

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Fifteenth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



Queries & Debates Section  
Parliament Library Building  
Room No. PE-026  
Block 'G'  
Acc. No. 26  
Dated 1 Feb. 2011

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

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

*Price : Rs. 80.00*

## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

**P.D.T. Achary**  
Secretary-General  
Lok Sabha

**R.K. Chadha**  
Joint Secretary

**Harnam Dass Takker**  
Director

**Vandna Trivedi**  
Joint Director-I

**Prabhakar Mohanty**  
Joint Director-II

**Shailesh Kumar**  
Assistant Editor

### **©2009 Lok Sabha Secretariat**

None of the material may be copied, reproduced, distributed, republished, downloaded, displayed, posted or transmitted in any form or by any means, including but not limited to, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Lok Sabha Secretariat. However, the material can be displayed, copied, distributed and downloaded for personal, non-commercial use only, provided the material is not modified and all copyright and other proprietary notices contained in the material are retained.

---

(ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF)

## CONTENTS

(Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXXVII, Fifteenth Session 2009/1930 (Saka)

No. 6, Thursday, February 19, 2009/Magha 30, 1930 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS .....	4-287
Starred Question Nos. 61 to 80 .....	4-42
Unstarred Question Nos. 283 to 429 .....	42-287
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE .....	288-297
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS AMENDED BY RAJYA SABHA .....	297-299
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION .....	299-300
28th Report .....	299
STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL .....	300
39th Report .....	300
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE .....	300
53rd Report .....	300
STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1963 DATED 11-12-2008 REGARDING NEW RAILWAY LINES IN GUJARAT ALONGWITH GIVING REASONS FOR DELAY IN CORRECT- ING THE REPLY .....	300-303
Shri R. Velu .....	300
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 .....	303-310
(i) Need to release the full share of surplus water of Ravi and Beas rivers to Rajasthan Shri Ram Singh Kaswan .....	303
(ii) Need to declare betel leave as an agricultural crop and extend the benefits of crop-insurance and other schemes meant for agriculture sector to it Shri Virendra Kumar .....	304

(iii) Need to expedite the conduct of draw of lots for housing units built by D.D.A. and various co-operative housing societies in Delhi	
Shri Mahavir Bhagora .....	305
(iv) Need to provide stoppages of important trains including Rajdhani Express at Pali, Rajasthan	
Shri Pusp Jain .....	306
(v) Need to include 'Namosudh Bengali' and 'Mahara' and 'Mahar' castes of Chhatisgarh in the list of Scheduled castes	
Shri Sohan Potai .....	308
(vi) Need to give approval to the Kochi Metro Rail Project in Kerala	
Shri P. Karunakaran .....	307
(vii) Need to initiate a new set of economic measures to tackle the global economic recession affecting Indian economy	
Shri Sunil Khan .....	307
(viii) Need to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in Hamirpur and Mahoba districts of Hamirpur Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Rajnarayan Budholia .....	308
(ix) Need to enhance the Provident Fund Pension of retired Government employees	
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav .....	309
(x) Need to expedite the process for the inclusion of Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi-Anglong and in North Cachar Hill Autonomous Districts in the S.T. (Hills) list of Assam	
Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary .....	309
<b>RE: RESERVATION OF POSTS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES .....</b>	<b>310-313</b>
<b>INTERIM RAILWAY BUDGET, 2009-10 .....</b>	<b>313-341</b>
<b>DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS), 2009-10</b>	
<b>DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 2008-09</b>	
<b>DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 2008-07</b>	
Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao .....	313

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Virendra Kumar .....	314
Shri Abdullakutty .....	319
Shri Ashok Pradhan.....	322
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey .....	325
Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav .....	328
<b>APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) VOTE ON ACCOUNT BILL, 2009 .....</b>	<b>341-343</b>
Motion to Consider.....	342
Clauses 2, 3 and 1 .....	343
Motion to Pass.....	343
<b>APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL, 2009 .....</b>	<b>343-345</b>
Motion to Consider.....	344
Clauses 2, 3 and 1 .....	344
Motion to Pass.....	345
<b>APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2 BILL, 2009 .....</b>	<b>345-347</b>
Motion to Consider.....	345
Clauses 2, 3 and 1 .....	346
Motion to Pass.....	347
<b>STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF JHARKHAND</b>	
<b>JHARKHAND INTERIM BUDGET (GENERAL DISCUSSION), 2009-10</b>	
<b>DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (JHARKHAND), 2009-10</b>	
<b>AND</b>	
<b>DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (JHARKHAND), 2008-09 .....</b>	<b>347-367</b>
Dr. Shakeel Ahmad .....	348
Shri Uday Singh .....	357
<b>JHARKHAND APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2009 .....</b>	<b>367-369</b>
Motion to Consider.....	368
Clauses 2, 3 and 1 .....	369
Motion to Pass.....	369

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
JHARKHAND APPROPRIATION BILL, 2009 .....	369-371
Motion to Consider .....	369
Clauses 2, 3 and 1 .....	370
Motion to Pass .....	371
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 2009 AND HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL, 2008 .....	373-422
Motion to Consider .....	373
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan .....	373
Shri H.R. Bhardwaj .....	382
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat .....	388
Shri S.K. Kharventhan .....	390
Shri Prasanna Acharya .....	392
Shri Rewati Raman Singh .....	396
Shri Ajoy Chakraborty .....	398
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' .....	400
Shri Vijay Bahuguna .....	402
Dr. Sebastian Paul .....	403
Shrimati P. Satheedevi .....	404
Shri Ramdas Athawale .....	406
Shrimati Tejasvini Gowda .....	408
Clauses 2 to 15 and 1 .....	418-422
Motion to Pass .....	422
NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI LAWS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 2009 .....	422-458
Motion to consider .....	422

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy .....	422
Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain .....	424
Shri Sajjan Kumar .....	429
Shri Rajesh Ranjan <i>alias</i> Pappu Yadav .....	435
Shri Sudhangshu Seal .....	439
Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy .....	442
Shrimati Krishna Tirath .....	445
Shri P.C. Thomas .....	447
Shri Jagdish Tytler .....	448
Shri Ajay Maken .....	450
Clauses 2 to 6 and 1 .....	457-458
Motion to Pass .....	458

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF CENTRAL  
UNIVERSITIES ORDINANCE, 2009

AND

CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES BILL, 2009 .....	458-533
Motion to Consider .....	458
Shrimati D. Purandeswari .....	458
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat .....	459
Shri S.K. Kharventhan .....	463
Prof. Basudeb Barman .....	467
Shri Ramji Lal Suman .....	472
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav .....	475
Shri B. Mahtab .....	481
Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy .....	485
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' .....	489
Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid .....	493
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil .....	494

**SUBJECT****COLUMNS**

Shri P.C. Thomas .....	498
Shri P. Rajendran .....	499
Shri Giridhar Gamang .....	500
Shri Virendra Kumar .....	500
Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba' .....	502
Shri K. Francis George .....	503
Prof. Chander Kumar .....	505
Shri Alok Kumar Mehta .....	508
Shrimati Tejasvini Gowda .....	510
Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary .....	511
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan .....	516
Clauses 2 to 47 and 1 .....	526-533
Motion to Pass .....	533

**ANNEXURE-I**

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions .....	553-554
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions .....	554-558

**ANNEXURE-II**

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions .....	559-560
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions .....	559-562



## **OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA**

### **THE SPEAKER**

**Shri Somnath Chatterjee**

### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**Shri Chamjit Singh Atwal**

### **PANEL OF CHAIRMEN**

**Shri Giridhar Gamang**

**Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya**

**Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan**

**Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey**

**Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil**

**Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan**

**Shri Arjun Sethi**

**Shri Mohan Singh**

**Shrimati Krishna Tirath**

**Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav**

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**Shri P.D.T. Achary**

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

---

### LOK SABHA

---

Thursday, February 19, 2009/Magha 30,  
1930 (Saka)

---

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam):  
Sir, I have given notice for suspension of the Question  
Hour. ...(Interruptions) I would like to raise an issue  
concerning Andhra Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

(Interruptions)\*...

11.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri A. K. Moorthy and some other  
hon. Members came and stood on the floor near  
the Table.)

11.01¼ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri E. Dayakar Rao and some  
other hon. Members came and stood on the  
floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER: What can I say if you do not want  
the Parliament to function?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I hope that all of you are defeated  
in the election. All of you should be defeated in the  
election.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I hope the people will give their  
verdict properly. You have to be taught a lesson.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear all of you, one by one,  
after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

11.04 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ilyas Azmi and some other  
hon. Members came and stood on the floor  
near the Table.)

11.04¼ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some  
other hon. Members came and stood on the  
floor near the Table.)

11.04½ hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya and some  
other hon. Members came and stood on the  
floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to adjourn it. Go  
on shouting till 12 o'clock. No adjournment of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let them shout.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the people of this country see  
this Parliament. I hope you are identified by the people.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If the Bill comes, you can oppose  
that Bill. What is the good of shouting here?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: When the Bill comes only then  
you oppose. What is going on?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Parliament should be  
adjourned *sine die*. This House of People should be  
adjourned *sine die*. People's money will be saved.

Useless allowances should not be given to all of you. I think that is the best thing to do. You do not deserve one paisa out of public money.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, keep on shouting.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: People of this country give their verdict. Wait till then. But you are behaving in a most condemnable manner. I cannot but express my greatest annoyance and greatest condemnation. You are taking this House for granted. You are insulting the people of this country. You are not helping your cause. I am sure the people of this country would give their verdict. I am not going to adjourn. Go on shouting.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When the Bill comes, you can oppose it—if the Bill at all comes. I do not know whether the Bill will come or not. But you are not prepared to behave in a decent manner. You are burying democracy in this country. You have already done it. Nobody bothers. You had full opportunity yesterday. Again, you are shouting. You are shouting for no reason. The Bill cannot be passed from here. When the Bill comes, you can register your objection.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I express my greatest condemnation and my disapproval of your conduct. You have taken the people for a ride and you are insulting the people of this country, by your abominable behaviour.

I adjourn the House till 12.00 noon.

11.16 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Twelve of the Clock.*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### FDI in Civil Aviation Sector

\*61. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the domestic airlines including public sector Air India;

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

(c) whether Air India has opposed such a move; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The proposal to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic airline is under examination.

(c) and (d) No such representation received from the Air India on change in FDI policy.

### Scrapping the Third Side Berth from the Trains

\*62. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received complaints of inconvenience caused to the passengers and the Railway authorities due to the capacity increase in trains with the introduction of the third side berth in the sleeper and Air Conditioned three tier coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have undertaken or propose to undertake any review in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Complaints about additional berths in the Sleeper and AC 3 Tier coaches mainly were of inconvenience and discomfort caused by increased congestion and inadequate space.

(c) and (d) The policy has been reviewed. It has now been decided to discontinue the scheme of provision of additional side middle berths in sleeper and AC 3 Tier coaches. Such berths provided in the already modified coaches shall be gradually removed within a period of six months.

#### **Foreign Investment In Food Processing Industries**

\*63. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several foreign investment proposals have been approved for setting up of food processing units in the country including the State of Gujarat, during the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact of such investment on domestic small food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Government has

put in place a liberal and transparent policy on FDI according to which FDI up to 100% is permitted, under the automatic route in most sectors including food processing sector except food retail and items reserved for small scale industrial sector. FDI up to 100% under the automatic route is allowed for the infrastructure development in the food processing/storage activities like cold storage, transportation, etc. During the period from January 2004 to September 2008, 42 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Technology Cases (FTCs) proposals in the food processing industries sector were approved with total foreign investment of Rs. 4602.75 million (US \$ 105.22 million). During this period the actual FDI inflow against FIPB approvals and inflows coming through RBI route to the sector is Rs. 15795.88 million (US \$ 363.15 million). The details are given in the enclosed Statements I and II.

(c) There is no evidence of any adverse impact of FDI on domestic small food processing industries in the country, rather these industries have been benefited with innovative technologies, products and quality of the food products. This could also be seen from the data of growth rates of production of small scale sector. The small scale sector has maintained a higher rate of growth vis-a-vis the overall industrial sector during the years 2002-03 to 2005-06. The growth rate of SSI sector during 2002-03 was 8.68% as compared to 5.70% in respect of overall industrial sector. In 2005-06, it was 12.32% as against 8.10% in respect of overall industrial sector.

#### **Statement-I**

*State-wise break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Technology Cases (FTCs) approved by Government during January 2004 to September 2008 Sector Food Processing Industries*

(Amount in million)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Approvals			Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Approved		% to Total
		Total	Technical	Financial	(In Rs.)	(In US \$)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Delhi	9	0	9	2,330.60	55.17	50.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Maharashtra	5	0	5	748.68	16.28	16.27
3.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1	1	525.00	11.41	11.41
4.	Kerala	4	1	3	513.62	11.51	11.16
5.	Tamil Nadu	8	0	8	392.43	8.76	8.53
6.	Andhra Pradesh	2	0	2	31.20	0.71	0.68
7.	Karnataka	3	0	3	25.97	0.56	0.56
8.	Rajasthan	1	0	1	12.46	0.32	0.27
9.	Haryana	1	0	1	10.00	0.23	0.22
10.	State Not Indicated	2	0	2	9.20	0.20	0.20
11.	West Bengal	2	0	2	3.50	0.08	0.08
12.	Punjab	1	0	1	0.10	0.00	0.00
13.	Uttar Pradesh	1	0	1	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1	0	1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		42	2	40	4,602.75	105.22	

Source: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**Statement-II**

*Region-wise FDI inflows from January 2004 to September 2008  
(As Reported to Regional Offices of RBI) Sector Food Processing Industries*

(Amount in million)

Sl. No.	Regional Offices of RBI	States Covered	Amount of FDI Inflows		%age with FDI Inflows
			(In Rs.)	(In US\$)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bangalore	Karnataka	4,801.96	110.32	30.40
2.	New Delhi	Delhi, Part of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana	3,266.24	77.56	20.68

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	1,758.00	39.97	11.13
4.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,139.85	26.08	7.22
5.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	646.49	15.04	4.09
6.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	616.45	14.26	3.90
7.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	154.28	3.37	0.98
8.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	50.10	1.09	0.32
9.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh	19.45	0.44	0.12
10.	Panaji	Goa	0.45	0.01	0.00
11.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	0.24	0.01	0.00
12.	Region not indicated	Region not indicated	3,342.37	75.01	21.16
Grand Total			15,795.88	363.15	

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.
3. **Source:** Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

#### Modernisation of ITDC Hotels

\*64. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names and the number of Government owned hotels in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the standard/level of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) hotels are not up to the desired international standards;

(c) if so, whether the Government has prepared any perspective plan for modernisation of these hotels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The India

Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has eight hotels in the country. The details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Hotel	Name of State/ Union Territory
1	2	3
1.	Hotel Patliputra Ashok, Patna	Bihar
2.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	Delhi
3.	Samrat Hotel, New Delhi	Delhi
4.	Janpath Hotel, New Delhi	Delhi
5.	Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir

1	2	3
6.	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore	Karnataka
7.	Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneshwar	Orissa
8.	Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur	Rajasthan

In addition ITDC also manages Hotel Bharatpur Ashok in Rajasthan which is owned by Ministry of Tourism.

(b) to (d) Pursuant to the decision taken by the Government to retain the ownership of ITDC hotels, earlier earmarked for disinvestment, essential renovation/refurbishment in ITDC hotels has been undertaken since 2006-07 for rooms, conventional halls, lobby, lifts, air conditioning, fire fighting and water supply systems, shopping arcades, toilets, restaurants, kitchens, parking etc.

In the year 2007-08, the Ministry has provided Rs. 73 crore to ITDC as equity support for the renovation/refurbishment work of Hotel Ashok.

#### **Strike by Officers of Oil Sector**

\*65. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers of the oil sector went on a strike in January, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their demands;

(c) the losses suffered due to the strike; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to check recurrence of such instances?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A section of Officers of Central Public Sector Oil Companies had gone on strike from 7th to 9th January, 2009 in regard to certain issues of pay revision, such as risk pay, fitment benefits, quantum of DA to be

considered for fitment benefits, periodicity of pay revision, annual/stagnation increments, etc.

(c) The estimated total loss as reported by the Oil PSUs is Rs. 459.67 crores.

(d) A Committee of Ministers under Home Minister has already been constituted to look into issues relating to pay revision in the Oil Sector.

#### **Reduction in Prices of Petroleum Products**

\*66. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently reduced the prices of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the petroleum companies have made their losses good in the wake of reduced crude oil prices in the international market; and

(d) the present status of loss being suffered by the oil companies despite subsidy being given by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) In view of recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has reduced the Retail Selling Prices of the sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country:

— Effective from 6-12-2008—Petrol by Rs. 5 per litre and Diesel by Rs. 2 per litre; and

— Effective from 29-1-2009—Petrol by Rs. 5 per litre, Diesel by Rs. 2 per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs. 25 per cylinder.

(c) and (d) The fall in international oil prices have given the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies

(OMCs) some relief. The gross under-recoveries for 2008-09, which were projected at Rs. 2,45,000 crore in June, 2008 are estimated to come down to around Rs. 1,03,908 crore.

However, the financial position of the OMCs continues to be precarious due to the under-recoveries incurred on the sale of the four sensitive petroleum products during the period April-December 2008. As a result of these under-recoveries, the three OMCs—IOC, BPC and HPC have reported a combined loss of Rs. 11,094 crore for the period April-December, 2008 against a profit of Rs. 9,679 crore in the corresponding period of 2007-08. These losses have accrued even after taking into account Oil Bonds of Rs. 60,967 crore issued by Government and price discounts of Rs. 32,000 crore given by the Public Sector Upstream oil companies during the period April-December, 2008.

*[Translation]*

**Impact of Global Economic Slowdown on Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises**

\*67. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take steps to keep the Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises unaffected by the ongoing global economic slowdown;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to downsize the strength of workers in the Public Enterprises in view of the global economic recession; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (d) So far as the Public Sector Enterprises under the Department of Heavy Industry are concerned, they have shown on an aggregate basis a positive

growth in turnover of 25.46% in the first 9 month of the current financial year 2008-09. However, out of total 32 operating PSEs, 17 PSEs have shown a negative growth. As per the policy under the National Common Minimum Programme, revival/restructuring is attempted for sick/loss making PSEs. Such revival plans include fresh investment/waiver, manpower rationalization, conversion of loan into equity, technological upgradation etc. Revival/restructuring plan in 15 such PSEs have been approved by the Government. Manpower rationalization is undertaken if sanctioned in the revival plan. Government have also announced two stimulus packages during the last five months in the wake of economic slowdown.

(c) No, Sir.

*[English]*

**Disruptions of Flights Due to Fog**

\*68. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently taken a serious note of the flight disruptions due to fog despite most airlines claiming to have CAT-III trained pilots;

(b) if so, the details of the domestic and international flights cancelled or delayed due to fog during the past two months at Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(c) the losses suffered by the airlines due to fog, diversion of flights and hovering of aircraft due to congestion at airports;

(d) whether most of the private airlines are not keen to provide training to their pilots for CAT-II or III; and

(e) if so, the action taken by DGCA against private airlines which are not providing training to their pilots for CAT-II or III?



THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to ensure that airlines certified for CAT-III operations roster the crew with CAT-III qualifications during fog period, DGCA monitored the flight scheduling of the airlines during December, 2008 and January, 2009. During the past two months, 71 flights were cancelled, 752 flights were rescheduled and 145 flights were diverted due to fog.

(c) No such data is maintained by the Government.

(d) and (e) Pilots of various domestic Scheduled Airlines are trained for CAT-II/III operations during low visibility conditions as per the requirements laid down in Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section-7, Series 'X', Part-I. Although there is no mandatory requirement for Domestic Airlines to get their pilots trained to operate during low visibility conditions, these airlines are persuaded to train their pilots to operate in low visibility conditions. Only such pilots, who are CAT-II/III qualified, are approved as Instructor/Examiner so as to ensure that more trained pilots are available for CAT-II/III operators during low visibility conditions to improve the operational efficiency. Further, flights schedules of Domestic Scheduled Operates to/from fog bound airports are approved on the basis of number of pilots trained by the operators for low visibility operations and the suitability of the planes for such operations.

#### **Decline in Arrival of Foreign Tourists**

\*69. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourists inflow in the country has declined in the wake of Mumbai terror attacks;

(b) if so, the percentage decrease of tourist inflow after the said incident as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide special packages for the tourism industry of the country;

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

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to boost arrival of tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during November 2008, December 2008 and January 2009, provisionally estimated at about 0.52 million, 0.52 million and 0.49 million respectively, have declined by 2.1%, 12.5% and 17.6% respectively as compared to the FTAs of about 0.53 million, 0.60 million and 0.59 million in the corresponding months of the previous year.

The decline in FTAs in recent months may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

(c) to (e) To minimize the negative impact of global financial meltdown and recent terrorist attacks in the country on the tourism sector and to boost the arrival of tourists in the country, the Government has taken the following steps:—

- All States have been requested to beef up security measures in hotels and at tourist sites in their respective States.
- Indiatourism offices overseas are in regular contact with the international media and travel trade to keep them updated on the ground situation in the country.
- Familiarisation Tours for trade and media representatives to Mumbai and other regions of the country have been specially organized to project the ground realities relating to safety/security conditions in the country. Trade/Media representatives from USA, UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore have visited India during the months of December 2008 and January 2009 as a result of this initiative.
- Financial support being provided to approved service providers for undertaking promotional activities overseas under the Market Develop-

ment Assistance (MDA) Scheme has been enhanced. Participation in three Trade Fairs/Exhibitions per year will now be permitted under the scheme, instead of two as per the earlier guidelines. The eligibility limit under the Scheme in terms of Foreign Exchange Earnings has also been increased from Rs. 10 crore to Rs. 20 crore.

