,65,000	
3 Finance	3,53,00,000	
4 Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms	7,70,21,000	
5 Home & Transport	75,90,00,000	...
7 Rural Development & Panchayati Raj	84,74,81,000	47,28,00,000
8 Forest, Ecology & Environment	9,77,02,000	4,00,00,000
9 Co-operation	288,11,55,000	4,68,57,000
10 Social Welfare	63,24,94,000	36,25,00,000
11 Women & Child Development	2,48,70,000	...
12 Information, Tourism & Youth Services	11,84,53,000	4,73,36,000
13 Food & Civil Supplies	53,57,67,000	1,62,93,000
14 Revenue	52,69,93,000	
15 Information Technology	1,08,58,000	...
16 Housing	15,74,18,000	150,00,00,000
17 Education	151,91,32,000	3,50,00,000
18 Commerce & Industries	42,10,75,000	91,58,40,000
19 Urban Development	49,98,00,000	...
20 Public Works	11,62,98,000	563,35,45,000
21 Water Resources	43,87,20,000	602,80,65,000
22 Health & Family Welfare	50,10,18,000	115,88,00,000
23 Labour	22,63,06,000	9,86,97,000
24 Energy	150,11,50,000	126,94,00,000
25 Kannada & Culture	1,71,00,000	
26 Planning, Statistics, Science & Technology	85,60,08,000	...
27 Law	7,38,00,000	2,11,64,000
28 Parliamentary Affairs & Legislation	50,00,000	...
Total	1534,02,36,000	1772,22,97,000

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Thank you very much, Sir. I rise to state my views on the Vote on Account by the hon. Finance Minister before the hon. House. Before dealing with the vote on accounts that he has placed before the hon. House, I have a direct question to the hon. Finance Minister as well as the Leader of the House. Sir, I feel that the Congress Party, the UPA Government has once again showed its scant respect to the democratic principles. We expected that the hon. Finance Minister would be presenting a vote on account for only three months but he has presented his vote on account for six months because the President's rule was clamped on the State of Karnataka on November 28, 2007. We all know that as per the constitutional provisions, six months elapses on May 28, 2008. All the major political parties in Karnataka, especially the BJP, day in and day out pressing the hon. Election Commission as well as the UPA Government to come forth and get the mandate of the people. Actually, our sole demand is that before May 28, 2008, elections to the State of Karnataka Assembly should be held. If the intentions of the hon. Finance Minister, the hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of the House were to be very clear, they would have come forth with a vote on account only for three months. He has come with a vote on account for six months. Kal main kuch dala hai.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is, 'dal me kuch kala hai'.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Yes, dal me kuch kuch kala hai.

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking hindi like I do.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sorry, Sir. I stand corrected.

When we met the hon. Election Commission, we placed our views that the Congress Party is taking delimitation as a ruse, an excuse, to postpone the democratic process, the elections. We urged the hon. Election Commission. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jalappa, you are the next speaker.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: When we met the hon. Election Commission, we urged the Election Commission that there cannot be two types of notification for

delimitation, *de facto and de jure*—that is, on February 20, the hon. President of India gives her assent to the delimitation notification and six months later, the electoral rolls will be prepared. Afterwards, the elections will be conducted. It is a clear cut case of constitutional conspiracy by the Congress Government.

We all know in this august House that the delimitation was over by November-end only and if we remember, in the last week of November, the Union Government actually placed the notification on delimitation on the Table of the House. But I do not understand as to what is the reason and rationale for ratifying the delimitation notification by the Union Cabinet forthwith and sending it for the Presidential assent. They waited for two and a half months; they wasted two and a half months for such a simple procedure. They also know that they cannot tinker with the delimitation process. There is a *mala fide* intention in that delaying tactics. Therefore, once again I urge both the Leader of the House and the Finance Minister, at the outset, to clarify why they have not taken vote on account for only three months and why they have taken it for six months, what is their intention, whether they want to postpone the elections to the State of Karnataka beyond six months' of President's Rule and whether they want to rule from backdoor.

Actually it is unfortunate that the Governor's Rule in Karnataka is being termed by the people of Karnataka as the Congress rule through the backdoor. They are adopting this now; they did so during the Emergency between 1975 and 1977. They extended it. ... (Interruptions) It is very relevant. If the Leader of the House has something to say, I will yield and he could make his point. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): We have given an opportunity to form the Government; they were not able to do it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Why is the Minister getting up? I am not yielding. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Interruptions in the House are tolerable upto a certain extent.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Jalappaji, you will speak after him.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Actually, they do not want elections in Karnataka; they are running away from the people; they do not want a popular mandate. When the Election Commission, recently on March 4th, visited Bangaluru, Karnataka, to oversee the preparedness of the elections, we expected that the Congress Party and the UPA in general, to come forward and tell the Election Commission and the BJP ...

MR. SPEAKER: The Finance Minister is to reply. But can he deal with all these things?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The Leader of the House is also present; I am drawing his attention to this. Therefore my basic question is: why did they bring vote on account for six months and why not for three months?

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, you made your point.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Therefore, at the outset, I allege that they are undemocratic; they are running away from the elections because they know that on the first ever opportunity in Karnataka, people are going to elect BJP with full majority. ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Are you becoming the Chief Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: That is obvious!

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: In the last four years of UPA rule, they have lost State after State—they have lost Punjab; they have lost Uttarakhand; they have lost Himachal Pradesh; they have lost Gujarat; before that, they have lost Bihar and Jharkhand also; even in Jharkhand, by dubious manipulation, they have formed the UPA Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Come to the Budget now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: When I was browsing through the Vote on Account document, one glaring thing in this; I hope the hon. Finance Minister will be replying to this. In the last six months of the President's rule, there is no reasonable utilization of Plan and non-Plan expenditure. Actually the last two Budget—2006-07 and 2007-08 Budgets—were presented to Karnataka Assembly by our former Deputy Chief Minister and former

Chief Minister and then, the Finance Minister Shri Yeddurappa; he has given a popular Budget with so many pro-people initiatives, plans and projects. Every day, the UPA says 'Congress ka haath, aam aadmi ke saath'

[English]

But across the country we have other examples and one glaring example is Karnataka.

[Translation]

There the Congress sides with the haves.

[English]

It is not with *aam aadmi*. I will give one example. There is one novel project that; was unveiled by Shri Yeddurappa, Sandhya Suraksha to give Rs.400 monthly relief to all the elderly citizens. I hope you have got a great concern about elderly people. Rs.250 crores was earmarked. When I go through the details, out of these Rs.250 crores in the last six months only Rs.4 crores have been utilised. This is the way they are showing their concern to the people of Karnataka.

Secondly, in Maharashtra, there is a backward region by the name Vidharbha and Tilangana in Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, in Hyderabad-Karnataka there are Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Koppal, Bellary districts which form the part of Hyderabad region. One of the noted economists of Karnataka, Shri D.M. Nanjundappa, gave a report. To implement that Report, to bring succour to 114 backward talukas of Karnataka, Shri Yeddurappa in his Budget allocated Rs. 1,571 crore. I would like to ask a straight question to the hon. Finance Minister who has presented this Vote on Account, as to how much money has been spent on that in the last four-five months during the President's Rule. It is a pittance, Sir. Now, keeping an eye on the ensuing elections—I do not know when the elections are going to be held—he has given Rs. 2,500 crore for the same purpose. But when they have not utilised the previous amount, when they have shown huge savings on that what is the rationale of now putting Rs. 2,500 crore? I think it is done keeping in view only the ensuing elections.

In the Medium Term Fiscal Plan (for Karnataka) Document, Sir, the Finance Minister himself has applauded our efforts, the efforts of the erstwhile Government and the financial management by Shri Yeddurappa Ji. I quote:

"The state has also incurred substantial expenditure on implementing major new initiatives like the farmers' loan waiver scheme; Rs. 1,750 crore in 2006-07, 2007-08 provision of agricultural credit at subsidized interest rate of four per cent, through the cooperative credit institutions Rs. 150 crore per year, an enhancement of social security pensions to Rs. 400 per month, Rs. 700 crore in 2007-08, integrated development of 1200 villages under the Swama Gramodya Scheme has been taken up with an outlay of Rs. 1000 crore in 2006 and 2007-08."

Sir, when this has been the case in the State of Karnataka, both BJP and Shri Yeddurappa *per se* have fulfilled their promises to the farmers of Karnataka by waiving the loans of all the farmers not only small and marginal farmers and providing Rs. 1,750 crore in the Budget and providing money for the cooperative societies also.

The other day we were going through the details of the hon. Finance Minister's loan waiver scheme. We thought that the hon. Prime Minister will be replying to the hon. Leader of the Opposition's queries regarding this. We once again want to ask where is the provisioning for Rs. 60,000 crore. Where from that money is going to come?

MR. SPEAKER: That will come in the debate on main Budget.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it is their duty to answer to the people of the country. They cannot take farmers for a ride. We are very much a part of the country. There are farmers who have taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Have patience for three days.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask for the Karnataka segment.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Secondly, there have been continuous mention in the hon. Finance Minister's Union Budget regarding M.S. Swaminathan Committee Report as well as Radhakrishnan Committee Report on farmers indebtedness. We have been demanding that the agricultural loan interest rates be reduced to 4 per cent and that has been the recommendation also. We have shown the path to the entire country. I really applaud and compliment my colleague, Shri B.S. Yeddurappa for giving the loan waiver and also for 4 per cent interest

rate. But I fail to understand when this so called package of Rs. 60,000 crore has been given to the farmers and if that money is not provided for, what will happen to the farmers for the fresh crop loans from July 1st onwards. They will again be in that vicious circle and again the spate of suicides may continue. What about reduction of interest rates? We reduced the interest rates from 7 per cent to 6 per cent and from 6 per cent to 4 per cent. How come Chidambaramji who is speaking about the farmers has not reduced the interest rate to 4 per cent? I do not know whether I should thank him as the 4 per cent interest rate as provided by Shri Yeddurappa of Bhartiya Janata Party, has been continued in this Vote on Account also. It has not been emulated on the national scene. If I go to the other parts of the Vote on Account, actually during our period, we provided in our Budget Rs. 1 crore for MLAs Fund. Karnataka is a huge State and it is having 224 MLAs.

MR. SPEAKER: You have got many other speakers from your Party.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I will take only five more minutes.

Sir, there is MPLAD Scheme which is operating under your leadership throughout the country. Every Legislature wants to emulate this model Scheme. Therefore, in Karnataka also, in our coalition Government's budget we came out with a parallel to MPLAD Scheme that is giving Rs. 1 crore to each MLA for his area development. But alas in Chidambaramji's Karnataka Budget, he has totally forgotten people's representatives because the Governor's Rule and bureaucracy is heavy on his mind.

MR. SPEAKER: Are MLAs still there?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the MLAs are going to come. The Legislative Council is still existing. If they have got good intentions and no *mala fide* intentions, the elections will be conducted in the next 60 days and new popular Government led by Bhartiya Janata Party is going to come. There will be 224 MLAs... *(Interruptions)*. If the Congress Party is having any opposition to this, they should register their opposition. I will yield to them. We are demanding the MLAs Fund and if they want to oppose it, they should come forward.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made very good points. Now please conclude.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I have just made two points. We urge that the MLAs Fund of Rs. 1 crore per MLA should be included. I just want to read yesterday's headlines of the Bangalore newspapers. I am reading one headline from the *New Indian Express* published on 11.03.2008 saying: 'Chidambaram disappoints Bangalore'. In *Deccan Herald* there is another headline saying:

'Budget gives city a raw deal, infrastructure funds cut'.

MR. SPEAKER: You should feel happy.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, we are very unhappy because ultimately we feel he has been a friend for the last one and half decades. We feel that he is a progressive man. He also recognises Bangalore as an emerging city and a knowledge city of the future. We all know it is the IT capital of the country. If something is choking the city, it is the traffic congestion and the lack of proper infrastructure despite our efforts. There is a new international airport coming up in the city. It is the first ever Greenfield airport in the country. We wanted a high speed rail connecting the airport. In spite of a request being made by the State Administration for a sum of Rs. 93 crore, a paltry sum of Rs. 5 crore has been allocated for this purpose by the hon. Finance Minister. This airport is going to be inaugurated by the end of this month. I am really surprised at the kind of step-motherly treatment being meted out to the State by this UPA Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. Your other colleagues would not get time.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I would like to read out from a document given by Shri Chidambaram himself. It says and I quote:

"The mid-year position of receipts of grant-in-aid and contribution from the Government of India was 565.88 crore against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 5913.80 crore for the year. The anticipated shortfall in receipts projected for JNURM, urban infrastructure for development of small and medium town schemes and the centrally-sponsored schemes for rejuvenation of tanks was the main reason for Centre's grant-in-aid for State being reduced in the mid-year's estimate. Reduction in grant-in-aid and contribution from Central Government for the year is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 394 crore only. The net effect of the short-fall in the receipts from grant-in-aid and contribution from Government of India deviations."

Whatever money has been sanctioned in the Budget of the Central Government to various projects to help the

State Government, everything has dwindled. I would like to repeat that whatever money that should flow to the State of Karnataka through various projects, especially the Centrally-sponsored schemes have dwindled. All have become half-way. I would like to have an explanation from the hon. Finance Minister about this. Why are the people of Karnataka being neglected? Why is such a step-motherly treatment being meted out to the State of Karnataka? Therefore, I do not want that they should indulge in jugglery of numbers. They should come out clean. The Government should say, 'look, this was the allocation through CSS; this was the allocation for various urban renewal infrastructure scheme and we have fully met them.' I want to say that because of the efforts and performance of the hon. Finance Minister during the last two years, the State of Karnataka is witnessing financial buoyancy, especially in revenue and in tax collection. The hon. Finance Minister knows it well. When he came there and visited the Vidhan Soudha, he complimented our coalition Government for its efficient fiscal management and he also complimented the State of Karnataka for the kind of financial buoyancy that it was witnessing. When that is the case, when our revenues are so high, why should money not be ploughed back for the development of the State? That is the basic question.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry to say that no other hon. Member from your Party will get any more time.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I would like to make one more major issue. There is one important special purpose vehicle in the State of Karnataka, known as the K-Ride during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led NDA Government. There was an MoU signed between the then Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar and the then Chief Minister of Karnataka. We came out with a Special Purpose Vehicle by the name K-Ride.

15.00 hrs.

The Government of Karnataka will contribute some amount for it. The Government of India and the Ministry of Railways will also contribute some amount and they will push through various projects of Karnataka.

Sir, various railway projects were started in Karnataka like Mangalore-Hassan, Bangalore-Mysore-Tumkur, Bidar-Gulbarga and Hubli-Ankola. These include gauge conversion, doubling of lines, automatic signalling and electrification. All these have come to a standstill because of this Vote on Account. They have not given any meaning

for the K-Ride scheme. I want the hon. Finance Minister, when he would give the reply, to throw some light on the neglect of the railway projects of Karnataka. The same is the case with the irrigation projects. This is the last point which I would be touching.

As regards irrigation projects, the Damocles' Sword is always hanging on our heads. That Damocles' Sword is the dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu regarding the sharing of Cauvery water. Recently, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Karunanidhi, *(Interruptions)** ... came into Karnataka border. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not mention that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It has been deleted. Please delete this word.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, how can he say like that? He is the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you cannot make such a reference. You know it very well.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It has been expunged. It has been deleted.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot mention that in respect of a Chief Minister of a State.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnaswamy, please go back to your seat. I am telling you that I have expunged it. That means it is not permissible. So, I have expunged it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I would like to conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You were mentioning good points. Why are you getting into conflicts?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, actually, there is a beautiful place called Hogenakal. It is part and parcel of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: No, Sir. It is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, can I not say this much also? According to the earlier Madras Presidency topography map also, Hogenakal is part and parcel of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is his contention. You may deny it. He is not a representative of the States Reorganisation Commission.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: You are giving wrong information. I am giving you the correct information. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you have travelled a long way from Karnataka Budget discussion. Please speak on the Budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: His point is not final.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, let them dispute. ...*(Interruptions)* But it is an undisputed point that Hogenakal is part and parcel of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not divide this country for heaven's sake.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Somebody will decide it one day but not in this fashion. I am not admitting it. Whatever he says is not binding on you. You cannot go on

protesting now. When you get your chance to speak, you may say it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA (Kanakapura): Sir, let me make one point here. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I yield to her, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting her.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh being in the Congress Party is supporting us. I welcome it. I want Shri Chidambaram to recognize this support from the Congress Party. We are all one on this issue. ...(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed. Anybody speaking without my consent will not be recorded at all.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I hope that Shri Deve Gowda also supports us on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jalappa to take the floor.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I have not concluded. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnaswamy, this is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Hogenakal is part and parcel of Karnataka. Recently a project worth Rs. 1,350 crore for drinking water and power generation was started. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you are travelling far away from the Budget.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: This project was unveiled to supply drinking water to Dharmapuri and other districts. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you are bringing in inter- State matters.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is ...*

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That word is deleted.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jalappa to take the floor of the House. Nothing more of Shri Ananth Kumar will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

15.06 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri A. Krishnaswamy and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER: I will now put the Karnataka Budget to the vote of the House and get it passed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Karnataka Budget to the vote of the House. No further discussion will be allowed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

15.07 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri A. Krishnaswamy, Shri Pralhad Joshi and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall put it to the vote of the House.

... *(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to behave in the Parliament of India.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, your time is over. I would not allow. No more time for you.

... *(Interruptions)*

15.09 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri A. Krishnaswamy, Shri Pralhad Joshi and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you have exhausted the entire time of your party.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: No. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of "no". You cannot challenge my decision.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you have taken more time than what was allotted to the entire party. I have been requesting you so many times to conclude. You are bringing in controversial matters, making allegations against the Chief Minister, which is not permitted.

Now, you make your last sentence and conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have sufficiently created uproar here.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the Central Water Commission should step in. How can the Central Water Commission keep quiet? How can the UPA Government keep quiet? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This has got nothing to do with the Budget. You have said that. You cannot go on repeating that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Jalappa. Only Shri Jalappa's statement will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you have exhausted your time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, the exercise done by Shri P. Chidambaram of extending the Vote on Account for six months is totally undemocratic. It is against the principles of democracy. The Government should have done it only for three months. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have said that. Thank you.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Budget. Before I come to the Karnataka Budget, I want to express myself about what Shri Ananth Kumar has said.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is becoming an uncertain place. Is it a debating place, discussion place or what it is?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Shri Ananth Kumar unnecessarily dragged a name. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will everything be decided on the power of decibels, on the shouting power?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Shri Ananth Kumar unnecessarily dragged the name of the Congress Party. He was behaving as if we have snatched something away from his Party. He is known for his surreptitious way of

taking away the time of this House. Also, he surreptitiously joined hands with Shri Kumarasamy and took over the reins of Government. They are power hungry now. They have seen the power for a few months. Now, they know what is power. So, they want to get back power as early as possible, in any manner, whether joining with anybody or doing any* surreptitious things. Shri Ananth Kumar, I am very sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That word will be deleted.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Shri Ananth Kumar, you have no business to do that. The Congress Party is not afraid of going to polls. We are a 123-year-old Party. ...*(Interruptions)* We need not bother about these people. We will never bother about these people. Shri Ananth Kumar, why are you unnecessarily raking your brains? Please keep quiet for some time. We will face you on the field. Come to the battle field.

MR. SPEAKER: "Come on" not here!

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: They are running away from elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: It is not I who am doing that. Sir, when they went back on their word, when the power was not transferred by Shri Kumarasamy, they went to Tumkur. After hearing that Kumarasamy will give back power to him, Shri Yediyurappa ran away to Bangalore.. They were offered something. They ran away from that place once again. Everybody knows about it. They were in Shimoga. I can tell you that some offer was made by Shri Kumarasamy. Immediately, they left the meeting. They ran away to Bangalore. Shri Yediyurappa is a close friend who has not liked this gentleman. That is a different thing.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the Karnataka Assembly. This is not your meeting, either.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I will stop that at this. I am happy.

MR. SPEAKER: He has admitted that he is his close friend.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Who?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yediyurappa. He has admitted that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have admitted it. I have complimented him as one of the best Finance Ministers of Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: He says you are not friendly towards that gentleman.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough humour now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Shri Ananth Kumar, will you kindly allow me to speak? I am happy. I congratulate the Governor who is ruling the State on behalf of the hon. President of India. The Government has given a good Budget to the people. I also thank the officers who have supported him.

The State Plan outlay is about Rs. 21,751 crore which is 12 per cent over and above the last year's State Plan. It is clearly a welcome gesture. The revenue receipts have gone up this time. The Government of India is granting money under grant-in-aid. All this comes to Rs. 12,811 crore. It is a very good and welcome gesture. The revenue receipts are expected to be Rs. 46,180 crore. For the fourth time, we have got revenue surplus in our State. It shows the healthy economic position of our State.

There was a Committee appointed by the previous Government for removal of regional imbalances and that Committee was headed by Dr. Nanjundappa. In his Report, he had stated that 114 taluks were below the average growth and they were suffering too much. So, an amount of Rs. 2,459 crore is now given for the development of those 114 taluks which is a very good gesture and I thank the Government on behalf of the people of those 114 taluks. This amount is given over above and what Shri Yediyurappa had given earlier.

Secondly, for agriculture and horticulture, an allocation of Rs. 249 crore has been made which is more than the

*Not recorded.

previous year's allocation. My request to the Government is to see that the agriculturists are helped to the maximum extent and they should see that whatever seeds and other things are supplied to them are of the best quality. Otherwise they will be in trouble. Shri Chidambaram has announced a big bonanza of loan waiver scheme for the farmers of our country in his Budget. So, we must see that agriculturists are kept in good humour and we must see that they do not suffer losses.

Thirdly, for fisheries and animal husbandry, an amount of Rs. 62 crore more, has been given this year which is more than the previous year's outlay. The farmers who have taken up dairying are subjected to income tax now. This is not fair and I would request the Government that dairying should not be taxed. This is my special request to Shri Chidambaram.

Then, I am very happy that an amount of Rs. 1,588 crore in excess has been provided than last year for education, irrigation and infrastructure which are very important for the country's development. So, our Government have given Rs. 1,588 crore for education for which I thank the Government.

For health and medical education, an amount of Rs. 253 crore more has been provided than last year's allocation. Health is very important. Even now in many of the hospitals in the villages, there is no proper medical care for the poor people. The rich people have got many good hospitals in towns and will go and take medical treatment from such expensive hospitals. But it is our duty to see that in the villages, for the *aam aadmi*, proper healthcare is provided at their doorstep. We must ensure that they get proper healthcare and I thank the Government for allocating more money for this.