- With a view to promoting Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) Tourism, the scope of the MDA Scheme has been enhanced, so as to include active members of the India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB). Financial support under the scheme would be provided to 'Active Members' of ICPB who in turn would release the same to Indian Association/Societies after bidding for International Conventions/Conferences, provided they win the bid or stand at second or third positions among the bidders.
- The scope of MDA scheme has been extended to cover domestic tour operators, travel agents, etc. to motivate them to include tour packages to various destinations in the country in their marketing programmes for domestic tourists.
- Enhanced subsidy of 25% in participation fee is being offered by the Ministry of Tourism and the Indiatourism offices overseas in the India Pavilions set up at the major International Travel Fairs and Exhibitions till the end of the financial year 2009-10.
- A "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the period April to December 2009.
- Permission has been given to corporates in the hotel sector to avail of External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) upto US\$ 100

million per year for foreign currency and/or rupee capital expenditure for permissible end users.

In addition to the above specific measures initiated recently, the other steps taken by the Government to promote tourism in the country include:

- Development of tourism infrastructure at tourist sites with the cooperation of other Ministries/Departments and State/UT Governments;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure, particularly that for budget hotels;
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Direct approach to the consumers through electronic and print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign; and
- According greater focus to the emerging markets, particularly of China, North East Asia and South East Asia.

#### **Auction of Oil/Gas Blocks**

\*70. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has finalized plans to auction 100 more oil/gas exploration blocks among international bidders under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) scheme;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the awarding of such blocks to companies will have any effect on the imports of oil and gas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to

auction coal-bed-methane blocks to tap the gas reserves beneath the coal layers;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the terms under NELP-VIII allotment will entail the gas producer to allot a certain percentage of gas output to the public sector utilizes like thermal plants and fertilizer units; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA):** (a) to (h) The Government of India approved the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM) in 1997 and these became effective in 1999. Since then licenses for exploration of oil and gas and exploitation of CBM, Blocks are being awarded through international global competitive bidding system. Seven rounds of bidding under NELP and three rounds of bidding under CBM have so far been completed. The precise number of blocks and contractual terms proposed to be offered under the eighth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) and fourth round of CBM (CBM-IV) have not yet been finalized.

The exploration activities in the blocks to be offered under future rounds of NELP and CBM are likely to result in increased production of crude oil, natural gas and CBM, thereby enhancing the energy security of the country.

#### **Promotion of Indian Culture**

\*71. **SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:** Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for preservation and promotion of Indian Culture across the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of new programmes drawn up for promotion and dissemination of awareness about Indian Culture during the above said period; and

(c) the amount of the funds released to the Non Government Organizations for the purpose during the above period?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI):** (a) The mandate of the Ministry of Culture is to preserve and promote all forms of Indian Culture across the Country. The activities undertaken in this regard are contained in the Annual Reports of the Ministry for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 which have been laid on the table of the House.

(b) The various Schemes implemented by the Government involve Promotion of Culture and include the element of dissemination of awareness about Indian Culture. Besides this, the Government has carried out dissemination of awareness about Culture and related issues through advertisements and other campaigns both through Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism. The attached and subordinate offices and autonomous Institutions under the Ministry also undertake numerous activities to disseminate awareness about Indian Culture and Heritage. The expenditure incurred on these campaigns by Ministry of Culture during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Total Amount (Rupees in Lakh)
2005-06	135.00
2006-07	338.50
2007-08	310.30

(c) The total amount of funds released to Non-Government Organizations under various Schemes during the above period are as under:—

Year	Total Amount (Rupees in crores)
2005-06	43.75
2006-07	60.57
2007-08	28.26

[Translation]

### Railway Earnings

\*72. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have earned increased revenue through freight charges and passenger fares from April to December in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the amount of the additional revenue so earned;

(c) whether the Railways had divided the said period into peak season and off-season and fixed different freight charges; and

(d) if so, the varied freight charges made applicable at that time and the months treated as peak and off-seasons during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The increase in freight and passenger earning from April '08 to December '08 as compared to corresponding period of last year is shown as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Particulars	2007-08	2008-09	Increased Revenue	%age Increase
Freight Charges	33447.15	38093.29	4646.14	13.89%
Passenger Fares	14440.93	16122.02	1681.09	11.64%

(c) and (d) Yes, sir. It is a fact that Railways have notified busy season and lean season for the year 2008-'09 as given below:

**Busy Season:** 1st April to 30th June and 1st October to 31st March

**Lean Season:** 1st July to 30th September

Uniform base freight rates are levied on all commodities during the year depending upon their classification. However, additional busy season charge is levied in addition to base freight rates during the busy season as under:

Commodities	Rate of Charge
Coal and Coke	5%
All other commodities	7%
Container	Nil

### Ongoing ROBs/RUBs Projects In Backward and Rural Areas

\*73. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing projects for construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs) including backward and rural areas of the country as on date;

(b) the funds allocated for the construction of such bridges during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways for the timely completion of these over bridges/under bridges;

(d) the details of the new proposals submitted by the Government of Maharashtra and other States for the construction of ROBs/RUBs at the railway crossings during the said period ; and

(e) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Railway Zone-wise, the total

number of works along with Railway zone-wise funds allocation made during the last three years are shown in the Statement attached. Railways consider sanction of Road Over/Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs) in lieu of busy level crossings on cost sharing basis with concerned State Governments/Road Authorities where the traffic density at the level crossing is more than one lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) and otherwise on deposit or on BOT terms. Normally, in such cases, the proposals are sponsored by concerned State Government/Road Authorities duly fulfilling certain stipulated preliminary pre-requisites. For cost-sharing works, the State Government/Road Authorities are required to submit the following main undertakings, along with the proposal:

- (i) The level crossing shall be closed by State Government/Road Authorities on commissioning of ROB/RUB.
- (ii) The State Government/Road Authorities shall contribute their share of cost for work, generally 50% of the total civil works cost.
- (iii) Advance action shall be taken by State Government/Road Authorities to acquire land for approaches where ever required.
- (iv) State Government/Road Authorities shall assign due priority and make provision for the work in their Annual Plan etc.

#### **Cost Sharing Works:**

At present there are 710 works of ROB/RUBs sanctioned on cost-sharing basis throughout the country. On roads other than National Highways, the total cost of work is shared on 50:50 basis between Railway and State Government/Road Authorities. However, the cost of acquisition of any land and structures thereon required for approaches or diversions is to be borne by State Government/Road Authorities sponsoring the proposal.

- (c) (i) Regular field review meetings with State

Government authorities and road authorities of States and Centre for planning and execution of ROB/RUB works are carried out.

- (ii) Railways supervises and executes the cost-sharing and deposit works for which 'workcharge' organization in the field exists for supervision, quality checks and timely completion of ROB/RUB works.
- (iii) Zonal Railways officials are nominated to approve General Arrangement Drawings, Plans, Detailed Estimates etc., at Head Quarters' level, and to coordinate with the State Governments concerned to carry out timely project implementation.
- (iv) Regular periodic review of sanctioned works at Zonal level and at Ministry level are carried out.
- (v) Limited height subways and normal height subways at Railway's cost wherever feasible are also being considered, at locations where level crossings can be eliminated, where the State Governments are reluctant or not forthcoming to sponsor proposals for full-fledged ROBs/RUBs on cost-sharing basis.
- (vi) Close coordination with State Government authorities, departments is maintained for early clearance, approval and implementation.

(d) and (e) Firm proposals sponsored by the State Governments during the last three years received by the Railways fulfilling the requisite criterion mentioned against (a) above have been considered for sanction, whereas those being incomplete or not fulfilling the prescribed criteria were left out. The number of such sanctioned cost sharing works is given below State-wise for last three years:

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	24	13	22
Assam and NE Region	0	1	0
Bihar	4	5	8
Chhattisgarh	2	2	1
Delhi	0	2	16
Gujarat	4	1	1
Haryana	2	15	5
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	1
Jharkhand	0	0	0
Karnataka	5	1	1
Kerala	7	1	2
Maharashtra	4	0	4
Madhya Pradesh	3	2	2
Orissa	0	1	0
Punjab	0	0	1
Pondichery	0	0	0
Rajasthan	1	6	7
Tamil Nadu	33	39	22
Uttar Pradesh	13	5	44
Uttarakhand	0	0	1
U.T. Chandigarh	0	0	0
West Bengal	2	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>139</b>

*In case of Maharashtra State, details of the firm proposals received and sanctioned/approved, are as under:*

Proposals received and sanctioned/approved	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Cost-Sharing Basis	4	0	4
On Deposit Terms	5	1	5
On BOT	2	0	2

**Statement**

*Railway Zone-wise details of ongoing projects on cost-sharing for construction of Road Over/Under Bridges as on 01-12-2008 and funds allotted for them during last three years*

(in Crore Rs.)

Railway	No. of Works on Cost-Sharing basis as on 01-12-2008	Funds Allocation During		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
Central	15	12.04	11.85	15.00
Eastern	30	29.84	25.42	31.00
Northern	103	47.18	37.60	42.00
North-Eastern	29	13.07	11.50	15.00
Northeast Frontier	6	5.94	8.48	10.00
Southern	197	23.80	60.51	82.00
South Central	86	14.06	66.33	90.00
South Eastern	14	9.67	15.20	25.00
Western	28	26.23	28.21	36.00
East Central	54	147.50	122.95	140.00
East Coast	20	23.00	33.55	40.00
North Central	37	17.85	15.30	30.00

1	2	3	4	5
North Western	22	13.04	17.32	35.00
South East Central	14	16.29	37.37	36.00
South Western	37	29.20	49.10	60.00
West Central	18	8.12	10.29	23.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>436.83</b>	<b>550.98</b>	<b>700.00</b>

[English]

**Overcharging by Pharmaceutical Companies**

\*74. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the cases of overcharging are pending against various pharmaceutical companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action against such companies so far;

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

(e) the details of overcharged amount so far recovered by the Government from each of such companies during 2007-08 and 2008-09; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such activities by the pharmaceutical companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the inception of NPPA in August 1997 and till 31st January 2009, NPPA have issued demand

notices in 614 cases for overcharging to the companies for recovery of an amount of Rs. 1954.53 crore. So far, Rs. 140.87 crore has been realized. Recoveries amounting to Rs. 1773.91 crore are sub-judice in various Courts. The major amount is under litigation and the recovery of the same depends upon the outcome of the Court cases.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since the inception of NPPA in August 1997 and till 31st January 2009, NPPA have issued demand notices in all 614 cases for overcharging to the companies for recovery of an amount of Rs. 1954.53 crore. NPPA has also referred 39 cases (enclosed Statement) to District Collectors in various states for recovery of overcharged amount as arrears of land revenue for an amount of Rs. 110.22 crores.

(e) The NPPA has recovered an overcharged amount of Rs. 4.51 crore in 137 cases in 2007-08 and Rs. 36.23 crore in 140 cases in 2008-09 (Till Jan., 2009).

(f) In order to ensure compliance of the notified price, NPPA calls for the control samples of the subsequent batches and the price list of the companies in respect of the formulations wherever the companies are found to be overcharging. The NPPA also initiates action for overcharging based on complaints from State Drug Controllers, verification of Price lists submitted by the companies and suo-moto procurement of samples of scheduled packs.



**Statement***Cases wherein Recovery Proceedings have been initiated*

Sl. No.	Company's Name	Amount to be recovered *	Collector's State
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Wyeth Ltd.	43842236	Maharashtra
2.	M/s. Biological Ltd.	9808207	Andhra Pradesh
3.	M/s. McLaren Biotech	477693	Tamil Nadu
4.	M/s. Marvel Labs (P) Ltd.	526316	Andhra Pradesh
5.	M/s. Alpa Labs Ltd.	72442	Madhya Pradesh
6.	M/s. Neo Pharma (P) Ltd.	2903749	Maharashtra
7.	M/s. G.S.K. Pharmaceuticals	75328272	Maharashtra
8.	M/s. N.R. Jet Enterprises	131483895	Maharashtra
9.	M/s. Khandelwal Lab (P) Ltd.	274017	Maharashtra
10.	M/s. Amcet Pharmaceuticals	1807717	Maharashtra
11.	M/s. Sai Mirra Innopharm	1646392	Tamil Nadu
12.	M/s. Chemicure Pharmaceuticals	1384277	Haryana
13.	M/s. Centaur Pharmaceuticals	2252914	Gujarat
14.	M/s. Centaur Pharmaceuticals	245638	Maharashtra
15.	M/s. Vera Pharma	355485	Andhra Pradesh
16.	M/s. Anrose Pharma	444121	Himachal Pradesh
17.	M/s. Lyka Labs Ltd.	115138386	Maharashtra
18.	M/s. Comed Chemicals	25490866	Gujarat
19.	M/s. Comed Chemicals	203199	Gujarat
20.	M/s. Dr. Reddy's Labs	2079024	Andhra Pradesh
21.	M/s. Pharmmaids Pharmaceuticals	622080	Andhra Pradesh
22.	M/s. Modi Mundi Pharma	362670416	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4
23.	M/s. Modi Mundi Pharma	60409551	Uttar Pradesh
24.	M/s. Mangesh Pharma	399791	Karnataka
25.	M/s. Asoj Soft Caps Pvt. Ltd.	99562	Gujarat
26.	M/s. Best Lab. Ltd.	14357790	Delhi
27.	M/s. Arcadia Pharma Specialities (P) Ltd.	228679	Andhra Pradesh
28.	M/s. PCP Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	692928	Andhra Pradesh
29.	M/s. Tuton Pharmaceuticals	25888181	Gujarat
30.	M/s. Twenty First Century Pharmaceuticals	285032	Tamil Nadu
31.	M/s. Sidmak Laboratories (India) Pvt. Ltd.	23053748	Gujarat
32.	M/s. Sidmak Laboratories (India) Pvt. Ltd.	1641204	Gujarat
33.	M/s. Alkem Laboratories Ltd.	886590	Maharashtra
34.	M/s. Alkem Laboratories Ltd.	25901	Maharashtra
35.	M/s. Franco Indian Remedies Pvt. Ltd.	112950923	Tamil Nadu
36.	M/s. Dr. Reddy's Labs	47079939	Andhra Pradesh
37.	M/s. Lyka Labs Ltd.	2412275	Gujarat
38.	M/s. Franco India Pharmaceuticals	5680570	Maharashtra
39.	M/s. Franco India Pharmaceuticals	27107368	Maharashtra

\*As on the date of reference to the District Collector.

#### Passenger Traffic in AC Coaches

\*75. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passenger traffic in Air Conditioned (AC) coaches has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the percentage increase in revenue earnings during this period from AC passengers;

(c) whether the Railways are planning to increase AC coaches in Express/Superfast trains to generate

more income; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to attract more passengers to travel by train in order to avoid this segment shifting towards travel by budget airlines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The percentage increase in passenger earnings from AC classes during the last three years has been as under:

Financial Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Earnings from Air Conditioned Coaches (in crores)	2697.21	3319.99	4189.14
% increase over previous year	12.72%	23.09%	26.18%

(c) Yes, Sir. Between 2005-06 and 2007-08, we have added 1633 Air-Conditioned (AC) coaches. The target of production of AC coaches in 2008-09 is 684 coaches.

(d) The steps taken by the Railways to attract more passengers to travel by Air Conditioned classes of the train are as under:—

- i. Increase in number of coaches
- ii. Scheme of Frequent Travellers (SOFT)
- iii. Upgradation Scheme
- iv. Discounts in fares of Air Conditioned classes

**Disruption of Train Services  
Due to Fog**

\*76. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains delayed/redirected as a result of fog in Delhi during the last winter season;

(b) whether train accidents also took place due to fog during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to deal with the operational difficulties being faced due to fog every year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) 1646 passenger trains got delayed and lost punctuality due to fog in Delhi Division during last two months from December 2008 to January 2009. However, no train was diverted on account of fog during this period.

(b) No consequential train accident occurred on account of fog during this period in Delhi division.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Action taken during foggy season to deal with train operation are:—

- (i) Reducing the speed of train.
- (ii) Intensive patrolling of tracks.
- (iii) Deputing additional staff to alert the drivers through placement of detonators before the stop signals.
- (iv) Improving the visibility of signals.

**Survey for New Railway Lines**

\*77. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surveys conducted for laying new railway lines in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and ..

(b) the further steps taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of surveys for new lines conducted during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Survey completed
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10

1	2	3
2.	Assam and North Eastern Region	9
3.	Bihar	20
4.	Delhi	1
5.	Gujarat	5
6.	Haryana	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2
8.	Jharkhand	5
9.	Karnataka	5
10.	Kerala	8
11.	Madhya Pradesh	6
12.	Maharashtra	2
13.	Orissa	2
14.	Punjab	5
15.	Rajasthan	12
16.	Tamil Nadu	15
17.	Uttar Pradesh	11
18.	Uttarakhand	3
19.	West Bengal	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>142</b>

**Note:** The survey falling in more than one State has been shown in each State getting covered.

Out of the completed surveys, 30 new line projects have been taken up.

#### **Kerosene Marker System**

\*78. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether the Kerosene Marker System introduced by the Oil Marketing Companies has failed to be a fool-proof method to detect kerosene mixed in petrol or diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been entrusted to any independent investigative agency for inquiry into the alleged irregularities in awarding contract for supplying the Marker;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons found responsible for the lapses; and

(e) the further action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The marker system was implemented by doping of all Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) with marker from October 2006 to 31st December 2008. During the period when the marker system was in vogue with legislation in place the marker system was more successful in detecting adulteration of Motor Spirit (MS)/High Speed Diesel (HSD) with SKO than the traditional method.

In the recent past, tests conducted by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in their labs have shown that marker supplied by M/s Authentix can be laundered with certain chemicals in lab conditions. The marker supplied by M/s Authentix was discontinued from 31st December, 2008. The OMCs are in the process of calling for a Global Expression of Interest for another marker which meets the specifications.

(c) to (e) Independent agencies are inquiring into this matter. No report has been received from them so far.

#### **Making Available Non-Branded Medicines**

79. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of brand building of pharmaceuticals and the price paid by the consumers in the process;

(b) the action taken by the Government to protect the interests of poor and middle class patients especially from rural areas by providing non-branded medicines at reasonable prices;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to discourage brand building of pharmaceuticals and provide alternative retail network to make available medicines at low prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The prices of 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are controlled in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). The retail price of formulation is calculated by NPPA in accordance to the formula mentioned in Para 7 of the DPCO '95 wherein Maximum Allowable Post-manufacturing Expenses not exceeding 100% for indigenously manufactured scheduled formulations and not exceeding 50% of the landed cost for imported formulations is allowed.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations, i.e. the drugs not covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R and D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected by fixing the prices of such non-Scheduled formulations under para 10(b) of DPCO '95.

(b) to (d) The Government is committed to protect the interest of poor and middle class patients specially from the rural areas by taking initiatives for making medicines available at reasonable prices. In the case of Scheduled formulations this is ensured by enforcing the provisions of DPCO '95 by NPPA. In the case of non-Scheduled formulations the Government can fix or

revise the prices only in the cases where it is considered necessary to do so in the public interest.

As a supplementary non-statutory measure with a view to promote quality unbranded generic products the Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with Pharma Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) has launched Generic Drug Campaign for promoting sales of unbranded quality generic medicines at affordable prices. The Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores have already been opened at Civil Hospital, Amritsar (Punjab) and Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi. More such stores are being opened soon in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Prices of the generic medicines sold in Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores are cheaper in comparison of branded medicines. The Department of Pharmaceuticals has also requested all the State Governments to consider opening of Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores in their states. The responses of some of the State Governments are encouraging.

In addition to the above, the Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 proposes to promote the use of generic drugs and one of the methodologies proposed therein is fixation of Trade Margins, which are significantly high in the cases of certain generic formulations. The policy also proposes public procurement and distribution of generic drugs through the public health system, free of cost quality certification to generic drug manufacturers etc. for promotion of generic drugs in the country. The Policy is under consideration of Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

#### **Setting Up of National Gas Grid**

\*80. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from various States for setting up of a national gas grid to meet the future requirement of gas based industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any progress has been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal from State Governments for setting up a national gas grid. However, requests have been received from Governments of some States for pipeline connectivity in their States.

(c) and (d) Gas pipelines are laid according to gas availability, and location of production centres and customers. A network of trunk gas pipelines is being laid in the country by various entities connecting customers to various sources of natural gas. GAIL is presently operating around 6800 km of pipelines with a capacity of around 142 million standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) for transportation of natural gas to various parts of the country. Dahej-Uran Pipeline (DUPL) and Dabhol-Panvel pipeline (DPPL) have been commissioned by GAIL in July 2007. Kelaras-Malanpur, Vijaipur-Kota and Jagoti-Pitampur pipelines have been commissioned by GAIL in July 2006, January 2007 and March 2007 respectively. Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTIL) is commissioning Kakinada-Hyderabad-Uran-Ahmedabad pipeline (1385 km) for transporting gas from KG basin to consumers in other parts of the country. Dadri-Panipat pipeline (133 km) is under implementation by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

GAIL has been issued authorizations for Dadri-Bawana-Nangal Pipeline, Chainsa-Gurgaon-Jhajjar-Hissar Pipeline, Jagdishpur-Haldia Pipeline, Dabhol-Bangalore Pipeline and Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Bangalore/Mangalore Pipeline. Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTIL) has been granted authorizations for Kakinada-Basudebpur-Howrah Pipeline, Vijaywada-Nellore-Chennai Pipeline, Chennai-Tuticorin Pipeline and Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore Pipeline.

To encourage investment in the sector and to regulate the same in a non-discriminatory manner, the

Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006'.

*[Translation]*

#### **Railway Network for North Eastern Region**

283. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have set a target to link all the States of the North Eastern Region (NER) with broad gauge railway lines by the year 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of States for which approval has been accorded to provide such linkages and the number of States in which works have been started so far; and

(d) the amount of funds likely to be incurred for the development of proposed rail network in the NER?

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

(b) All State capitals of the North East Region are proposed to be connected by Railway Lines wherever feasible.

(c) Two State capitals are already connected by rail lines i.e. Guwahati and Agartala. Further works have been taken up for connecting State capitals of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

(d) As per the present estimate, cost of providing linkages to four State capitals where works are already sanctioned is above Rs. 4200 crore. For State capitals of Sikkim and Meghalaya, survey has been taken up.

*[English]*

#### **Oil Refinery Project at Paradeep in Orissa**

284. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Company (IOC) has decided to delink the petrochemical complex from the proposed oil refinery project at Paradeep in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the land acquisition process has been completed for the oil refinery;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the construction would begin; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent by the IOC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, due to very high estimated cost of Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Paradip, the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) at its meeting held on 26-5-2008 decided that only Refinery without Petrochemical Complex could be built in the first phase of the project at Paradip.

(c) and (d) Total of 3344 acres of land has been acquired for Paradip Refinery Project. After reclamation of the entire land and completing pre-project activities, the site construction work is expected to commence during the 1st quarter of 2010.

(e) The Board of Directors of IOCL in May, 2008 have approved in-principle the implementation of Paradip Refinery Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 29,777 crore for the Refinery.

*[Translation]*

#### **Model Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh**

285. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Railway Stations developed as Model Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh so far; and

(b) the details of Railway Stations identified to be developed as Model Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Names of the Railway Stations in the State of Uttar Pradesh State which have already been developed as Model Station are given below:

- (i) North Central Railway (10 stations)—Allahabad, Kanpur Central, Mirzapur, Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Orai, Banda, Agra Cantt. and Mathura.
- (ii) North Eastern Railway (17 stations)—Izzatnagar, Pilibhit, Kasganj, Farrukhabad, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Basti, Rawatpur, Badshahnagar, Lucknow, Katra, Sitapur, Lakhimpur, Lucknow City, Bahraich, Khalilabad and Barhani.
- (iii) Northern Railway (7 stations)—Lucknow, Varanasi, Moradabad, Shahjahanpur, Garh Mukteshwar and Hapur.
- (iv) East Central Railway (1 station)—Mughalsarai.

Names of the Railway Stations in the State of Uttar Pradesh State which have been identified for development as Model Stations in future are given below:

- (a) North Central Railway (8 stations)—Naini, Fatehpur, Firozabad, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Chitrakoot Dham Karvi, Raja ki Mandi and Agra Fort.
- (b) North Eastern Railway (12 stations)—Kaimganj, Deoria Sadar, Mau, Ballia, Manduadih, Azamgarh, Belthra Road, Ghazipur City, Salempur, Bhatni, Varanasi City, Allahabad City.
- (c) Northern Railway (25 stations)—Meerut City, Baghpat Road, Baraut, Ghaziabad, Meerut Cantt., Muzaffarnagar, Deoband, Ayodhya, Faizabad, RaeBareilly, Prayag, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Jaunpur, Bhadohi, Akbarpur, Shahganj, Unnao, Barabanki, Janghal, Najibabad, Rampur, Chandausi, Hardoi and Saharanpur.
- (d) East Central Railway (2 stations)—Chopan and Renukut.

*[English]*

**Single Entry Ticket System for  
Six World Heritage Sites**

286. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently taken a decision to introduce single entry ticket system for six world heritage sites in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Forum for Steel Sector**

287. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any formal forum for pro-active engagement between Government and prospective investors in steel sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the current mechanism to address the concerns of the steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) There is no formal forum for pro-active engagement between Government and prospective investors in Steel sector. However, Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country.

The IMG consists of following members:—

---

i. Secretary, Ministry of Steel	Chairman
ii. Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	Member
iii. Member (Traffic), Railway Board, Ministry of Railways	Member
iv. Secretary, Department of Shipping	Member
v. Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways	Member
vi. Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Member
vii. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest	Member
viii. Chief Secretary of concerned State Governments	Member
ix. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel	Convener

---

Any other Ministry/State Government may be requested to participate as and when considered necessary.

Further, the terms of reference (ToR) of the IMG are:—

To review and coordinate measures for early completion of the major steel capacities and to address various problems concerning:

- (i) Infrastructure constraints related to ports, rail, road network.
- (ii) Availability of iron ore and coal.
- (iii) Speedy environmental clearance for project site as well as for iron ore and coal mining activities.
- (iv) Availability of land, water resources and issues concerning rehabilitation.



- (v) Any other item concerned with the major steel investments in the country.

[Translation]

#### **Passenger Amenities**

288. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of passenger amenities available at all railway stations between Shamgarh to Nagada and Ratlam to Maxi of Western Railways;

(b) whether the Railways have any action plan to augment the existing facilities at all these railway stations of the Zone; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) as per norms have already been provided at all railway stations between Shamgarh and Nagda and Ratlam and Maksi. The amenities include Booking office, drinking water, waiting hall, sitting arrangements, platform shelter/shady trees, urinals, latrines, platform lighting, fans, clock and Time Table.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Augmentation of passenger amenities commensurate with increase in passenger traffic/earnings at railway station is a continuous process and is undertaken through Annual Works Programme depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities. Ratlam, Nagda and Ujjain railway stations have already been developed as Model station. Various works for augmentation of passenger amenities are in progress at Ujjain, Nagda, Maksi, Ratlam and Khachrod stations. Works of raising of platforms to high level at Shamgarh, Suwasra and Chaumahla stations and provision of Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) at Shamgarh, Vikramgad Alot, Mehidpur Road, Lunirichha, Suwasra and Chaumahla stations have also been taken up.

#### **Tourist Spots in Orissa**

289. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received by the Government from the State Government of Orissa for improvement of tourist spots/places during the last three years;

(b) the names of the tourist spots in Orissa where beautification and developmental works have been carried out during the said period; and

(c) the funds allocated/spent for the purpose during the said period and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under various schemes which are:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.
3. Information technology.
4. Fairs/Festival and Events.

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respect are examined as per scheme guidelines and approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

A list of projects sanctioned to the State of Orissa during the last three years and the current financial year given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement***Projects Sanctioned to the State of Orissa in the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
<b>2005-06</b>		
1.	Development of Gopalpur-on-Sea, Distt. Ganjam	447.22
2.	Development of Sakhi Gopal, Distt. Puri	460.96
3.	Development of Taptapani in Distt. Ganjam as Tourist Destination	500.00
4.	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Bhubaneswar-Dhauri-Puri-Konark	720.09
5.	Development of Chilka Lake (Distt. Puri and Ganjam) as Tourist Destination	389.05
6.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj	50.00
7.	Shreekshehra Festival at Puri	15.00
8.	Puri Beach Festival, 2005	4.00
9.	Konark Festival, 2005	3.00
10.	Rajrani Festival, 2005 at Bhubaneswar	3.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2592.32</b>
<b>2006-07</b>		
1.	Development of Simlipal in Distt. Mayurbhanj as a tourist destination	297.12
2.	Puri Beach Festival, 2006	05.00
3.	Konark Festival, 2006	05.00
4.	Ekamra Utsav, 2007	10.00
5.	Shreekshehra Vasant Utsav, 2006	10.00
6.	Integrated Development of Chandipur-Talsari-Udaypur-Chandaneswar-Remuna-Panchlingeswar-Nilagiri Circuit	800.00
7.	Development of Village Barpali, Distt. Baragarh, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
8.	Development of Village Hirapur, Distt. Khurda, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00

1	2	3
9.	Development of Village Padmanavpur, Distt. Ganjam, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
10.	Development of Village Deulajhari, Distt. Angul, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
11.	Integrated Development of Koraput Circuit "Koraput-Deomali-Jeypore-Upper Kolab-Gupteshwar as a tourist circuit	692.00
12.	Development of Eco-Tourism at Bhitarkanika	383.22
13.	Development of Satkosia as a Tourist Destination	424.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2826.84</b>
<b>2007-08</b>		
1.	Development of Orissa Tourism Information Portal under the scheme of Information Technology	42.50
2.	Development of Mahanadi Central Heritage, Distt. Cuttack as a destination	393.75
3.	Development of Kapilas-Joranda-Saptasajya as a tourist circuit	287.84
4.	Development of Sonapur-Khandapara-Narshinghpur-Cuttack-Paradeep as Tourist Circuit	463.60
5.	Development of Harishankar-Nrusinghnath-Ranipurjarial as a Tourist Circuit	650.21
6.	Development of Silk Route Circuit in Ganjam district	431.15
7.	Gurukul of Konark Natya Manadap, Konark, Distt. Puri	50.00
8.	All India Paika Akhada Exhibition Utsav-2008	5.00
9.	Golden Beach Festival at Chandipur-on-Sea, 2008	3.00
10.	Rural tourism at village Gurukul of Konark Natya Mandap (CBSP)	20.00
11.	Rural tourism at Village Barpalli, distt. Bargarh (CBSP)	13.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2360.55</b>
<b>2008-09</b>		
1.	Development of Bhubaneswar-Puri-Chilika as a mega destination	3022.80
2.	Development of Nandankanan-Khandagiri-Deras-Chandaka as a tourist circuit	340.17
3.	Development of Barhmapura-Nuagarh-Kuadoli-Nandinia-Jhanjibandha as a tourist Circuit	379.45
4.	Development of Khurda-Barunei-Atri-Kaipadara-Odagaon-Buguda as a Tourist Circuit	366.96

1	2	3
5.	Celebration of Dhauli Mahotasav, Dhauli	3.00
6.	Celebration of Golden Beach Festival, Chandipur	3.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>4115.38</b>

**Protected Monuments in Gujarat**

290. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and location of protected monuments in Gujarat as on date, monument-wise;

(b) the amount spent on maintenance, conservation and construction work on these monuments during last three years, monument-wise;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested to include more monuments in the list of

protected monuments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The details of 202 monuments/sites declared as of national importance in Gujarat and expenditure incurred on their protection, conservation, and development during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*List of Centrally Protected Monuments under the Jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India in Gujarat and Expenditure incurred thereon*

Sl. No.	Monument/Sites	Location and District	2005-06 (Rs.)	2006-07 (Rs.)	2007-08 (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bhadra gate beside Bhadrakali temple	Ahmedabad	498144	217766	—
2.	Ahmed Shah's Mosque	Ahmedabad	—	804	5191
3.	Teen Darwaja or Tripolia gate	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
4.	Jami Masjid	Ahmedabad	10256	506249	355952
5.	Tombs of Queens of Amhed Shah	Ahmedabad			
6.	Ahmad Shah's Tomb	Ahmedabad			

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Kalulpur Gate	Ahmedabad			
8.	Tomb of Mir Abu Turab	Ahmedabad			
9.	Panch Kuwa Gate	Ahmedabad			
10.	Bibiji's Masjid	Ahmedabad			
11.	Malik Alam's Mosque	Ahmedabad			
12.	Raipur Gate	Ahmedabad			
13.	Shah Alam's tomb with all surrounding buildings in the group	Ahmedabad	74864	15035	5100
14.	Small stone Mosque (Rani Masjid)	Ahmedabad			
15.	Rauza of Azam Khan Mauzzam Khan	Ahmedabad			
16.	The Shahpur Kazi Mohamad Chisti's Masjid	Ahmedabad			
17.	Dariyapur Gate	Ahmedabad			
18.	Premabhai Gate	Ahmedabad			
19.	Achyut Bibi's Masjid and Tomb	Ahmedabad			
20.	Queen's Mosque in Sarangpur	Ahmedabad			
21.	Shah Kupa Masjid	Ahmedabad			
22.	Muhafiz Khan's Mosque	Ahmedabad			
23.	Dada Harir's Mosque and Tomb	Ahmedabad			
24.	Three gates besides Bhadrakali temple	Ahmedabad			
25.	Tomb	Ahmedabad			
26.	Brick Minars	Ahmedabad			
27.	Sidi Saiyad's Mosque	Ahmedabad			

1	2	3	4	5	6
28.	Sidi Bashir's Minar's and Tomb (Shaking)	Ahmedabad	8381	—	8846
29.	Delhi gate	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
30.	Kutub Shah's Mosque	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
31.	Dada (Bai) Hari's Stepwell	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
32.	Sarangpur Gate	Ahmedabad	—	1163	164844
33.	Mata Bhawani's Well	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
34.	Dariya Khan's Tomb	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
35.	Rani Rupavati's Mosque	Ahmedabad	11372	2841	3386
36.	Saiyyad Usman's Mosque and Tomb	Ahmedabad	670313	518536	642364
37.	Dastur Khan's Masjid	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
38.	Rani Sipri's Mosque and Tomb	Ahmedabad	14447	2553	—
39.	Astodia Gate	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
40.	Inlet to Kankaria Tank	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
41.	Haibatkhan's Masjid	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
42.	Baba Lauli's Masjid	Ahmedabad	123287	—	—
43.	Nawab Sardar Khan Masjid and outer gate in survey No. 6814	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
44.	Nawab Sardar Khan's Rouza with its compound bearing C.S. No. 6811	Ahmedabad	—	—	—
45.	Jethabhai's Stepwell	Isanpur	—	—	34821
46.	Small Stone Masjid (Gumle Masjid)	Isanpur	792934	595412	—
47.	Tombs (Qutub-i-Alam)	Vatva	—	—	—
48.	Great Mosque	Sarkhej Roza	666700	814690	562088

1	2	3	4	5	6
49.	Great Tank, Palace and Harem	Sarkhej Roza	—	—	—
50.	Pavilion	Sarkhej Roza			
51.	Roza of Baba Ishaq and Bawa Ganj Bhaksh	Sarkhej Roza			
52.	Tomb of Bibi (Rani) Rajbai	Sarkhej Roza	314451	37028	380460
53.	Tomb of Mohammed Begarh	Sarkhej Roza			
54.	Tomb of Shaikh Ahmed Khattau Ganj Baksh	Sarkhej Roza	292091	4943340	—
55.	Jami Masjid	Dholka			
56.	Ruined Building	Dholka	36016	—	—
57.	Malav Tank	Dholka	122052	214294	—
58.	Khan Masjid	Dholka	1061657	319172	—
59.	Bahlol Khan Gazi's Mosque	Dholka	—	—	200291
60.	Ancient site at Lothal	Saragwala	108684	5900	204279
61.	Masjid of Ragusha Pir	Ranpur	—	—	—
62.	Jami Masjid	Mandal	14422	—	—
63.	Kazi Masjid	Mandal	—	—	—
64.	Saiyad Masjid	Mandal	—	—	—
65.	Mansar Talav and Shrines	Viramgam	10457	—	144639
66.	Ancient site Gohilwad Timbo (Mound)	Amreli	750	—	—
67.	Fresco on the wall of Kashivisvanath temple	Padar Singha, Amreli	15417	—	—
68.	Ancient Site	Venivadar, Amreli	—	—	—
69.	Stepwell	Borsad, Anand	9962	—	—
70.	Jami Masjid	Khambhat, Anand	245	451	1170

1	2	3	4	5	6
71.	Ancient site/Mound	Sihor, Bhavnagar	—	—	—
72.	Darbargarh	Sihor, Bhavnagar	18831	3676	—
73.	Ancient site/Mound	Valbhipur, Bhavnagar	15475	2167	377102
74.	Jain temples	Talaja, Bhavnagar	—	—	—
75.	Talaja Caves	Talaja, Bhavnagar	25758	9287	—
76.	Jami Masjid	Bharuch	105528	—	—
77.	Old Ruined temple of Mahadev	Bawka, Dahod	24657	4605	—
78.	Tomb of Sikander Shah	Halol, Godhra	—	—	—
79.	Ek-Minar-ki-Masjid	Halol, Godhra	—	784689	—
80.	Panch-Mahuda-ki-Masjid	Halol, Godhra	—	—	—
81.	Tomb	Halol, Godhra	—	—	—
82.	Helical Stepped well (With 50 feet space around at pathway 10 feet wide to nearest road.)	Champaner, Godhra	—	118229	—
83.	Sakar Khan's Dargah	Champaner, Godhra	18036	—	—
84.	City Gate	Champaner, Godhra	—	—	—
85.	Citadel Walls	Champaner, Godhra	20152	196871	1383714
86.	City Walls at S.E. corner of the citadel going up the hill	Champaner, Godhra	—	—	—
87.	East and South Bhadra Gates	Champaner, Godhra	41550	600570	—
88.	Sahar ki Masjid (Bohrani)	Champaner, Godhra	128174	111120	24
89.	Three cells	Champaner, Godhra	23953	—	—
90.	Mandvi or Custom House	Champaner, Godhra	—	—	—
91.	Jami Masjid	Champaner, Godhra	660391	1245966	3463



1	2	3	4	5	6
92.	Stepwell	Champaner, Godhra	—	—	—
93.	Kevada Masjid	Champaner, Godhra	562965	924441	474616
94.	Tomb with a Brick dome in the centre and small corner domes	Champaner, Godhra	—	—	1281014
95.	Canatoph of Kevda Masjid	Champaner, Godhra	—	—	—
96.	Nagina Masjid	Champaner, Godhra	—	—	—
97.	Cenatop of Nagina Masjid	Champaner, Godhra	7320	315238	892923
98.	Lila Gumbaj	Champaner, Godhra	667609	440739	—
99.	Kabutarkhana Pavilion	Champaner, Godhra	23664	507977	7545
100.	Kamani Masjid	Champaner, Godhra	—	—	416520
101.	Bawa Man's Mosque	Champaner, Godhra	—	—	790524
102.	Gate No. 1 Atak Gate (with two gateways)	Pavagad hill, Godhra	206882	222848	—
103.	Gate No. 2 (with three gateways) Budhiya gate	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	—
104.	Gate No. 3 Moti gate Sadanshah-Gate	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	—
105.	Gate No. 4 with big bastion with cells in the interior	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	—
106.	Sat Manzil with steps right upto bastions	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	346314
107.	Mint above Gate No. 4	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	—
108.	Gate No. 5 Gulan Bulan Gate	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	—
109.	Gate No. 6 Buland Darwaja	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	—
110.	Makai Kothar	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	85596
111.	Patai Rawals Palace with tanks	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	91568

1	2	3	4	5	6
112.	Gate No. 7 Makai Gate	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	—
113.	Gate No. 8 Tarapore Gate	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	—
114.	Fort of Pavagad and ruined Hindu Temples and Jain temples on the top of Pavagad hills	Pavagad hill, Godhra	242654	89272	60078
115.	Naviakha Kothar	Pavagad hill, Godhra	—	—	—
116.	Walls of fort on top	Pavagad hill, Godhra	30819	—	2768
117.	Rudra Mahalaya temple	Desar, Godhra	12170	—	—
118.	Kankeshvara Mahadev temple	Kakanpur, Godhra	21772	4564	—
119.	Ratnesvara Old temple with sculptures screen	Ratanpur, Godhra	15311	4696	7375
120.	Rudabai stepwell	Adalaj, Gandhinagar	311857	263592	173159
121.	Durvasa Rishi's Ashram and its site	Pindara, Jamnagar	19804	365	—
122.	Kalika Mata temple	Navi Dhrewad, Jamnagar	23406	—	—
123.	Gokeshwara Mahadev temple	Lowrali, Jamnagar	22701	295	—
124.	Gandhi fortress and temple in Survey no. 106	Old Dhink, Jamnagar	—	—	—
125.	Temple of Rama Laxman	Baradia, Jamnagar	4878	1290	—
126.	Dwarkadhish Group of temples with its outer compounds S. No. 1607, 1608, 1906	Dwarka, Jamnagar	451221	725802	809294
127.	Kshatrapa Inscriptions	Dwarka, Jamnagar	—	—	64609
128.	Rukmini Temple	Dwarka, Jamnagar	—	578	—
129.	Dharashnvel Temple (Magderu)	Dharshnval, Jamnagar	—	593	4500
130.	Guhaditya temple in S. No. 655	Varvada, Jamnagar	—	—	4500