Sir, it has been stated that they have started six new medical colleges. I am very happy that they have started them. What about infrastructure? There is no sufficient teaching staff. If MCI goes there and find out the position, probably they may not give more than 50 seats each. So, the Government has enhanced the salaries also just to attract the faculty members from other colleges. In spite of that sufficient teachers are not there. They somehow manage to get the teaching staff. My intention is to see that the medical colleges produce doctors and not butchers. This has to be kept in mind by the Government of Karnataka.

Secondly, for SC/STs and OBCs, they have increased

Rs.259 crore. It is very good and for SC/STs, it is all right. But for OBCs whatever is being given in the State is very less. So, more funds have to be provided for the empowerment of the backward classes.

Unfortunately, the same thing is in the Central Budget also. If I am given an opportunity, I will just bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister about the insufficient money that is provided to the OBCs in the Central Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Central Budget discussion will start tomorrow. Please restrict to Karnataka.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, for the development of women and children they have provided some funds. Rural Development is also good. They have provided Rs.286 crore more. PWD and infrastructure is also good.

Now, I come to Shri Ananth Kumar. He was boasting that his Party men have done so many things, and that he had offered heavens to Karnataka people. I would like to inform the House that that was a black period for Karnataka State.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Will he explain that?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I will explain. In my constituency, there are eight segments. In Hassan also, there are eight segments. What is the amount allotted for roads and buildings of these constituencies?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, Hassan is the constituency of Shri Devegowda.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: He had helped them to come to power, that is why they had given more funds. Does he mean to say that? If he is coming out plainly, I will accept it.

Sir, works of Rs. 1007 crore have been taken up in that constituency, whereas in my constituency, works of Rs. 371 crore have been taken up. Out of these eight segments, five are from Congress, two are from their Party and one is from CPI(M). For all those three segments, they have given sufficient money and for us no money was given. Only a pittance was given to us. Is this the reason that the taxpayer is contributing to the Consolidated Fund of Karnataka? Is this the reason that the Government of India is giving us grants and other things? About 55 per cent of the income from direct and indirect taxes is being flowed to the States. Is this money to be used for their selfish ends?

[Shri R.L Jalappa]

They have created one corporation named KRDCCL, that is, Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited. This is another surreptitious way to borrow money from the institutions and to spend for the development of their own segments, their own constituencies. They have given Rs.37 crore for the eight segments here and for one segment they have spent Rs. 450 crore. From the Karnataka Rural Development Corporation Limited, Holenarsipur has taken Rs. 60 crore and Ramnagar has taken Rs. 60 crore. In other segments from where their MLAs are elected belong to JD (S), some people have got the money; some people have not been given the money for developments. But the BJP got the money for all the segments. This amount has to be repaid by the Consolidated Funds of the State, by the tax-payers' money. This is being discharged. Why the other segments should not be encouraged? This is very bad. This is how the BJP has ruled for 20 months. That is why I call it as a black period.

The Department has borrowed about Rs. 170 crore for Hassan Constituency from KRDCCL and only Rs. 17 crore have been provided to my constituency. Mr. Yedurappa, this has been granted somehow to become the Chief Minister.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what Shri Jalappa is saying is right; his questions are right; but his address is wrong. He should address all these things to Devegowda ji and his son, and not to Bharatiya Janata Party.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Who was the Finance Minister, Mr. Devegowda?

MR. SPEAKER: He is admitting the facts you have mentioned.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I have obtained all the information from Karnataka Government under the Right to Information Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jalappa, you have made very good points. Now your other Members are also there to speak.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: For housing and urban development, they have provided Rs. 119 crore more than last year. I am sorry, this is only to complete the incomplete houses. Not a single rupee is given for the new houses. Even after sixty years, are we not ashamed

to find huts in the villages? Especially when these people were in the Government, they never bothered about providing houses to the poor people. No houses were completed during their time. Everybody is suffering. This is the actual figure that I am giving you. No hulla gulla, nothing and you have got a good throat to shout but this is a fact.

MR. SPEAKER: He is a younger throat!

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: For transport, they have allocated nearly Rs. 117 crore more. For industries also, they have announced, Rs. 163 crore more. But I would request the Government to enhance it at least by Rs. 100 crore more.

For the amelioration of the backward classes, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Minorities, they have provided Rs. 259 crore more.

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken 20 minutes.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, another thing is this. We had already requested the Government to enhance the Ashraya Funds to be given to the houseless people from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 30,000. I was told that the Governor has already taken a decision but it is not reflected in the Budget. If he has not taken any decision, I would request the Government to enhance it to Rs. 30,000. Sir, Rs. 30,000 is nothing. We are getting Rs. 42,000 per month. To construct the house, you should give them a pittance of Rs. 30,000. It must be provided. More funds must be provided to them.

Sir, a sum of Rs. 187 crore has been provided to Scheduled Castes, and a sum of Rs. 225 crore has been provided to Scheduled Tribes. This is a very good thing. It is for the first time that so much of funds are being provided to SCs and STs.

I am very happy that they have provided a lot of money to drip irrigation. But the point is that the material that is being supplied by the suppliers in many cases is very inferior. I had spoken about this previously. Why do we not standardize the material? It should be one and the same from Himalayas to Kanyakumari. Can we not do that? Sir, I had been to Russia and I went to some shops for purchase. The prices which were quoted in Stalingrad were the same in Leningrad and in Moscow. So, that type of standardization must be done here. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into these things.

As regards four per cent interest and all that, about which they are boasting and saying that Shri Yeddurappa did it, I would like to say that in 1983 I was the first person to rationalize it. At that time, the farmers became defaulters because there was drought for three years continuously and the banks were not functioning. I said: "You return the principal. The interest and penal interest will be waived off." So, I did it. And as regards those people who had borrowed money for digging wells for irrigation and whose wells have failed, I told them that the principal and interest would be waived off. I had done that. So, this is not the first time that they are doing. I had already done it and they have copied me. That is all. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They are very good *shishyas* and good *chellas*.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, I had declared that six per cent interest would only be charged to those who borrowed and repaid the loan in time. This is what I had done. I would request that the same thing should be done now. Further I would like to point out that the four per cent interest, which Shri Dharam Singh's Government has done, is already in vogue now, and it is not withdrawn. This is for the information of Shri Ananth Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore): Sir, he should not mislead the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Jalappa's statement will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jalappa, you please conclude now. Please leave something for your colleagues.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What you are saying is not being recorded. Please do not do that.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he should not mislead the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody should mislead the House. Please sit down.

*Not recorded.

Shri Jalappa, please conclude now.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, he is thinking that he is going to be the Chief Minister, and that is why he said about these things, which we can understand. It is not out of the sympathy towards the farmers he is saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The ambition is good.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, there are no better roads to travel. There are no buses to go to the villages. Even cars will not be able to go there. They must go and see the villages. Sir, he is living in the city and so, he cannot understand. That is the problem.

Sir, it is difficult to travel from my house to airport. It is about eight to ten kilometres. It will take one hour and thirty minutes to reach airport. That is the position in the city. The Government has to spend more money now. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you so touchy?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, it is because of our rule for 30 years, the city has become beautiful. Anybody who comes from outside wants to go to Bangalore and then only to Delhi, and it is because of us and not because of them. They were there only for 20 months, and they think that they have done everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the problem. This is not the Karnataka election meeting.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, the Government must enhance the housing allocations. For the green houses also, they must enhance the amount from Rs.25,000 to Rs. 30,000 per house.

With these few words, I thank the Government for having given us the very good budget here.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri P. Karunakaran. You have got 10 minutes. You please conclude your speech within those 10 minutes.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, my Constituency is bordering Karnataka, so, I have the right to speak on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: There is some fallout there also!

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I fully support the Karnataka Budget presented by our hon. Finance Minister. We have the rare occasion to discuss the State Budget in Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not desirable also.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Yes, Sir.

It shows that our Finance Minister is compelled to present this Budget because there is no House in Karnataka. The experiences of democracy in various States give good lessons to our political parties. After the last Assembly elections in Karnataka, there was a Government of JD(S) and Congress combine. But it lasted only for a short period of time. I do not want to go into the details as to why that Government got destabilized. Then, the honeymoon began with the JD(S) and the BJP. It is sorry to state that that honeymoon also did not last long.

Why did this happen? The uncertainty is still there in Karnataka. You may blame the JD(S) or the Congress may blame the JD(S), but who are the real sufferers? The real sufferers are the people of Karnataka... (Interruptions) You are not going to get it because your approach in regard to the national issues and various other issues is such that the people are going to teach you many things.

Sir, I do not want to go into the every details. But I think that the Congress has to learn and study from those experiences. We want that there should be a secular Government in Karnataka. Why the JD(S) went with the BJP, and why the BJP went with its illegal affairs with the JD(S) is not yet clear now. It is only the self-interest and the power-sharing. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: It is nothing else but only *Not recorded*

MR. SPEAKER: That will be deleted from the records.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, we have already pointed out this. What he has said earlier has been proven true.

Coming to the Karnataka Budget, I would like to make only two or three points. Sixty per cent people of Karnataka are dependent on agriculture. The annual growth rate of agriculture in the State has fallen from 3.9 per cent in 1995 to 0.9 per cent in 2006. It is true that in many of the States, it is the agricultural sector, which has suffered the most because of various reasons.

Sir, about 14 per cent of the budgetary expenditure was spent for the year 2007-08. But at the same time, there seems to be no tangible result for removing the distress of the people. The main issue is that only 23 lakh farmers out of 79 lakh farmers in the State receive institutional credit from agriculture. The small farmers are largely left out from the institutional credit. There are 2,800 Rural Bank Branches in the State. The Cooperative Rural Banks and the Scheduled Banks together should be able to raise the coverage of the farmers from the present 23 lakh to, at least, double this number.

15.39 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Sir, without giving much attention to the agricultural sector, it is really impossible for Karnataka to give relief to their farmers; to get the better production; and also to have better results with regard to this scheme.

Sir, there are two more issues, which I would like to highlight. As the hon. Member, Shri Ananth Kumar very rightly said, it is good that there is an international airport in Bangalore.

Sir, Bangalore is the best city as far as our country is concerned. It is said that the people from other parts of the country also go to Bangalore because of its weather. So, the new Greenfield airport should be welcomed. It is already constructed. We have got the invitation also for the inauguration.

At the same time, among 126 airports of the country, the employees of the Airport Authority are going on a non-cooperation strike from today onwards.

These unions have approached the Government. They are not against the new airport, the Greenfield airport. But, at the same time, both the Bangalore and Hyderabad airports have got a very long history. Large numbers of problems are there. The traders and also other persons have all come together. So, the Government should not

take have any intention against the new airport; but, at the same time, the present Bangalore airport can be used for the domestic purposes and for other uses. Otherwise, it would become more difficult. So, that issue has to be taken seriously by the Government.

The second issue is with regard to Tulu language. Kerala Government has formed a Tulu Academy. We have invited the Karnataka leaders also to participate in that function. I think there are such academies in Karnataka also. But you see that there are about 15 lakh people speaking Tulu language in Kerala as well as in Karnataka. I am coming from Kasargod. A good number of people in Karnataka are speaking Tulu. It is a demand from the people. The Tulu language has no script. But it is developing now. The demand is that this language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I think all the sections of the people either from the Treasury Benches or the Opposition benches will fully agree with this. This is the demand that they have been raising for a long time. I do not know whether Karnataka Government, either that of the Congress or the JD(S) or the BJP, has raised this issue. I do not know it.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: We have also placed that matter before the Central Government. But no action has been taken. Just like Kodava and Konkani languages we have also raised about Tulu.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I participated in a big gathering in Karnataka and also in Bediyuraka, that is in Kasargod. All the Parties demanded it. I would request the Government to consider this because there are a number of languages which have been included in the Eighth Schedule. This language has got such a great tradition and really a number of scholars and Ph.D. degree holders and other artists have asked for it which we can see. I would request that this also has to be taken up.

Sir, the other two issues that I want to mention are these. Being the border State, there should be some understanding and interaction between Karnataka and the State of Kerala. As you can see that in the Railway Budget we have proposed, a new railway line that is between Kanangad and Kannanur and Kaniyur. I propose to extend it to Subrahmanyam. In Kerala, especially in the northern parts, that is a tourist destination. Subrahmanyam is also a pilgrim destination. There is no route to reach this place either by road or by other ways.

Of course, in this you should get the assistance of Karnataka. It can be from either the Treasury Benches or the Opposition Benches, whatever you are going to do.

Like that, there should be some services in the roadside also. There are forests in the two States. When we go either by road or by the Railways, these forests become a big problem. We can reduce the distance from Kerala or from Kannanur or Kasargod to go to Karnataka. When we go through Kananur it takes about 800 kilometres. When we go via Mangalore it takes about 500 kilometres. But when we go through this line, it would take only 172 kilometres. The two State Governments should take an active interest. It is not only for the State of Kerala or the State of Karnataka but there may be people who go to Subrahmanyam or the Bekkal tourist centre or to any other places for whom it would be beneficial.

These issues also should be taken care of. With these three issues, I once again support this Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar—not present.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN (Trichur): Sir, I support this Budget. It is due to some very unfortunate political developments that took place in Karnataka that the Budget of Karnataka is introduced in Parliament. When I say the unfortunate political incidents that took place in Karnataka, it actually brings shame on our politics because the parties which were elected by the people and came to power as a coalition, they broke the coalition not after any new development that took place where the people wanted the coalition to break. It was unadulterated defection, organising defection and it was 'Aya Ram gaya Ram' kind of politics that brought Karnataka into this plight. When we are discussing this Budget today, it is a compulsion. As the hon. Speaker pointed out, we wish that we will not get any more opportunity to discuss Karnataka Budget in Parliament.

When I look at Karnataka, it is a beautiful State with lot of developments having taken place, but as my friend just now mentioned, Karnataka has become a State like many other States where a large number of suicides of peasantry have taken place. It is unfortunate that it takes place in Kerala also. All the measures taken by the Government so far could not put an end to this. So, when Karnataka Budget is now being discussed, it seems

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

that agriculture is not given the attention that it deserves. So, some special attention should be given to problems of agriculture in that State so that at least these suicides of peasants taking place in that State could be put an end to.

Then, Sir, there are infrastructural developments that are required. I think, Karnataka has a huge potential of tourism development. Probably it is as beautiful as Kerala is. It is a kind of extension—either Karnataka is extended to Kerala or Kerala is extended to Karnataka. But I find that it is unfortunate that this aspect of development of tourism has not been given any importance by the Governments which have so far ruled in Karnataka or now, by the Centre. So, at least, whoever comes to power in future—everybody is wishing to come to power—this aspect of tourism should be given a special interest so that it will bring a lot of benefit to the people of Karnataka.

Now I do not want to take much of your time. You are also getting restive. I wish Karnataka people well. I wish that after the election, which will come very soon, a secular and democratic Government will come in Karnataka. I hope, the political parties in Karnataka will behave in a more mature fashion rather than the fashion in which they have behaved in the past.

Sir, it was a shameful thing that in a very educated State like yours, MLAs were paraded and brought to the resorts of Kerala in herds and kept there. That kind of unfortunate thing should not happen in future. So, I wish the State well and hope that the people will do well by selecting a secular and democratic Government in Karnataka in future.

With these words, I support the Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is Shri D. V. Sadanand Gowda. We are mainly discussing about the Vote on Account. Hence, I expect that you would be brief while making your speech, and try to conclude quickly.

[Translation]

*SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore) : Sir, I would like to speak elaborately in Kannada. We have been demanding classical status for Kannada language for the last four years, but it has not been accorded that status so far. People of this great nation should understand the importance and the richness of the

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Kannada language. That is the reason why I am speaking in Kannada, otherwise I am not against English or Hindi. The Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram ji knows Kannada. He can understand my Kannada speech. People of entire Karnataka have demanding classical status for Kannada language in one voice. Similarly, as it has been raised by the Hon'ble Member Shri. Karunakaran, who belongs to my neighbouring state Kerala, Tulu language should be included in the Eight Schedule of the constitution of India. It is a long pending issue before the centre. It is a very genuine demand. We have personally met the Hon'ble Prime Minister, discussed this issue, and requested him to take immediate necessary steps in this regard.

I would say that this vote on account should not have been discussed in this august House. It is an example of how cannot expect a popular Budget when there is no elected Government. This Budget is neither pro-people nor pro-farmers. No new schemes, programmes have been announced. I would only say that this Budget has retained all the welfare programme of the popular Budget introduced by the former Finance Minister of Karnataka Shri B.S.Yeddyurappa during previous Government. It is merely continuation of the previous Government's Budget.

I am of the opinion that every Budget which is presented by the Finance Minister should have some new initiatives to mete out the day-to-day needs of the people. A Budget should give priority to tackle emerging problems of the current year. But this Budget has no such proposals, no new initiatives, because this Budget was prepared by the officers. They can give only statistics. They are not aware of the problems of the common people. Therefore, I would like to make it clear that new programmes and new initiative should be there in the Budget. I do not know whether you are setting my point or not. Practically, what I am telling you is when there is no elected Government and no people's representatives, such things will happen. The officers are not aware of the needs of the people. They are not aware of the particular's, what should be included in the Budget etc. They will only depend on their knowledge required in the Air Conditioned rooms and only those matters come into Budget. That is what I am telling you. You could not come out with a popular Budget. You are not according the classical status to Kannada language. What happened to you, I am speaking in Kannada to impress upon you to accord classical status to Kannada language. There are agitations, protests are being staged by the people

of Karnataka demanding the classical status to Kannada language. But you have no respect for Karnataka and the people of Karnataka. You are insulting the Kannada people. It is not fair. I am telling all these things because Shri P.Chidambaram ji knows Kannada very well as he hails from neighbouring state Tamil Nadu. He can understand the sentiments and feelings of the people of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: I don't want to learn anything from you. I know there is an interior. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Member, you address the Chair, otherwise you will go away from the topic, if you look there.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: I will look at you Sir, I am very happy to look at you as you are helping a lot of youngsters like me. That is why I am addressing you only Sir.

[Translation]

*If a Budget prepared by the team of a officers, who have no concerns of the common people, and are not aware of the pulse of the common people, that would only remain confined to statistics. The present Budget is a very good example of such Budget. As it has been said by the Hon'ble Member Shri Ananth Kumar if at all we want popular pro-people Budget it would be possible only by the elected Government. Then only we can safeguard the interest of the people of the state.

Coming to the farmers issue, in the last two Budgets former Finance Minister of Karnataka Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa ji took a land mark step in the very first year to provide farm loan @ 4% interest to the farmers. Similarly during his second Budget he waived off farm loan up to Rs. 25,000/- in order to help the farmers to come out of the clutches of the money leaders and to control the suicides being committed by farmers. He had also taken steps to waive off the interest of loans of the farmers. But in the present vote on account there is no scheme to protect the interest of the farmers.

In the Union Budget the Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced the Rs. 60,000 crore scheme to waive-

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

off farm loans of the farmers. But sir, in no way this would come to rescue of the farmers of Karnataka as it was already introduced in Karnataka by our State Government. These are no defaulters in Karnataka as on 31st March, 2007. Because of the pro-farmers steps taken by Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa, today farmers are living with great self respect. I am saying this fact as it has been reported in the Crime Record Bureau of the Government of India. Suicide incidents in Karnataka has come down in the past one year.

All the credit for this achievement should go to Shri B.S.Yeddyurappa, former Finance Minister, who has introduced various pro-people programmes in his Budget. But Union Budget presented by the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister P.Chidambaram ji is not helping the farmers of the State of Karnataka as all the farmers have got great relief from the loan waiving scheme of the previous Government. No farmer has been out left from this debt-relief scheme. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram ji should take steps to waive off the loan of all the small marginal farmers, who owe to the banks upto 31st December 2007—Hon'ble Minister Shri K.H. Muniyappa ji is well aware of this fact. I urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to take steps in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

You should waive off of all this loan, you should be determined to do that. You should not simply say that you will do it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Representatives from Karnataka can tell the facts. Other cannot say about Karnataka only those who knows about Karnataka they should speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I just draw the attention for a minute sir, the Business Advisory Committee has allotted 2 hours time for the Karnataka Budget discussion. Followed by ordinance of the People's Representative Act. We have to complete it today. The time is allotted to the party according to two hours. If it continues beyond that sir, Government will be in extreme difficulty to dispose two business, because tomorrow is General Budget discussions starts sir, and Friday is the

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

only day for him to reply. Therefore I will appeal to this Sir, time allotted for the discussion could be shared proportion to the parties and beyond that Sir, if some body wants to speak something ... *(Interruptions)* I am not against any member.

I am appealing through you to all the hon. Members to co-operate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. This is not General Budget.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: I will take another two minute and I will conclude sir.

Sir, what is there in the present is the continuation of all the schemes of the previous Government. But the Budget has not come out with the details of expenditure of previous Budget allotment. For example to convene Assembly Session in Belagavi our Government have allotted Rs. 250 crore to make the people of the part of region to feel proud. But there is no mention about its expenditure in the present Budget only Rs. 50 crore has been allocated for this purpose.

For the construction of High-Speed Rail connectivity to provide infrastructure facility to connect the Bangalore International Airport at Devanahalli from Bangalore city this Budget has earmarked only Rs. 5 crore. This is not sufficient even to pay consultant charges and preliminary preparations, sir. I do not understand why such a meagre amount has been earmarked. That is why I would like say that this Budget is not at all able to protect the interest of the common people and it is unable to allocate sufficient funds for development of infrastructure facilities in the rapidly growing Bangalore city. There is no mention of overall development of Bangalore. The Budget says it has Rs. 2973 crore surplus. But I would like to ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister why this surplus amount has not been utilized to facilitate the small and marginal farmers of the state.

I have no doubt that the present Budget has retained all the good things of the previous Government. But there is no newness in the Budget and no scheme has been mentioned pertaining to farmers and the common people. It is just a mechanical exercise. Another thing I would like to mention is that he has presented vote on account for the period of six months. Therefore I would like to make a submission to the Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri P.Chidambaram to consider this vote on account only for three months. As it has also been hinted by the Election

Commission that the Assembly Elections in Karnataka is likely to be conducted as early as possible. Therefore the vote on account should be considered only for three months and make it convenient to have full-fledged discussion on Budget by the newly elected representatives in the Karnataka Assembly so that the interests of the people of Karnataka should be protected with pro-people and a popular Budget in Karnataka. I hope that the dreams of our people would be realized as early as possible. With this I express my deep gratitude to you, for the opportunity that you have given to me and I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Tejasvini Gowda, please be brief. Make a small speech because after all this is a matter of the President's Rule and they are bringing in a Vote on Account and a small Budget. Why should we worry about it?