1	2	3	4	5	6
131.	Junagadhi (Jain) Temple	Vasai, Jamnagar	2439	—	—
132.	Kankeshvara Mahadeva temple and other shrines	Vasai, Jamnagar	4068	400	—
133.	Gop (Sun) Temple	Nani Gop, Jamnagar	5823	98540	212295
134.	Ashokan Rock (Edicts)	Junagadh	31592	26482	166072
135.	Buddhistic Cave	Junagadh	128186	39123	97441
136.	Baba Pyare, Khapra Kodia caves	Junagadh	346843	123914	
137.	Ancient Mound	Intwa, Junagadh	17585	2167	—
138.	Jami Masjid	Mangrol, Junagadh	—	—	—
139.	Bibi Masjid	Mangrol, Junagadh	—	—	—
140.	Raveli Masjid	Mangrol, Junagadh	19179	—	—
141.	Ranchhod Rayaji Temple with wasterland around the chowk of Mahadeva Temple	Mul Dwarka, Junagadh	12979	—	—
142.	Vithalbhai Haveli	Vasco, Kheda	—	3828	—
143.	Bhamaria Well	Mahamadabad, Kheda	384	801635	—
144.	Temple of Galteshwar	Samal, Kheda	9914	155619	2937
145.	Tomb of Saif-ud-din and Nizam-ud-din	Sojali, Kheda	24257	7303	1340
146.	Tomb of Mubarak Saiyyad	Sojali, Kheda	—	—	—
147.	Rao Lakha Chhatri	Bhuj, Kheda	410515	1395712	3448980
148.	Siva temple	Kotai, Kachchh	230931	3388	1486010
149.	Excavated Site	Surkotada, Kachchh	36642	5438	—
150.	Malai Mata temple	Paladdar, Mehsana	9729	2303	—
151.	Hingloji Mata temple	Khandosan, Mehsana	15747	1084	—
152.	Sabha Mandapa (Double Shrines) and the ancient shrines	Khandosan, Mehsana	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
153.	Jasmalnathji Mahadev temple	Asoda, Mehsana	7927	—	—
154.	Ajpal Kund	Vadnagar, Mehsana	24000	—	—
155.	Inscription and Arjun Bari Gate	Vadnagar, Mehsana	—	—	—
156.	Torana	Vadnagar, Mehsana	64864	484500	347549
157.	Kund	Vijapur, Mehsana	—	—	—
158.	Sun temple, Surya kind with adjoining other temples and loose sculptures	Modhera, Mehsana	427426	382061	12722
159.	Gateway of Khan Sarover	Patan	25082	211855	296679
160.	Rani-ki-vav	Patan	2739268	733722	1485373
161.	Sahastralinga Talao (Excavated)	Anavada, Patan	361651	40708	72106
162.	Shaikh Farid Tomb	Patan	30321	6965	—
163.	Jami Masjid	Sidhpur, Patan	—	—	—
164.	Ruins of Rudra Mahalaya temple	Sidhpur, Patan	12604	10970	407455
165.	Nilkantheswar Mahadev temple	Sunak, Patan	23247	2167	554736
166.	Sivai Mata temple	Sunak, Patan	10857	1084	—
167.	Nilkantheswar Mahadev temple	Ruhavi, Patan	—	—	—
168.	Two small Shrines Sanderi Mata temple	Sander, Patan	4179	—	—
169.	Sitamata temple	Piludra, Patan	15484	2303	822052
170.	Torana with a Sun image	Piludra, Patan	—	—	518213
171.	Limboji Mata temple	Delmal, Patan	6670	—	—
172.	House where Mahatma Gandhi was born	Porbandar	34067	18738	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
173.	Old Parsvanath temple	Vadodara, Porbandar	6120	—	—
174.	Caves	Miyani, Rajkot	5	—	—
175.	Tomb of Sikandarshah	Prantji, Sabarkanta	179346	5818	—
176.	Group of temples	Khed and Roda, Sabarkanta	95073	4428	136450
177.	Dargah known as Khawaja Dana Saheb's Rouza	Surat	—	—	—
178.	Old English Tombs	Surat	521204	101633	—
179.	Tomb of Khawaja Safar Sulemani	Surat	202964	141450	—
180.	Old Dutch and Armenian Tombs and Cemeteries	Surat	159625	335138	766144
181.	Ancient site comprising S. Plot No. 535	Kamrej, Surat	26937	31071	—
182.	Fateh Burj	Vyara, Surat	38513	23010	1395236
183.	Ranak Devi's Temple	Wadhwan, Surendranagar	—	—	—
184.	Ancient Mound	Rangpur, Surendranagar	—	—	—
185.	Sun Temple	Thangadh, Surendranagar	—	—	—
186.	Navlakha temple	Sejakpur, Surendranagar	221	899	3332
187.	Ancient Site/Mound (Ganesh temple) in village	Sejakpur, Surendranagar	—	—	—
188.	Darbargarh	Halwad, Surendranagar	—	—	—
189.	Ananteshwara temple	Bhadia Anandpur, Surendranagar	—	—	—
190.	Fresco Rooms in Bhau Tembekar's Wada	Vadodara	24880	926544	851780
191.	Historic Site S. No. 431, 435	Vadodara	—	—	—
192.	Hazira or Qutbuddin Mahmud Khan's Tomb	Danteshwar, Vadodara	178267	60985	58519

1	2	3	4	5	6
193.	Ancient Site (Excavated)	Kayavarohan, Vadodara	96866	9767	374121
194.	Gateway of Torana	Kayavarohan, Vadodara	—	—	—
195.	Ancient site of Samshyapura	Goraj, Vadodara	9425	791	—
196.	Vadodara Gate and its adjacent construction Hira gate with S. No. 38, 41, 45, 47 and Ticca No. 102 and 103	Dabhoi, Vadodara	41415	33151	839917
197.	Hira Gate with S. No. 38, 41, 45, 47 and Ticca No. 102 and 103	Dabhoi, Vadodara	52438	117911	97514
198.	Mahudi (Champaneri) Gate and adjacent construction	Dabhoi, Vadodara	—	1722	—
199.	Nandodi Gate with adjacent construction	Dabhoi, Vadodara	—	19778	—
200.	Saptamukhi Vav	Dabhoi, Vadodara	—	—	—
201.	Microlithic site S. No. 311, 12, 13 and 298	Amarjapura, Vadodara	—	—	—
202.	Ancient Site (Kotada)	Locality-Dholavira, Tehsil-Bhachau, Bhuj	1869549	2054080	2291101
Total			17161768	23204889	26736711
Or Say Rs. in lakhs			171.62	232.05	267.37

*[English]***Production of Fertilizers**

291. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target fixed for production of fertilizers has been achieved by all the fertilizer units in the country during the year 2008-09;

(b) if not, the reasons for shortfall; and

(c) the step being taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Production of urea during the year 2008-09 (April 08-January 09) has been 166.77 LMT as against production target and working installed

capacity of 170.83 LMT and 159.00 LMT respectively. The production of DAP during the same period is 26.11 LMT against production target and working installed capacity of 38.90 LMT and 56.87 LMT respectively. Similarly production of NPK (Complex fertilizer) during the period was 61.97 LMT against the production target and working installed capacity of 65.10 LMT and 33.51 LMT respectively. The decline in production DAP and NPK fertilizers vis-a vis target/working installed capacity has been on account of temporary shutdown of plants of some of the production units due to technical problems, shortage of gas, liquidity problems and constraints in availability of phos acid, rock phosphate, other inputs and their high prices in the international market.

(c) Department of Fertilizers is having constant interaction with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GAIL and other prospective suppliers of NG/LNG so that gas requirement of the fertilizers industry are met adequately. In case of Phosphatic Fertilizers, the prices of inputs/raw material/intermediates have declined in the international market. The companies are entering into contracts for procuring these inputs. Further, Department of Fertilizer has permitted SPIC-Tuticorin to enter into production and marketing arrangement with MCF-Mangalore, which will facilitate availability of fertilizers.

#### **Construction of Anand Vihar Train Terminal**

292. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the initial outlay for the construction of Anand Vihar Train Terminal in East Delhi;

(b) whether there is any revised outlay due to delay in completion of the project;

(c) if so, the amount fixed after revision of outlay and reasons for such delay; and

(d) the original time frame fixed for the completion of the project alongwith the revised schedule for completion of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. R. VELU): (a) to (c) Construction of Anand Vihar Train Terminal was sanctioned in 2003-04 at an initial cost of Rs. 85 crore. In addition, the material modification covering additional passenger and operational facilities was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 25.93 crore in the year 2006-07. The delay has not been the reason for increase in cost.

(d) The target date of completion for Anand Vihar Rail Terminal was originally fixed as September, 2008 which has now been revised to March, 2009.

#### **Doubling Work on Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur Railway Line**

293. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Survey Report on doubling of Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur Railway line have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur doubling was completed in 2005-06. As per the survey report, cost of doubling of this 326 km long line was assessed as Rs. 813 crore with a negative Rate of Return of (-)1.55%. Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources, the doubling could not be considered.

#### **Expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants**

294. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of steel is likely to be met by the expansion of Bokaro and Vizag Steel Plants in the public sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government is planning to expand other public sector steel plants also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir. The expansion of Bokaro and Vizag Steel Plants is expected to contribute significantly to meeting the national demand of steel.

(b) and (c) Both the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have undertaken modernization and expansion of their steel plants to increase their production of steel. The modernization and expansion plan of SAIL at all of its five integrated steel plants and Salem Steel Plant envisages an increase in the production from the current level of around 15 million tonnes of hot metal per annum to 26.2 million tonnes per annum. Similarly the expansion of RINL envisages an increase in production of liquid steel from the current level of around 3.0 million tonnes per annum to 6.3 million tonnes per annum.

*[Translation]*

#### **Electrification Work of Bina-Kota Railway Line**

295. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in respect of the electrification work of Bina-Kota Railway line; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on the project so far and the estimated total expenditure till the project is completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 34 Route kilometers out of 303 Route kilometers have been energized till March, 2008. 82 Route kilometers have been targeted for energisation during 2008-09. The entire section is targeted for completion by March, 2010.

(b) The electrification work of Bina-Kota rail line has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 168.49 crore.

Rs. 55.92 crore has been incurred till March, 2008 and Rs. 33.85 crore have been allotted during 2008-09.

*[English]*

#### **Setting Up of Domestic Airport at Kokrajhar**

296. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to set up a Domestic Airport at Kokrajhar;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, the site identified by the Bodoland Territorial Council was not found suitable for construction of airport.

*[Translation]*

#### **Unmanned Level Crossings**

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

(a) the guidelines/yardsticks prepared by the Railways for manning the unmanned Railway crossings;

(b) whether there has been increase in the number of accidents due to unmanned railway crossings;

(c) if so, the number of accidents took place on unmanned railway crossings during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to prevent accidents by manning these unmanned railway crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The current policy for manning of level crossings as follow:—

1. All Level crossings including restricted visibility\* cases where Train Vehicle Unit (TVU) is more than 6000.



2. Restricted visibility\* level crossing where TVU is between 3000-6000.

\*Level crossings having less than 800 metres visibility for road user/train driver shall be considered of restricted visibility.

(b) The number of unmanned level crossing accidents has decreased from 72 in 2006-07 to 65 in 2007-08 and during the current year from April 2008 to

January 2009, such accidents have come down from 57 to 51 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) Number of consequential train accidents are maintained Zone-wise. Zone-wise, number of unmanned level crossing accidents during the last three years and the current year is as under:—

Sl. No.	Railways	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 up to January
01.	Central	1	0	0	0
02.	Eastern	1	1	1	1
03.	East Central	3	0	4	3
04.	Northern	16	15	10	0
05.	North Eastern	7	5	8	9
06.	Northeast Frontier	1	2	0	1
07.	North Western	7	10	4	10
08.	Southern	4	11	6	5
09.	South Central	6	5	4	2
10.	South Eastern	1	0	5	0
11.	Western	3	9	5	8
12.	East Coast	3	3	4	4
13.	South Western	7	4	8	1
14.	West Central	3	1	3	2
15.	North Central	1	3	1	2
16.	South East Central	1	3	2	3
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>51</b>

(d) Measures taken by Zonal Railways to avert accidents at the unmanned Level Crossings include the following:—

(i) Public awareness programmes and publicity campaigns undertaken regularly to educate the road users for observing safe practices while

negotiating unmanned level crossings. Joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities conducted.

- (ii) Improvement to the surface of level crossings (LCs) near the railway tracks, approach roads with proper gradient for safe movement of the road vehicle users negotiating the LCs., and providing proper road sign boards at the approaches including 'STOP' boards in English, Hindi and regional language to warn the approaching road vehicle.
- (iii) Providing speed breakers/rumble strips as per standards on the approaches to level crossing gates.
- (iv) Good quality retro-reflective road sign boards provided at the road approaches for improved visibility during night time.
- (v) Level crossings, on reaching the laid down traffic volume criteria of manning, are being progressively manned. Manning Criteria revised in the current Railway Budget for 2008-09 to include larger numbers of unmanned level crossings.
- (vi) As a special measure to reduce the number of level crossings, Zonal Railways have been given power to consider and sanction 'Limited Use Subways' costing upto Rs. 50 lakhs, and normal height subway costing upto Rs. 1.5 crores on double line and 1.25 crores on single line, wherever technically feasible.

The effectiveness of these measures can be gauged from the fact that inspite of substantial increase in both road and rail traffic, the accidents have not increased substantially. Bridge/Subway wherever technically feasible, at present on Indian Railways, 547 locations have been identified to be replaced by 'Limited Height Subway'.

- (vii) Closure of existing Unmanned Level Crossings-LCs where road traffic is low and nearby LCs

also exists, the road traffic is diverted to one of them by provision of approach/link roads; closure of one of the level crossings where two or more level crossings exists in close proximity (within one kilometer). Efforts are ongoing for closure of the identified level crossings in close coordination with the State Governments.

*[English]*

#### **Opening of Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Outlets**

298. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed all the State Governments to open Jan Aushadhi generic drug outlets to ensure access to quality medicines at affordable prices to all citizens of the country; and

(b) if so, the response of the various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, in association with Pharma Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) has launched Generic Drug Campaign for promoting sales of unbranded quality generic medicines at affordable prices. The responses of State Governments is encouraging.

Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores have already been opened at Civil Hospital, Amritsar (Punjab) and Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

*[Translation]*

#### **Advertisements in Trains**

299. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme in vogue for earning revenue through advertisements in trains;

(b) the details of revenue earned by the Railways under this scheme during the last three years, particularly in West Central Railway, Jabalpur;

(c) whether the Railways have undertaken any study to evaluate implementation of the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are various schemes of commercial advertising on interior and exterior of the trains like display of advertisement panels, vinyl wrapping of coaches, package of advertising rights on trains etc.

(b) The earnings made through commercial publicity including publicity on trains during the last three years viz. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 have been Rs. 78.09 crore, Rs. 100.5 crore and Rs. 153.25 crore respectively. Out of this West Central Railway has earned Rs. 0.94 crore, Rs. 1.29 crore and Rs. 1.27 crore during these years respectively.

(c) and (d) The policy guidelines for commercial publicity are reviewed from time to time so as to optimize the earning through this source and also to try new ideas. This is a continuous process.

*[English]*

#### **Flight Schedule of Domestic Airlines**

300. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government owned domestic airlines are not maintaining their departure schedule properly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve their services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Every effort is made to adhere to the departure schedules. However, delays do occur in every airline—for some

reasons—those within the control of the airline and those that are not under the control of the airline. There have been delays in the recent past due to weather and airport congestion that have caused cumulative delays to all flights.

Several measures have been instituted to control such delays such as revision of block timings, continuous review of routing and crew allocation etc. besides ordering more aircraft for the airlines, which is materializing gradually.

#### **Subsidy on Petroleum Products**

301. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has planned to rationalise the subsidy on petroleum products instead of burdening few oil PSUs at the cost of their financial health and Navaratna status;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has planned to balance the oil pricing mechanism by imposing lesser burden on the consumers in the event of hike in the International oil price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Government is providing subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG under the notified PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002. The Government had decided that this subsidy at one-third level of the rate of subsidy of 2002-03 would be allowed till 31-3-2010. A provision of Rs. 2700 crore has been made in the fiscal budget of 2008-09 for subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG.

India's dependence on crude oil imports has risen to around 80%. Accordingly, oil prices in the international market directly impact the cost price of petroleum products in the country. As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers

would result in steep increase in the domestic prices and aggravate the inflationary conditions, and weaken the high growth momentum of the economy, the Government has been following the equitable Burden Sharing Mechanism to ensure that the burden is shared by all the stakeholders; namely the Government, the Public Sector Oil Companies and the consumers in the following manner:

- Issue of oil Bonds by the Government to Public Sector OMCs to compensate them partly for their under-recoveries;
- Upstream Public Sector Oil Companies to share a part of the burden by offering price discounts on crude oil petroleum products;
- Downstream oil companies to bear a part of the burden; and
- Minimal price increases for the consumers.

The equitable Burden Sharing Mechanism has ensured the financial health of the Public Sector OMCs while enabling the Government to modulate the prices of the four sensitive petroleum products to ensure that the essential fuels remain within the reach of the common man.

#### **Adopt a Monument Scheme**

302. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heritage sites in Karnataka are being given to private sectors for their renovation and maintenance under Adopt a Monument Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which this scheme has been successful;

(c) whether the Government is considering to include more archaeological buildings under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Retail Outlets of Oil PSUs on Highways**

303. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of retail outlets on National Highways/State Highways of oil PSUs have become or going to become unviable/unprofitable due to construction of flyover in front of such petrol pumps resulting in closure of approaches etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Government/oil corporation have made some programme to rehabilitate such dealers; and

(c) if so, by which time the necessary directions/policies would be issued and steps would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Seventy Seven (77) Retail Outlets (ROs) belonging to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) on National Highways/State Highways have become or going to become unviable/unprofitable due to construction of flyovers in front of these outlets resulting in closure of approaches, etc.

(b) Rehabilitation of dealerships becoming unviable and affected due to above mentioned reasons is done by resitment of the RO as per extant policy.

(c) To take care of these type of cases, resitment policy is already in place. However, commissioning of these ROs at new location depends upon identification and procurement of suitable lands in the same State and in the same class of market and obtaining of various approvals from various statutory authorities.

#### **Riverine Tourism**

304. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from the Government of West Bengal for projects on riverine tourism;

(b) if so, whether the Government has sanctioned any riverine tourism project during the last three years and in the current year; and

(c) if so, the amount of financial assistance extended by the Ministry for these projects to the Government of West Bengal during the said period?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI):** (a) to (c) Development and promotion of Tourism including riverine tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for project proposals under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits, subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 2042.35 lakh with a release of Rs. 1021.18 lakh for development of Ganga Heritage River Cruise in West Bengal in 2008-09.

#### **Expansion of Railway Network in Himachal Pradesh**

305. **PROF. M. RAMADASS:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to expand railway network in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to convert Pathankote-Jogendranagar narrow gauge railway line into broad gauge and to connect it with Bilaspur and Salapad railway line via Mandi-Sundernagar and to extend Chandigarh-Ambala railway line upto Mata Jwalaji via Sajanpur; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be operational?

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

(b) and (c) The new railway line projects of Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri, Chandigarh-Baddi and Nangal Dam-Talwara have already been taken up. Surveys for construction of new broad gauge lines from Bilaspur to Leh (via Kullu, Manali and Sundernagar), Joginder Nagar to Mandi and updating survey for gauge conversion of Pathankot-Joginder Nagar have been taken up. The extension of Chandigarh-Ambala rail link upto Jwalaji is presently not under consideration.

(d) The surveys mentioned in part (b) and (c) are targeted to be completed in 2009-10.

#### **Oil Exploration in Cochin High**

306. **SHRI P.C. THOMAS:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any drilling/exploration operations are taking place in Cochin High; and

(b) if so, the status of such drilling/exploration projects?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, 19 exploration blocks have been contracted in Kerala Konkan offshore and deep water areas (Cochin High). Out of these, two Blocks have been relinquished.

A total of 39081 Line Kilometer (LKM) of 2D seismic and 9241 SQKM of 3D seismic data have been acquired in these blocks as on 30-9-2008. 5 Exploratory wells have been drilled. No discovery has been made so far in these Blocks.

#### **Unmanned Level Crossings**

307. **DR. K.S. MANOJ:**

**SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:**

**SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings in the country as on date; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to man the unmanned level crossings during the last three years in each zone particularly in Trivandrum zone of Southern Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on 01-01-2009 there were 17,578 unmanned level crossings over the Indian Railways System (excluding Canal crossings and 'D' class Cattle crossings). Out of this 1,235 unmanned level crossings are in Southern Railway.

(b) On Southern Railway 92 unmanned level crossings have been manned last three years are as under:—

Year	No. of unmanned LCs manned in Southern Railway	No. of unmanned LCs manned in Thiruvananthapuram Division
2006-07	49	15
2007-08	21	04
2008-09	22	05

#### World Heritage Sites

308. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the sites proposed by the Government for inclusion in the UNESCO's tentative list for 2011 as world heritage sites;

(b) the names of the sites accepted by the UNESCO for inclusion in its list of world heritage sites for 2010;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in the various States including Kerala for nomination of heritage sites for the UNESCO's list recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Sites that are proposed at present for inclusion in UNESCO's tentative list for consideration as World Heritage sites in the year 2011 are: Nalanda (Bihar), Kangra Valley Railways (Himanchal), Oakgrove School (Uttarakhand), Churchgate Building (Maharashtra), Maharaja Railways of India (Madhya Pradesh).

(b) Nomination dossiers have been submitted to UNESCO in respect of 3 sites namely Jantar Mantar, Jaipur; Matheran Light Railway (under cultural category) and sub-clusters of Western Ghats (under natural category). UNESCO is likely to accept two of them.

(c) Out of seven sub-clusters of Western Ghats proposed to UNESCO under natural category, 5 are in Kerala.

(d) As per the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

*Sub-clusters of Western Ghats proposed for inscription as World Natural Heritage scattered in Kerala*

Sl. No.	Sub-cluster	Site element name
1.	Agasthyamalai	(i) Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary
		(ii) Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary
		(iii) Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary

Sl. No.	Sub-cluster	Site element name
		(iv) Kulathupuzha Range
		(v) Palode Range
2.	Periyar	(i) Periyar Tiger Reserve
		(ii) Ranni Forest Division
		(iii) Konni Forest Division
		(iv) Achankovil Forest Division
3.	Anamalai	(i) Eravikulam National Park
		(ii) Karian Shola National Park
		(iii) Mankulam Range
		(iv) Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary
		(v) Mannavan Shola
4.	Nilgiri	(i) Silent Valley National Park
		(ii) New Amarambalam Reserved Forest
		(iii) Kalikavu Range
		(iv) Attapadi Reserved Forest
5.	Talacauvery	(i) Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

[Translation]

**Profit Earned by Oil Refining Companies**

309. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the oil refining companies in the country have earned net profit in the first nine months of the financial year 2008-09 till December, 2008;

(b) if so, the amount of net profit per barrel earned

by the public sector refineries during the said Period;

(c) the quantum of oil refined by these public sector refineries in the said period; and

(d) the quantum of production achieved against the installed capacity of these crude oil companies during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir. For stand alone refineries the Profits after Tax for April-December, 2008 are as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)	(669)
Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL)	(215)
Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)	585
Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)	14

(Note: Figures in brackets indicate losses)

For integrated Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies separate profits for their refineries are not

published. The company-wise details of Loss after Tax for April-December 2008 are as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	(3673)
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	(2892)
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	(4529)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(11094)</b>

(Note: Figures in brackets indicate losses)

(b) The Gross Refining Margins (GRM) of the oil companies for the period April-December, 2008 are as under:—

	(\$/bbl)
IOC Refineries	3.37
HPC-Mumbai	2.81
HPC-Visakh	1.02
BPC-Mumbai	4.25
BPC-Kochi	6.91
CPCL	(0.79)
MRPL	4.77
NRL	4.14

(Note: Figures in brackets indicate losses)

(c) and (d) The quantum of installed refining capacity, quantum of crude oil refined, and actual production of petroleum products by Public Sector Refineries during April-December 2008 are 105.47 MMTPA, 83.52 MMT and 77.8 MMT respectively.

#### **Railway Crossing at Dokwa Halt**

310. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a railway crossing near Dokwa halt between Sadulpur-Churn Junction (North-Western Railway); and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal and the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started?

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

However, the State Government has proposed for



provision of level crossing at Km. 238/9-10 between Dakwa-Hadiyal stations on Sadulpur-Churu section.

(b) After receipt of a proposal from State Government agreeing to bear the initial cost of construction of the level crossing and one time capitalized cost of recurring maintenance and operational charges subject to approval of Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS).

[English]

#### **Ahmedabad Railway Station**

311. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ahmedabad (Kalupur) railway station has become the busiest junction in terms of passengers and vehicular traffic;

(b) the remedial steps being taken by the Railways to ease the vehicular and passenger influx at Kalupur railway station;

(c) whether the railways are considering to develop the Sabarmati railway station as terminal station for passengers and goods trains to avert heavy vehicular and passenger rush at Kalupur railway station on the same line as in the case of Secundrabad/Baroda and Hazrat Nizamuddin; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There has been an increase in passenger traffic by 3.5% for the current year (April, 08-January, 09) at Ahmedabad station (Kalupur).

(b) (i) Ahmedabad station has been identified for development as World Class Station.

(ii) The parking facilities have been increased to cater to the increasing vehicular traffic. Stoppage of most of the Mail/Express trains are provided at Maninagar and Sabarmati i.e. stations adjacent to Ahmedabad to mitigate the passenger/vehicular traffic at Ahmedabad.

(iii) The work of conversion of meter gauge platform No. 9 and 10 into upgraded broad gauge platform is already sanctioned in Preliminary Works Programme 2007-08.

(c) and (d) Sabarmati has already been developed as an alternate freight terminal for Ahmedabad and the existing Meter Gauge line has been converted into Broad Gauge to handle the increasing passenger traffic.

#### **Tourists Arrival in NER**

312. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of tourists visiting the North Eastern Region (NER) has increased manifold in the last few months;

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

(c) the measures contemplated by the Ministry to sustain this encouraging trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The latest figures of tourist visits in 2008, as per the information received from State Governments of North Eastern Region, and the corresponding figures for 2007, are given below:—

State	Period of Year	Tourist Visits	
		2007	2008
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	January-October	50307	51107

1	2	3	4
Assam	January-October	3003983	3150179
Manipur	January-December	101880	112505
Meghalaya	January-June	208166	252546
Mizoram	January-December	43830	56826
Sikkim	January-May	182857	209054
Tripura	January-December	247976	249015

The figures of Nagaland are not available.

(c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance for project proposals submitted by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations that are complete as per scheme guidelines, subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority. During the year 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 174.69 crore was sanctioned for 86 tourism projects in the North Eastern Region.

**Revival of Alloy Steel Plant,  
Durgapur**

313. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revive the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur as a finished unit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Under modernisation and expansion plan of SAIL, various modernization schemes have been undertaken at the Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur. These include installation of:

- Oxygen Plant of 100 tonne per annum (tpa) capacity on Build Own Operate (BOO) basis.
- 1x60T Refining converter (AOD).

— Replacement of Electric Arc Furnace No. 4.

These units have been commissioned and are under stabilization. In addition, other schemes are also envisaged for strengthening of production facilities and improvement in performance of the Alloy Steel Plant.

**VRS for Employees of AAI**

314. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is planning a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for its workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also consulted the Trade Unions in this regard;

(d) if so, the suggestions given by them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Board of Airports Authority of India (AAI) has approved 'in principle' AAI's proposed VRS for employees of IGI

Airport, Delhi and CSI Airport, Mumbai, who would revert to the AAI pursuant to completion of operation support period and are required to be relocated at other airports. The VRS is to be part financed by the JV Companies operating the Delhi and Mumbai airports.

(c) and (d) Unions were requested to provide their suggestions for gainfully redeploying the employees who would be so returning to AAI upon completion of Operation Support Period. However, no response has been forthcoming.

(e) The Government have approved the VRS Scheme proposed by AAI with some modifications.

[Translation]

**Laying of Railway Tracks from Ujjain to Jhalawar-Ramganj Mandi**

315. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted survey for laying railway tracks from Ujjain to Jhalawar-Ramganj Mandi Via Agar, Suner under Western Railway Division, Ratlam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of a new broad gauge from Ujjain to Jhalawar-Ramganj Mandi via Agra, Suner was completed in 2000-01. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 190 km long line was assessed as Rs. 860 crore with a negative Rate of Return of (-) 1.64%. Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources, the new line proposal could not be considered.

**Import/Export of Crude Oil**

316. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of import/export of petroleum crude oil by the Government during the last three years;

(b) the details of losses incurred by the oil companies due to rising price of oil at international level during the aforesaid period; and

(c) the details of the total crude oil produced in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The details of import of petroleum crude oil by the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the Government during the last three years are as under:

Year	Quantity (Million Metric Tonnes)
2005-06	69.0
2006-07	77.5
2007-08	83.5

There was no export of crude oil by the PSUs during the aforesaid period.

(b) The under-recoveries incurred by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on the sale of the four sensitive petroleum products during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 were as follows:—

Year	Under Recovery (Rs./Crores)
2005-06	40,000
2006-07	49,387
2007-08	77,123

However, as the Government ensured compensation of these under recoveries through the Equitable Burden Sharing Mechanism, the OMCs did not report any losses during the aforesaid period. For the period

April-December 2008, the OMCs have incurred combined loss of Rs. 11,094 crore.

(c) The details of total crude oil (including condensate) produced in the country during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Crude Oil Production (Million Metric Tonnes)
2005-06	32.191
2006-07	33.98
2007-08	34.106

**Railway Line from Bhatni Junction to  
Hathua in Varanasi**

317. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for laying railway line from Bhatni junction to Hathua in Varanasi division of Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has approved this railway line;

(c) the proposed length of the said railway line alongwith the estimated cost of the project;

(d) the length of the said railway line in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar separately;

(e) whether the State of Uttar Pradesh has provided the land to the Railways for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the area of land required therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed new line from Hathua to Deoria Sadar (84.6 Km.) was included in the Railway Budget for 2005-06. However, based on representations from villagers along the alignment, it has been decided to construct new line between Hathua and Bhatni.

(c) Sanctioned cost of Hathua-Bhatni new line (79.74 Km.) is Rs. 203.65 crore.

(d) Length of Hathua-Bhatni new line in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is 12.45 Km. and 67.19 Km. respectively.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) 112.49 acres of land is required.

[English]

**Training for Minorities**

318. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to start short term course on Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) among the Minority population of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the North Eastern Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organization (NEITCO), has submitted a proposal for Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme (EDP) to the Government; and

(d) if so, the action plan of the Government to utilize the expertise of NEITCO in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) Nagaon Municipal Board in Assam has been selected as a minority cluster for organizing an Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) training by the Assam Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (AMDFC) for 2008-09. The proposal received from North Eastern Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation (NEITCO) for conducting vocational training programmes has been sent by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) to its State Channelising Agency in Assam i.e. Assam Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (AMDFC).

**Doubling of Railway Track between  
Barasat-Hasnabad Section**

319. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on doubling of railway track between Barasat-Hasnabad section is going at a very slow pace;

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

(c) the time frame by which the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work was targeted for completion during 2008-09 but will spill over to 2009-10 due to delay in land acquisition, contract failure and abnormally heavy rain. The progress of project is about 50% and is targeted for completion during 2009-10.

#### **Minority Concentrated Districts**

320. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of identified backward minority

concentrated districts across the country;

(b) the details of States which have already prepared multi-sectoral district development plan based on base line survey;

(c) the salient features of this plan alongwith objectives; and

(d) the details of Central assistance for the implementation of the said plan for the year 2008-09 upto 31 December, 2008, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) 90 minority concentration districts have been identified across the country.

(b) and (d) The details of States which have already prepared multi-sectoral development plans for minority concentration districts based on baseline survey and the Central assistance provided for implementation of the approved proposals upto 31-12-2008, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The objectives and salient features of the scheme are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

#### **Statement-I**

*List of States/UTs and their minority concentration districts whose multi-sectoral development plans have been approved and the amount of central assistance approved upto 31-12-2008*

Sl. No.	District	State	Amount approved (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Kheri	Uttar Pradesh	2660.025
2.	Barabanki	—do—	1679.290
3.	Bareilly	—do—	1177.570
4.	Baghpat	—do—	507.38
5.	Bijnor	—do—	3164.88

1	2	3	4
6.	Muzaffarnagar	Uttar Pradesh	1743.46
7.	J.P. Nagar	—do—	1859.39
8.	Siddarth Nagar	—do—	439.50
9.	Shajahanpur	—do—	2015.00
10.	Bulandshahar	—do—	1475.00
11.	Rampur	—do—	2525.00
12.	Shaharanpur	—do—	2781.77
13.	Balrampur	—do—	2857.88
	<b>Total</b>		<b>24886.15</b>
14.	Malda	West Bengal	2100.00
15.	Birbhum	—do—	1464.20
16.	Burdwan	—do—	2014.00
17.	Murshidabad	—do—	1387.50
18.	Nadia	—do—	1419.82
19.	Howrah	—do—	269.65
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8655.17</b>
20.	Berpeta	Assam	6320.33
21.	Kamrup	—do—	1039.50
22.	Darrang	—do—	1093.45
23.	Bongaigaon	—do—	845.54
24.	Goalpara	—do—	46.80
	<b>Total</b>		<b>9345.62</b>
25.	Mewat	Haryana	2712.67
26.	Sirsa	—do—	900.90
	<b>Total</b>		<b>3613.57</b>
27.	Senapati	Manipur	1037.39

1	2	3	4
28.	UkhruI	Manipur	686.46
29.	Churachandpur	—do—	1492.58
30.	Thoubal	—do—	630.00
31.	Chandel	—do—	1518.75
32.	Tamenglong	—do—	658.35
	<b>Total</b>		<b>6023.53</b>
33.	Katihar	Bihar	1042.39
34.	Araria	—do—	1108.17
35.	Darbhanga	—do—	1199.81
	<b>Total</b>		<b>3350.37</b>
36.	West Garo Hill	Meghalaya	2157.67
37.	Nicobar	Andaman and Nicobar Island	229.95

***Statement-II***

***Salient features of multi-sectoral development programme***

- A multi-sectoral development programme has been launched in ninety identified minority concentration districts which are lagging behind in terms of critical socio-economic and basic amenities parameters and require focused attention and specific programme intervention.
- The programme aims at improving the quality of life of the people and reducing imbalances in line with the priority attached to inclusive growth. Identified 'development deficits' in education, sanitation, pucca housing, drinking water, electricity supply etc. and absolutely critical infrastructure linkages like basic health infrastructure, ICDS centres, skill development and marketing facilities would be addressed through this programme.

- The identified development deficits would either be filled by augmenting the funds of ongoing schemes/programmes of the Central Government or projects proposed by State Governments which are not catered to by the existing centrally sponsored scheme.
- The funds provided for the minority concentration districts would be additional resources and should not substitute State Government funds already flowing to these districts.
- The district development plan of a minority concentration district should be prepared in such a manner that these districts are saturated with schemes included in the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities within the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period.
- The details of the programme are available in the website of Ministry of Minority Affairs [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

**Conference of State Minorities  
Commissions**

321. SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual conference of the State Minorities Commissions was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken in the conference;

(c) the views of the Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Commission in this regard; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken in response to those views?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Minorities held the Annual Conference of State Minorities Commission on 20th January, 2009.

(b) to (d) The proceedings of the Conference are under finalization by the National Commission for Minorities.

*[Translation]*

**Bhopal Express Passenger Train**

322. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to increase the frequency of Bhopal Express Passenger train from Dhanbad via Chandrapura-Gronia thrice in a week in view of the demand of local passengers;

(b) if so, the initiative taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the frequency of said train is likely to be increased thrice in a week?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Growth of Air Traffic**

323. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage growth of air traffic during the last three years;

(b) the estimated air traffic growth in the next three years as per estimate made by the Airports Authority of India (AAI); and

(c) the steps taken by the AAI to build infrastructure to meet the growing demand of air traffic in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The annual average growth rate in total traffic in respect of aircraft movements, passengers and freight during the last three years i.e. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are 22.1%, 25.4% and 10.3% respectively.

(b) As per estimate made by Airports Authority of India (AAI) traffic forecast for aircraft movements, passengers and freight for the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are 4.5%, 3.5% and 5.2% respectively.

(c) AAI has undertaken upgradation and modernization of 35 non-metro airports in the country. In addition, 13 more airports have also been taken up for upgradation. The work of runway expansion/re-strengthening has been undertaken at Vijayawada, Vishakapatnam, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Guwahati, Kullu, Jammu, Calicut, Bhopal, Khajuraho, Aurangabad, Gondia, Indore, Mangalore, Bhubaneswar, Pondichery, Amritsar, Udaipur, Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Agartala, Varanasi, Lucknow, Dehradun, Pantnagar, Cooch Behar.

The work related to apron expansion has been undertaken at Port Blair, Vijayawada, Vishakapatnam, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Guwahati, Raipur, Ranchi, Vadodra, Surat, Ahmedabad, Goa, Gagal, Kullu, Jammu, Srinagar, Trivandrum, Khajuraho, Bhopal, Aurangabad, Akola, Belgaum, Gondia, Nagpur, Indore, Pune, Imphal, Dimapur, Hubli, Mangalore, Bhubaneswar, Pondichery, Amritsar, Udaipur, Jaipur, Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore,



Agartala, Varanasi, Agra, Lucknow, Dehradun, Cooch Behar.

The work related to terminal building expansion and other construction work has been undertaken at Vishakapatnam, Chandigarh, Raipur, Ranchi, Vadodra, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Kullu, Jammu, Srinagar, Calicut, Agatti, Bhopal, Khajuraho, Aurangabad, Gondia, Indore, Imphal, Bhubaneswar, Amritsar, Udaipur, Jaipur, Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Varanasi, Dehradun, Pantnagar, Cooch Behar.

#### Greenfield and Expansion Projects

324. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of

STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of greenfield and expansion projects started under the public and private sector so far; and

(b) the project-wise allocation of captive iron ore mines during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) Ministry of Steel is monitoring the activities of major integrated steel projects in the country. A brief on the major greenfield and expansion (brownfield) projects in the steel sector in the country is as given below:—

#### I. Greenfield Projects

(Crude steel capacity in million tonnes)

Sl. No.	Company	Project	Proposed capacity
1	2	3	4
i.	Tata Steel Ltd.	Kalinganagar, Orissa	6.0
		Bastar, Chhattisgarh	5.5
		Saraikela, Jharkhand	12.0
ii.	Essar Steel Ltd.	Orissa	6.0
		Dantewada, Chhattisgarh	3.0
		Chaibasa, Jharkhand	6.0
iii.	JSW Steel Ltd.	West Bengal	10.0
		Nimidihi, Jharkhand	10.0
iv.	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Angul, Orissa	12.5
		Patratu, Jharkhand	6.0
v.	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Jharkhand	2.8
vi.	POSCO India Pvt. Ltd.	Jagatsinghpur, Orissa	12.00

1	2	3	4
vii.	Arcelor Mittal India Ltd.	Orissa	12.00
		Jharkhand	12.00
viii.	NMDC Ltd.	Jagadapur	3.0

**II. Expansion Projects:**

(Crude steel capacity in million tonnes)

Sl. No.	Company	Project	Existing capacity	Proposed expansion capacity
i.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	(i) IISCO Steel Plant	0.47	2.50
		(ii) Salem Steel Plant	—	0.18
		(iii) Bokaro Steel Plant	4.07	7.00
		(iv) Bhilai Steel Plant	4.80	7.00
		(v) Rourkela Steel Plant	1.99	4.20
		(vi) Durgapur Steel Plant	1.869	3.00
ii.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	Visakhapatnam	2.9	6.3
iii.	Tata Steel Ltd.	Jamshedpur	5.0	10.0
iv.	Essar Steel Ltd.	Hazira	4.6	8.5
v.	JSW Steel Ltd.	Vijayanagar	3.8	10.0
vi.	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Raigarh	3.0	6.0
vii.	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Dolvi	3.0	5.0

(b) As per the available information in the Ministry and Ministry of Mines website, the allocation of captive iron ore mines/mineral concession to major steel

investors during the last three years i.e 2006-07, 2007-08 and after 01-04-2008 is as given below:—

Company	Iron Ore Mines/Mineral Concession
1	2
Steel Authority of India Ltd.	ML-2028.797 Hect. in Chhattisgarh

1	2
Tata Steel Ltd.	(i) PL-Balidela Deposit 1 (2500 Hect.), Chhattisgarh (ii) PL-Ankua (R.F) (1808 Hect.) West Singhbhum, Jharkhand (iii) PL-Maseli, Gadchiroli (131.1 Hect.), Maharashtra
Essar Steel Ltd.	(i) PL-Bhimburu and Matkamsarang areas (569 hectares) of West Singhbhum, Jharkhand (ii) PL-2285 Hect. in Chhattisgarh
JSW Steel Ltd.	(i) ML-Ankua Reserved Forest (999.9 Hect.) West Singhbhum, Jharkhand (ii) ML-200.73 Hect. in Karnataka (iii) PL-1388.5 Hect. in Jharkhand
Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	(i) Jeraldaberu iron ore block, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand (ML awaited)
Ispat Industries Ltd.	(i) ML-Latua R.F. (520 Hect.)/Raika West Singhbhum, Jharkhand (ii) PL-25 Sq. Km in Maharashtra
Arcelor Mittal India Ltd.	(i) ML-Meghahatuburu (500 Acre) West Singhbhum, Jharkhand

[Translation]

**Vacant Reserved Posts  
in Railways**

325. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE  
PATIL:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reserved posts for SCs/STs and OBCs vacant as on date;

(b) the reasons for not filling these posts; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of vacant posts on Indian Railways as on date is around 1.7 lacs including 32646 posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

(b) Filling up the vacancies of reserved as well as unreserved posts is a continuous process. Some vacancies always remain due to non-availability of eligible empanelled candidates in the recruitment and promotional grades.

(c) Indents have been placed to Railway Recruitment Boards to fill up Group 'C' vacancies and Railway Recruitment Cells to fill up Group 'D' vacancies. Wherever eligible candidates to fill up promotional vacancies are not there, the posts are diverted to the

recruitment grades and filled up by direct recruitment from open market.

[English]

### **Missing Items in the Trains**

326. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any monitoring mechanism exists in the Railways to check missing items in the trains which are meant for passenger utilisation;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have taken note of such items like paper rolls in the toilets, water jet sprays which are missing in many of the trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Before commencement of journey, coaches are intensively cleaned and all the interior fixtures and passenger amenity items are checked during maintenance of rakes at coaching depot.

Damage and pilferage of coach fittings/amenities that some time happen during run are made good during maintenance of trains which is done regularly as per prescribed schedule.

[Translation]

### **Laying of Chandigarh-Baddi Barotiwala Railway Line**

327. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for laying of Chandigarh-Baddi-Barotiwala railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with amount earmarked for the purpose during the current year; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Construction of a new broad gauge line from Chandigarh to Baddi was included in Railway Budget for 2007-08. The final location survey has been completed and detailed estimate proposed.

An amount of Rs. 5 crore has been earmarked for the work in the current financial year. A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey has also been taken up for the extension of the above line upto Nangal via Barotiwala.

The preliminary work on Chandigarh-Baddi has already been taken up and project is targeted for completion by June, 2014 subject to availability of funds.