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA (Kanakapura): Sir, it is not a happy moment for any lover of democracy to speak in the Parliament about a State Budget. I would like to ask my friends on the other side as to who is responsible for this situation.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Totally the Congress.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: It is surprising that while Ananth Kumarji and my friend Sadanand Gowdaji were speaking even by mistake they did not mention the names of their good friends in JD(S) or of the former Chief Minister Mr. Kumaraswamy. That means, they are so cautious. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: The JD(S) and Congress started it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the main speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: I heard my friends patiently and I expect the same patience from them.

Sir, while I rise here to support this most pro-people Budget on behalf of the UPA Government when there is President's Rule in Karnataka. It is the most democratic Budget because all the pro-people proposals are carried

forward. They must feel happy for that. The Congress Governments and the UPA Government never indulged in politics of vengeance. I sincerely expect my friends to compliment this Government for presenting this pro-people Budget.

I would like to register my sincere thanks to the Governor, hon. Rameshwar Thakurji for democratically conducting a meeting with the Members of Parliament from the State before proposing this Budget. He heard all our proposals in the Vidhana Saudha and this Budget was prepared democratically. We cannot blame bureaucrats because there is no other way to do this. When there is no popular Government, what can one do? After 1971 this is the second time that we are presenting the State's Budget in the Parliament, as a colleague from the Left parties also said. We do not want to see more such situations.

My sincere thanks to Chidambaramji, the hon. Finance Minister in the UFA Government headed by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji, guided by UPA Chairman, Madam Soniaji, for including many pro-people, women-oriented, health-oriented, farmers-oriented, and workers-oriented proposals in this Budget. This is not an election budget.

Elections were compulsory for everybody—whether one is sitting on this side or that side. It is up to the people. As a national policy party with 123 years of historical legacy with us, Congress Party has every political right to suggest when there is a Presidential rule about the pro-people policies. When we are welcoming BJP's proposals; when we are welcoming JD(S)'s proposal, there is nothing wrong in our proposal as a national political party. That is all. When we continued with the four per cent agri loan or *Bhagya Jyoti* schemes, they do not see any political hand in it. When we proposed some developmental proposals, they fear about the elections and that Congress would come back to power in Karnataka. They are dreaming because we have done a lot of pro-people work. I am sure that the people of Karnataka would ensure a secular and popular Government in Karnataka definitely.

A lot of emphasis has been given to the agricultural sector, particularly the total allocations under the head 'agriculture and horticulture' has been increased to

Rs. 1,564 crore as against Rs. 1,315 crore. Sir, Rs. 230 crore has been earmarked for special initiatives under the agri-horticulture to improve the economic conditions of the farmers. This effort should be appreciated. This is in addition to the Rs. 184 crore budgeted under the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*. Important programme under Agriculture Department is seed supply at subsidised prices, crop insurance, support for farm mechanisation, subsidy for drip irrigation would continue. Sir, Rs. 108 crore has been provided under the comprehensive watershed development project. Sir, Rs. 10 crore has been allocated for recharging the groundwater. As you know, alarmingly groundwater level is lowering down in Karnataka. Hence, it is a good measure. Sir, Rs. 1,542 crore has been allotted to major, medium and minor irrigation. Today, water is the lifeline for the farming community. Our Government at the Centre has given a lot of emphasis to improve the condition of the farmers. That is why, even though they have given this money, I expect and I would like to request Shri Chidambaram ji to hike this money for irrigation. Everywhere, irrigation should be the prime concern for the interests of the farming community. Agricultural credit through cooperative credit under four per cent scheme was brought during the JD (S)-BJP coalition Government. In spite of my political opposition to their policies, I sincerely compliment, and the whole credit goes to Shri Kumaraswamy. This scheme was brought when he was the Chief Minister. Of course, the Finance Minister was from the BJP. Not even by mistake, they mentioned the name of Shri Kumaraswamy. Since he belongs from my constituency, I am mentioning here. They have done this. I sincerely plead our Minister, Shri Chidambaram ji to apply this four per cent all over the nation also. ...*(Interruptions)* Of course, it is for the farmers. I do not do politics out of it. They have brought this four per cent scheme. Hence, I compliment them. At the same time, when they were doing some negative things, I opposed them with equal voice their anti-people policies. Sir, Rs. 40 crore has been provided their anti-people policies and Rs. 40 crore has been provided as the State support for the *Yeshyeshwani Yojana*, a health scheme. This health scheme was brought during the Congress-led Government headed by Shri S.M. Krishna to support the poor people's health. For that purpose, in this Budget, they have provided Rs. 40 crore and I welcome this move. At the same time, Rs. 39.6 crore has been provided under the *Rashtriya Krishi Yojana* and also Rs. 25 crore has been provided for the initiative in animal husbandry in line with the Eleventh Plan objectives. *Macha Akshaya Yojana* is for the fisheries community

[Shrimati Tejasvini Gowda]

and for those fishermen who are suffering without hygiene. That is in coastal belt. Coastal people living in Karwar, Kerala border would derive benefit out of it. A sum of Rs. 15 crore has been budgeted for this, and Rs. 26 crore has been allotted for the development of fisheries under the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*. And also a sum of Rs.138 crore has been earmarked for the Karnataka Sustainable Forest Management and Bio-Diversity Conservation Project. Social forestry work through panchayat would get Rs. 20 crore. We are strengthening panchayats, to which I will come afterwards. Even for the panchayats, we have enhanced Rs. 1 lakh per year; earlier, an amount of Rs. 5 lakh used to be given to the panchayats; now, we have enhanced it to Rs. 6 lakh, through which we are going to strengthen the democratic unit, the primary unit of democracy—panchayats.

The main focus has been given to continue PDS. We are giving the BPL beneficiaries, rice at the rate of Rs.3 per kg. We continue this. If at all, we are anti-people or we are playing politics with them, we would not have continued with these pro-people projects.

The next point is education.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have covered all the points.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: Coming to education, I will say that they have taken infrastructure to the new high schools, polytechnics, pre-university colleges, first grade colleges, engineering colleges, etc. For that Rs. 200 crore has been allocated; this is really a very welcome step.

One more point is in the case of health and medical education. 'Free health kits to the mother of newborn—this is one of the most humane programme; this is continued. For that, in this Budget, we have given more money, and the support for institutes like VIMS, Kidwai Memorial Institute, KIMS, Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, will continue. They will be the beneficiaries.

When it comes to the welfare of the weaker sections, our Government has increased considerable amount; we have earmarked Rs.1684 crore; this is a huge enhancement. All the existing schemes of Ganga Kalyana, Land Purchase and Reimbursement of Scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities will continue with higher allocations.

They increased the monthly charges also. If we speak, we cannot uplift the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We know how they are living even after 60 years of Independence. They are living in worst conditions. It is our democratic responsibility to increase their lifestyle. So, we increased the hostel facilities for them.

We are women parliamentarians; we are minority in this Parliament. But our Government has done a wonderful job in this Budget for women and child development. The outlay on women and child development has been increased from Rs.886 crore to Rs. 953 crore. The existing scheme of Bhagyalakshmi is to continue with an outlay of Rs. 192 crore; the Stree Shakti Groups, the self-help groups continue; ICDS schemes continue. The Stree Shakti Groups will get Rs. 17.5 crore for their marketing infrastructure. They produce so many things in the rural background, but there was no marketing facility. To strengthen the marketing facility, they have allocated Rs. 17.5 crore. My sisters living all over Karnataka are doing wonderful jobs; they are bringing good name to the banking system by paying honestly the loans; I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister for that.

An amount of Rs. 25 crore has been allocated to construct *anganwadi* buildings. The other day, my colleague and the hon. Minister Shrimati Renuka Ji was pleading with all the Members to provide more funds to the *anganwadi* buildings; here, the Government of Karnataka has shown the way by providing Rs. 25 crore for this.

I will come to rural development. A lot of fund has been allocated to urban development; that should not be Bangalore-centric or city-centric. Today, to end the regional imbalance, we should allocate equally; we should develop satellite towns around Bangalore, to minimize the traffic congestion; unless we allocate funds equally, it will be urban-centric. Compared to urban development funds, rural development funds is a little bit lacking. I want to see more rural development funds, because due to the floods in Karnataka recently, a lot of roads were destroyed.

Our PWD Department needs more fund to build good roads. If roads are bad they will curse every politician. Therefore, we need to increase funds to that account.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You have covered a number of points.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: One last point, Sir. Dr. Nanjundappa's Report has shown the backwardness of many districts in my State. To reduce the regional imbalance the hon. Minister has made 58 per cent increase in the allocation towards this end. This is one of the wonderful projects and I would like to compliment the Minister for that. As a result of this, districts like Gulbarga, Chitradurga, including my Kanakpura constituency which was suffering from backwardness will be benefited.

As for the Opposition's unhappiness towards Congress, I would like to say that it is their internal problem. We never indulge in internal politics to bring down BJP. My friends should remember that the Congress has nothing to do with their problem. It is not very easy to become a ruling party in Karnataka. We will not give up. Definitely we are going to come back in Karnataka. We will show them the way we can build this nation. We can build a better State than BJP.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is Shri M. Shivanna. I may tell you that there is election in Karnataka immediately. So, do not exhaust all your points here. You have all the opportunity to speak during Karnataka election but here you may confine to the Vote on Account only. Do not exhaust all your points here.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Gold was sold in the streets of Hampi, the capital of Vijayanagara empire in Karnataka during the regime of Krishnadevaraya. But now, during the central rule the life of the common man has become very difficult. All the developmental works have come to stand still in the absence of an elected Government.

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram ji has presented Karnataka Budget. I respect him. He is a well known economist. He has presented Budgets for our nation for seven times. Because of a constitutional crisis in Karnataka he has presented this vote on account. Whoever the person may be in the place of Shri P. Chidambaram ji he/she should have done the same. We should not make allegations against Shri P. Chidambaram ji.

His Excellency the Governor of Karnataka Shri Romeshwar Thakur ji has convened a meeting of all the

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada

Hon'ble Members of Parliament and officers to discuss the focus areas of the Budget. We have made many suggestions.

Sir, this Budget has retained all the welfare programmes introduced by the previous Government led by former Chief Minister Shri H.D. Kumara Swamy and former Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa during their tenure.

Now in the Union Budget the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Shri P.Chidambaram ji has announced Rs. 60,000 crore for the loan waiver scheme. But such loan waiving scheme for small and marginal farmers has already been introduced by the JD(S)-BJP coalition Government in Karnataka under the leadership of our young leader Shri H.D. Kumara Swamy. Our Government has provided the farm loan to the farmers @ 4% while it is 7% in the Union Government. Such a revolutionary scheme has been introduced by our leader Shri H.D. Kumara Swamy, for the first in the history of this great nation.

Now this Budget has nothing special to mention but it is only the continuation of the previous Budget. Only thing to be mentioned is that the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister has increased the allocation in certain areas. For example he has allocated Rs.6 crore had given in the previous Budget. Similarly grants to the schools, colleges have been increased. Another thing I would like to mention is that Karnataka is likely to have Assembly Election within three months. Therefore, this vote on account should have been only for three months.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards some burning problems of Karnataka. Lack of infrastructure, transportation bottle necks and farmer's suicide and unreasonable M.S.P. for sugar cane, etc. The loan waiver scheme of the Union Government is no way to rescue the farmers in Karnataka state. This scheme may give relief to the farmers of other state but not to Karnataka.

With this I conclude my speech and permit me to lay the remaining part of my speech.

Now, the State Budget has to focus on welfare measures for farmers and weaker sections of the society. It has to make higher allocation of funds for development of key sectors like agriculture irrigation, industry, roads and transport.

The State of Karnataka has sought \$ 200 million more assistance from the World Bank for the Karnataka

[Shri M. Shivanna]

State Highway Improvement Project (K-SHIP). The department of Economic Affairs has to give its nod for getting a loan of \$ 200 million from World Bank for (K-SHIP). In addition to this, Karnataka is seeking \$ 200 million more as assistance. Now, the centre has to help the state to get this amount i.e. \$400 million.

Regarding retaining the HAL airport there are so many arguments. Some experts have said that it is disastrous to retain the second airport. On the other hand there are many who are in favour of retaining HAL airport. Now the ball is the court of the centre. I hope the centre will take a wise decision in this matter.

My suggestion in this regard is that BANGALORE SHOULD BE A MULTI-AIRPORT CITY as Bangalore is all set to witness the highest air traffic and passenger growth in the years to come. Otherwise, air traffic will be like road-traffic in Bangalore city, full of chaos, confusion, and daily accidents. We should think of further development of the fastest growing silicon city of India.

The centre has identified three projects for inter-linking of rivers (ILR) and it hopes to sign agreements with the concerned states very shortly. One of the projects which has the centre's focus is the Krishna Godavari link involving Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The centre is making efforts to arrive at a consensus with the states in this regard. The Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources Saifuddin Soz has already told that his Ministry has written to all states concerned to speed up the process. I want the centre to give further clarification in this regard.

Four Hydel Power Projects were to start this year, two in Karnataka and two in Tamil Nadu. But due to misunderstanding between the two states these projects have been dropped. The two projects which were selected for setting up Hydro Power Projects are (i) Shimsa (about 400 M.W) and (ii) Mekedatu (about 400 M.W). Now the centre has to take initiative, convince both the states and start the construction work of both projects in Karnataka and two in Tamil Nadu.

Regarding tourism, a number of projects are pending in Karnataka. Karnataka has requested the centre to give financial assistance for a rope way to Chamundi Hills at

Mysore. Similarly tenders were called by Karnataka, long ago for an ambitious project at Nandi Hills near Bangalore to construct the following :

- (i) Aerial Rope Way
- (ii) Parking Way
- (iii) Viching Tower
- (iv) Heritage Museum
- (v) Laser Shows
- (vi) Children's Park
- (vi) Convention Hall
- (viii) Bungee Jumping
- (ix) Commercial Complex
- (x) SPA
- (xi) Guiding Centre

A private company SPML has offered 136 crores for developing this historical tourist spot. It is shocking that TIPPU's palace in Bangalore has been neglected by the Tourism Department and Archaeological Department of the Government of India. The Archaeological Survey of India should clarify the position.

The most burning problem is that of farmers. This august House is well aware that every 30 minutes a farmer is committing suicide. Karnataka is not an exception to this. The sugar cane growers were getting Rs. 860 per tonne. A couple of days ago the State Government has enhanced this price by Rs. 125 per tonne. This is irritating. Now the farmers will get Rs. 985 per tonne? The prices of all inputs including water fertilizers, pesticides etc. have increased. They are demanding Rs. 1500/- per tonne for sugar cane. I demand that the centre should give at least Rs. 1400/- per tonne for sugar cane.

I hope that the centre is well aware of the problems of the people of Karnataka and accordingly the Hon'ble Finance Minister will allocate sufficient funds for Karnataka.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to ventilate the grievances of the people of Karnataka. With these words I conclude my speech.

16.21 hrs.

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH *in the Chair*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You try to conclude within two minutes as you have already taken seven minutes. You can lay the rest of your speech.

Now, Shri Suresh Angadi to speak.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum): Madam, Karnataka is one of the important States in the country which is famous for the agriculture, IT sector, BT sector as well as education.

Sir, my district Belgaum is a border area and most of the farmers are engaged in the cultivation of sugarcane. During the JDS and the BJP regime in Karnataka, the Deputy-Chief Minister and also the Finance Minister of that Government sanctioned assistance of Rs. 25,000/- per hectare to the sugarcane growing farmers in our area till 31st of March. But this facility has not been extended in the Budget as proposed by the Central Government. I would like to request him to make provision for that assistance to the farmers in the Budget.

The second point is about an irrigation project, namely, *Madhai Yojana*. This is a drinking water project meant particularly for the areas in Dharwar, Hubli and all such places. This project has been pending for a very long time. The Minister for Water Resources is present in the House. I would like to request him to take up this matter. Already the Government of Karnataka has started work on this project. With the completion of this project the drinking water problem of the area could be solved once for all. I would like to request the hon. Minister to allocate funds for early completion of this project. The work is already under progress. But no mention of this project has been found in the Budget that has been presented.

The third point that I would like to make is about the construction of the *Swarna Vidhan Soudha*. A sum of Rs. 250 crore had been allocated for construction of this building by the ex-Chief Minister of Karnataka and this is being constructed in Belgaum as this is considered a border district. The Mahajan Commission also has been constituted to look into this border dispute. But I would like to mention here that in the recently held elections to the Corporations, a Kannad Mayor has been elected and thereby bringing an end to the border dispute. I would

like to request the hon. Finance Minister to allocate a sum of Rs. 150 crore for the construction of this building. Moreover, the site in which it is scheduled to be constructed is now under the control of the Army and the place also is quite remote. The site should be brought near to the national highway. This being under the control of the Army, they are not willing to give away this land though the land belongs to the Government of Karnataka. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into the matter and make necessary arrangements for acquisition of this land.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Why do you worry about that? You wait for two months and then you would take over that.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Sir, thank you for your wishes. That land should be given and the site also needs to be shifted from a remote area to nearby the national highway. Such monuments, like that of the Parliament and all, would be a place of visit for the people of the next generation.

Sir, my next point is that there is no fund allocated for the Belgaum Airport. It is a very old airport and it is there since the British regime. The hon. Finance Minister has visited that place and he knows the kind of problems being faced there. The Government has to allocate a sum of Rs. 12 crore for the further acquisition of land. Land though has been acquired but some more land needs to be acquired by the State Government, but no provision of funds for that has been made in this Budget.

Sir, my next point is about the medical college. We require an additional sum of Rs. 40 crore this year for this purpose. But no fund for this purpose has been earmarked. I would like to request the hon. Minister to make the necessary provision for this purpose.

Sir, finally this is not a people friendly Budget. This Budget has been presented with an eye on the elections. But there is an apprehension in the minds of the people about elections being held in the near future because the Finance Minister has sought sanction of the Budget for the next six months.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Madam, at the outset, I support this Budget wholeheartedly because this Budget is a pro-people Budget without

[Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi]

additional tax burden. We have to compliment as the Budget has not mentioned any increase in taxation.

The second significant aspect of this Budget is, sufficient funds have been allotted to set right the regional imbalance. I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Finance Minister that sufficient amount of Rs. 2489 crore have been allotted for the removal of regional imbalance. It has been pointed out by Nanjundappa Committee that 144 talukas are most backward areas in Karnataka.

I also want to draw the attention of the Finance Minister that Hyderabad-Karnataka area consisting of Gulbarga, Raichur and Bidar were in erstwhile Nizam State. These are most backward districts in education and employment. There is lowest percentage of education and employment in Gulbarga. So, I would request the Finance Minister that sufficient budget allocation should be made for these backward areas, and special concession and status should also be considered by amending article 371 so that special concessions and privileges will be given to the people of Hyderabad-Karnataka area.

Allocation for rural development has been increased to Rs. 3351 crore and agricultural allocation has also been hiked. In almost all areas like education, health and development of minorities, there has been an increase in allocation. It has been pointed out by other Members. I fully agree with the views of Shri Jalappa on this Budget.

For the development of minorities and backward classes, an amount of Rs. 1684 crores have been allotted in the Plan outlay whereas Rs. 1425 crores had been allotted last year. So, this is a significant increase made for the development and welfare of minorities.

It has been suspected by the Opposition that this Budget is somewhat influenced by politics. I would like to say here that public money has not been stranded as was done by the previous Government but it has been judiciously used for pro-poor policies. In the last Budget, crores of rupees had been allotted to private trusts and private societies. In this Budget, funds have been allotted judiciously and Government has taken care to make allocations judiciously.

I would also like to bring to the kind attention of the Finance Minister that contribution of four per cent loan, interests and continuation of schemes by the previous

Government have shut the mouths of Opposition and thus false allegations of biased attitude of the Governor has been disproved. If there had been a biased attitude of the Governor, the previous schemes like four per cent interest and other things would not have been continued and would not have been included in this Budget. So, this is a fair Budget made by the Governor and it is proved that he is not biased in this regard.

Our colleague, Shri Ananth Kumar told that they are going to be in power there. I do not know who prevented whom to be in power. They paraded jointly to Rashtrapati Bhawan also. But what happened to them? When they came back to Bangalore, they did not support each other. Because of that, they are making allegation against the UPA Government. It is because they had a dream...
(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Karnataka has maintained a fiscal deficit of less than three per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. Sufficient allocation has been made for agriculture, horticulture, education, rural development and for the welfare of minorities.

I would like to make a suggestion. The Department of Irrigation is an important one to help the farmers. I would like to suggest that allocation for the Department of Irrigation be increased in order to help the farmers.

With these words, I support the Karnataka Budget.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I now call upon Shri Prahlad Joshi to speak.

Shri Joshi, I would request you to be brief because the time that was allotted to BJP has been exhausted by Shri Ananth Kumar. So, you kindly take one minute and conclude

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Whichever be the party, seniors take the time and juniors are left with no time. It applies to all parties. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You take one minute and lay the remaining part of your speech on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Thank you Madam. Frankly speaking, I never wanted to speak on this issue within or outside the House because it is a constitutional compulsion to present a Vote on Account. But the way the Treasury Benches complimented themselves by saying that so much allocation has been made, there is so much increase in the allocation, this is the pro-people's Budget; previous one was not pro-people's Budget, etc. provoked me to say a few words on the Karnataka Budget.

I would like to mention here about the misrule during the regime.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That word is expunged.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: The Budget itself reveals that the revenue expenditure is estimated to be lower than Rs. 1,276.60 crore less than what was estimated. Out of this Rs. 1,276.60 crore, Rs. 442.70 crore is the reduction in the plan expenditure and Rs. 832 crore is the shortfall in the non-plan expenditure.

What does it show? The shortfall in the non-plan expenditure is on account of slight reduction in the expenditure on salaries. But reduction in plan expenditure is on account of slow progress in regard to certain new plans announced during 2007-08. I would like to cite the example of Sandhya Suraksha Yojana, which was announced by Shri Yediyurappa. An amount of Rs. 250 crore was earmarked for that. But till January only Rs. 4 crore have been utilized. Why was this amount not spent? When the Budget was passed in the month of July last year, it was supposed to be expedited. From October to this date, only Rs. 4 crore have been spent.

They are talking about Dr. Nanjundappa Committee. Dr. Nanjundappa Committee which was appointed way back in 2000-01 gave its Report in 2002. Dr. Nanjundappa, who is a renowned economist, gave his Report in 2002. After that Shri S.M. Krishna and Shri Dharam Singh ruled Karnataka. Let my friends from the Congress Party understand that though the Report was accepted, they did not bother to give even a *naya paisa* as recommended by him for the backward areas of the State, which are more than 140 taluks in number.
...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Joshi, you just mention the points. Please do not elaborate any point because your Party's time is already over.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Prahlad Joshi's speech.

(Interruptions) ...*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Joshi, just mention the points only.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, I am mentioning the points. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You are elaborating your points. You are elaborating about Committee Reports. Please do not elaborate.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, if you allow me, I will complete it within two or three minutes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is no time for your Party now. I have given you one minute. You can make your points.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I have to make my points.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can make your points.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I have not even taken two minutes. You are not allowing me to speak. Please allow me to speak.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can lay your speech on the Table of the House. What time have you been allotted?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I would have completed by this time had you allowed me to speak.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Some other Members are there from your Party. I will cut their names if you take more time. Then, you are the last Member from your Party.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, allow me to continue my speech. This is my request.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can make your point. You have given your name but Shri Ananth Kumar has taken

*Not recorded.

the time. At that time, you told that you would not speak. Now, you are speaking. I told you that I would give you a minute. So, please try to sum up.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I will complete it within two or three minutes. Please allow me to speak.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is no time for your Party.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: A sum of Rs. 1500 and odd crore was earmarked in 2007-08 Budget by Shri Yediyurappa. What happened to that? Let the hon. Finance Minister explain, through this House, to the State of Karnataka. How much was spent till December? I would say that not even 50 per cent was spent. Now, they are telling that Rs. 2449 crore is earmarked as per the Nanjundappa Committee Report. The fund which was earmarked for the purpose is not at all being used. It is not only this. The fund for the Bhagyalakshmi Yojana is not being used. I can quote so many of such things wherein the allocated fund is not being properly used. It is not only that.

I would also like to tell that even there is decreasing trend in revenue receipt. Except the State excise duty, there is decreasing trend in the total tax collection. It shows the inability of the Governor's rule in the administration of tax collection.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please lay the part of your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I can quote more examples.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Do not take more time now.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: The State irrigation was funded by three heads – one is Plan Outlay, another is the Special Purpose Vehicle to raise funds through bonds and the third one is the Central Assistance. The Special Purpose Vehicle to raise funds through the loan from the Niravari bond is being barred this time. By this, the ongoing irrigation project is going to be hampered. Why has this been done? This has to be explained.

The Kalasabanduri Project, which was referred to by my colleague Shri Suresh Angadi, is purely a drinking water project. The last coalition Government decided to start that project. A sum of Rs. 100 crore was earmarked. Then, the Goa Government went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court did not give the stay. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sum up now.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Please allow me to make this point. It is a very important issue.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am saying that you are having the written speech. You can kindly lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: This is my last point. Please allow me.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This must be your last point and not more than that is allowed.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Please allow me. A sum of Rs.100 crore was earmarked for that. The work began. Then, the Goa Government went to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court did not give the stay. Work is going on. The Supreme Court asked the Central Water Resources Ministry and the concerned to file an affidavit. I would like to know that if any State Government wants to continue with a drinking water project with its own fund, whether the Central Government's concurrence is necessary or not. For the last six months, the Central Government has not filed its affidavit before the Supreme Court. Why are you not doing that? Hubli, Dharwad and the surrounding hundred cities are suffering from getting a single drop of drinking water. For the last six months, these people are not filing the affidavit.... *(Interruptions)* So, I urge upon this Government to take proper action. With these I conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

*The Budget and vote on account of state of Karnataka presented by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha yesterday is short of anything to be landed.

This Budget has promptly proved beyond doubts about the six months miss rule of the Governor. The Budget itself displayed the revenue expenditure is estimated to be lower by 1276.69 Crores. Out of this 1276.69 crores, Rs. 442.77 cores is reduction in non-plan expenditure and Rs. 833.92 crores is the shortfall in plan expenditure. Shortfall in non-plan revenue expenditure is on account of slightly reduced expenditure on salaries and pensions. Reduced plan expenditure is on account of slower than expected progress in certain new plan schemes announced during the 2007-08 Budget and also externally aided projects.

*..... *This part of the speech was laid on the Table

This is nothing but the clear indication how the Governor's administration in the state involved only in transfer of officers, which was the main agenda of the Congress party. It did not give attention to any development of the state.

The total plan outlay for 2008-09 is estimated at Rs. 21751 Crores, which is more than the current years outlay of Rs. 17782.56 Crores.

But there is no clear-cut mention in the Budget as to how revenues for the difference in plan outlay is arranged and target is achieved.

The total Budget outlay for 2008-09 is shown as 56542.15 Crores which is an increase of 12% compared to last year Budget. There is indication of increase departmental wise allocation for all ongoing plan schemes but no clear-cut ways for collection of widening tax base. Much is said about the increased earmarking of Rs.2459 Crores for implementation of Dr. Nanjundappa Committee Reports for removal of regional imbalance admittedly the money earmarked last year that is 1571 Crores representing about 63% increase. But the Budget statement itself admits that this amount is not fully spent. Mere increase of allocation itself will not bring the targeted results.

Decreasing trend of revenue receipts: Excepting state excise there is a decreasing trend in tax receipts. It shows the inability of the Governor's rule for better administration of tax collection. The receipts under the Stamp Duty head is considerably decreased. If this trend continues it will be very difficult to speed up the implementation of plan schemes.

Irrigation in the state is a priority sector though allocation is increased it is not enough for completing all the pending projects. Usually the source of raising funds for irrigation in the state are

- Plan Outlay
- Special purpose vehicle to raise the funds from loans issue of Niravari Bonds.
- Central assistance.

But this time all the Irrigation Corporations are barred from raising the loans for completing some of the irrigation projects. Though it is not good economics to depend on outside source for providing funds for irrigation projects it

is required under present circumstances to go for such outside source by these corporations. Thus certainly most of the irrigation projects get stuck and this sector will be put to halt. There is no much explanation why this step is taken by Govt. A wider glance at the budget arrangement indicates another factor i.e. less provision is made for infrastructure.

Only Rs. 100 Crores is allocated for the development of Airports in the state International standard and about 687 acres of required land is being handed over for this purpose. If this is the size of the funds that are provided the infrastructure developmental activities will not get the required boost. The power sector is also other sector, which is not given its due consideration.

One more aspect where this Budget does not indicate any positive mark is its failure to propose for efforts to increase non-tax revenues.

So, in total this Budget is not worthy of any specific direction by which the state moves towards development. It is not a pro-growth Budget, and proved how these six months Governor's administration has plunged the state into the darkness of set back.*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No interruption is permitted. Nothing will come in the record.

*(Interruptions)**...*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri G.M. Siddeswara. Please start your speech. Nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**...*

[Translation]

*SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA (Davangere): Thank you Madam Chairperson, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Karnataka Budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram for the year 2008-09.

The Budget has no programmes to rescue the farmers, who are in great distress. It has retained all the welfare scheme of the previous Karnataka Government by the then Finance Minister Shri B.S. Yeddyurappaji. He had introduced ten welfare programme to achieve the aim of Welfare State of Karnataka. They are

*Not recorded.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

BHAGYALAXMI SCHEME, in which Rs. 10,000 was deposited by the Government in the name of girl child. BHAGYALAXMI SCHEME, in which Bicycles were provided to the school students free of cost. Subagha Loan, in which farm loans were provided to the farmers @ 4% and waive off the loan up to Rs. 25,000/- for the benefit of small and marginal farmers.

SUVARNA KAYAKA Scheme under which employment was ensured to the unemployed.

SUVARNAGRAMA Scheme in which Rs. 400/- was provided to the elderly people to ensure social security of all the sections of the society.

AMRITA Scheme in which financial assistance was provided the farmers for the development of dairy farming activities.

ADARSH VIVAHA Scheme in which Rs. 10,000/- was provided to poor parents of bride and bridegroom to be married.

Very importantly, ban on lottery and Arrack was imposed.

All these scheme have been retained but no new scheme have been introduced in the Budget by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram.

It is a matter of great concern that no special package for surarcane growers has been announced in Budget. The condition of the cane growers is very pathetic. It has led to farmers committing suicide in large scale.

In the year 2007-08 Rs. 916/- crore had been allocated and floated tender to take up the modernization work of the BHADRA CANAL, which falls in jurisdiction of my parliamentary constituency. But only Rs. 125/- crore has been spend during the President's Rule. In this Budget there is no mention of the modernization of the BHADRA CANAL work. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Finance Minister P. Chidambaram to allocate sufficient funds to take up this work. *...(Interruptions)*

Madam, I am a new Member and for the first time I am speaking in Kannada.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

[Translation]

*SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Please permit me to speak a few minutes more. Ringing the bell like this scarce me.

Rs. 100 crore had been allocated and tender was also floated for de-siltation work of 22 lakes in Jagalur taluk, Kottur taluk, Hoovina-Hadagali taluk, and Davanagere taluk, but due to the absence of an elected Government, this work has not been completed. People of this region are suffering from various diseases due to non availability of pure drinking water.

Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to allocate sufficient sum to desiltation work of these 22 lakes in my parliamentary constituency.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please give your suggestions.

[Translation]

*SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: The Hon'ble Finance Minister should take immediate steps to incorporate this in the Budget.

Another thing I would like to mention is that the condition of the national high way is very bad. We can travel from Davanagere to Nelamangala in two hour and fifteen minutes. But from Nelamangala to Bangalore it will take more than three and half hours. It is very difficult to travel in this route as there is delay in repairing works of the roads. Therefore I once again request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to allocate more funds to take up all the developmental works in my constituency. With this, I oppose this Budget and conclude my speech.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is no time. Your Party time is over. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR (Mysore): Madam, I have only one suggestion to make to the hon. Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please give your suggestion to the hon. Minister in writing.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh): No time has been allocated to our party. Please allow me to speak.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No. There is no time. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can give your suggestion to the hon. Minister in writing.

SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Madam, I will take only one minute.

Madam, before December, subsidy worth rupees one lakh was being given to each farmer for purchasing tractor. But now it is being stopped. I would request the hon. Minister that whatever was being given earlier he should try to continue that.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam Chairperson, it is an honour to present the Budget on behalf of the State of Karnataka, although I sincerely wish that this honour had not fallen upon me and that this honour was bestowed upon the Members of the Karnataka State Legislature and that the State Legislature should have, in the normal course, discussed this Budget.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Since you have got an opportunity!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: My only pleading in my defence is the Party to which I belong was not responsible for this situation. Those who are responsible for this situation are the ones who are being most vocal today, most numerous today. The collapse of the last Karnataka Government was entirely due to Parties other than the Congress Party.

Be that as it may, I was amused to hear speaker after speaker claiming that all the good things done in Karnataka were under Mr. Yeddiurappa. One would have thought that the Constitution had been amended in the

State of Karnataka that the head of the Government was the Deputy Chief Minister and not the Chief Minister. It is very unusual. But then it is also said that this Budget is anti-people, it merely continues the programmes of the previous Government. If this is anti people and continues the programmes of the previous Government, then the programmes of the previous Government must have been anti people. Sir, there must be some consistency in what they say, some coherence in what they say. You cannot oppose for the sake of opposition.

Let us understand what I am doing today. I did not make this Budget. I make the Union Budget. I present this Budget. This Budget is made by the Governor's administration with the aid of his advisors and like all Budgets in a President's Rule, we cannot impose new taxes, we cannot start new programmes, we cannot discontinue any on-going programmes. We can only try to continue the on-going programmes to the best of our ability for the period until which a new Government will be elected.

They asked me why do I ask for a Vote on Account for six months. I asked for a Vote on Account for six months because I do not know when the election will be held. You tell me the date on which the election will be held and I will confine this Vote on Account to one week after that date. Since I do not know on which date the election will be held, it is not within my power to decide the date of election, I am providing for every contingency by taking a Vote on Account for six months. But if an election is held within two months, the new Government will come and present a new Budget, this Vote on Account will come to an end. What are they afraid of, I cannot say. I can only conclude that those who question the Vote on Account for six months do not hope to come back to power and therefore, they put this question...
(Interruptions)

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): We are very much hopeful.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Take it in good spirit. Madam, let me quickly answer some questions. The total outlay for 2008-09 is Rs. 56,542 crore which represents an increase of 12 per cent over 2007-08. That is a significant step-up in the total outlay. The State's annual plan is Rs. 21,751 crore which reflects an increase of 22 per cent over the annual plan of 2007-08. The second part of my statement shows that the Central Government has been fair, unbiased and generous to the State of

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Karnataka. The Planning Commission has approved a 22 per cent increase in the annual plan for 2008-09.

Madam, the State's own revenues is estimated at Rs. 19,344 crore which represents 17.42 per cent over the Revised Estimates of 2007-08, which shows that the State Administration is confident of collecting good tax revenues next year. A 17 per cent increase in tax revenues is not to be laughed at; it would be good performance. Please remember, this is after no new taxes being imposed upon the people of the State of Karnataka. Madam, 2008-09 will yield a revenue surplus of Rs. 2,972 crore. The State has enjoyed a revenue surplus for the last four years. Please remember that all Governments have had a share in this situation. The Fiscal Responsibility Act of Karnataka was passed in 2002 when the Congress Party was in power. Subsequently, there have been two coalition Governments and through this period Karnataka has become one of the few States which has a revenue surplus. I congratulate all the Governments of Karnataka which have contributed to this revenue surplus situation.

For agriculture and horticulture, the allocation is being increased from Rs. 1,315 crore to Rs. 1,564 crore. Rs. 220 crore is earmarked for special initiatives under agriculture and horticulture. This is in addition to Rs. 184 crore which will come to the State of Karnataka under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. For major, medium and minor irrigation, we are budgeting Rs. 4,542 crore. This is in addition to Rs. 500 crore which the Government of India is expected to give under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. For agricultural credit, through cooperative credit institutions, the subsidised interest rate of 4 per cent will continue. Before you jump to the conclusion that all this is some discovery of any one Party or any one gentleman, let me bring you down to earth, how this has happened. This happens because NABARD gives refinance at 2.5 per cent on the condition that you will lend at 7 per cent. So, the subsidy given by the State Government is from 7 per cent to 4 per cent; a subsidy of 3 per cent. The Government of India also gives a subsidy. NABARD refinances at a low rate and then the State Government adds a subsidy. Everybody has a contribution. Parliament, State Legislature, Central Government, and the State Government have a contribution in reaching the situation where we are lending at 4 per cent for agricultural credit.

A sum of Rs. 40 crore is provided as State's support for Yeshaswini Health Scheme for members of cooperative

societies. The existing scheme of providing food-grains at Rs. 3 per kilogram to BPL beneficiaries through the public distribution system will continue. The outlay on education has been increased from Rs. 7,004 crore to Rs. 8,592 crore. The outlay for the health sector is increased from Rs. 1,869 crore to Rs. 2,122 crore. The Janata Health Fund will be provided a corpus of Rs. 10 crore.

17.00 hrs.

As far as new medical colleges are concerned—I think, Shri Suresh Angadi has mentioned this—for all the six medical colleges, the provision for 2008-09 is Rs. 70 crore. In 2007-08, the initial provision was Rs. 60 crore, and in addition, a sum of Rs. 80 crore was provided through supplementary. Likewise, for the next year, the initial provision is Rs. 70 crore. Let an elected Government come and make any further additional provision, if it so desires.

For weaker sections, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, we have provided Rs. 1,884 crore. For Women and Child Development, the allocation is being increased from Rs. 886 crore to Rs. 953 crore. For Rural Development, the outlay is being increased from Rs. 3,064 crore to Rs. 3,350 crore. An important step is this. There is a tradition in Karnataka of giving untied grants to Gram Panchayats. There are 5,628 Gram Panchayats. The untied grant was Rs. 5 lakh per annum and we are increasing it to Rs. 6 lakh per annum per Panchayat. For Public Works, Roads and Bridges, the outlay is being increased from Rs. 3,106 crore to Rs. 3,271 crore. For Infrastructure Development, the outlay is being increased from Rs. 418 crore to Rs. 449 crore. For Railway Projects under a cost sharing arrangement with the Indian Railways, we have earmarked Rs. 200 crore. For Housing and Urban Development for weaker sections, the outlay is being increased from Rs. 756 crore to Rs. 875 crore.

There was a mention of Ashraya. I am happy to announce that the unit cost of Ashraya is being increased from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 30,000. For SC and ST, there will be a one hundred per cent subsidy, and for other people below the poverty line, there will be a subsidy of 50 per cent and a loan of 50 per cent. For Rural Electrification, we are providing Rs. 1,700 crore. For Home and Transport, the outlay is being increased from Rs. 1,945 crore to Rs. 2,442 crore. This includes Rs. 95 crore for Police Force modernisation. We are also

Grants (Karnataka), 2008-2009
providing Rs. 189 crore to the Road Transport Corporations as reimbursement.

Karnataka's Budget includes a provision of Rs. 2,489 crore for a Special Development Plan to develop the backward areas in the State to redress regional balances. This represents a 58 per cent increase over Rs. 1,571 crore provided in 2007-08.

Madam, some specific questions were asked. I have already answered about Ashraya. A question was asked about Bangalore. I am afraid, Shri Ananth Kumar, though he is a Member of Parliament from Bangalore, is yet to understand the intricacies of Budget documents. He should perhaps take some lessons from Shri Yeddurappa how to read Budget documents. These provisions are made under different Heads in different places. We are providing Rs. 5 crore as seed money for starting a Special Purpose Vehicle for inviting bids for the high speed rail link. Even bids have not been invited. Therefore, there is no point in providing money. The money is being provided to set up the Special Purpose Vehicle and invite bids. Only when bids are invited, money has to be provided for the high speed rail link.

Funds for Bangalore have been provided under Urban Development, which has a total outlay of Rs. 4,923 crore. It is also provided under PWD. A sum of Rs.240 crore has been provided for roads in Bangalore. Besides, allocation under JNNURM for Bangalore is Rs. 700 crore; for Bangalore Metro Project it is Rs. 200 crore; for Bangalore traffic management, it is Rs. 38 crore; for Bangalore International Airport, it is Rs. 93 crore; for Karnataka Municipal Reform Project, which is in and around Bangalore, it is Rs. 150 crore; for Cauvery Water Supply Project, it is Rs. 375 crore; and assistance to Bangalore Municipal Corporation under the State Finance Commission devolution is Rs. 350 crore.

In fact, it is the people who are outside Bangalore who may have to complain that Bangalore has been provided a lot of money.

Madam, the Centre's contribution to the State of Karnataka under share of taxes, grants and loans, this year is expected to be Rs. 11,819 crore; next year, it will be Rs. 12,811 crore. But as a Union Finance Minister, let me assure you, I will collect more revenue and you will get your share.

Bhagya Lakshmi Scheme was asked by Mr. Pralhad Joshi. Rs. 10,000 is being deposited for every girl child

born after 1st April, 2006; Rs. 166 crore has been allocated in 2006-07; and Rs. 147 crore is being released in 2007-08. Allocation is made in the previous year and the release is in the next year. The scheme is being continued. Whatever amount has to be released in 2008-09 will be released.

As regards the subsidy for farmers of Rs. 1 lakh to purchase a tractor, the request was to continue the scheme. I am happy to inform you that the scheme is continuing; and Rs. 1 lakh subsidy will be given.

On the sugarcane growers issue, we have exempted sugarcane from purchase tax. We are giving a subsidy of Rs. 100 per metric tonne of cane as compensation for low recovery for cane crushed after 16th April up to 31st July; and a transport subsidy for farmers at the rate of Rs. 2 per metric tonne for cane transported beyond 50 kilometres.

As far as the Swarna Vidhan Saudha is concerned, this will be built in Belgaum. An amount of Rs. 50 crore has been provided in the 2008-09 Budget. The provision in 2007-08 made by your Deputy Chief Minister of Rs. 70 crore could not be used because no plans were finalised... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH ANGADI: The land is there with the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You may address it to the Minister concerned and he will answer it.

As regards Sandhya Suraksha, this scheme is now being implemented; and 1.64 lakh persons have been identified. Each one will receive Rs. 400 per month as old-age pension.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: But not a single pie is being given. ...*(Interruptions)* More people are agitating before the Raj Bhavan... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, this is a State matter now and the hon. Minister is replying. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon. Finance Minister.

(Interruptions)...*

and Demands for Supplementary Grants (Karnataka), 2007-2008

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, let him understand what I am saying. 1.64 lakh persons have been identified. They will receive Rs. 400 per month. This is separate from the regular old-age pension scheme, which covers over 12 lakh beneficiaries. It is because time has been taken to identify the beneficiaries, the money has not yet been disbursed. But I assure you that Rs. 400 per month will be disbursed to these 1.64 lakh beneficiaries.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: A good number of beneficiaries are there. How can you complain?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It has only been identified now. The money will be given, I am saying.

Finally, as a matter of great interest to potential Members of the State Legislature, today, there are only Members of the Legislative Council. Therefore, they are being given Rs. 1 crore per head. As far as Members of the State Legislature are concerned, at the time of preparation of Budget, there is no Member of the State Legislature. Therefore, it is not proper to provide money for that. Let the new Government be elected. I hope, a handful of Members from the BJP will get the benefit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Take it in good spirit.

Madam, I am very happy; I have done a lot of work for Karnataka; and I hope that they will make me an honorary citizen of the State of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

I am presenting a Vote on Account. I am confident that the regular Budget of Karnataka will also be presented by a Congress Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, hon. Minister.

I shall now put the Demands for Grant on Account (Karnataka) for 2008-2009 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the

31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 28."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Karnataka) for 2007-2008 to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2008, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 5 and 7 to 28."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Supplementary Demands for Grants (Karnataka) for 2007-2008 are passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Thank you.

17.11 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF
DELIMITATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2008
AND
DELIMITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008
AND
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2008

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take items no. 32, 33 and 34.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No. 1 of 2008) promulgated by the President on 14 January, 2008."

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, be taken into consideration."

The Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 proposes to replace the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008.

Under the provisions of Articles 82 and 170 (3) of the Constitution, Parliament enacted the Delimitation Act, 2002 and set up the Delimitation Commission to readjust the division of each State and Union Territory into territorial constituencies for the purpose of elections to the House of the People and to the State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of 2001 Census. The Delimitation Commission has since completed the delimitation work in respect of 25 States/Union Territories.