[English]

### **Financial Assistance to Food Processing Industries**

328. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides assistance for organizing workshops, seminars, exhibitions, fairs and for studies/survey etc. to create awareness about the potential and prospect of food processing industries in the country; Statement;

(b) if so, the amount released and spent for the said programmes during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the total number of such programmes conducted by the Government in each State during the said period; and

(d) the total number of persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Ministry of Food

Processing Industries, under its Plan Scheme of Promotional Activities, provides financial assistance for organizing workshops, seminars, exhibitions, fairs, studies/survey etc. to create awareness about the potential and prospects of food processing industries in the country. Government/Academic Bodies, Industry Associations, NGOs, Cooperatives etc., are eligible for such assistance. The Ministry on its own or in close association with APEDA, CFTRI, Industry Associations etc. also participates in national/international exhibitions/fairs. Assistance is also provided for organizing study tours for exposure to various aspects of Food Processing. Participants could be representatives from the Government, Food Industry Associations/Organizations.

The amount released and spent for the said programmes during the last three years and the current year is given in the enclosed Statement. Eighteen studies/surveys have been conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during the last three years and the current year. Out of these, nine have been conducted in the states of Uttar Pradesh (Two), West Bengal (Four), Assam (One), Jharkhand (One) and Gujarat (One). Rest of the nine studies have been conducted for different zones involving several states.

All the stake-holders of the processed food sector including farmers, workers/prospective workers, processors, investors, resource persons/consultants, NGOs/Industry Association academia, and users/consumers etc. are benefited by the conduct of such programmes.

**Statement**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount released and spent during last 3 years and the current year
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.18

1	2	3
2.	Assam	8.84
3.	Bihar	3.00
4.	Chandigarh	9.34
5.	Delhi	252.66
6.	Goa	1.00
7.	Gujarat	8.71
8.	Haryana	1.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6.38
10.	Jharkhand	21.84
11.	Karnataka	4.26
12.	Kerala	4.64
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2.00
14.	Maharashtra	50.67
15.	Nagaland	0.27
16.	Orissa	1.00
17.	Pondicherry	0.86
18.	Rajasthan	1.50
19.	Tamil Nadu	23.82
20.	Tripura	0.86
21.	Uttar Pradesh	25.05
22.	Uttarakhand	1.22
23.	West Bengal	47.30

**Development of Tourism in  
Karnataka**

329. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated, sanctioned and

released to the Government of Karnataka under various schemes during the last three years and in the current year; and

(b) the details of the projects for which these funds have been allocated?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations including the State of Karnataka. However, Ministry of Tourism provides

Central Financial Assistance every year for the Product/ Infrastructure development of tourist destinations/circuits, Large Revenue Generating projects, Fairs/festivals/ events and Information Technology projects to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Project proposals which are complete as per guidelines, are appraised on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head during the concerned year. A list of projects sanctioned for Karnataka during the last three years and current financial year is given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*Projects sanctioned during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
<b>2005-06</b>				
1.	Destination Development of Jog Fall in Shimoga	Circuit	462.52	370.00
2.	Destination Development of Mysore in Karnataka	Destination	353.89	266.17
3.	Integrated Development of Tourism Circuit on Mangalore-Ullal-Udupi-Kollur-Honnavar-Murude-shwara-Kundapur-Gokarna	Circuit	698.00	209.40
4.	Development of Golf Club at Chikmagalur, Karnataka under LRG project	Large Revenue Generating	120.00	120.00
5.	Celebration of Bangalore Habba 2005	Event	15.00	15.00
6.	Hampi Festival 2005-06	Festival	5.00	5.00
7.	IT infrastructure for Eco-tourism by M/s. Jungle Lodges and Resorts	Information Technology	53.29	26.64
8.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Project at Village Anegundi, District Koppal	Rural Tourism (SW)	20.00	16.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>1727.70</b>	<b>1028.21</b>

1	2	3	4	5
<b>2006-07</b>				
1.	Integrated Development of Wilderness Tourism Circuit	Circuit	226.88	204.20
2.	Development of Muthyalamadu (Part Valley) near Bangalore	Destination	293.81	235.04
3.	Beautification of Baro Sadhanakeri Park, Dharwad City	Destination	308.22	246.57
4.	Destination development of Linganamakki Gardens at Jog Falls	Destination	494.98	396.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1323.89</b>	<b>1081.81</b>
<b>2007-08</b>				
1.	Integrated Development of tourist circuit Bijapur-Bidar-Gulbarg	Circuit	640.97	512.78
2.	Development of Eco-Tourism-Setting up of Jungle Camps and Trails	Destination	322.21	257.76
3.	Development of Eco Sites at Talacauvery, Gopinatham, Bhagwati and Seetanadi	Destination	380.26	304.20
4.	Destination Development of Shivanasamudra-Bharachukki, Kollegal Tq. Chamrajanagar District	Destination	431.85	345.48
5.	Development of Eco-Tourism Park Hanumantha Nagar, Maddur-Taluk, Mandya District	Destination	229.42	183.53
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2004.71</b>	<b>1603.75</b>
<b>2008-09</b>				
1.	Celebration of Bangalooru Habba-2008	Event	15.00	12.00
2.	Development of tourism infrastructure at Hampi World Heritage site as a mega project	Mega project	3283.58	1641.79
3.	Tourist infrastructure and development works at Sangama (Mekedatu) Ramanagara District	Destination	474.63	379.32
4.	Development of infrastructure facilities at Shanthisagar lake, Chennagiri Taluk Davangere District	Destination	500.00	400.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>4273.21</b>	<b>2433.11</b>

**Foreign Assistance to  
Meet Safety Norms**

330. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DGCA has sought foreign help to meet safety norms as reported in *The Times of India* dated 31, January 2009;

(b) if so, the benefits to be accrued therefrom and expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the reasons for seeking external assistance; and

(d) the efforts being made to develop required technology in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has offered to run National Projects in the areas of flight safety, aerodromes and air navigation services in order to address the findings of the audit conducted by ICAO in October 2006 under their Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme. These National Projects which will augment the existing strength of DGCA by hiring experts (international/national) to assist DGCA in discharging its regulatory and safety oversight functions, till regular technical staff are recruited and trained by the Government. A plan outlay of Rs. 2 crore has been estimated during the year 2009-10 for the National Projects of ICAO.

(c) and (d) The ICAO policy stipulates that contracting States are provided technical assistance in addressing deficiencies under State funded projects. ICAO has offered these projects to India to assist in implementing remaining corrective actions based on ICAO Audit recommendations and strengthen the DGCA by providing experts to carry out safety oversight functions.

**Road Over Bridge at Borliyavi**

331. SHRI BHARATSINH MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to construct road over bridge at Borliyavi in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the programme made so far for construction of the said road over bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to construct any Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Boriyavi. However, a work ROB at station Kanjari Boriyavi Jn. in Gujarat on Vadodara-Ahmedabad section Km. 438/0-2 is in progress in lieu of Level Crossing No. 264/B. Sub-structure of this ROB has been completed and entire work is expected for completion by March, 2010.

**Garib Rath**

332. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to start Garib Rath from Dwarka to Bandra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**National Tourism Advisory Council**

333. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the suggestions given by the National Tourism Advisory Council in this year's meeting;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken on the said suggestions so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH):



(a) to (c) In the latest meeting of the National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) held on 15-12-2008, suggestions made to boost the tourism industry in the aftermath of global economic slowdown and terrorist attacks in Mumbai related to increase in incentives for the travel trade, promotion of Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, Exhibitions (MICE) tourism and domestic travel in the country, inviting trade and media representatives to Mumbai and other parts of the country for familiarization tours, easing of norms for External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) for hotel sector, setting up of Tourist Police by the State/UT Governments, ensuring smoother and seamless travel across states, rationalization of luxury tax, passenger tax, road tax and other state taxes, etc.

As a follow up, the Ministry of Tourism has announced various promotional schemes like Visit India Year 2009, liberalization of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for overseas marketing, introduction of MDA scheme for the promotion of domestic and MICE tourism and allowing External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) for the construction of hotels, so as to increase the tourist inflow in the country.

The development and promotion of tourism, including rationalization of luxury tax, passenger and road tax, are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism had written to the State Governments on 9th January, 2009 to give due consideration on these issues and also on seamless travel and safety and security of tourists in order to provide relief to tourism sector in the face of global financial crisis that is affecting the tourism sector adversely.

*[English]*

#### **Supply of Gas to Fertilizer Plants**

334. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to give top priority to fertilizer industry in allocation of natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total quantity of gas which will be consumed by the existing and proposed fertilizer plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Administered Price Mechanism (APM) gas is supplied to fertilizer sector, apart from power sector, court mandated customers, transport sector and small consumers. As regards the production of natural gas from KG D6, it has been decided that, out of the first 40 million standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd), the highest priority will be given to existing gas-based urea plants, which are now getting gas below their full requirement, so as to enable full capacity utilization. Further, it was decided that demand emanating beyond 2008-09 from de-bottlenecking of and expansion of fertilizer plants, conversion of naphtha-based and fuel oil-based fertilizer plants, and revival of closed fertilizer plants would be given the highest priority at that stage and will be met from production in subsequent years,

(c) The Operator of KG D6, i.e., M/s Reliance Industries Limited and M/s Niko (NECO) Limited, has already been asked to supply 15.330 mmscmd natural gas to meet the current shortfall of existing gas-based urea plants. As per the information received from Department of Fertilizers, the total estimated additional requirement of natural gas during 2011-12, over and above the requirement during 2008-09, is 53.07 mmscmd, which includes the requirement for de-bottlenecking of and expansion of fertilizer plants, conversion of naphtha-based and fuel oil-based fertilizer plants, revival of closed fertilizer plants and eight new plants.

#### **Railway Line between Budhabanka Station to Sukinda Road Station**

335. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had announced to establish Railway link line between Budhabanka Station near Nalco Complex to Sukinda Road Station near

Kalinga Nagar in Orissa during the last Rail Budget 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Construction of a new line from Angul to Sukinda Road (98 Kms) is a sanctioned work. The take-off point is Budhapank. The project is to be implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). Sanctioned cost of this project (including electrification) is Rs. 638 crore. Outlay provided for this project in the Railway Budget 2008-09 is Rs. 60 crore. Confirmatory Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed. Land acquisition has been taken up.

#### **Discontinuation of Flight from Nanded Airport**

336. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has discontinued the flight operations from Nanded airport, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to re-start the flight operations at the said airport, particularly in the wake of demand from large number of Sikh pilgrims visiting daily the Hazur Sahib Gurdwara;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India operated a total of 7 flights with A319 aircraft on the Amritsar-Delhi-Nanded route during the period 29th October to 4th November, 2008 to enable Sikh pilgrims to travel to/from Nanded to attend the tricentenary celebrations.

(c) to (e) Currently Air India does not have any spare capacity available to start new services to Nanded.

#### **Supply of Iron Ore by NMDC**

337. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of iron ore supply contracted between the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and the domestic steel companies during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for not lifting the contracted quantity by the buyers;

(c) whether the Government proposes to divert sale of iron ore to alternative buyers in order to maintain the production level or encourage the Indian steel manufacturers to fully utilize their quota of iron ore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) The contracted/allocated quantities and supplies effected against these allocations to domestic steel companies by NMDC is given below:—

(Quantity in Million Tonnes)

Particulars	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Contracted quantity	18.6	26.8	26.7
Supplied quantity	18.9	22.5	23.3

(b) The contracted quantities have not been fully lifted by buyers due to following main reasons:—

(i) Conditions like Force majeure due to Maoist threat/attack resulting in power failure in the

mines area, damages to railway tracks and damage to conveyor structures etc.

- (ii) Inadequate rake availability.  
(iii) Logistic problems.

(c) and (d) During the current year (2008-09), in view of decline in demand for iron ore due to recessionary trend in steel industry. NMDC is making efforts to develop new customers by going for E-auction and giving advertisement in newspapers for sale of iron ore. NMDC is also pursuing with existing long-term domestic customers for improving the off-take.

#### Luxury Tourist Trains

338. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether luxury train tourism facilities are being increased due to its popularity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of passengers who have travelled in these trains during the last two years and the revenue earned on this account;

(d) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce luxury tourist trains on some new routes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One more luxury tourist train Royal Rajasthan on Wheels has been launched recently in addition to existing trains Palace on Wheels, Deccan Odyssey and Golden Chariot.

(c) The number of passengers travelled and the Railways share of earning from operation of luxury tourist trains during the last two tourist seasons, i.e. September to August next year, are as under:

Train	2006-07		2007-08	
	Number of passengers	Railways' earning (Rs. in lakhs)	Number of passengers	Railways' earning (Rs. in lakhs)
Palace on Wheels	3614	2003.94	3724	2102.31
Heritage on Wheels	739	45.47	1000	61.68
Deccan Odyssey	813	265.68	1069	355.22
Golden Chariot	—	—	118	149.03

(d) and (e) One Luxury tourist train each in association with Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. has been approved. The routes/itinerary are not finalized.

#### Excise Duty on Petrol

339. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to levy an excise duty at the rate of Rs. 2.00 per litre on petrol;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the oil marketing companies are incurring losses on the sale of Kerosene and LPG; and

(d) if so, whether the proposed excise duty levy is meant to offset the losses incurred by the oil marketing companies on the sale of Kerosene and LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance has informed that at present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(c) Based on Refinery Gate Prices applicable from 1st February, 2009, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are incurring under-recovery of Rs. 11.25 per litre on PDS Kerosene and Rs. 74.53 per 14.2 kg Domestic LPG cylinder.

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

**New Railway Line between  
Karad-Chiplun**

340. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying of new railway line between Karad-Chiplun section in Central Railways was announced in Rail Budget 2007;

(b) if so, the status of the survey; and

(c) the details regarding length of the proposed railway line and the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Survey for construction of a new Broad Gauge line between Karad and Chiplun (90 Kms) was included in the Railway Budget for 2007-08.

(b) and (c) Survey has been taken up and is likely

to be completed by 30-06-2009. Cost of the proposed line will be known once the survey is completed.

*[Translation]*

**Misuse of Funds by NGOs**

341. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who have been provided financial assistance under various schemes being run by the Ministry in Uttar Pradesh for the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and amount-wise;

(b) the names of the NGOs found involved in irregularities such as misuse of funds etc. during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Cases of NGOs' allegedly involved in various irregularities are investigated and appropriate action is taken. However, during the last three years and the current year, the Kisan Mahila Gramodyog Sansthan, Hariaoudh Nagar, P.O. Hirapatti, Block-Palhani, Tehsil-Sadar, Azamgarh has been blacklisted.

## Statement

Sl. No.	Scheme	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 (as on date)	
		No. of NGOs	Amount Rupees (lakhs)	No. of NGOs	Amount Rupees (lakhs)	No. of NGOs	Amount Rupees (lakhs)	No. of NGOs	Amount Rupees (lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	93	652.90	93	600.52	83	704.54	92	486.24
2.	Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisation for OBCs	22	55.46	24	47.96	17	40.17	2	4.68
3.	Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse	40	233.02	40	342.30	19	95.77	24	269.06
4.	Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons	30	71.4	33	96.25	17	54.34	2	7.11
5.	Grant-in aid to Voluntary Organisations working for Scheduled Castes	65	296.85	70	308.59	55	322.10	24	156.61
6.	Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons	29	293.13	20	180.90	21	246.61	15	238.39

for Purchase/Fitting  
of Aids/Appliances

7. General Grant in Aid  
Scheme for providing  
financial assistance to  
Voluntary Organisations  
in the field of Social  
Defence.\*

1                    1                    12.04                    1                    11.96                    —                    Nil                    Nil

\*Now merged with the Central Sector Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse and for Social Defence Services with effect from 1-10-2008.

*[English]*

**Constitution of a Committee for  
Bird Group of Companies**

342. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was constituted for the Bird Group of Companies (BGC) with a view to examining restructuring/reorganization of BGC;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In December, 2006, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. J.K. Bagchi, former Secretary (Steel) to study inter-alia, the technical, financial, legal, procedural and other aspects regarding Bird Group of Companies (BGC) with a view to examine the restructuring/reorganization of BGC and to prepare a roadmap for possible restructuring/reorganization of the five group companies under the banner of BGC. The Committee submitted its report to the Ministry, which was examined and forwarded to BGC for their consideration and deliberating the issue in their respective Boards. It was then decided to entrust the task of preparation of a report on restructuring of BGC to a professional merchant banker. Accordingly, IFCI Ltd. was assigned the job, which submitted its report and recommendations to the Company. The recommendations of the IFCI Ltd. have been accepted by the

Board of the Companies under BGC. A draft note for Cabinet regarding restructuring of Bird Group of Companies has been circulated to concerned Ministries/Departments.

**Target Fixed CPSUs**

343. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed production target in some of the Central Public Sector Undertakings and Heavy Industries during the last three years;

(b) if so, the extent to which this target was achieved during the said period, CPSU-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons for short fall in achieving the envisaged target; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve production target of such CPSUs and Heavy Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed annually between Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments/Holding Companies, inter-alia, indicate targets for different parameters like Gross Sales, Gross Margin, Production, etc.

(b) At the end of the financial year, the performance of the MoU signing CPSEs are evaluated on the basis of the actual achievement against the corresponding MoU targets. The MOU Rating of the CPSEs for the last three years is given below:

Year	Ratings			
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair
1	2	3	4	5
2005-06	49	32	15	06

1	2	3	4	5
2006-07	46	37	13	06
2007-08	55	34	15	08

(c) Reasons for shortfall in achieving the envisaged targets, inter alia, may include market conditions, sub-optimal productivity, delay in availability of critical raw materials, plant breakdown, etc.

(d) The performance of the CPSEs is reviewed and monitored by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments. In order to improve the performance of CPSEs, steps are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments and CPSEs.

#### **Retail Hub Near Railway Stations**

344. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken a decision to open retail hub near railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of income generated till date by selling/leasing land near railway stations;

(d) whether the Railways are formulating any plan to ensure participation of educated unemployed in opening retail hub; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The feasibility of attracting additional traffic by leveraging sparable railway land through partnership with agri-retail chains is under consideration.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Memorial of Baburao Shedmake**

345. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests for declaring the memorial of Baburao Shedmake at district jail, Chandrapur, Maharashtra as a National monument; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Excess MRP on Prednisolone Acetate Eye Drops**

346. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints of charging price in excess of Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on Prednisolone Acetate Eye Drops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A complaint relating to charging price in excess of MRP on Prednisolone Acetate Eye Drops has been received and NPPA has issued show cause notices to the defaulting companies for overcharging.

#### **Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Minorities**

347. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:



(a) whether an Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted to plan and monitor implementation of a comprehensive programme for skill and entrepreneurship development among minorities, particularly muslim artisans in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Group has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the salient features of the said report; and

(d) the action plan drawn by the Ministry to encourage skill and entrepreneurship qualities among minorities, particularly muslims?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Vacant Posts in ONGC**

348. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is facing problem due to shortage of officers;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to fill the backlog of vacant posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No Sir. Presently, ONGC has a workforce of about 23,700 officers which is geared up to meet the operational requirements. The company has a well-defined system in place to assess gaps arising as a result of superannuation and other factors of work force, turnover, expanding activities etc. and address them by

way of redeployment of skills and induction of fresh manpower, on need basis.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no backlog of vacancy at present in ONGC.

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

[Translation]

#### **Setting Up of New Airport at Kota**

349. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending before the Government to construct a new airport at Kota, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of requisite land and other construction work including estimated expenditure for the construction of the new airport; and

(d) the status of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No such proposal is, presently, under consideration of the Central Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Freight Terminals**

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

(a) the details of freight terminals in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Rajasthan;

(b) the steps taken for development of these terminals;

(c) whether any regular mechanism exists to check these terminals; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to decongest these terminals and to make them pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Details of freight

terminals at present in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai  
and Rajasthan are given below:

Location	No. of Freight terminals
Delhi Area	There are 11 freight terminals in Delhi area. These are Narela, Badli, Adarsh Nagar, Shakurbasti, Delhi, Kishan Ganj, Patel Nagar, Tughliakabad, Delhi Cantt., Bijwasan, Nangloi and Ghevra
Mumbai Area	There are 13 freight terminals in Mumbai area. These are Wadi Bunder, Pen, New Mulund, Nagothane, Turbhe, Roha, Talaji Panchnand, Kalyan, Kalamboli, Ambernath, Kandivali, Jogeshwari and Vasai Road.
Kolkata Area	There are 11 freight terminals in Kolkata area. These are Shalimar, Sankrail, Cossipur, Chitpur, Kolkata Goods, Ballygunge, Sodepur, Titagarh, Budge Budge, New Alipur and Barasat.
Chennai Area	There are 17 freight terminals in Chennai area including 4 major goods sheds and 13 sidings. The major goods sheds are Salt Cotaurs, Royapuram, Korukkupet Goods and Tambaram.
State of Rajasthan	There are 91 Broad Gauge and 8 Meter Gauge freight terminals in Rajasthan. Few of the important one include Kota, Ramganj Mandi, Bhawani Mandi, Mandalgarh, Bundi, Bharatpur, Hindaun City, Baran, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Durai, etc.

Railways monitor the performance of the terminals on a regular basis. Depending upon the level of traffic and congestion, capacity augmentation is done through additional handling lines etc. In addition, Railways has taken steps to upgrade the goods shed facilities by improving the loading/unloading area, lighting facilities, circulating area, approach road, merchants and labour rooms etc. These are expected to improve the mobility of the terminals and reduce congestion. Further, based on traffic justification, wherever possible alternate terminals are also created.

#### **Cleanliness and Hygiene in Pantry Cars**

351. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper attention is not paid for cleanliness and hygiene in pantry cars in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken in this regard in trains plying under West-Central Railway Zone Jabalpur; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to ensure cleanliness and hygiene in pantry cars of trains and make available standard food items in the trains?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation managing pantry cars of Indian Railways have specified stringent guidelines to keep the pantry cars clean and hygienic. Punitive action is taken, if the pantry cars are found in unhygienic condition.