With the progress of the delimitation exercise by the Delimitation Commission, certain issues relating to the delimitation came to the fore. The Government considered those issues and it was decided to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002 by promulgation of the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 on 14th January, 2008 to insert new sections 10A and 10B to empower deferment of delimitation exercise in a State in certain cases and to nullify the final orders issued by the Delimitation Commission in respect of the State of Jharkhand respectively. In view of the prevailing conditions in North-East States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland, four orders to defer the delimitation exercise in these States have been issued on 8th February, 2008. In view of above, in five States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Jharkhand, the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976 will continue to apply.

Further, the final orders in respect of the remaining 24 States/Union Territories (except the State of Jharkhand) were required to be brought into force as provided in the second proviso to Article 82 of the Constitution and the section proviso to clause (3) of Article 170 of the Constitution by specifying the date by the President, as to when the re-adjustments made under the Delimitation Act shall take effect. In pursuance of the above constitutional provisions, the Presidential Order has been issued on 19th February, 2008 making delimitation orders issued under the Delimitation Act effective from immediate effect in all the 22 States/Union Territories except in the States of Tripura and Meghalaya in which case, the delimitation orders shall take effect from 20th March, 2008 after the elections to the Legislative Assemblies in these States are over on 19th March, 2008.

Madam, the purpose of the amendments in the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008 is

to empower the Election Commission to consolidate all orders of delimitation into a single order and to maintain the said order up-to-date by correcting the printing mistakes etc. The First and the Second Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 are also being amended to reflect the correct position in regard to the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha, and the State Legislative Assemblies as determined by the Delimitation Commission. With the specification of the date by the President as regards coming into effect the delimitation orders, it is necessary to amend the relevant provisions, and the First and the Second Schedule of the Representation of the People (RP) Act to reflect the changes made by the said delimitation orders.

Through the RP (Amendment) Bill, it is also proposed to insert a new section 8A in the RP Act, which will enable the Election Commission to conduct delimitation exercise in the North-East States—where delimitation exercise had been deferred in the exigencies of the prevailing conditions—as soon as the conditions in these States become conducive to the conduct of delimitation work. Sections 8 and 9 of the RP Act are proposed to be amended to enable the Election Commission to consolidate the delimitation orders issued by the Delimitation Commission into a single Order by superseding the existing Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976 having regard to the sections 10A and 10B of the Delimitation Act, 2002.

In brief, for conducting elections on the basis of the new delimitation orders, the Election Commission will have to be enabled to get the electoral rolls revised according to the new delimitation of the constituencies. All this will necessitate amendment of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 to enable the Election Commission to adopt the new constituencies; revise the voters list; and to take follow-up action in the matter. In order to give effect to the commitment of the Government, to implement the new delimitation orders, passage of the Bill by the Parliament is necessary.

As both the Bills pertain to delimitation matters, the Ordinance replacement Bill, namely, the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 may be taken together with the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008 for consideration.

With these remarks, Madam, I commend both these Bills for the consideration of the august House.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.
Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No. 1 of 2008) promulgated by the President on 14 January, 2008."

"That the Bill further to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, be taken into consideration."

Now, I would like to call Shri Prabodh Panda to speak on this issue.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I am only to say that I am not going into the content of the Bill, but I am only going to talk about the Ordinance. I am not convinced with all that the hon. Minister has said, and the justification and the explanation that has been given for the promulgation of the Ordinance. I am saying this because a lot of complaints are coming not only from a particular State, but from different parts of the country.

About the delimitation, there is a lot of resentment in different sections of our country. This sort of legislation should have been discussed first in the Parliament. It has become a practice for the Government to bring such important issues through the Ordinance route. It is one way of eroding the supremacy of the parliamentary system.

The Commission has already made the recommendations. What is the harm if they have been discussed directly in the Parliament itself? What is the reason behind bringing this Ordinance?

Madam, if you see, the Ordinance was promulgated on the 14th of January, 2008, and this Budget Session commenced on the 25th of February, 2008. The gap was very short and there was no need or urgency to bring such issues through an Ordinance. This is my point. I am not going into the contents of the legislation. During the discussion, those matters will come up and several Members will participate in the discussion. From our Party, we will definitely participate and express our views.

I am against this practice of bringing such matters through an Ordinance route. That is why, I am moving

this Resolution disapproving the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Aimora): Madam Chairperson, thank you for giving me time to speak. I associate myself with the disapproval motion moved by Shri Prabodh Pandaji because my name is also in the list of those who favoured the disapproval motion. I would like to attract the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the issue of delimitation in Uttarakhand. As the House is aware Uttarakhand State was carved out under special circumstances. Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, both States lie in the plains. The basis of demand for creation of these two States was identity and regionality. But the demand for creation of a separate Uttarakhand is a long standing one. Such a big agitation took place there only because that region was side-stepped by development. The hilly regions especially were plagued by the problem of migration. These are the reasons for which the demand for a separate State got momentum and Uttarakhand was created on 09 November 2000.

Hon'ble Minister, I thought it necessary to give this background so that you could understand how sensitive this issue has become. When this State was created it had 19 legislative seats. A provision for 70 legislative assembly seats had been made under the Uttar Pradesh Restructuring Bill. The first act of delimitation, in the absence of a Delimitation Commission at the time, was carried out by the Election Commission in Uttarakhand wherein 70 legislative assembly seats were demarcated in the State. No delimitation had been carried out in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. The first general elections in the State took place in 2002. It has a different type of geographical lay out, hence I would like to tell you that there are 13 revenue districts in the State, out of which 9 lie in totally hilly regions. Two districts, viz Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar lie in plains. Two districts viz Nainital and Dehradun are stretched to plains as well as to hilly region and major area of these districts comprises of hilly region. The first delimitation had been done on the basis of the 1971 census. The second delimitation exercise carried out by the Delimitation Commission had only population as the norm. During this period all the migration that took place was one way and flowed down from hilly regions to the plains due to unemployment and lack of development. In other words, this migration took place from rural India to the developed Urban India

especially with regard to hilly regions where there is scope for neither agriculture and industry nor for employment. The first meeting of the Delimitation Commission took place on 21 June 2005. When we received the proposal that nine legislative assembly seats were being reduced in hilly regions and being given over to the plains there were widespread protests.

As I was the associate member and Member of Parliament from that area, I presented my point of view before the Delimitation Commission. The commission took serious view of our suggestion that hilly areas should be given special consideration and ordered that 10%+variation should be used for plain areas and 10%- variation for the hilly areas thereby tried to restrict the number of Assembly seats despite low population. Thus out of nine assembly seats in hilly districts, only three could be saved and there are still six seats less. Now the situation is that in the nine hilly districts, comprising an area of 40,353 sq. kms., where there were 40 Assembly seats earlier, seat's have come down to 34. Though in the four districts in plains spread over 12,214 sq. km. of area, which had 30 Assembly seats, seat's have gone to 36 Hence, there is a clear-cut variation of number. A discussion took place here in the House regarding delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies. An issue cropped up during that discussion that due to adoption of Family Planning to a good extent and increased literacy rate, the population density in Southern States has been reduced. On the contrary population density has increased in Northern India in turn the number of Lok Sabha seats are also increasing there but this number is decreasing in Southern States. Therefore, these seats should be frozen within the State. It is in records. Hon'ble Minister should consider the point that once the seats are frozen within a particular State, their number should not be reduced. If State is considered as a unit for Parliament, district should be considered for Legislative Assembly and all the assembly segments within the district should be frozen. Delimitation should be Scheduled Caste, Tribe and geographical specific only. My request is that there should be similar parameters for Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly seats.

Secondly, under Section 2, Jammu and Kashmir had been kept out of the ambit of delimitation commission. A bill was brought with a provision that under Section 2, Jammu & Kashmir should be kept out of its ambit in view of special circumstances prevailing in the State. We had also demanded that special circumstances are prevailing in our State also as it is a border State. We have borders with China and Nepal. It comes under the category of Special State. That is over now. Now the issue is that in view of the special circumstances in

Jharkhand and the objects and reasons explained in the Bill as

[English]

"serious threat to unity and integrity of India"

[Translation]

we are going to add it in Section 10 and empowering the hon'ble President to postpone the delimitation in case of arising of law and order problem in a State. I would like to mention that Delimitation Commission went to these places for hearing. However, hearing could not take place in Pauri and Nainital as people launched agitation, staged dharana and a number of arrests were also made there. It could take place only in Dehradun. However, it has not been taken into account. It is very unfortunate. Today local people and political parties are expressing their views in this regard by resorting to dharanas and demonstrations. They are of the view that if required, the number of seats can be increased in plains but seats in the hilly areas should not be curtailed, as it would have a bad impact. As I have told only 34 legislators for 40,353 sq. km. of area would certainly affect the development of the area. People have certain expectations from legislators that they would look into the matters of road, electricity, water, school etc. in their areas. State assembly accords approval for such works. But the reduction in number of legislative assembly seats will increase the area of constituencies and the resentment which was prevailing among the people before the creation of the State will recur.

17.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

That resentment will recur and I feel this time the agitation would be more aggressive in comparison to the one that took place before creation of Uttarakhand. Therefore, it should be reconsidered.

Each legislator gets 1.25 crore per year under the MLA fund in our State. These legislators are members of the committees set up for formulating district and departmental schemes and they decide the development work for their respective areas. One of the problems is that delimitation will affect the development programmes of these committees directly connected with MLA's fund. The Government should think over it that hindrance in development work will result in public outrage. Demonstrations and dharanas staged in this regard should definitely be taken into account.

We are thankful to the Delimitation Commission for saving our three seats. We had submitted a representation in this regard on 21st June, 2005. I have written three letters to hon'ble Prime Minister also. One of them was sent to him on 5th June, 2005 and I have got its acknowledgement. I had explained situation in the letter sent to him on 18th October, 2006. The acknowledgement of this letter is also with me. Then in 2007 also I wrote to him but no action was taken thereon.

Besides, our delegation had met hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs also and requested him to consider it. We reiterated before him that delimitation is a very sensitive issue and it can affect the law and order situation also. In this regard I have tabled "Delimitation Amendment Bill, 2005, No. 14 under Private Members Bill in Lok Sabha but it is still pending as discussion has not taken place on that so far. Today when I have got the opportunity to discuss it, I hope you will think over it seriously. As under Section 10, delimitation has been frozen in Jharkhand till 2026, it should be frozen in our State also. This process should be postponed in this State by bringing an amendment or by any other method.

Several people had laid down their life for creation of Uttarakhand State. Honouring their sacrifice, such an agitation should not take place again. I would like to bring it to your notice and it should be on records.

With these words I conclude.

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON (Lohardaga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with both these Bills. Before I speak, I would like to thank hon'ble Sonia ji, hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Mr. Dasmunshi ji and specially to the hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice for excluding Jharkhand from delimitation process. They have heard us carefully and understood our situation as a result of which Jharkhand has been excluded from the delimitation process.

It is very important to mention as to what would have happened if delimitation process had been implemented in Jharkhand. If we go back a little when the entire Bihar was a unified State, the number of seats were determined on the basis of 1951 census. At the time 32 seats were demarcated for Scheduled Tribes in Tribal areas. In the delimitation process which took place in 1976, based on the 1971 census, our seats were reduced to 28 and the same was reduced to 5 for Lok Sabha later when on the basis of 2001 census, the

number of seats was to be decided on the basis of delimitation. Then also one seat out of our total seats was reduced in Lok Sabha and the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly was reduced by 6 numbers which means now only 22 seats remained instead of 28 and in Lok Sabha the same was 4 in place of 5. This was resulting in loss to the tribals in terms of political share. It is quite interesting as to how come the population of the tribals was reduced. The census in the year 2001 went on from 9th to 28th February. These days the tribal people migrate outside the State in search of employment and return only after 4-5 months. This makes it clear when the census was being carried out at a time when 15 to 16 percent tribals were not present at their homes. They had gone out in search of employment. Therefore, they were not included in the census as a result of which their population got decreased.

The second reason is known to the entire nation. Maximum number of districts in Jharkhand are affected by naxalism and it is doubtful whether those people involved in carrying out census did actually go to all the villages. I believe they might not have gone and would have produced fake data. This is another reason why population over there was reduced and due to this the number of seats were also being reduced there. The tribals got upset by this and also felt anguished. They launched an agitation and this was not just in Jharkhand, in fact, they took out rallies in Delhi and sat on a dharna as well and met the concerned people in the form of delegations. After that our voice was heard and Jharkhand was kept free from delimitation. We are very glad that those seats which were being reduced as a result of delimitation process were not reduced. The people of Commission could not visit there. On my part, I would like to express my gratitude; to the hon'ble Prime Minister, Sonia ji and hon'ble Minister of Law and thank them for the same.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I rise to support the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

This is overdue. For more than 30 years, delimitation of the Assembly as well as the Parliamentary Constituencies has not been done. The last time delimitation was done was in 1973, on the basis of the census report of 1971. When initially the Delimitation Bill was to be passed by this House, the delimitation was to be done on the basis of census report of 1991. When

Delimitation Commission started its work, by that time, the census report of 2001 also had come. Then, it was decided that the delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies will be done and determined on the basis of the census report of 2001. Again, the legislation had to be abandoned. Why is delimitation required? Why is there a provision that delimitation should be done every ten years? It is because we have, in this House, passed a legislation that the number of Assembly and Parliamentary seats would be frozen till 2020. Because of that, what is happening is that in a particular Assembly, the number of voters varies between five lakhs, six lakhs, seven lakhs or even ten lakhs and there are some Parliamentary Constituencies where the number of voters varies between 25-30 lakhs. How is it possible because there is a wide disparity in regard to the number of voters from one parliamentary constituency to another? Since we will not be able to increase the number of seats both in Assemblies and in Parliament certain adjustments are required to be undertaken. For carrying out these adjustments Delimitation Commission is required.

Jharkhand and some North-Eastern States have been kept out of this Delimitation process. Jharkhand has been kept out of this Commission because of the genuine problem. When the Delimitation Commission prepared the draft we found that the number of reserved seats for the tribals was reduced substantially and because of this there was resentment among the tribals. There was a demand that if the draft report is finalised the reserved seats for tribals would be reduced substantially and there would not be proper representation of the tribal population in the State of Jharkhand. Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar. That is why it was decided to keep Jharkhand out of the present delimitation process. After examining the pros and cons the delimitation of constituencies will have to be done.

Jammu and Kashmir have a separate law. The Central Government cannot constitute Delimitation Commission which includes Jammu and Kashmir also. It is because the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will have to pass legislation for the formation of a separate Delimitation Commission.

I was one of the associate Members of the Delimitation Commission for West Bengal. I have certain experience. When the first Delimitation Commission was constituted, the Associate Members were nominated by the hon. Speaker. At that time there was Lok Sabha election of 2004 because the Delimitation Commission

was formed before 2004. In West Bengal when Lok Sabha election was held in 2004 there were some changes in the number of Members from different political parties. As a result of this the Speaker had to nominate the associate members on the basis of the strength of each political party. The Speaker of the Assembly nominated the Associate Members but number was limited. Number of associate members cannot be increased. So, Associate Members were nominated on the basis of proportional strength. Even hon. Speaker's name was also dragged. After 2004 election when the strength of a particular political party came down from nine to one there was a demand that even if one member is elected he or she should be nominated by the hon. Speaker. The nomination of the Associate Member was not done impartially. Speaker's name was also dragged.

We have seen that the draft was prepared by the Delimitation Commission. No political party had any role in regard to preparation of draft. The draft was circulated among the associate members. Around 8 to 10 meetings were held. The associate members have the right to submit their amendments. So, all the associate members submitted their amendments. Then, on the basis of the amendments received by the Election Commission from the associate members, another draft was prepared. Some modification was done. Some suggestions were incorporated and some suggestions could not be incorporated.

When the programme for public hearing was finalised dividing the State into three parts, the public hearing could be held in three places—one in North India, another in Kolkata and the third in Durgapur. Now, there was a demand from a particular political party which I do not want to name. What was the demand? The demand was that all the voters numbering 10 to 12 lakh of six to seven districts may be invited for public hearing. In Siliguri, the public hearing was started peacefully but after half-an-hour there was disturbance. There was a demand that all the 15,000 to 20,000 people who have come, should be brought for public hearing. The public hearing was disturbed. Then in Durgapur, only for a few minutes public hearing could be done. I was surprised to see that the main ruling party, the Congress Party also extended support to the hooligans and some bottles were thrown. The Chairman of Delimitation Commission said that during his 40 years of public life, he never had such an experience what he experienced in Durgapur and Kolkata. So, the public hearing was disturbed. How can lakhs of voters be brought for public hearing? The demand was

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

made that all the voters should be allowed to come which means a big rally. They demanded that they should be allowed to speak and give suggestions. Is it practicable?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point? What do you want to suggest?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in 1973 when we were in the Opposition, I was one of the associate members and we never had such problems. We never expressed any doubt in regard to the draft and said that one political party had prepared it. But when this Delimitation Commission started working, doubts were expressed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want now?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I want to support this amending Bill. It should be passed. There is a wide variation in Assembly segments in States like Jharkhand, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and the like. There are some moves to scuttle this process. When the Leader of the House convened an All Party meeting to discuss this matter, representatives from all Parties, except one party, were in favour of continuing this process.

Sir, the future elections in this country should be held on the basis of delimitation of assembly constituencies. There is an urgent need to pass this Bill and the provisions of this Bill should be implemented in the next Assembly Elections.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Delimitation Amendment Bill, 2008 and People's Representative amendment Bill, 2008. I would like to say a few words in support of this Bill. It is true that provisions of delimitation were implemented after the year 1973. Ever since the census of 1991 the population is increasing daily in every field. A Delimitation committee was constituted to implement delimitation and the members of that commission were from this House only and they were from all the parties, they went to all the places and gave a patient hearing to the local problems of the area. They received mixed reactions ranging from revenge, opposition and support at different places. If we look at each of the Lok Sabha

Constituencies then we find that there was a mixed reaction, at some places it was opposition and at places they received support. People view the political figures whether it was good or bad for them, that they have lost that area. Each Lok Sabha constituency has its own situation. Delimitation had taken place earlier also and shall take place in future also. It is a continuous process, which we will have to implement because our population is increasing. Just now some of the hon'ble Members expressed their reaction about Jharkhand. It is true that the Commission has kept all the newly formed States be it Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand, away from it and Chhattisgarh also had a similar situation. Similarly, some North-Eastern States have also been kept away. I remember that in the earlier delimitation, which took place, some States were left out and those were included later. As far as a district is concerned, my Lok Sabha constituency consisted of three districts and now the Lok Sabha constituency formed after the new delimitation process, the constituency is spread in two districts. Efforts should be made to confine it to one district only because if the Lok Sabha constituency consists of one district alone then the leader representing that area has great convenience, then he has to deal with the officers of one district alone. There are many such States where there are as many as eight to ten districts, in case of which it is very difficult for the District Magistrates to co-ordinate work with the Development Officers of different districts. But this situation cannot be avoided as a Lok Sabha constituency is made to suit the census. One more thing that came up during discussion is that now the voter list of each Lok Sabha constituency would be prepared in a new manner, polling lists would also be prepared and the Election Commission is putting great pressure on us for that. It says that the new voter's list should have photograph also. I think all the identity cards have not been made till now and have not been received by people. When we have elections in Uttar Pradesh, there are 12 to 14 options and if a person is identified according to that then he can have a right to vote. If the voters list is to be prepared with photograph then I think the Commission will require a time of 6 months to a year for doing that. Whenever the issue of preparing a voter's list or polling list comes up the biggest obstacle is that the District Accounts Officer and the employees of Revenue Department are involved in it. On the other hand teachers from our primary schools are involved. But there is a problem in that because if the Primary and Middle school teachers are involved in preparing the new voter's list and polling lists then their maximum time goes in that

and the studies in school suffer. Even then they are involved for doing this job. There are many government programmes for which their services are also used. But where are we going to get employees for doing this work. If the teachers of village schools are not employed for this work then the officials and employees of other departments would be engaged for this job. In my opinion we are faced with all these problems. Now without saying much I would like to express my support for the main points and conclude my speech by strongly supporting both the Delimitation Amendment Bills presented by the hon'ble Minister in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vijoy Krishna ji, now you speak. Is there any member present here from the State of which the Bill has to be passed?

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Delimitation Amendment Bill is being discussed at present. It was presented in 1971 and was implemented in 1976 and it is being discussed after a long interval. Associate members had been sent the draft of the Bill before the Bihar assembly elections. Many speakers complained that no political party was associated in the drafting of the Bill and it was extremely ill-drafted. But elections were near, hence the draft was withdrawn citing the Bihar elections as unavoidable reasons. Later, three or four drafts were presented at different times and none of the drafts had anything in common. Even if a draft was discussed with an associate member it was not taken up in the next meeting and the entire discussion was started afresh. This was the situation in Bihar. It is a constitutional body and I know how this discussion is going to end. The constitutional position is that this report cannot be challenged in any court in the country. It is supposed to be a constitutional body and I know how this discussion is going to end. This report cannot be challenged in any of the courts in the country, this is the constitutional position. But the situation remains unchanged. The Delimitation Commission has disregarded all rules and guidelines. In fact, they have not followed the ideas outlined in their own circulars regarding the geographical layout of the constituencies which asserted that the constituencies would be compact, the administration would be approachable, that the historical significance of these constituencies would not be overlooked.

18.00 hrs.

The name of historic city Saharsa has disappeared from the constituencies in Bihar. Barh was a constituency

since 1952 but now its name does not figure anywhere. Many important areas which existed since 1952 were not included in the report and it was declared that areas would be demarcated keeping in view the physical features such as rivers, nullhas and hills. Bhagalpur constituency is an example which has been carved out by including the area situated on both the banks of river Ganga. In the earlier draft, all the constituencies in the area of Bihar which lay on the Southern side of Ganga and was known as South Bihar, were reserved as they have the maximum dalit population. It was said that there is no regional imbalance. The old commissioneraries were taken into consideration in the earlier draft. Associate members protested against this move. Then it was decided that regional balance would be taken care of and reservation of constituency would be done thereafter. Gopalganj which has only 12 per cent was reserved due to political reasons and commitments but those areas having 15 per cent and 17 per cent in north Bihar were not reserved. Such regional balance has been maintained that Kosi and Purnia commissionerary has no reservation at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is 6 o'clock. I have a list of more than sixteen hon. Members who want to speak on the Bill. If the House agrees, we can extend the time by one hour.

[Translation]

For how long should the timing of the House be extended? The timing of the House is extended by one hour.

[English]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: The issue of public hearing is being discussed at present. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): This is an important Bill and it has constitutional compulsions and obligations. Sir, it is agreed.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): It is a constitutional necessity. All parties have agreed to pass this Bill. There is no question of going back on this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members to be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Then you should have got it passed without any discussion. ...*(Interruptions)* The time for this should be extended. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, they want to get it passed without discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would request you to keep to a time limit while speaking so that it could be passed immediately.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI (Puri): Why immediately? Is any ordinance period immediately? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I think hon. Member, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy is unaware of the developments that happened in the Business Advisory Committee, in which he represents his Party. It was agreed in the Business Advisory Committee that we have to dispose of this Bill today. ...*(Interruptions)* I only said that we can deliberate within the time limit.

[Translation]

I only want the hon. Members to speak briefly. That is all I said but you are acting as if I have said something objectionable. ...*(Interruptions)* Please don't do this.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please let me speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, you conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was said that keeping in view administrative necessities

the assembly constituency to be formed would be within the district. Parliamentary constituency would remain within two districts but what actually happened was that the constituencies were formed out of two or three commissioners. ...*(Interruptions)* Two parts of Patna were included in Munger, two parts in Nalanda, two parts went to Patna. Administrative uniformity was attained. This is the situation. The opinion of the associate member was not taken into account. The Delimitation Commission acts as it desires and does not pay heed to any guidelines or laws. In Bihar also the associate member's views had no weight. This situation has given rise to deep resentment amongst the people. Ten thousand people gathered in Muzaffarpur and the situation had become tense. People turned out in large number of protest against the report of the Delimitation Commission and the employees of the Commission felt that their lives were at risk. The feelings against the report was so high. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, tribals in Jharkhand have been granted certain constitutional rights which have been negated in the report of the Delimitation Commission. I would like to congratulate the Government and Shri Bhardwaj ji for waking up to the situation in time. The Government decided not to agree to the recommendations of the said report to protect the rights of tribals. Similarly, the situation in North-East was unclear and there were legal tangles. You took a decision in that regard too.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are aware that my speech is going to have no effect. Anyone who speaks has political compulsions. The Government has brought this bill but a certain Minister in the Government was saying openly that the report of Delimitation Commission will not be enforced. Such sweeping statements are being made. It is not right to flout rules and regulations while serving in a constitutional body such as the Delimitation Commission. This law cannot be challenged in any court in the country. Since we are from the ruling side we will have to pass this Bill although with a heavy heart.

With this I conclude.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject.

I am aware of the time limitation. As we are deliberating a Constitutional amendment, I stand here to deliberate on this Bill. Both the Ordinance and the Bills have been clubbed together. It has serious repercussions on the institutional bearing of the Indian Constitution. I apprehend that in the near future, if not later, more litigations will crop up in the court of law. The manner in which this Ordinance has been promulgated and this Bill is being piloted today, it gives ample scope to the other stakeholders to raise it in the court of law. Of course, in this country, any enlightened citizen is entitled to raise any matter in a court of law. As we have an enlightened Law Minister before us, let us hear from him what are his views. I have certain specific points before this House.

The matter relates to Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. The matter was pending in the Guwahati High Court. In a specific case of Manipur, the matter came to the Apex Court. The peculiar situation is relating to Jharkhand. In Jharkhand, very rightly or wrongly, this happened. Population was taken into criterion. As was mentioned by the first speaker from the Opposition, there is a freeze relating to the number of seats because of the rise of population in the Northern States, because of control of population in the Southern States. So, some seats were frozen. It was during Madam Indira Gandhi's time, during her Prime Ministership, keeping 1971 Census in view, new Delimitation Act was passed saying: "We will not have any delimitation till 2001." Subsequently in 2001, in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, in 2001-02, a Bill was piloted and it was accepted that we would take population as the criterion; we would distribute population keeping the number of seats for Lok Sabha frozen for specific States. For Assembly also, it was felt that it should be frozen for specific number of Assemblies. This has given rise to another problem. That problem is a manifestation in Jharkhand to which you are making certain corrections today.

Sir, I would like to get a reply regarding the issue of Chhattisgarh because the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh also has raised it. What has happened in Chhattisgarh? In Chhattisgarh, the total number of seats is 11 for the Lok Sabha as per the prevailing law. The reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes in Chhattisgarh were 2. Now it has come down to 1. The reserved seats for the Scheduled Tribes for the Lok Sabha were 4 and it continues to be 4. But here the reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes have come down by one.

In the case of Chhattisgarh Assembly, the total number of seats in Chhattisgarh is 90. The number of reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes is 10 and it has remained 10 after the delimitation exercise, but the reserved seats for the Scheduled Tribes were 34 and they have come down to 29 now. What is the logic for Jharkhand? Why have you discriminated against Chhattisgarh? The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh has raised it. Why are you doing it only for Jharkhand? It may be due to political considerations. But this is a clear case which will go to the court of law. Any enlightened citizen of this country will raise it. I have raised this issue of implementation of the Report of the Delimitation Commission immediately twice in this House earlier. What has happened today? now seeing the manner in which this amendment has been brought through an Ordinance and now a Bill to replace the Ordinance, my apprehension is that the whole process may be stuck up in the court of law and still confusion will prevail. Will this be an end? This is my apprehension.

Therefore, I would say that this is only political expediency which seems to have prevailed over this Government due to which you have deferred the exercise of delimitation in Jharkhand. Despite vociferous protests by a section of the political class, as it is reflected today also in this House, delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies has become a reality.

In the case of Orissa, the number of reserved seats for the Scheduled Tribes has come down in the Assembly from 34 to 33. The number of general seats has also come down from 91 to 90. But there is a rise in the number of reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes by 2. We have accepted it, irrespective of political affiliations everybody has accepted it, but the problem lies. There are scheduled areas in respective States and in scheduled areas, once industrialisation has taken place, once urbanisation has taken place, as it has happened in Jharkhand and as it has also happened in Koraput, Bolangir and Khandmal districts of Orissa, there is migration of population from the valley to the hilly areas. The same thing has happened in Uttarakhand also where the number of seats has increased in the valley. Now, the topography has changed to such an extent that in the near future Uttarakhand may not be called a hilly State because a large number of representatives will be elected from the valley.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

The topography is changing because of the change in demographic pattern. So, this problem has been mounted because we have kept population as the criteria by freezing the number of seats. To tide over one problem, we have landed into another problem. These problems will mount up.

I would request the Government to reconsider in future that whenever a delimitation process takes place.
...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): It is in 2026.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Yes, it will take place in 2026, I do not know whether I will be there. Many Members will not be there, but here is a problem which is glaring before this country.

There is difference that the large number of representatives will be representing urban areas and the rural areas will be relegated to the background. That will create another big problem. Therefore, I would like to understand from the hon. Minister how he is going to tackle the problem which is there.

A corrective method has come because of Jharkhand. I would like to know whether similar corrective steps will be taken in future for other States. If not, will it not lead to more problems? Will it not tie up the decision of the Delimitation Commission in litigation? Delimitation Commission is a constitutional body and respect to the Delimitation Commission is our primary objective. This House should not say anything or should not do anything that would belittle the decision of the Delimitation Commission. But by bringing this Bill, I think, we are not showing that much of respect to the Delimitation Commission.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, can I intervene for half-a-minute?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, please.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I think, the competent Law Minister will reply to this debate, I am not coming in between. But my dear friend, Vijayji, very genuinely said that some important members of the Government tried to convey the message in the Central Hall that delimitation may not be implemented. It is true, Sir. I take the full responsibility, I did talk to many senior leaders and said not to worry that delimitation will not be implemented because of a lot of litigations are going on, a lot of problems are going on.

In between, the hon. Leader of the House did call an all-Party meeting and individual meetings also. I must honestly say, not because I want to score a political point, very emphatically, very systematically and very strongly with all the logic, the distinguished principal Opposition of the Parliament and also our Left Parties did feel and said very correctly that the Delimitation Commission's entire effort and the outcome should not be delayed at any moment and it should come to the House at the earliest. Then, Sir, I do not like to mention the name of any Party, even when we were trying to consult all the parties, even sent somebody to the highest court of the law to see that Government is compelled to do it at the earliest.

Sir, you tell us, as a responsible Government to discharge the constitutional obligation do we have any other option but to lay it at the earliest time because we do not like to put ourselves in a situation that we are defying the constitutional obligation in all matters except in the issue leading to the litigation in the court? That is the exact position and this is also the correct position. When the exercise was on in the meeting of the Parties, I did convey to many Members of this august House that things are taken up after consultation and they need not worry.

But I again say, without scoring any political point or casting any aspersion on anybody that to compel the Government or to insist the Government to bring it at the earliest was stated umpteen number of times by the principal Opposition Party in the All Party Meeting. Since I organized that meeting as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, it is my duty to inform all the Members so that they should not think that something in between is cooking up. We are only discharging the constitutional obligation.

At the same time, it is a fact that every delimitation hit some Members, some districts, some constituencies, some Parties. That is individual, but constitutional merit is different.

Sir, take the case of the Chair of the House—I cannot take the name—but his constituency is reserved also. I know many colleagues whose constituencies are divided into two parts or three parts in spite of all arguments. But ultimate outcome of the Delimitation Commission, which is a constitutional body, we cannot disrespect, we cannot defy and we cannot get away with it.

We cannot get out of it. That is the factual position of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs where we conveyed to many MPs in this manner.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even my constituency is divided into three constituencies.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: As a matter of fact, coming to the House every day, our stand was we would like to rectify as many memorandum as possible. We considered we could not accommodate because immediately we were asked to bring it before the House. That is why, some mistakes are there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Prabhu; please by very brief.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I hope that we are discussing delimitation so there is no limitation on speaking because delimitation would mean that we would also not limit our speech.

Sir, first of all, this is a Commission as was envisaged by the provisions of the Constitution with a specific purpose because an issue like this will always become very contentious. Therefore, you cannot settle an issue by discussion among the political parties, among the candidates. Everybody will say his constituency should be like this and should not be like this. Therefore the framers of the Constitution rightly thought that we must have a Commission which will go into it. Normally, once the Commission gives its recommendations, it is 'take it or leave it' situation. If we now again go into the issue of finding out whether it is right or wrong, then actually we are trying to reinvent the whole process. In that process, we are also saying that we have, now, become a Commission; I feel this is what really needs to be done. Therefore, I really and strongly object to the Ordinance itself. When Parliament had passed the Act, there was no need really for us to make any other intervention and really go into the other issues. We have got the Delimitation Commission's recommendations which

are accepted, except in an exceptional situation that prevailed in the North-East. It is very surprising how our population has suddenly gone up in the North-East. This is something which really needs to be examined. In fact, this is really something which, I am sure, the Minister would like to enlighten the House that how suddenly a population spurt can take place in North East and why it has happened. What has contributed to it? Have the people there become very productive? What is the reason behind it? We would really like to know. Therefore, this is something I can understand. But, in case of Jharkhand, if we, now go into the issue and revisit the entire recommendations of the Delimitation Commission, using our own wisdom, then they are in fact challenging the entire premise on which the delimitation has worked. Therefore, having accepted Delimitation Commission's recommendations in respect of the other States, to make exception for Jharkhand, in my opinion it defies the real logic for which the Commission is set up by the framers of the Constitution. It is not something like any other law which is passed by the Parliament. The law which was passed by the Parliament was to appoint the Delimitation Commission. The law which was passed by the Parliament was to decide the criteria on which the Delimitation Commission will act. But if we are now going to the merits and demerits of it which this Ordinance has sought to do, I really, strongly object to it.

Sir, I would like to raise some other issues. One, this Delimitation Commission was necessitated because of exploding population. What are we saying now? The criteria for this is that we should try to bring about some sort of a uniformity in terms of some constituency. Some constituencies are as small as a few thousands; some are as large as a few millions. How do you make sure that there should be uniformity? Here, Sir, there is a fundamental issue. Are we going to put premium now on population? That means we are going to tell the States to increase their population if they want something to happen. In terms of constituency, the States will not get more share but if there are more people, you have got constituencies. This is about the time we also move a resolution in the Parliament limiting up population. We need delimitation of constituencies, we also need limitation of population because it is posing serious challenge for water, for land, and for many other issues. That is another issue.

My next issue is this. We are actually accepting a concept of smaller States. That is why we are actually going into creating more States. In fact we created

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

Jharkhand, we created Chhattisgarh because we wanted smaller States. We are going for a smaller revenue district. In fact, in Uttar Pradesh, the present Chief Minister already carved out more districts. You are going for smaller States, you are going for smaller districts, and you are going for larger Members of Parliament's constituency. What is the logic? If you want smaller States for a particular purpose, if you want smaller districts with a good logic, how can the same logic not be applied to constituency?

So, I really do not understand this. This is about time that the hon. Minister has to seriously think about it in a very serious way. Why? It is because a Member of Parliament, as it is, is condemned by everybody saying that Members of Parliament do not do anything. I know how much each Member of Parliament is performing works in his constituency and other places. There are physical limitations. Suppose, if a constituency is going to be now extended by 450 kilometres in length and 350 kilometres in width, how can a Member of Parliament, one single person, is expected to perform his duties? Here, I think, it is the responsibility of the Law Minister to make sure that to bring simultaneously such amendments to make sure that Members of Parliament are popularly empowered to discharge their roles and responsibilities in case of an increase in the geographical area. Otherwise, we are saying that a Member of Parliament has become a super human suddenly. He was looking after one-fifth area and now he would be looking after three times or four times of that area. That is not going to be workable. So, we must really bring about some sort of an amendment in parallel to make sure that this really changes. In fact, there is no other country in the world where a single Member of Parliament is responsible for about 20 lakh people. There is no other country in the world where a single person is supposed to be looking after such a large population in such a geographical area. I think, this is about time that the hon. Minister must seriously think about it. On the one hand we are saying that we are doing it and on the other hand we are forgetting the attendant responsibilities that are cast upon a legislator who is supposed to discharge his duties as a member of Parliament or a Member of the Legislative Assembly. This is my request.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I would like to register a few points on the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008, and also on the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

Sir, the same amendment was brought in 13th Lok Sabha and at that time I participated in the debate and mentioned that the constituency was made according to the population strength as per the delimitation. As Shri Suresh Prabhu has said, we can take it as geographically and also as per the population. In some cities, we find that the number of constituencies has increased. For example, in the North Madras, there is one Villivakkam constituency which consists of 11 lakh electorates. That constituency has been divided now into three Assembly constituencies. I agree with that. But in the case of Ambattur, the number of divisions in the local municipality is 52 but for MLA constituency, it is only 49. The number of divisions for Municipality is more than that of the MLA constituency. At the same time, if you take Tiruvallur constituency, it has a total population of one lakh and odd but the total population has increased to 2,50,000 but the geographical area is more than that 50 kilometres.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like to say anything on this Bill?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir. Regarding, North-East, we are bringing an amendment. I was serving as a member in the Delimitation Commission. According to the nature, we should not disturb the constituencies. According to the district and according to the Taluk, we have made an amendment. The Delimitation Commission headed by Mr. Kuldip Singh—I served as a member of that Commission—had given a lot of suggestions but they were not implemented. As a Member of that Commission, I wish to register that those suggestions were not taken into account. I totally accept and agree for bringing this delimitation process, and it should be made.

Sir, because of the Delimitation Commission, some of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people in this country would get more seats in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. They are going to get more number of representatives to sit in the house. But my grudge is that it has not been done as per the nature, as per the taluka and as per the districts.

Sir, while thanking the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Law Minister of this country for doing it, I would request the Government to implement it as early as possible. It has to come into effect from the 15th Lok Sabha. My point is that the delimitation has not been done on the basis of nature, taluka and districts. So, I would urge upon the Government that in the meantime,

they may look into this issue and do the needful. They may come with a new legislation to do it.

With these few words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Kumari Mamata Banerjee. Madam, you may give suggestion with regard to this Bill.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): A grave injustice has been meted out to us and this is the opportunity to express our views about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue your speech.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I would speak a little. I want to cooperate with the House. Here everybody has got the right to speak. It is an important matter. I have not stood up to oppose these Bills with regard to five States *i.e.* north-eastern States and Jharkhand.

[English]

But it is good that, at least, we can express our views.

[Translation]

I could not understand as to what was the need for bringing an ordinance. If the Budget-Session was at hand, why should the House not have a full debate on the Delimitation Commission during the budget session.

[English]

It is a very important matter and nothing is being discussed in this House on it! Just one Amendment came; and that is why, we are fortunate enough that at least, we are getting opportunities to express our views.

I would confine to my State. I cannot say what is the position throughout the country. Seriously speaking, yes, we know something about Jharkhand, Uttarakhand or any other particular State. But we do not know the details about the whole country.

Let me tell you something. We are not criticizing the Delimitation Commission; we are not going to condemn any Constitutional obligation because we know the respect

of the Constitutional bodies. But what injustice has been done in different States, with different people, the history would judge. They would not excuse the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* You cannot be excused for that.

We are happy that by this delimitation, so many brothers and sisters from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes category would be coming to this House. We are ready to leave our seats for them. But please realize that it should not be that whatever we may think we would do it from our House, just by sitting inside the House and we would do it politically! That is wrong. The conceptions is wrong.

Sir, the way the delimitation process has been done is wrong. The guidelines and methods for the Delimitation Commission to abide by, were not there. You say about public hearing that even one person has not been left out. Who is doing the public hearing. What public hearing is there. I know particular cases in my State. I am challenging the Government. One cannot deny the facts. From the CPI (M) party office, the Delimitation Commission list was there. ...*(Interruptions)* The list of the demarcation area is being finalized. When was it started? It was in 2002. Even at that time, the NDA Government was there in power and during that time also we opposed it. Now, also I am opposing the same thing. Can you imagine about Kolkata? It was our stronghold. That is why, out of 21 seats, you pulled 11 seats straightaway so that the Opposition should not go in for election.

Sir, for example, the Chair, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee. I am just telling you the facts. His seat is also reserved. If you reserve my seat also, I would be happy. I would not mind it, because we are the political fighters. We are the public representatives. Sometime, we may contest from other seats. But you tell me, how our seats would be divided. Under what criterion of population, it is being divided by four districts?

Sir, you will be surprised to know that I can contest from any area. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not disturb me; your party has already expressed its views. Let me also express my views before the House.

Sir, I can contest from any Constituency. There would not be any problem for me; I am an Indian citizen; and I have the fundamental rights and the democratic rights. You can divide, you can curtail but please realize what when we fight for the people, we have the guts to fight from any Constituency. The people will vote for us.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

But is it fair? I was an associated member. Obviously, for political reasons, I was dissociated. Why? The rule was that if I continue as a Member, then I will be associated member there. I am Member of this House. How is my membership curtailed there, if it is not done politically? I was an associated member. Why was it done? You want to delete a political party from a particular State. You want to delete the associated member from a particular party. Why? This is discrimination. This is being done wrongfully.

Now I come to the Census Report. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, the local body, gave some report as Census Report. I have some doubt about the Census Report also. There is no way to see whether the Census Report is correct or not. I would like to know whether the Government investigated the matter. Even there, so many confusions have arisen. Why is the Government not investigating the matter to see whether Census Report is right or not?

How can you go for the delimitation in a hurried manner and issue an ordinance also. You cannot go for women's reservation and you cannot go for minority reservation, but you can go for delimitation because you have to face the election with your political allies. Only to satisfy some political party and allies, you can go for delimitation process, whatever way you want! I am just complaining and expressing my grievances about the procedures. It has been done totally forcefully.

Hon. Minister has said that all the political parties had been consulted and all that. We are also a political party, but we were not consulted. It may be because we are a small political party, we are a regional political party. Maybe we do not have a good looking. ...*(Interruptions)* When you come to fight election in West Bengal, public will decide that. ...*(Interruptions)* You will see so many Nandigrams. You do not know how we are fighting the battle. ...*(Interruptions)* Congress Party will also see it. They are waiting. They will also get the results. Please wait. ...*(Interruptions)* You can fight with anybody, but you cannot fight with Marxist Party because they are so dangerous. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We know how we are fighting the battle. We are fighting the battle against all the money power, the muscle power and what not. There is no democratic right, no Fundamental Right, no

livelihood and nothing. ...*(Interruptions)* You have your own media. I do not trust your media. I trust other media. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not trust your Party media. We trust other media. ...*(Interruptions)* That is why, my request would be that please see if there is any injustice.

Government has to take care of the people of this country and not of any political party. The Government should not take care of CPI(M). The Government must take care of common people of this country. If we find that there is any injustice, we give complaints. Even from our State, one lakh applications had been submitted to the Delimitation Commission for public hearing, but nothing has been done. There was not a single public hearing in Kolkata. ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you defending yourself? It is because you know. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary. I have seen you disturbing three or four times, but I am ignoring it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have also seen him three or four times. He is continuously disturbing. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We have our own grievances. Our grievances are not regarding the constitution or the Delimitation Commission, but the process through which delimitation has been undertaken, it is political and in this political process there would be a serious danger in the future. Mehtabji has said rightly. A case regarding north-eastern State is pending in the court and our case is also pending in Kolkata High Court.

[English]

Our Party's General Secretary had filed a writ petition there and it is also pending. Please investigate from your source also. Sometimes you may be misled by a certain party. So please take care.

[Translation]

When the case is pending, there is some injustice somewhere. Then they should do something to ensure that there is no injustice.

[English]

We are not against delimitation. It is obvious that as per the constitutional procedure, we have to go for it.

[Translation]

But it is not right, we work as a political party and that is why our stronghold has been disturbed. A political decision has been taken.

[English]

Do you want to delete us? You cannot do so. The State Government and the Central Government also cannot do it. We will fight the battle with the people, and we will win the battle with the ballot. Please note it. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shrimati Neeta Pateriya. I would request her to be brief while making her speech.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. Mamataji has just said that the delimitation matter deserved a full debate disregarding the outcome of the debate, but we would have got an opportunity to express our views. I know that nothing is going to happen even after this discussion in the House but I thank you because we can atleast express our grievances.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, here all the members are expressing their grievances. Someone's seat has been divided into three parts, other's seat has been spreaded into two districts. Therefore, it would not be an exaggeration to say that Seoni Lok Sabha constituency has been brutally murdered by the Delimitation Commission without even giving us any opportunity for hearing. Seoni Lok Sabha constituency was there in a changed form in the two proposals put by the Delimitation Commission for the public. We were glad to see that Seoni Lok Sabha seat at least was in existence. We went to the office on the day scheduled for submission of objections, we sat there idle because we had no objection as Seoni Lok Sabha constituency was in existence only some changes were there. But finally when notification was issued Seoni Lok Sabha constituency was deleted without giving any reasons and receiving and complaint. My constituency was distributed among three Lok Sabha seats namely—Mandla, Balaghat and Jabalpur.