Following steps are also taken by Railways to improve the cleanliness and hygiene of pantry cars:—

(i) Cleaning of all coaches including pantry cars is done at washing line during maintenance;

- (ii) Once in a month all the equipments of the pantry cars are offloaded, so that proper cleanliness can be done and requisite hygiene level is maintained.
- (iii) All Coaches of Mail/Express trains inclusive of all pantry cars are given proper attention before start of the journey in regard to cleanliness and hygiene condition.
- (iv) To check the hygienic condition and cleanliness of pantry car, special drives are launched from time to time by deputing officer/inspectors of Railways.

Sale of standard food items is mandatory, and the same are sold in all Mail/Express trains over Indian Railways.

[English]

#### Financial Assistance to NGOs

352. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of representations have been received from various organisations for granting financial

assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and charitable institutions for the welfare of minority communities;

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

(c) the details of amount that has been sanctioned to these Institutes/NGOs for the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the number of requests still pending with the Government and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is given in the enclosed Statement-I in respect of the scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, at enclosed Statement IIA and IIB in respect of the scheme being implemented by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation and at enclosed Statement III in respect of the scheme being implemented by the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation. Proposals are received throughout the year and proposals, complete in all respects, are considered for sanction depending on availability of funds.

#### Statement-I

##### Ministry of Minority Affairs

##### Summary of grants-in-aid sanctioned during the last two years and the current financial year

Sl. No.	State	Number of applications received with the recommendations of State Government for 2008-09 upto 16-02-2009	Amount Sanctioned (in lakh rupees)		
			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (upto 16-02-2009)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	1		13.47	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8		32.06	19.21
3.	Bihar	3			

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Chandigarh	1			
5.	Chhattisgarh	1		13.11	10.44
6.	Delhi	4		41.28	76.34
7.	Gujarat	2			12.06
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2			
9.	Haryana	3		1.40	2.10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—		9.20	
11.	Jharkhand	1			7.50
12.	Karnataka	21		75.57	57.62
13.	Kerala	6			10.02
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6		12.55	13.87
15.	Maharashtra	9			116.09
16.	Manipur	5		15.67	9.31
17.	Meghalaya	1			
18.	Mizoram	1		53.58	
19.	Nagaland	1			7.02
20.	Orissa	17		30.33	7.91
21.	Punjab	1*		20.86	5.80
22.	Rajasthan	12	41.37	1,52.95	10.57
23.	Tripura	1*			8.54
24.	Uttar Pradesh	58		1,02.06	78.62
25.	West Bengal	2			76.02
Total		167	41.37	5,74.09	5,29.04

NB: The scheme was not in force during 2005-06.

\* Applications were received in previous years.

**Statement-IIA**

**Maulana Azad Education Foundation**  
*State-wise summary of proposals received for grants-in-aid to NGOs during 2008-09*

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	2008-09 (Upto September, 2008)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	14
4.	Bihar	19
5.	Chhattisgarh	3
6.	Delhi	5
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	22
9.	Haryana	9
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3

1	2	3
11.	Jharkhand	12
12.	Karnataka	26
13.	Kerala	34
14.	Maharashtra	59
15.	Madhya Pradesh	23
16.	Manipur	22
17.	Meghalaya	5
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Orissa	11
20.	Rajasthan	12
21.	Tamil Nadu	16
22.	Uttar Pradesh	155
23.	Uttarakhand	8
24.	West Bengal	54
Total		540

**Statement-IIB**

**Maulana Azad Education Foundation**

*Summary of grants-in-aid sanctioned during the last three years and the current financial year*

Sl. No.	States/UTs Name	Grants-in-aid Sanctioned			
		During the last three years (2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08)		During 2008-09 (upto January, 2009)	
		Number of NGOs	Amount (in lakh rupees)	Number of NGOs	Amount (in lakh rupees)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	2.00	25.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6.00	120.00	12.00	205.50
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	4.00	40.00
4.	Bihar	2.00	30.00	1.00	30.00
5.	Delhi	2.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	12.00	145.00	6.00	100.00
7.	Haryana	6.00	49.00	3.00	40.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.00	40.00	1.00	15.00
9.	Jharkhand	1.00	20.00	1.00	15.00
10.	Karnataka	9.00	120.00	10.00	195.00
11.	Kerala	11.00	222.00	5.00	90.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6.00	82.25	3.00	27.50
13.	Maharashtra	21.00	379.50	30.00	390.20
14.	Manipur	2.00	25.00	2.00	15.00
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	1.00	15.00
16.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	1.00	13.50
17.	Rajasthan	3.00	60.00	1.00	10.00
18.	Tamil Nadu	5.00	88.00	4.00	87.00
19.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	1.00	5.00
20.	Uttar Pradesh	56.00	532.54	36.00	409.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>144.00</b>	<b>1919.29</b>	<b>124.00</b>	<b>1728.70</b>

**Statement-III**  
**National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation**  
**Summary of financial assistance sanctioned during the last three years and the current financial year**

Sl. No.	State	Applications received					Amount sanctioned (in lakh rupees)				
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (upto 31-01-09)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (upto 31-01-09)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	75	48	32	35	5.04	58.50	117.45	55.35		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh					4.50					
3.	Assam	3	5	6	4			29.34			
4.	Bihar	6	3	4	5	0.50	9.00	9.00			
5.	Chandigarh										
6.	Chhattisgarh			1							
7.	Delhi			1	2	21.60		22.50			
8.	Gujarat			1							
9.	Haryana	1		2	1				9.00		
10.	Himachal Pradesh										
11.	Jammu and Kashmir		1					0.43			
12.	Jharkhand	3	2	2	12		13.50	19.44			
13.	Karnataka	6	6	5	7						

14. Kerala	1	6	5	5	18.00
15. Madhya Pradesh	1		1		
16. Maharashtra	4	8	7	14	
17. Manipur	5	4	1	0	1.80
18. Meghalaya		2			3.60
19. Mizoram			1		
20. Nagaland	1	2			
21. Orissa	2	4	6	9	31.50
22. Punjab					45.00
23. Rajasthan	1	1	1	1	4.50
24. Tamil Nadu	14	21	36	25	225.00
25. Tripura					119.70
26. Uttar Pradesh	31	17	12	6	45.00
27. Uttaranchal	2	3	1		
28. West Bengal	14	7	40	22	8.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>518.29</b>
					<b>209.70</b>
					<b>214.20</b>



### Marginal Oilfields of ONGC

353. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to monetize several marginal oilfields of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to boost production/exploration of oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Directorate General of Hydrocarbon (DGH) has proposed a realistic evaluation of the oil reserves in the marginal fields; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the ONGC to boost the exploration/production of oil from the marginal fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROELUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has identified to monetize 165 new and marginal fields of which 43 fields have already been monetized by ONGC. Some fields are being monetized by ONGC itself or through Service Contract. The remaining marginal fields will be monetized by ONGC on commercial consideration keeping in view economic feasibility.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The strategy to develop marginal fields depends entirely on economics considering the basic limited hydrocarbon reserves available in these fields. However, ONGC has made in house efforts through cluster development in offshore and using minimum required facilities in onland for achieving economic viability. Some fields are being developed through service contract by ONGC.

### New Projects of Gas Pipeline to GAIL

354. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned five

new projects of gas pipeline to Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to be laid in the next three years;

(b) if so, the details of these projects alongwith the amount involved and time frame for completion;

(c) whether it has been assured that sufficient amount of gas would be available to GAIL for these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Government has authorized GAIL to lay five new gas pipelines, namely, Dadri-Bawana-Nangal pipeline, Chainsa-Jhajjar-Hissar pipeline, Jagdishpur-Haldia pipeline, Dabhol-Bangalore pipeline and Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Bangalore-Mangalore pipeline. In accordance with the condition of authorizations, each project has to be completed within 36 months of publication of the respective first notification under Section 3(1) of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962 in the official gazette.

(b) The estimated cost of 620 km Dadri-Bawana-Nangal pipeline (including spurs) and 450 km Chainsa-Jhajjar-Hissar pipeline (including spurs) is Rs. 2500 crore and Rs. 1000 crore respectively. The completion schedule for both these pipelines is 2009-10 (first phase) and 2010-11 (second phase).

As regards the other pipelines, their completion will be synchronized with availability of gas source and customer demand. Specifically, the completion of the Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Bangalore-Mangalore pipeline will be synchronized with availability of gas source and completion of Petronet LNG Limited (PLL)'s RLNG terminal at Kochi, which is likely to be completed by 2011-12. The estimated cost of Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Bangalore-Mangalore pipeline (862 km main and 250 km spur) is around Rs. 3500 crore. The estimated cost of Dabhol-Bangalore pipeline (730 km main and 800 km spur) is around Rs. 4000 crore. The estimated cost of Jagdishpur-Haldia pipeline (800 km main and 1250 km spur) is around Rs. 7500 crore.

(c) and (d) GAIL has considered the availability of indigenous gas from KG basin fields of RIL, ONGC and GSPC, as also ONGC's Mahanadi fields. GAIL has also signed agreement with RIL for transportation of gas from RIL's KG D 6 field. Further, RLNG from Petronet LNG Limited (PLL)'s existing terminal at Dahej and planned terminal at Kochi, as also Ratnagiri Gas and Power Project Limited (RGPP) 's Dabhol terminal, has been considered as a source of gas.

#### **Manufacture of Passenger Coaches**

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

(a) the number of passenger coaches manufactured by different coach factories in the country during the last

three years, and the current year, factory-wise, and year-wise;

(b) the number of new passenger coaches introduced in the Railways during the year 2008-09;

(c) whether passenger trains could not be introduced due to acute shortage of coaches and the inability of coach factories to manufacture coaches to their full capacity; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve availability of passenger coaches for the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The factory-wise/year-wise production of passenger coaches in last three years, is as under:

Year	Integral Coach Factory, Chennai	Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	Jessops
2005-06	1175	1263	225	21
2006-07	1251	1319	266	45
2007-08	1291	1480	310	20
2008-09*	920	1201	152	16

\*Till Dec. 2008.

(b) The number of new passenger coaches manufactured/introduced in the Railways during the year 2008-09 (upto Dec. 2008) are 2289 coaches.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Railways have been able to introduce new trains by means of manufacturing of new coaches and mobilization of internal available resources.

#### **Revival of VISL**

356. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operations in Kemmangundi Iron are mines at Karnataka allocated to Visvesvaraya Iron

and Steel Ltd. (VISL), have been suspended under the direction of the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any permission has been sought from the Government for leasing of captive iron ore mine at Karnataka in favour of VISL for its revival;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure availability of iron ore from captive source to save the said Public Sector Undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The iron ore mine at Kemmangundi allotted to Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. (VISL) was in operation since inception in 1923. This mine, located in the proximity of Bhadra Wild Life Sanctuary, was closed in the year 2004 at the direction of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c) to (e) VISL had applied for allotment of mining lease in NEB range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District (area 140 Ha) on 24-1-2007. Government of Karnataka had recommended to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India that the area be reserved for SAIL. Against the recommendation of the State Government, some of the applicants filed revision applications with Government of India. The final decision in the matter is awaited.

[Translation]

#### **Implementation of Reservation Policy in Private Sector**

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

(a) the status of implementation of reservation policy in the private sector:

(b) whether the Government has received suggestions and requests from various social organizations in this regard during the last year and the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, suggestions have been received from various organizations for reservation in private sector.

In response to the commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme to initiate a dialogue with Industry and other associations to fulfill

the aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, a Group of Ministers was formed. The Group met five times and also held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. A Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister was constituted in October, 2006, to carry forward the dialogue with Industry on affirmative action in private sector. The Committee has held discussions with representatives of Apex Industry Associations. As decided in the third meeting of the Coordination Committee, held on 11-7-2008, a Group of officers has been constituted in September, 2008 to study the issue of providing fiscal incentives to industries for setting up manufacturing units in backward districts with large SC/ST population.

[English]

#### **Profit Earned by Oil Marketing Companies**

358. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:

SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the public sector crude oil producing companies have earned profit in the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and the first three quarters of the year 2008-09 till December, 2008;

(b) if so, the profit earned by public sector oil producing companies during the above mentioned period, company-wise;

(c) whether there has been wide differences in the profit earned by these oil companies during each of the aforesaid period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Crude oil producing National Oil Companies namely Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have earned

profits during the periods in question.

The details of the profit after tax, company-wise, are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 April-December '08 (Unaudited)
ONGC	15,643	16,702	13,919
OIL	1,639.98	1,788.93	1,858.91

The reasons for difference in profit earned by Companies are higher price realization of crude oil and value added production and increase in sale quantity of crude oil.

#### Bird Hit Incidents at Airports

359. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Airport is more prone to bird hit than any other airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents occurred during the last three years and the losses incurred to the airlines thereto;

(c) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently decided to revive the National Committee on prevention of bird menace at various airports in view of increase in number of bird hit incidents;

(d) if so, whether DGCA has recently issued directions to all airports operators to immediately take some steps to ensure that environs around airports are clean and cease to attract birds; and

(e) if so, the details of the other concrete steps Government proposes to take to ensure that planes are not affected by bird hits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Numbers of bird strike cases during 2006, 2007 and 2008 at Delhi Airport are 25, 30 and 67 respectively. Government does not maintain the records of losses incurred by the private airlines.

(c) Yes, Sir. A National Bird Control Committee (NBCC) under the chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation is planned to adopt measures to prevent bird hazard at aerodrome and their vicinity and monitor the implementation of a bird control programme by the aerodrome operator to evaluate its effectiveness and suggest measures for improvement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at all airports having scheduled flights operations to identify sources of bird attraction and take the necessary steps for prevention of bird strikes. The major steps taken to reduce bird hits are as under:—

- (i) Grass cutting and checking water logging inside the airport.
- (ii) Scaring and shooting of birds.
- (iii) Wire meshing of hangars.

- (iv) Garbage dumping in covered bins and early removal thereof.
- (v) Regular joint inspection of areas around airport.
- (vi) Establishment of modern abattoirs.

#### **Railway Sign Boards at Public Places**

360. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received representations for putting up sign boards at various important public places to display the timings of the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Timings of the trains are displayed at prominent locations of the railway stations. Moreover, this information is also available through various other media like time tables, telephone enquiry, railways' websites etc.

#### **Rural Tourism**

361. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme has developed a large number of sites and launched new projects to promote rural tourism across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any plan for road shows in important tourist generating overseas markets to encourage foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the number of road shows organised so far during 2008-09 in various countries and the details of expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Government/UT Administrations for infrastructure development in rural sites having tourism potential under the ongoing scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits. Funds for Capacity building are provided through Government of India-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Endogenous Tourism Project and the Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry. Ministry of Tourism has so far sanctioned projects for 139 rural tourism sites in 27 States including 36 sites which UNDP has supported for capacity building.

Ministry of Tourism promotes and publicises all tourism products including rural tourism sites through collaterals/print/electronic media and through participation in international events/fairs and Road Shows.

#### **Vacant Posts in CPSEs**

362. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are without their managerial heads;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for filling up those vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) As per available information, 12 posts of Chief Executives were vacant in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as on 31-1-2009. While in the case of 6 CPSEs, the recommendations of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) are awaiting approval of competent authority, in respect of other 5 CPSEs, PESB has initiated the selection process. In one case, the appointee is yet to join.

(c) The filling up of vacant posts of Chief Executives in CPSEs is a continuing process. The

Government has issued detailed guidelines indicating the defined time frame for filling up such posts in CPSEs. The guidelines inter alia provide that PESB should make its recommendations at least 6 months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancies for completing other formalities. The Government has also issued guidelines for entrusting additional charge arrangements in all CPSEs.

#### **Level Crossing**

363. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any representation regarding opening up of a new level crossing at Anjilippalam near Shertallai railway station under Trivandrum division of Southern Railway; and

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

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

(b) There are about more than hundred level crossings on Ernakulam-Alleppey-Kayankulam section and provision of one more level crossing is not found feasible due to Safety considerations. As Road Over Bridge (ROB) is not found feasible at this location thus a Limited use Subway can be considered on "Deposit terms" if the State Government/Local Authority agree to bear the entire cost of Limited use Subway.

#### **New Train from Dehradun to Kochuvelli**

364. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new train between Dehradun and Kochuvelli in Kerala which was proposed to be introduced in January, 2009 is yet to be introduced;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which the train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The trains announced in the Railway Budget are introduced during the course of the ensuing financial year subject to availability of rolling stock and completion of infrastructural works like gauge conversion, new lines, pit lines etc.

(c) The train is proposed to be introduced before the commencement of next financial year i.e. 2009-10.

#### **Wastage of Food by Food Processing Industries**

365. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps during the last three years to ensure that food processing industries are streamlined to ensure that no food is wasted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has monitored the loss due to poor food processing facilities across the country every year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The level of wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by promoting the development of food processing industries, strengthening of post-harvest infrastructure and filling the

gaps in the supply chain. However, the substantial rate of growth of the food processing industry from 7% in 2003-04 to 13.14% in 2006-07 and the increase in total investment in food processing sector to Rs. 40,000 crore in 2006-07 has contributed to reduction of wastages and better value addition.

In order to increase level of processing and to promote food processing industries to exploit both the domestic and international market potential for processed food products, Vision 2015 Document has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages tripling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. An integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness-Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector has also been approved by the Government.

The thrust areas identified for strategic intervention include establishment of Mega Food Parks in identified clusters with appropriate backward and forward linkages, creation of integrated cold chains/value addition and preservation infrastructure, incentivising FDI and private investment in infrastructure, launching a major promotional campaign for the food processing sector and larger public investment for creation of critical rural infrastructure in food processing sector etc.

The Ministry has been implementing various Schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector: (i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with four components i.e. Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Modernization of Abattoirs and Value Added Centres. 15 Food Parks were approved at a cost of Rs. 57.35 crores in last five years, 20 Cold Storages, 3 Value Added Centres, 1 Packaging Centre and 4 Irradiation Facilities supported in last five years at cost of Rs. 15.59 crores, and 10 Cold Chain are proposed to be set in 2008-09. The Ministry has launched a comprehensive scheme for modernization of 50 abattoirs across the country during the 11th plan period. All these

schemes will go a long way to reduce wastages. (ii) Under the Setting up/Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Expansion/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in form of grant in aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in General Areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in Difficult Areas to the Entrepreneurs. As a result of this scheme, the additional processing capacity created results directly in reduction of wastages. (iii) Under the scheme of Human Resource Development during last 5 years, assistance has been provided to 56 colleges to start courses in food technology and food science at a cost of Rs. 15 crores, 99 Food Processing Training Centres were established at a cost of Rs. 2.63 crores and they trained 9500 persons and in the next five years about 270 such centers are to be assisted at a cost of Rs. 22.75 crores expecting to train 25000 persons. (iv) Under the Research and Development scheme the major objective are to ensure compliance with nodal food standards and to assist industries in the food sector to develop and implement quality management system such as ISO 9000, HACCP etc., analyzing the samples received from the food processing sectors, imparting training in the areas, providing information on quality standards etc. During last five years 40 Research proposals were funded for an amount of Rs. 16.68 crores and during next five years 140 research proposals are targeted. In the last five years, 29 laboratories have been established at a cost of Rs. 39.11 crores, and 74 laboratories are targeted to be established in the next five years. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is observing the year 2008-09 as Food Safety and Quality Year and through various programmes, it has been planned to accelerate the awareness of Food Safety and Quality in the general masses. A National level launch of the Food Safety and Quality Year 2008-09 was organized on 11-6-2008 in Vigyan Bhawan for Food Processing Industries. (v) Under the scheme of Upgradation of Quality of Street Food with two components which Safe

Food Town and the Food Street, the Safe Food Component is being implemented in 9 cities viz., Kochi, Ludhiana, Agra, Ranchi, Nagpur, Delhi, Guwahati, Jaipur and Panaji. The Food Street component is being implemented in two cities viz., Varanasi and Tirupati. The Safe Food Town are to be implemented in 50 select cities across the country aimed at various capacity-building initiatives of Street Food Vendors based on their knowledge, attitude and practices towards handling, preparation, storage and presentation at a cost of Rs. 178.00 crores. (vi) Under the scheme of Strengthening of Institutions, the various developmental activities have been undertaken in areas such as grapes, meat and poultry processing covering the components with establishment of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), setting up of Indian Grape Processing Board, setting up of National Meat and Poultry Processing Board, strengthening of Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) and strengthening of State Nodal Agencies (SNAs). The Cabinet had approved on 21-8-2006 the setting up of NIFTEM at Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana and M/s NBCC has been engaged as project management agency for the project and work is in progress. In the next five years the institute would be established as an International Centre of excellence for food processing sector. IICPT is an autonomous organization under MFPI. The objective of the IICPT to conduct basic, applied research, education and training in the areas of post harvest processing of crops of wet lands, storm and flood prone areas. 30 Technologies have been developed and commercialized and 3 technologies patented in the last five years by IICPT. Upgradation of this institute to a National Level Organization is progressing with outlay of Rs. 85.00 crores.

(c) to (e) The losses due to poor Food Processing facility across the country is not centrally maintained every year. However, the Ministry have initiated several steps to prevent wastage as mentioned in part (a) and (b) above.