My seat does not exist anymore. Whatever days we are here in this House, I feel as if we are bidding our last days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today are thing has been brought to my notice that the tenure of the Delimitation Commission was not extended. Whatever, the Commission has done in extended time has done without getting any official extension. Several Members have approached the Supreme Court for this. When they raised this issue then I was also reminded that I had also written a letter to the Union Law Minister in this regard. I had asked as to when the tenure of the Commission was extended to function after 2004 in that letter. I never received any reply. When I did not get any response from the Law Minister, I wrote a letter to the Delimitation Commission also but they also did not respond. Today, it seems that there is no Delimitation Commission and all the work undertaken by the Commission is illegal. If Lok Sabha gets dissolved and the Government takes any decision then that decision also will be illegal. Till date this issue has not been resolved nor has anyone sent any reply to us. I therefore, have my doubts in this regard. We also had approached the Supreme Court in this regard. The Supreme Court issued a notice to the Delimitation Commission and gave one month's time to furnish reply. But the Commission hastily issued a notification before lapse of one month so that the Commission would not have to submit any clarifications for their mistakes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the hon'ble Members has raised the issue of population. All the districts in my division were felicitated and rewarded for successful implementation of National Family Welfare Programme. That time, the leaders of my area were very happy that they had implemented the programme quite successfully. However, the Delimitation Commission rewarded us with a punishment by reducing eight Vidhan Sabha seats from my division. Consequently, leave alone Madhya Pradesh, eight Vidhan Sabha seats and one Lok Sabha Seat have been reduced in my division only.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the constitution had not granted absolute powers to the Delimitation Commission, still it framed its own policy as to on what basis the delimitation should be carried out. The Commission stipulated the population figure of 2 lakh 62 thousand, as an average, for a Vidhan Sabha seat. After delimitation came into effect, we found that at some places a Vidhan Sabha constituency was created for a population of 3 lakh and 47 thousand, whereas, elsewhere, one

[Shrimati Neeta Pateriya]

constituency had a population of just 2 lakh 7 thousand only. It violated its own rules. The Commission had said that it will not divide tehsils or RI circles. But when the process took final shape, it came to the notice that RI circles even the tehsils have been divided. They dismantled the whole structure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my home town, Chapara, a district development block, has only 54 panchayats. These 54 panchayats have been spread over three Vidhan Sabha constituencies. Now my development block will send three MLAs and these 54 panchayats will have equal number of MLAs.

Sir, you can imagine how good shall be the administration over there. If three MLAs covering these 54 panchayats came from different political parties, only God knows what shall be the fate of this area. They will just keep fighting and no concrete work will be done. I therefore, urge the hon'ble Minister to reconsider delimitation of my Lok Sabha constituency Seoni which has been badly affected the delimitation, without giving any chance of hearing, and same thing has been done with the Vidhan Sabha constituencies, as Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh were given a chance to plead their case as they had their own problems. We, too, have some similar problems. The Commission has divided RI circles, tehsils and districts and recast the entire constituency. The Commission violated its own rules. Therefore, my submission is that it may kindly be reconsidered.

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the two Bills proposed by our hon. Law Minister. At the very outset, I would like to place on record our gratitude to the UPA leadership, our hon. Prime Minister, Madam Sonia Gandhi, hon. Law Minister and to all the senior leaders with whom we have been talking to help us. I am from the State of Manipur, one of the four North-Eastern States which were being excluded from the delimitation exercising along with Jharkhand State.

I would like to mention a very interesting case. In our case, we are against the Census operations. The Census Report of 2001 was not a genuine one. It is not a correct one, rather it is incomplete. We are not against the delimitation exercise. As per the above Census, in one district, the rise in population was more than 168

per cent. In other cases also, it was like that. We are not sure how this delimitation exercise was undertaken. We were objecting to that. When we placed our objections before the Census General of India, the district in which the population was 168 per cent was reduced to 39 per cent. We were wondering what type of procedure was adopted and how they have made the adjustment like that.

The cases are going on in the hon. High Courts as well as in the hon. Supreme Court, and we were running to all the leaders to help us because our State is a small tribal State. All the four North-Eastern States as well as Jharkhand are very sensitive, and people always say that we have not got into the mainstream. We are always very sensitive, and we have always the tendency of striking back very soon. It is because of this reason that we were afraid that there might be bloodshed and there might be law and order problems. So, we were appealing to all the hon. Members and leadership of the UPA and we managed to get an Ordinance. Now, it is becoming a Bill. I support both these Bills.

They are introducing Section 10(a) and (b) in the Delimitation Act. Section 10(a) saves the four North-Eastern States, and Section 10(b) saves Jharkhand. Following this Amendment, we would have to amend the Representation of the People Act.

With these few words, I once again record my gratitude to the leadership of the UPA.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The delimitation process is of vital importance. In the words of the Government, my learned friend, Shri Bhardwaj, the issue in regard to delimitation of constituencies is serious and very sensitive in nature, and they may have impact even on the law and order situation in some parts of the country.

When the original Act was introduced in this House, I have mentioned at that time that we were then dealing with a matter which would create very, very sensitive issues. In that context, I mentioned that there were some traditional seats in our country held by certain gentlemen, and if any alteration was made, that would create an issue or a problem. That was said some years back when the Bill was introduced. Now, it happened.

See how callously we have dealt with the situation on such a vital issue. Delimitation Commission was

appointed after 2002 and started its work on the basis of the census of 1991. That itself is a wrong procedure. By that time the census of 2001 was complete. The official figures may not have been available then but they would have been available in due course. Instead of referring to 2001 census, the Commission followed the census of 1991. Then the matter had gone to the court. Supreme Court intervened and they had to start a fresh exercise based on 2001 census.

The complaint is that there are some States which did not implement the family planning programme. In some States the number of Assembly seats as well as number of Parliament seats has come down while the number of seats has increased in the northern States where family planning programme was not implemented with seriousness. Where the population has increased, the number of seats also has increased. As a result there is imbalance in the matter of political power being held by the different States. That also is one aspect.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what was the necessity of issuing an Ordinance. He himself said in his statement that in the North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland there was threat to peace and public order and so it was decided to make an enabling provision so that the delimitation exercise in respect of the North-East States would be deferred. There was no difficulty in bringing an amendment Bill. Article 123 of the Constitution envisages three conditions: (1) there shall not be any sitting of the House; (2) there must be an unexpected situation; and (3) it should require an immediate order to prevent that difficulty.

Except that the House was not in session, all the provisions were in existence for a long time. They would also admit there were cases before the court. There were also orders issued by the court. There was a stay order issued by the court. There was ample time for the Government to bring in a government Bill. What was the necessity of bringing forward a committed legislation barring the House of its legitimate right to bringing amendments to the Bill? We cannot do anything in this because it is a committed legislation. This is a Bill which has been brought to replace the Ordinance. So, the legislature's powers are limited. We cannot go beyond that Ordinance because it has already legally taken place. What was the legal necessity to bring in an Ordinance? We could have got an opportunity to mention about all these difficulties in the matter of delimitation.

From the very outset it was dealt with carelessly and most negligently. It has created a lot of difficulties in the political situation in the country. We have now come to a stage that almost all parties are opposed to delimitation. The exercise has been futile because of the wrong policy and the inordinate delay on the part of the Government in taking proper decision at the proper time.

We are dealing with a very important situation. We have given exemption to a particular State, Jharkhand, on the ground that it is a tribal State and that also is given up to 2026. What is the difficulty? They would also admit that all the northern States have the same difficulty. Simply for the reason that the delimitation process in these three States has not been completed, they have been exempted. Simply for the reason that in Jharkhand alone this delimitation process is not complete, an Ordinance has been issued. What is it?

I do not understand. How can you differentiate these States? What is the material before this House for taking a different approach to a particular State? You yourself would admit that all the States have the same problem and the same issues—migration. Same situation is available in all these States. What is the peculiarity except for the reason that the delimitation process is not complete? I am sorry. Do not put us in such a difficult situation. You do not rob the legitimate rights of this House. We must have a free discussion and open discussion and at the same time, we must be given opportunities for bringing out amendments. All these have been denied for the simple reason that you want to exempt a particular State, Jharkhand alone and nothing more. I am sorry. Please do not take recourse to such emergency legislation in future also. Do not put future generations into trouble. The matter we are dealing with is the year 2026. I do not know whether we would be available or alive by then. Hence, I would request you to address the issue in a proper way and not in a casual manner.

Hon. Minister, I think you know better and I hope you would not resort to such methods, such tactics in bringing out a legislation which is of vital importance on a crucial issue. The difficulty is, almost all the States have difficulty and have complained about the delimitation. It has nothing to do with population, geographical features and the people who are residing there. Without considering nothing of this sort, they have brought out a report and unfortunately it has been notified and the poor citizens of India would be put to difficulty.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Jagannath, please be very brief.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Yes, Sir.

Sir, I rise to support the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008. The delimitation of constituencies is a constitutional obligation, which would be dealt by the Delimitation Commission duly appointed according to law.

With such an extraordinary magnitude, it is very difficult to satisfy each and every Member. As Shri Radhakrishnan has cited, there are some traditional seats from where some Members come from. Whenever some change takes place, there would naturally be uneasiness. The Delimitation Commission Chairman, while answering the Press, has stated that all the political parties are satisfied but individuals are not satisfied. This could be the reason. The entire House has different versions. When the work is of such a huge magnitude, it would be difficult to satisfy everybody. But in the given circumstances, the Delimitation Commission—I was also an Associate Member of the Delimitation Commission earlier when the Act was framed—they have taken all steps systematically and have conducted public hearings also. The Commission has heard the Public Representations also. The Commission has said very clearly that only the valid reason would be accepted and would not be decided keeping in view the interests of individuals, to include this area or that area.

After 1970, the delimitation process was not taken up, though it was obligatory according to the Constitution to conduct this exercise every 10 years. This has deprived the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people to lose their seats. In the present delimitation, it seems that 12 Lok Sabha seats are being added and nearly 59-60 Assembly seats are being added and the representatives of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are going up.

18.59 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

I would like to congratulate the Government for bringing forward this Bill and I would request the Government to take immediate steps to implement the notification of the Delimitation Commission and also to hold the next elections under the delimitation constituencies.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur); Sir, I do not understand what was the need for the Government to bring this legislation as an ordinance.

As it was told, the promulgation of an ordinance is a thing that the Government should do, only under exceptional circumstances. In this case, I do not think that there was such a situation. The Government could have brought forward a normal legislation for enacting this. So, I, first of all, register my disagreement for issuing this ordinance.

I support this Bill. I do not agree with the contention that there are certain traditional constituencies for certain people in any country; and in a democracy it is not possible. We had delimitations before. Then also, constituencies got changed. Now, what is special about this is, when Indira Gandhi was in power, due to good reasons, at that time, a legislation had been enacted that we will have no more delimitation until the new century.

So, there was no delimitation at that time. That does not mean that during those periods, somebody who was holding a constituency make that constituency his own. Now, in the new situation, when the Delimitation Commission was appointed, the criteria or the guidelines were that on behalf of the newly increased population, taking into account the population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and keeping the number of seats same for Parliament and Assembly in respective States, the delimitation should be done—this was the guideline and I was also an Associate Member in regard to delimitation in regard to Kerala. It was done quite justifiably. Some people may have some personal complaints.

Our hon. Member, Shrimati Sujatha is contesting from a constituency called Mavelikara; it has become a Reserved Constituency; but I do not think that she has any complaint about it. It is a natural course. But what has happened that required a legislation is something that happened in the North Eastern States. As every one of us in the House will agree, there are certain special problems in those States. In those States, if this is thrust upon, probably it would lead to trouble; it would lead to conditions under which there may be more militancy and things like that. It would have affected the national integration itself. So, in the interest of national unity, if the Government has taken steps to see that it is kept in

abeyance, that is good in the interest of the country. That is why I support it.

I do not go into the details of the population. I am very much surprised; and the Minister, when he replies, can give us a convincing explanation. How can it be that a population in Manipur goes up to 160 per cent, and then, when an adjustment is asked, it was brought it down by the Commission to 39 per cent? Again, I must say, using the mildest language, a constitutional body like the Census Commission, by doing this, it has brought its position quite down. That should not have happened. But it has happened. So, the Government has taken that into consideration and then the North Eastern States are exempted. I do not have any complaint about it.

But regarding the State of Jharkhand, still the explanation is not very convincing. Why was it necessitated that that State should be given an exemption? While supporting this Bill, I would like the Government, at least in future, to take into account one or two things.

Firstly, the Census Commission should work properly and it owes an explanation to this House to what has happened in the North-Eastern States. This is very important.

Secondly, the Government while bringing Ordinances should take care that there are sufficient reasons for bringing an Ordinance.

This is a legislation which could have been easily brought and this House would have accepted it. Bringing an Ordinance is in bad taste. I do not have to go into the constitutional things. Ordinance is high-handedness when it is brought in a situation unwarranted. So, I hope the Government will take note of it for future. I support it.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Thank you Chairman, Sir. I rise here to support the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill 2008 and the Representation of Peoples (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

Before I speak I must express my gratitude to the Government for bringing this very important amendment, particularly for the people of North-East and the people of Jharkhand. At the same time, I would not fail to thank the Delimitation Commission which has kindly forwarded our case to the Government for this necessary

amendment. On this occasion I would like to express my sincere apology to the Delimitation Commission as during the meeting some of our colleagues from Arunachal Pradesh behaved wrongly with the Delimitation Commission Members. I regret that. As this amendment Bill has been introduced in the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am instrumental in bringing this amendment Bill. You are not allowing me to speak. I am the main person. I should be allowed to speak. Actually, I should have been the first speaker on this Bill.

It was unprecedented that the Government of Arunachal Pradesh had written to the Election Commission that it cannot go ahead with the public hearing and if the Commission goes ahead with the public hearing, it is not responsible for the blood shed or law and order situation in Arunachal Pradesh. That was the situation.

[Translation]

I, therefore, would like to say that it is a very serious issue for us. Had the said Amendment Bill not been brought, the situation could not have been brought under control. The Government realized its seriousness and it brought an Amendment Bill and we are very happy. Not only me, the people of my state, the people of four north eastern states and that of Jharkhand are all happy and I would like to convey my happiness before the House. It has been observed that required number of SCs and STs were not given representation in the case of delimitation. The Government realized this lapse and it brought the said Bill. Why did the need for Delimitation Amendment Bill arise? The need arose because of the criteria prescribed.

[English]

The necessity of this amendment Bill arose because of the lapses and loopholes in the provisions of the Delimitation Act of 2002. That provision has given certain criteria whereby the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe seats is going to be reduced, particularly with regard to Scheduled Tribes. The difference of population between two different constituencies was so less that the difficult hilly terrain people are going to get less representation whereas populated plain area was getting more seats. That is why I found that the Delimitation Act of 2002 was at fault. It was not an appropriate Act. I still feel that in future we need to make certain changes.

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

Section 8(A) of the Peoples' Representation Act was not necessary.

It is because it says that if the President of India is satisfied, this particular exemption can be rescinded. I feel it should not be rescinded till 2026 as number of seats in the Assemblies and Parliament is not going to be increased. When we get more and more MLAs and MPs, then we can think about the change in delimitation.

[Translation]

While there is no proposal to increase the number of seats of MPs and MLAs what was the need for tempering with the constituencies? Why to alter the boundaries, let there be a status quo. If seats are proposed to be increased then it's okay. I will oppose if anyone talks of population, be it for development or the number of seats in the Parliament. It is against the established policy of the Government.

[English]

You talk about population control, family planning and you always lay yardsticks where you will give more seats and money where the area is more populated.

[Translation]

Let there be any Government, NDA or UPA, I am not concerned. I am concerned about the poor, tribals and those living in remote hilly areas. The Government should be concerned about them. I would like to make this submission before him. At the same time, I would like to say a very important thing.

[English]

When you are determining the constituency, population of course is important. After all, it is the people who elect but the criteria should be 50:50, that is, land mass and man mass.

[Translation]

The land mass and geographical factor should be given importance at par with that of population, *i.e.* in the rates of 50:50. It is so because if only land mass is given importance there won't any seat of MLA in hilly areas.

Sir, you would also understand this problem because you come from a coastal region and you would understand my problem. If I am the lone Member of Parliament from the whole of Uttar Pradesh, I can tour the whole of Uttar Pradesh in five years but I cannot tour my whole constituency even in 50 years. We must know this difference.

[Translation]

If they do not understand our sentiments then what is the use of making lengthy speeches? This is the only reason for ongoing movement

[English]

amongst tribals. Why does this naxalite movement take place? We must understand the root cause. These are the important factors and if we do not consider these important factors, it is very dangerous for the unity of this country. We are very sensitive about this matter. If any Government policy reflects any kind of negligence to the people of border areas and difficult areas, it is not good for the country. I am saying this because it relates to the people's representatives. I have so many points but since you are telling me to conclude my speech, I will make one more point.

In North-East, in some of the areas, there is 80 to 100 per cent increase in population. Who are these people? Where they have come from? I am referring to the case of illegal Bangladeshi migrants also. It is a different matter that Bangladeshi migrants who are registered voters do not vote for BJP. This is a fact. But I am not going to that point. My point is that how can suddenly in ten years there can be doubling of population. It is a very serious issue. It is happening in North-Eastern States. It may be happening in other cities also. That is why, before we determine this kind of important thing, we must ascertain the background, the root cause, the sentiments, the thinking and the mind of the people of the difficult regions particularly the tribal people.

With these words, I once again thank the hon. Minister and the Government as also the Delimitation Commission for bringing this amendment.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHILA KERKETTA (Khunti): Sir, I support the Bill brought by the Government. I thank Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji, the Chairperson of UPA

Government, honourable Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singhji, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and all other Senior Ministers especially on behalf of my State Jharkhand. They have taken our agony and problems into account. I got an opportunity to be a member of the Delimitation Commission for two years. We worked hard and as Article 91A and Article 91D were the basis for delimitation which provided that in delimitation the boundaries should be determined keeping in view the geographical factors so that the areas remain compact and people easily move within a constituency. But when I was the Member of Delimitation Commission, we carried out alteration in boundaries for the sake of convenience. I would like to give the example of my Parliamentary constituency Khunti. Earlier Khunti constituency constituted of Kolvira, Simdega, Khunti, Tamad, Rajkarsawan and Saraikela areas. But the Delimitation Commission changed it totally and took Khunti Simdega and Kolvira out of my constituency and added Bedo, Kake, Ratu, Burmus, Chakradharpur areas to it which were not convenient places to go. If I have to go to Burmu then first I will have to go to Ranchi, then from Ranchi to Ratu and then from Ratu to Burmu. Thus I am at inconvenience. The same thing happened which Lohardagga. Some part of Khunti constituency was added to Lohardagga, i.e. the representative to Lohardagga will have to go to Tethaitangar. Thus if was not practical for us and we opposed this. But no amendment was carried out.

The second thing which I would like to mention is that all of our constituencies had different population, whereas the number of Members of Parliament or Legislative Assembly should be almost same in all the constituencies. But you can see the difference in population of different areas of my Lok Sabha constituency. For example the population of Simdega, Gumla and Sisai are respectively 23,712; 42,01,262 and 41,195. Thus there was a great difference in population. It is very painful for us because the candidate contesting from Simdega will win the election easily as it has a very low population. Thus it was not practical.

Apart from this, earlier my Lok Sabha constituency covered of at least two districts but now it covered of six districts namely Khunti, Simdega, Gumla, Ranchi, Saraikela and Chaibasa. All these districts have been included in my constituency and this constituency has become a very large constituency. Now I would like to refer to the important fact which is that in 1951 the

number of members belonging to the scheduled castes in the Legislative Assembly was 32. At that time we were in the opposition party in our State. But in 1971 this number decreased to 28 and now after delimitation this number has decreased to 21. The Commission has increased one seat after much request. So I can say that delimitation has been done on the basis of population and the census of 2001 is not correct. As during the census on code number was given to Samas who are non-Christian tribals, they have been treated as Hindus for all purposes. This move has led to reduction in population of Scheduled Tribes to half. We made many requests for giving Sarna code or any other code to these people. But our request was not considered.

The second thing is that we requested to change the time of census as the census was being done during the summer and at that time many people of Jharkhand go to other States in search of employment.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since you are a lady member, I gave you more time to speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHILA KERKETTA: Sir, I would like to say one thing more that in Jharkhand out of 212 blocks 112 blocks are reserved seats for the Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no dispute about tribal population in Jharkhand.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHILA KERKETTA: Sir, you have just heard that in Jharkhand our population has not decreased. Our State has plenty of minerals but after separation the outsiders have been pouring into the State. It must be taken into consideration that our population has not decreased and our leaders have also understood the fact.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There will be no change in your constituency upto 2026.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHILA KERKETTA: Sir, the third thing is that in Jharkhand there is a Tribal Advisory Committee for the tribal people and no change should be brought without taking the advice of this Committee but no advice or opinion was sought from this Committee at the time of delimitation. Hence I am not happy. Advice should have been sought from the Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

I associate myself with all other Members in thanking the Government for bringing this amendment at least exempting or deferring the delimiting process for the four States of the North-Eastern Region and Jharkhand. Two sections have been proposed for insertion in the Act. But there is some difference in the two sections. In 10(b), it is categorically said that delimitation of constituencies in respect of Jharkhand will be continued until 2026 but so far as the other four States of the North-Eastern Region are concerned, section 10(a) is very much ambiguous. I want a specific clarification from the hon. Minister for Law who is very much aware of the situation in the North-East. I appreciate his sincerity on giving equal importance to the sensitivity of the North-Eastern Region but at the same time, I want to get it clarified because people are very much apprehensive on how delimitation of different constituencies in Assam and other parts of the North-East has been decided upon by the Government.

As the clause is ambiguous, I want to have a specific clarification from the hon. Law Minister on this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Delimitation in Assam is already complete.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: No. Assam is a sensitive State. It is not complete. It has been deferred. But we want to know till what time has been deferred and what will be the conditions. We want to know whether it has been deferred till 2026. I want to have a clarification from the Minister on this point.

In North-East, especially in Assam, in addition to inter-constituency and inter-State migration, there is migration

from across the border, because of which there is a shift in the demography. A large number of foreigners have infiltrated into Assam because of which there was a long agitation. Assam Accord was also signed. It was agreed that proper identification of foreign nationals who have been staying in Assam will be done and that after doing that a National Register of Citizens will be prepared. But so far that process of preparing the National Register of Citizens has not yet started. It has not started although it was promised a long time back. Unless and until the genuine Indian citizens are identified, this process of delimitation will be unconstitutional. I specifically urge upon the Government not to start the delimitation process in Assam till the National Register of Citizens is fully prepared.

The Government should safeguard the interests of the ethnic minorities who have been marginalised, who have been reduced to the status of minorities due to large number of influx from foreign countries. They have to be given adequate safeguards so that small tribal groups, ethnic groups have proper representation in the Assembly and also in the Parliament. To do that, the number of seats in the Assam Assembly has to be increased. Without that, this exercise will be futile.

I have great respect for the Delimitation Commission. I was the Associate Member from Assam. With great humility, I must put on record that the suggestions given by the Associate Members are not given adequate importance by the Delimitation Commission. This sentiment was expressed by other hon. Members also. The views of Members of Parliament, who are representing the people, who are the Associate Members, are not given importance by the Commission. They act according to their own whims. A number of meetings were held and suggestions were taken from the MLAs and MPs, but not a single suggestion worth has been taken care of. The drafts was prepared by the officers and was published as it is. An impression was given that Associate Members were consulted. But not a single suggestion was taken care of.

There was a consensus from all the parties that in Assam the delimitation process should be deferred till a final decision on foreigners issue, NRC and giving representation to the ethnic communities is taken. But even after that the delimitation process continued and there is still an apprehension that the delimitation process

will continue after a certain lapse of time. Although the hon. President of India is empowered to take a decision, but the situation is not clear. Therefore, I have a request to the Government that the views of Members of Parliament, who have been entrusted with the responsibility of representing in the Commission, should be taken into consideration. Due to this attitude of the Commission, the Associate Members from Assam have unanimously decided to de-associate from the Commission. They have decided to tender their resignations in protest.

Similar things should not happen. The dignity of the Members of Parliament should be protected by this House at any cost. In the future process, it has to be taken into account. I would request the Government to take note of this.

Lastly, once again, I thank the Government, especially the Ministry of Law which has taken care of this. They have realised this and they have taken note of the situation prevailing in the North-East. I still hope that the situation in the North-East will be taken care of and all the problems will be solved before any delimitation process starts in the North-Eastern Region.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Sir, I associate myself with Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Sarguja): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Members have expressed their views on delimitation of constituencies by the Delimitation Commission. In this regard I would like to mention the case of Chhattisgarh. Five seats of the Scheduled Tribe category in the Legislative Assembly and one seat of the Lok Sabha are getting reduced after delimitation in Chhattisgarh. I would like to say that the manner in which census has been carried out over there is surprising to me. I would like to give example of certain districts. As per census conducted in Jaspur district during the decade between 1991 to 2001, the tribal population of the district was 85 per cent. It has been mentioned in the Census that the population growth has been only 9 per cent in ten years. The growth rate of the general category population is 31 per cent. How can there be so much of difference? Similarly in Sarguja, the population growth

rate of Scheduled Tribe category is merely 16 per cent and 31 per cent for the general category. Bastar has the highest density of tribal population and the growth rate of Scheduled Tribe population there has been at 18 per cent and for the general category it has been 38 per cent. How is that possible? In Mahasamund, the growth rate of Scheduled Tribe population was only four per cent and the same was at 31 percent for the general category. In Bastar, 52 percent population of Scheduled Castes have been excluded from the population of Scheduled Castes. It could not be known as to where they had gone. What is most surprising is that this district have maximum number of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste villages and 564 villages out of those have been shown as abandoned. All these villages have Panchayats, Anganwadi Kendras, school and many of them also have hospitals. Particularly, it was really very difficult to visit Orcha and Abudhmaar areas during the time because they are naxalite areas. I do not know who has counted the population. I would like to bring all these anomalies to your notice. There are total 147 Development blocks in the State out of which 85 Development blocks are densely populated tribal areas. There are 18 districts in all out of which 9 districts are tribal dominated and 5 districts are partially tribal dominated. The manner in which the entire population has been twisted, has reduced 5 seats. We have given representations to the hon'ble Prime Minister, hon'ble Home Minister, hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice and the Delimitation Commission. The people from Delimitation Commission, who visited for public hearing, were given all these facts in Bastar, Raipur and Bilaspur but they were not taken into account anywhere and not a single grievance was redressed. On the other hand, I believe that delimitation is carried out because the population which has increased during the last ten years, should be adjusted as per geographical topography. ...*(Interruptions)* I have just started. I would like to speak on many issues. Please give me some more time.

Sir, it is required to rationalize the increased population on the basis of geographical topography. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The entire subject of delimitation is not within the purview of this Bill. This is limited only to a particular State. Please conclude. You are taking more time on issues which are beyond the purview of this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Sir, I am putting froth those issues only. ...*(Interruptions)*

Chairman Sir, let me complete my speech, I am concluding within a minute. Through hon'ble Minister I would like to urge that the way he has separated certain States of North-east and Jharkhand. ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding within a minute. Let me complete my point. I am glad that Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice has kept Jharkhand and certain North-eastern States out of it. But the kind of irregularities committed in Chhattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)* by keeping them out of those irregularities ...*(Interruptions)* The manner in which it is being carried out, it will create several problems there and how those problems will be handled? ...*(Interruptions)* It should be kept in mind that law and order situation does not deteriorate over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am calling the next speaker. Shri Ramdas Athawale. Nothing will go on record now except the speech of Shri Ramdas Aghawale.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Delimitation Amendment Bill, 2008 presented here in the Parliament by hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj. The population of our country is constantly increasing. In the year 1950, it was 37 crores and now after so many years we have crossed the 100 crore mark. There are 543 seats in our Parliament and delimitation was extremely necessary. According to the Census conducted in the year 2001, delimitation has already taken place and it has been done as per the wishes of Hon'ble Members of the parties. Delimitation was required and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been benefitted from this. There are 288 seats in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. Earlier 18 seats were reserved for Scheduled Castes, now that has become 29. We had 3 seats in Lok Sabha earlier, which has now been increased to 5. Earlier Scheduled Tribes had four seats which remains the same but the number of Scheduled Tribes seats in the Assembly has been

increased from 22 to 24 at present. In this way, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been benefitted. I was also an associate member of that but the Delimitation Commission did not listen to us. In Maharashtra, one district had three tehsils, similarly one-constituency cover two districts. As such there are some problems.

Sir, I would like to suggest that there is a need to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543. For that, we need to enact a law. I would like to urge hon'ble Bhardwaj ji to increase the 543 seats by another 200 seats. ...*(Interruptions)* They have increased the number where population was less and decreased the number where population was more. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to suggest that 200 new seats may be added. If 200 seats are increased, then it would not be a problem in giving reservation to women. Therefore, it is my proposal to increase another 200 seats.

Sir, in Maharashtra, there are at least 40 lakh such Buddhist people who have been excluded from the list of Scheduled Caste. Therefore, I would like to suggest that our 5 reserved seats should be made 7 seats and the 29 seats reserved for SCs in Assembly should be made at least 39-40 seats.

Sir, with these words, I support this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to ask a pointed question to the hon'ble Minister. As the hon'ble Member Shri Sahu ji has explained the background just now and Sushila ji has stated that one of the Tribal Advisory councils is situated in Chhattisgarh. Such a council is in Jharkhand also. They have sent their suggestions. The Tribal Advisory council of Chhattisgarh had sent some suggestions regarding delimitation. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to what action was taken in this regard?

Sir, further, I would like to submit that the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Shri Raman Singh had written twice to the hon'ble Prime Minister apprising him of the views of Tribal Advisory council of the State and the irregularities likely to take place in delimitation of seats in his State. He had requested him to take action in this regard. He had apprised the Delimitation Commission also about it. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to why Chhattisgarh was not included in the ordinance brought by the Government of India?

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind): Mr. Chairman, Sir, until now, Ministers from Congress party were saying that delimitation will not be implemented this time rather it would come into force in the next elections. When one of our colleagues raised the matter, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi stated that they had to implement it under compelling circumstances. BJP which is the main opposition party, mounted pressure in this regard and the matter was taken to the Supreme Court, therefore, they were compelled to implement it. If it is so, then why are they trying to get accolades by implementing the report of Delimitation Commission? Why they claim that they are the supporters of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe people. They have always tried to win their vote bank. Our party mounted pressure because their intention was not good. Their intention has always been mala fide. Therefore, they have to implement it under pressure.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not take much time but I would like to raise certain points. The Delimitation Commission itself has failed to comply with the rules and criteria adopted by it. Hon'ble Minister Sir, while citing an example, I would like to tell one thing specifically to you. I would like to give an example of my own constituency. Today the question is not about reserving constituency; the point is why the rules laid down by the Commission itself were not followed. We had also expressed our opposition during the public hearing that took place in Bhopal. We had placed our view point before them. The notification issued in this regard was correct in all respects but things got totally changed after the notification.

Sir, in my parliamentary constituency Bind, there is a Legislative Assembly segment 'Bhind'. Four-five Panchayats which come under the 10-12 kms. periphery of Bind have been the part of this segment until now. These Panchayats have been separated from this segment now. I told them that there is a river and there is no bridge over it. People will have to cross this river to go to Atair which is at a distance of 45-60 kms. from there. However, they ignored it and it was re-notified.

19.44 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring this specific point to the notice of Hon'ble Minister. When this was investigated, it was found that a lot of irregularities were committed at lower level. One who approached the

officials at the lower level and got the matter forwarded through Kuldeep Singh ji after consultation with them, that matter was accepted as it is. There should have been a representative from the Ministry also at the time of public hearing. He should have kept an eye on this. It should have been discussed as to whether the complaints being received from the public are properly redressed or not. This was not taken care of. They did not in an arbitrary manner and by manipulation at the lower level. It is in my knowledge and I can give an example also, I can give names to the hon'ble Minister as to how people took to manipulation at the lower level and carried out delimitation arbitrarily. Therefore, we have an objection to this. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday also, we did not get an opportunity to speak. Now, I am the last speaker, you must give protection to me. I speak very rarely. Hon'ble Minister has not said anything and you have already rung the bell. You have put the breaks even before the vehicle has started. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken 4-5 minutes.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that I have cited something as example before you. What I want is that although you are not opposing delimitation, it should have been done long back, now it has been delayed much and there should have been transparency in this regard. There was no transparency in this regard and the areas were added in an arbitrary manner and no rules were adhered to. Earlier it was said that R.I.C. circle would not be broken, but it was, then it was stated that the districts and tehsils would not be divided but they were also divided. They had said that keeping in view the fact that there also no passage to reach due to some river rivulets they would adjust the things but nothing was taken care of and they were dropped over there in an arbitrary manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request hon'ble Minister to do everything possible in this regard. I am not aware of the rules and laws. I am not aware as to which Delimitation Commission was constituted and the validity of the one that was constituted was questioned by my colleague Members. I do not know whether its time was extended or not, I am not aware of the same. The Hon'ble Minister knows the rules better; he has been the Minister of Law for a long time now. I would like to urge upon him to sincerely deliberate upon these things and get these matters resolved.

[Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh]

This is all I had to submit before you. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Before, I dwell on the merits of the provisions of delimitation.

[Translation]

I am speaking in Hindi as you spoke in Hindi. My friends in the House have expressed some grievances. The members of Parliament from Chhattisgarh and other States have expressed their views just now.

When the Delimitation Commission was constituted in 2002, the role of Members of Parliament in this process was not duly considered. All of us agree with this fact. As a result, whatever the officers had decided that was final. I can speak neither against the Election Commission for Sardar Kuldeep Singh ji but I must say that earlier as the views of Member of Parliament were not being given due consideration, I started consulting with all the political parties from the very first day after joining the office in 2004 and I did not implement the Delimitation. Let me tell you I am a person who speak truth. I opposed the Delimitation as a Minister. I had called the leaders of all the parties through Shri Pranab Mukherjee. I knew that it was going to cause a great damage.

Be it Chhattisgarh or Jharkhand, there are tribal areas and the poor will be affected. Several young Members of Parliament have dealt with this issue. Their views deserved consideration. We have not been able to follow the undercurrent of pain and revolt in the tribal areas. We think that we are right and we are safe here in Delhi and everything is fine here. But it is not so in tribal belt and it was not acceptable for me to deprive them even of their political rights. I am telling you that when BJP was in Government in Jharkhand, I called Shri Arjun Mundaji and the Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly from Jharkhand. I asked them to tell about the effects of delimitation in tribal areas. I met the Governor in the Council you are referring to and all the these people unanimously said that it was totally against the tribals and it should not have been done. But the Delimitation Commission took no notice of their views. With your permission now I have excluded Jharkhand because all the parties, be it Madhu Kaura or Arjun

Munda or the Left parties, unanimously said that to reduce the seats of tribals and to divert these to general category would be a great atrocity. I have had consultations with all the parties and I personally visited Ranchi to ascertain the facts. I have a compilation of all the views expressed and the objections raised by every Member of Parliament. It is not so that we did not respect the feelings of the Members of Parliament.

I would like to tell you that it is a matter above partisan politics because the Constitution has authorised the Parliament to constitute a Delimitation Commission. All of you are aware that we passed this laws unitedly in 2002. Then justice Kuldeep Singh was appointed and the three members of the Election Commission were involved in this process. Today Mamataji and other Members have expressed their views with regard to overlooking of their feelings by the Delimitation Commission and I think that we hadn't really done one thing. When the Parliament passed the Act, there was a provision of only three statutory members therein and there was no outline for weightage of the view of Members of Parliament. There was no special mention of remote areas in the Act passed in 2002 as one honourable Member has just said that he could not walk around his constituency in a span of even ten years. There are lot of difficulties with regard to transportation in the tribal areas. The tribal areas are situated in the forests and hilly areas. Rawat Saheb hails from Uttarakhand and on his demand I personally interfered and sent them thrice and asked the authorities to fulfill their needs as Uttarakhand was a new State. There will be resentment if the seats of hilly areas are diverted to the plains in small State. Fact remains that the Act passed in 2002 should have been passed after due consideration of the ground realities including the fact that three new states including Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have been created. This Act was passed by all the political parties but the Act did not take care of their feelings. Nobody did it knowingly. All the parties were unanimous regarding delimitation at that time. When anything is done unanimously, We cannot say that mistake was committed knowingly. All of us are equally responsible for the mistake.

I want to say one thing that in such a situation it is not to be asked as to why Jharkhand has been left out and not Chhattisgarh? I have received two-three letters from Chhattisgarh and I have replied to them also. I have not received any letter from Raman ji. ...*(Interruptions)* I am replying to you, so please listen. I

have as much love for the tribal Chhattisgarh as I have for Raman Singh ji. But, there is one drawback that our brothers from BJP and NDA are ruling Chhattisgarh today and tribals are facing a serious problem today. There are many cases going on in court too because there is dissatisfaction regarding delimitation work. But, when I was postponing it, then all the major parties held a separate meeting today and told that I was postponing it deliberately. When self-interest I have in it that I would have postponed it? Rather, MPs and all my colleagues used to hold me and ask whether they would remain MPs or not. Such was the situation. MPs themselves were asking what would be the fate of their constituency? There is only one way for it in politics that all the parties should be summoned. Therefore, the leader of our party in Lok Sabha met everyone. You tell us which leader we did not consult? It is true that the sentiment of a leader is the sentiments of the whole country while the sentiments of an MP is the sentiments of his constituency so this is the difference between them. I wanted a solution to the Chhattisgarh problem also. I also wanted time for the dissatisfied MPs which was not given. We had also asked to increase 200 seats but seats have been frozen till 2026. We have done many things in haste. Hon. Speaker's seat has been reserved and so also of many a prominent leader's. The seats of reserved candidates have increased. In some places we have been able to reserve the seats while at other places we could not. I want to tell you that it had two solutions only—one was to block the presidential notification under article 82 which I had withheld and all of you were contesting from the old constituencies. But, you did not accept that. We had told the whole thing that

[English]

let me continue with the old list

[Translation]

I have been conducting all the elections so far on the basis of those lists. Even the elections which have been conducted now, have been conducted on the basis of the old lists and in the old constituencies. But, all the parties said that we are doing it deliberately and why do not we implement it when so much money has been spent on delimitation. In politics, we can appear the opposition parties to some extent but not on all the matters. No politics is involved in it, everyone has suffered a loss.

My colleagues from RJD had suffered a huge setback in Bihar recently and they created an uproar here too. But, we were forced to implement it after all the parties were of the view that whatever has happened has happened and it should be implemented.

One thing was said about the ordinance. Ordinance was brought early because the Court had given direction that delimitation process should be started in the whole of Assam and Manipur. I had to stop it immediately. We were forced to stop the Delimitation Commission soon in the tribal and north-east area to check mayhem there as law and order problem is already existing there. Similarly, we brought sections 10(A) and 10(B) to check the injustice done to the Jharkhand. Besides, I am implementing the old legislation enacted by you and me. Under parliamentary tradition, when the parties come to a conclusion then it is not to be seen who is ours and who is not. I have told you clearly that we have been withholding it since the work in all the states in the country had been completed. I have the complete list of all those with whom I had consultations. I had discussions with atleast two thousand persons, MPs MLAs and private persons and kept sending their list to Pranab Mukherji Saheb and others. We will think about the solution for those who have been left out. We want to give complete protection to the tribals and the poor and there are no differences of opinion about it and you should find a way out. We can not dilute the rights of the tribals as given in the constitution which provides constitutional protective discrimination to them under which we have to compensate by removing a general seat in case there is a shortfall of scheduled caste seat. This applies to tribals also. We have made five exclusions following this sentiment. It would have been better, if all of us could have agreed and adjusted everyone by increasing 100 or 200 seats. But, that consensus did not take place and it lead to more anomalies in this regard. These legislations are being enacted since 2002 till date through consensus of all the parties. This work is also being done collectively. We have to run the administration of the country. Had I not implemented delimitation now, then you would have said here that he has been took holding it because it suits him. Marxists parties have clearly said that it is all right. We welcome it.

[English]

They are satisfied. But I cannot criticise the Delimitation Commission because you know the ground reality. I can only do when a representation comes.

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

Delimitation Commission is a statutory body constituted by an Act of Parliament. Power is with the Parliament. We could lay down different guidelines. When population was made criterion, what could the Delimitation Commission do?

20.00 hrs.

You will all remember that in the all-party meeting, I offered that let us amend the Constitution. I wanted it twice and discussed with the political parties in order to remedy grievances, in order to give protection to the rural areas and hilly areas, but nobody agreed for an amendment of this law by any means. I was even prepared for a constitutional amendment, but since this is a matter which is run always by consensus, nothing was done as a matter of adventure in this matter. So, no motive should be imputed when we are dealing with an unusual situation. What kind of delimitation is this when there is no revision of seats or increase of seats? When population has increased, you have to do it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You say consensus. Did all the political parties agree?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Yes, I will say 'all parties'. We are running a coalition Government. So, once the Government agrees, all of us agree. Now, the BJP is the main Opposition Party and the NDA. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If you say consensus, we have not agreed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Let me tell you that your Rajya Sabha MP, Shri Dinesh has been meeting me. So, your views are well known. It was a consensus of political parties. A meeting was called by Shri Pranab Mukherjee and minutes are also recorded.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Our objection is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Your case is also pending there. But how can you ignore three-fourth majority in a political matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

I tell you that from within our constituents, just now some MPs from Bihar spoke. They had a strong grievance and they imputed certain motives that it is being favoured and all that. We cannot do it. Now time is ripe either to take the delimitation or to reject it. So, this is where the problem lies.

Therefore, now we have gone with the consensus of the House and of the Parliament. We brought it and I have explained. I am the last person to bring an ordinance. I want the fullest debate. If there is any hon. Member who wants any specific reply, I will give him because there is no motive in it. It is a statutory duty. When a Delimitation Commission did its job, either you say we do not agree with this and the Parliament will sit again and find a solution. This was not agreed to. Now, what do you do? Either you notify them under Article 82 or reject it. The majority is that we have to pass it. So, I came to the House.

Now you have given your views. We will gain from your experience. There are some genuine grievances left. We will find solutions and God willing, some solutions may be found. Political parties or individuals are still going to courts. I was being charged to drag the delimitation. I personally feel that this is a measure on which we should do our duty because Delimitation Commission was appointed by this House. It continued to do its work and now we have notified this. Now these delimited constituencies have already come into force. So, the MPs will know their constituencies and there is still time for the election. They should know that it is a reality. Until it is de-notified in another exercise by the Parliament, this is the final thing.

If any hon. Member has any specific question, I will satisfy him, but we are carrying on this because this law was passed in 2002. If you want, I can read out. The only criterion is population. What has happened? Some rural areas have suffered in Karnataka and some other places. South had raised an issue that they had controlled the population and why they should suffer on that ground. Therefore, I would say that everything was done according to the provisions of the Delimitation Act. You cannot make a departure from it. In future, we can bring a better law on delimitation and say that the voice of the MPs will have a better say. I will be very happy because it concerns them. The Civil Servants do not contest elections. So, let us think about it. Your suggestions will help us. In future whatever grievances will come, they will help us.

I have not hesitated to meet any hon. Member. I can give you a compilation of my work. That is why, five States were kept outside. There are one or two genuine grievances. I have noted down about Chhattisgarh because that is really a tribal State. About Madhya Pradesh also, I have got names from the representation they gave. We gave it to the Delimitation Commission.

The census of Madhya Pradesh was also disputed, and I personally feel that there is some wrong calculation. But there is no point to make any noise now as this was not agreed to. The elections are due in April next year. Therefore, we have to prepare the rolls, and we have to keep the MPs informed that this is the situation on the ground.

I thank you very much for supporting it. The election laws and delimitation laws are always passed by consensus. If there are any other clarifications, then I would be too happy to respond.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Thank you, hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir. At the very outset I must thank all the hon. Members who have registered their dissatisfaction with regard to the promulgation of the Ordinance. Hon. Law Minister has clearly said that he is the last man to go for promulgating an Ordinance. But we are seeing that Ordinances are coming one after the other.

Nobody is against the statutory body, that is, the Delimitation Commission, but the point is that the recommendations of the Commission are not supreme. The Parliament is supreme. The Members of Parliament may have some suggestions to make or give some amendments with regard to the recommendations, but if the promulgation of the Ordinance comes before that, then it becomes a compulsion and our hands are tied. We have no other option, but to support it and put the rubber stamp on it. I hope that the hon. Minister will take note of this, and see that Ordinance would not be taken in the future.

However, considering the merits of the Bills and the gravity of the Bills, I beg to withdraw the Statutory Resolution.

SHRI H.R. BHARWAJ: Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is it the pleasure of the House that the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Prabodh Panda be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

20.07 hrs.

DELIMITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

20.10 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

...(Interruptions)

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, there is nobody in the Treasury Benches to pass the Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 12th March 2008 at 11 a.m.

20.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, March 12, 2008/Phalguna 22, 1929 (Saka)

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