*[Translation]*

### **Conversion of Sri Ganganagar-Jaipur Railway Line**

366. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to convert the Sri Ganganagar-Jaipur railway line of North Western Railway into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The gauge conversion of the entire route of about 500 km from Jaipur to Sriganganagar has been taken up for conversion under different projects involving gauge conversion of Jaipur-Sikar-Churu, Churu-Sadulpur and Suratpura-Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar sections.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

### **Opening of Retail Drug Outlets**

367. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has since taken a decision to open retail drug outlets in consultation with the Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings for promoting sales of generics in selected States;

(b) if so, the names of the States identified so far for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government has made any survey



to find out the percentage increase in the sale of drugs registered during the last six months;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which such retail drug outlets will be able to check/control rising prices of drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five States namely Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and one Union Territory Chandigarh has been identified so far for opening of Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores. Besides, Department of Pharmaceuticals has requested all State Governments to consider opening of Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores in their states.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Generic Drug Campaign has been launched on pilot basis. The success of the campaign would depend on various factors such as prescriptions issued by doctors, participation by public etc.

#### **Incidents of Theft at IGIA**

368. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of incidents of theft have recently been increased at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check thefts at the airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and

(b) No, Sir. The incidents of theft have not increased at IGIA, recently. The details of cases of theft at IGIA during January 2008 to November 2008 are as follows: January '08—2, February '08—2, March '08—6, April '08—2, May '08—2, June '08—2, July '08—2, August '08—2, September '08—4, October '08—3, November '08—1.

(c) All personnel working with Ground Handling Agents are searched by airport security personnel at the Gates while leaving airport. Also surveillance is kept by CISF manually and through CCTV cameras at all major airports. Installation of CCTV is under process at other airports. Airlines and different agencies operating at Airports have been directed to get police verification report of their employees. Steps taken by Private scheduled airlines:—

All loaders are frisked thoroughly before and after the loading, Enhanced vigilance at airports, Loading/unloading of checked-in baggage under supervision of security/Airport services staff, Automated Baggage Reconciliation System at metros, Extensive training imparted to ramp staff, Establishment of dedicated baggage handling units at Metros, Tally sheet implemented for each flight by some airlines which is handled by well trained staff etc.

#### **Train Services to North-Eastern Region**

369. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequency of train services to the North-Eastern Region has been reduced;

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

(c) the time by which the suspended services are, likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) In the north-eastern region, the frequency of 865/866 Silchar-Jiribam Passenger has been reduced from daily to tri-weekly

owing to poor patronization, while the services of 5691/5692 Lumding-Silchar Cachar Express and 5693/5694 Lumding-Silchar Barak Valley Express has been cancelled w.e.f. 14-05-2008, and that of 5695/5696 Lumding-Agartala Express partially cancelled between Lumding and Badarpur w.e.f. 14-11-2008 due to security reasons. However, to cater to the needs of passengers of the section, one pair of special passenger train is being run between Lumding and Badarpur and the other between Lumding and Lower Haflong.

### **Guwahati Airport**

370. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to develop Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport of Guwahati to a full fledged Airport of International Standard in the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to improve connectivity of Guwahati Airport with the South Asian Countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Taking into consideration the present international traffic at Guwahati Airport, existing infrastructure is sufficient to handle international operations efficiently.

(c) to (e) Guwahati is available as point of call to the designated airlines of Brunei, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. However, actual operations by any airline is guided by its commercial judgement.

### **Communication Failure in Kolkata ATC**

371. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication system of ATC Kolkata with several incoming flights to Kolkata Airport remained disrupted for more than half an hour causing grave danger to passengers of those flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted any enquiry into the incident to ascertain the causes of this failure;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take any steps so that such incidents do not occur in future; and

(f) if so, the details there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there was problem in on-board VHF equipments of one Jet Airways aircraft which resulted in jamming of frequency and blocking other aircraft operating on the same frequency. There were four other aircraft operating at the same time which were subsequently advised to change over to other frequency and operate on other frequency.

(c) to (f) To deal with such situations in accordance with ICAO Standards a procedure is already in place which was followed in the instant case also.

*[Translation]*

### **Modernisation of Railway Stations**

372. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to install escalators at some Railway Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such modernisation works under consideration of the Railways for the last three years and the current year alongwith the total number of pending projects;

(d) the total amount of funds allocated for the said works; and

(e) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Railways have to plan install 100 nos. of escalators at 50 major stations. In this connection following two works have been sanctioned in Railway Budget for 2008-09 at the total cost of Rs. 70 crore.

- (i) Installation of 50 nos. escalators vide Pink Book Item no. 625 at the cost of Rs. 35 crore.
- (ii) Installation of 50 nos. escalators vide Supplementary Budget 2008-09 at the cost of Rs. 35 crore.

The installation of these escalators have been planned to be completed in a phased manner.

[English]

#### **Mini Ratna Status to Airports**

373. SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO:

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to give mini ratna status to some airports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the criteria laid down for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided 'in-principle' to grant Category 1 Miniratna status to Airports Authority of India.

(c) The following eligibility criteria and guidelines are laid down—Category-I PSEs should have made profit in the last three years continuously, the pre-tax

profit should have been Rs. 30 crores or more in atleast one of the three years and should have a positive net worth. Category-II PSEs should have made profit for the last three years continuously and should have positive net worth. These PSEs shall be eligible for the enhanced delegated powers provided they have not defaulted in the repayment of loans interest payment on any loans due to the Government. These public sector enterprises shall not depend upon budgetary support or Government guarantees. The Boards of these PSEs should be restructured by inducting at last three non-official Directors as the first step before the exercise of enhanced delegation of authority. The administrative Ministry concerned shall decide whether a Public Sector Enterprise fulfilled the requirements of a Category-I/ Category-II company before the exercise of enhanced powers.

[Translation]

#### **Extension of Mahabodhi Express**

374. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to extend Mahabodhi Express running between Gaya and New Delhi upto Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose junction (Gomo) keeping in view the demand of local passengers;

(b) if so, the initiatives taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be extended upto Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose junction (Gomo) and reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Stake of ONGC in Kazakh OilField**

375. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) proposes to get stake in Kazakh oilfield;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) through its Joint Venture Company ONGC Mittal Energy Limited (OMEL) is pursuing to acquire participating interest in an Exploration Block in Kazakhstan, along with Kaz Munai Gaz (KMG), the State oil company of Kazakhstan. During the recent visit of the President of Kazakhstan to Delhi, the heads of Agreement (HOA) incorporating the main principles of commercial terms was signed, on 24th January, 2009 between OMEL and KMG.

[Translation]

#### **Contract Labourers in Railways**

376. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE  
PATIL:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers are working on contract basis in Railways;

(b) if so, the number of labourers engaged on contract basis during the last three years and in the current year, zone-wise;

(c) whether such labourers are being paid salary and allowances in accordance with the laid down rules; and

(d) if not, the system in place for payment of salaries and allowances to these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No contract labourers are working directly on the rolls of Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The labourers are engaged by the contractors in different sectors in the Railways. The Tender Conditions and General Conditions of contract stipulate that a contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970/Rules 1971 and the labourers are paid the minimum wages by the contractors as per the notifications issued by the Central/State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

#### **Promotion of FPIs in Himachal Pradesh**

377. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding production of fruits in the country including Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the number of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) are relatively less as against the production of fruits; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government for promotion of FPIs in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Agriculture compiles the estimate of area and production of important fruit and vegetable crops in the country. As per the NHB estimate, the total production of fruits in the country was 63.50 million tonnes from an area of 5.77 million hectare during 2007-08. In Himachal

Pradesh, apples, apricots, peaches, plums, almonds, grapes, and chilgozas are grown in the upper region and mangoes, lemons, citrus and pears are grown in the lower regions in large quantities and with excellent quality. However, all the fruits are not suitable for processing purposes. Only processable varieties of fruit are processed out of the total production. As on 31-12-07, 154 fruit and vegetable processing units have been licensed under Fruit Products Order, 1955 in Himachal Pradesh.

The Government, through its schemes for financial assistance and other promotional measures, facilitates creation of food related infrastructure including processing facilities aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing various schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries in the country. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, MFPI extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area or 33.33% subject to minimum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing is available. MFPI has also been implementing various other Plan schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries in the country. Under these schemes, financial assistance in the form of grant in aid is provided for development of infrastructure, human resource development, promotion of quality assurance and research and development and other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries.

*[English]*

#### **Agreement for Setting Up of Steel Plants and Air Strips**

378. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has recently signed agreement with any organization to set up steel plants and airstrips in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

#### **Setting Up of CNG/LPG Stations in Gujarat**

379. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up more number of CNG and LPG stations by IOC, BPC, HPC and other companies at Jamnagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Porbandar, Sihor, Dwarka, Okha, Vijapur, Visnagar in the State of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The expansion of CNG and LPG infrastructure in different cities in the country is being taken up in a phased manner depending on economic viability.

Providing of CNG facilities in a city/area also depends upon availability of natural gas and setting up of necessary infrastructure to transport natural gas through trunk pipelines to the city/area. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country,

the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006'. Expressions of Interest (EOI)'s for City Gas Distribution Networks in Jamnagar, Rajkot and Bhavnagar have been submitted to PNGRB.

As regards Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS), they are set up by OMCs after making demand assessment at existing Retail Outlets, where sufficient space exists to maintain the safety distances as specified under Static and Mobile Pressure Vessel Rules (SMPV Rules). OMCs have planned to set up 3 ALDS in Rajkot and one each in Bhavnagar and Porbandar respectively.

[Translation]

#### Promotion of Tribal Culture

380. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to promote tribal culture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The extant schemes of Ministry of Culture encompass within their scope the promotion of tribal arts and culture.

The attached/subordinate/autonomous organizations under the Ministry of Culture also work for promotion of different forms of art and culture, including Tribal Culture. The seven Zonal Cultural Centres functioning under the Ministry of Culture lay special emphasis on promotion of folk/tribal culture.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Construction of ROB/RUB in Punjab

381. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB)/Road Under Bridge (RUB) at Mandi Gobindgarh, District Fatehgarh Sahib and Khanna, District Ludhiana has not been started despite the fact the plan has been approved;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to start work on the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There are two works for construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB)/Road Under Bridge (RUB) at Mandi Govindgarh Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib. (i) Work of RUB in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 152 at Km 326/4-6 is a sanctioned work. Physical execution of construction work will be taken up after General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) is approved and Detailed Estimate is sanctioned. (ii) Proposal of ROB in lieu of LC No. 153, Km 327/10-12 has been received from State Government and completed documents have been received only on 11-02-09.

There are three proposals of ROBs in Khanna Distt. Ludhiana (i) ROB in lieu of LC No. 145-B has been sanctioned. The alignment falls on proposed dedicated freight corridor due to which GAD has to be revised and preparation of Detailed Estimate which has resulted in delay in starting the work. (ii) Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 155-B has been pended due to Court case i.e. being subjudice. (iii) Tender for the work of ROB near Khanna in lieu of LC No.161-C has been finalized.

#### Road Over Bridges

382. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to build 200 road over bridges in the year 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the sites selected for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal. However it is a continuous process. Railways construct Road over/under bridges (ROB/RUBs) on cost sharing basis in lieu of busy level crossings, which are having traffic density of one lakh or more TVUs (TVU—A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) otherwise on deposit terms. Proposals in both cases have to be sponsored by State Government concerned duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites like undertakings to bear their share of cost, closure of level crossing, acquisition of Land required for approaches etc. under extant rules. Railways construct bridge proper across tracks and approaches are constructed by the Road Authorities concerned.

#### **Code of Conduct for Marketing of Drugs**

383. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

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

(a) the details of code of ethics and Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association (IDMA) norms of marketing practices for pharmaceutical companies in the country;

(b) whether the pharmaceutical companies are indulging in unfair practices to promote their medicines by sponsoring trips and offering gifts to doctors;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to check such unfair practices;

(d) whether the Government proposes to draw up a code of conduct for the marketing of drugs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): (a) Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) has informed that they already have "Guidelines on Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices" which was originally published in 1997 and was revised in 2007.

(b) to (e) Certain media reports in the recent past highlighted certain such practices resorted by some of the Pharma companies to promote their products to the medical practitioners. This Department had taken up the matter with the associations and the representatives of Pharmaceuticals companies and emphasized upon them to formulate guidelines/code of ethics and set mechanism for strict enforcement for dealing with the delinquency and for informing the public as to what steps have been taken to remove this perception as highlighted by the print media.

#### **Night Landing Facility at Karad Airport**

384. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether night landing facility is available at Karad airport in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the night landing facility is in operation;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to operationalise the night landing facility at Karad airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The airport at Karad in Maharashtra belongs to the State Government of Maharashtra and is a non-operational airport. Therefore, Airports Authority of India (AAI) do not have any plan to provide night landing facility at this airport.

#### **Gauge Conversion in Karnataka**

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

(a) the details of the length and stretches of metre gauge railway lines in Karnataka;

(b) the details of stretches of metre gauge lines where broad gauge conversions are underway;

(c) the estimated cost of the broad gauge railway line projects in Karnataka; and

(d) the quantum of allocation made so far, indicating current year allocation separately, for the broad gauge conversion projects in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Shimoga-Talguppa (97 Km) metre gauge line is remaining for gauge conversion in Karnataka. Gauge conversion of this line has already been taken up as a part of Bangalore-Hubli-Birur-Shimoga gauge conversion project.

(c) Part Detailed Estimate for gauge conversion of Shimoga-Talguppa was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 46.216 crore which, however, has been revised to Rs. 158.95 crore.

(d) An expenditure of Rs. 65.03 crore has been incurred on Shimoga-Talguppa gauge conversion upto March, 2008. An outlay of Rs. 42 crore has been provided for this work in the Railway Budget 2008-09.

[Translation]

#### Subsidy to Farmers

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding grant of direct subsidy to farmers through Tata consultancy

(b) if so, the salient features of the said study report;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any action in the light of the findings in the said report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) has conducted a study through the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on alternative mechanisms for delivery of subsidy to the farmers. The salient features of the report of TCS are:—

- (i) Direct subsidy disbursement to farmers/tillers through smart cards.
- (ii) Farmers and dealers need be registered at district level.
- (iii) The subsidy disbursement is linked to purchase of fertilizer products (or nutrients)
- (iv) A district (within every state) will be the unit for provisioning/budgeting fertilizer subsidy.

The matter relating to Direct subsidy to farmers was considered by the Group of Ministers (GOM), which has been constituted to look into sustainable use of fertilizers and pertinent pricing and subsidy issues. The GOM in its final recommendations has not recommended any change in the existing delivery mechanism for fertilizer subsidy.

[English]

#### Patent of Drugs

387. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of drugs whose patents have expired in developed countries are now being patented in India;

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

(c) whether the Committee constituted by the Government for negotiating prices of patented drugs has since submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and



(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The comprehensive product patent regime was introduced in India from 1-1-2005. It is unlikely in most cases that drugs whose patent have expired in developed countries would get patented in India.

(c) to (e) A Committee has been constituted in this Department to examine the issue of Price Negotiations for the Patented Drugs. The committee is yet to submit its report to the Government.

#### **Port Connectivity Projects**

388. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister

of RAILWAYS be pleased to

(a) the status of ongoing port connectivity projects and the estimated cost of the same;

(b) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed;

(c) whether the Railways are planning to construct World Bank funded Greenfield Ports in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

## Statement

(a) and (b) A detailed list of ongoing port connectivity projects is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Port to be Connected	Scope of Work	Length (in Kms)	Project Cost (Rs. in crore)	Expected Completion Date	Present Status
1.	Paradip	New line between Haridaspur-Paradip	82	456	May 2010	Land acquisition is going on and work is in progress on Luna Bridge and Mahanadi Bridge.
2.	Tuticorin	Doubling of Madurai-Dindigul section	62.06	126	March, 2009	Earth work along the alignment and work on Major and Minor Bridges is in progress.
3.	Kandla Port	Bhilai-Samdhari Gauge Conversion	223	290	Dec. 2009	Work of strengthening of Bridges and modifications in station yards is in progress.
4.	Mumbai	Dedicated freight line between Wadala and Kurla	5.66	104	—	Feasibility study has been completed. Work to commence shortly.
5.	Ennore	New Chord line Puttur-Attipattu	144	435	—	Project is sanctioned in Budget 2008-09 on cost sharing basis with Ennore Port.
6.	Haldia	Doubling of Rajoda-Haldia section	44	230	—	Discussions going on with Kolkata Port Trust regarding cost sharing.
7.	Cochin	Vallarpadim-Idapally-New Line	8.86	246.50	June 2009	Land acquisition completed. Earth work and work on Bridges are in progress.

[Translation]

**Survey Work of Ajmer-Kota  
Railway Line**

389. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made in regard to survey for laying new railway line between Ajmer and Kota;
- (b) the proposed route of the said railway line;
- (c) the amount sanctioned and spent for this purpose so far; and
- (d) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A survey for Ajmer-Nasirabad-Bundi-Kota new Broad Gauge railway line (210 kms) project has been completed in 2008. As per the survey report, cost of the project is assessed as Rs. 587.33 crore and its Rate of Return is (-)4.93%. The estimated cost of the survey work is Rs. 0.1 crore.

[English]

**Appointment of Pilots**

390. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of young Indian youth are sitting idle after becoming commercial pilots;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has issued any instructions to private airlines to give preference to Indian pilots over foreign pilots;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has also changed the selection procedure of foreign pilots;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the career progression of Indian co-pilots to the rank of commanders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation does not maintain records of employed/unemployed pilots. Moreover, issuing of licence is not linked with demand for employment of pilots.

(b) and (c) As per the policy of the Government, foreign pilots are permitted to fly in India up 31-07-2010. Airlines are allowed to bring expatriate pilots only on the basis of their plan for phasing out foreign pilots and training Indian pilots to replace the foreign pilots.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Government does not monitor the career progression of Indian co-pilot to the rank of commanders. Co-pilots are up-graded to commander by their Airlines on meeting the Flying Training requirements.

**Economic Package to Food  
Processing Industries**

391. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide new economic package for the food processing industries; and
- (b) if so, the details of the package proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Our share in world food trade is 1.5% and major demand for food products is domestic, hence, there is not much effect of the recession abroad on food processing sector. However, a number of schemes are undertaken by Ministry of

Food Processing Industries towards facilitating development and growth of Food Processing Sector namely; (i) Scheme for Infrastructure development (ii) Scheme for Technology up-gradation/Expansion/Modernization of Food Processing Industries (iii) Scheme for Quality assurance, Codex Standards and R and D (iv) Scheme for Human Resources Development (v) Scheme for Strengthening of Institutions and (vi) scheme for up-gradation of Quality of Street Food.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) takes steps to attract private investments including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in food processing sector which has great potential for growth of employment and income. Several Companies have shown interest in investment in the food processing sector. To promote food processing sector, the Government has also been providing various fiscal and tax incentives. During the last year's budget various tax incentives have been given to the processed food industry, which include—raising of exemption limit of excise duty for Small Scale Industry (SSI) from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1.5 crores. Excise duty on biscuits whose retail price does not exceed Rs. 100 per kg has been reduced from 8% to 0%. Excise duty has been reduced from 8% to 0% on all kinds of food mixes including instant mixes, and on reefer vans (refrigerated motor vehicles) from 16% to 8%. Soya bari (food supplements) and ready to eat packaged foods have been fully exempted from excise duty; Custom duty on reefer vans has been exempted and on food processing machinery has been reduced from 7.5% to 5%, on sunflower oil (crude) from 65% to 50% and on sunflower oil (refined) from 75% to 60%. Special additional duty of 4% has been waived in the case of refined edible oil. Services provided by Technology Business Incubators have been exempted from service tax and similarly their Incubates, whose annual business turnover does not exceed Rs. 50 lakhs have been exempted from service tax for the first three years. The RBI has recently revised upwards the eligibility of food processing units for priority sector bank lending with an investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 10 crores as against Rs. 5 crores earlier. Any new food processing unit based on fruit and vegetable is exempted from Income-tax completing, for the first

five years, and thereafter 25% of the income is exempted from income-tax for the next five years.

In view of the above, no separate economic package for Food Processing Industries has been proposed.

#### **Subsidy to Fertilizer Manufacturing Companies**

392. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the names of fertilizer manufacturing companies to whom the subsidy has been given during 2007-08 and the current year alongwith the amount given to each company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): As per the statement given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

#### **Statement-I**

##### *Subsidy given to urea manufacturing companies*

Sl. No.	Name of Fertilizer manufacturing companies	Subsidy Paid	
		2007-08	2008-09 (upto 10-2-2009)
1	2	3	4
1.	IFFCO	3377.97	4103.77
2.	KRIBHCO	490.10	1022.71
3.	GNVFC	775.73	618.83
4.	GSFC	79.38	63.16
5.	DUNCAN	0.39	0.00
6.	Indo-Gulf	298.37	569.53
7.	SFC	684.10	622.64

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
8.	ZIL	748.69	1040.91	14.	SPIC	369.82	3.94
9.	NFCL	1002.65	1193.39	15.	BVFCL	105.52	74.49
10.	Chambal Fertilizers	1387.65	1338.27	16.	MFL	899.39	998.73
11.	Tata Chemicals	458.57	780.15	17.	NFL	3013.48	3368.62
12.	KSFL	382.02	1148.66	18.	RCF	1618.37	2169.03
13.	MCFL	758.17	938.19			16450.37	20055.02

**Statement-II***Concession given to decontrolled (P and K) manufacturing units*

Sl. No.	Company Name Indigenous DAP/Complex	Amount (Rs. in crore) (2007-08)	2008-09 (upto Dec-2008)
1	2	3	4
1.	Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd.	876.53	5072.52
2.	Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals Corporation	19.10	139.38
3.	Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	359.06	1079.35
4.	Godavari Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.	1107.07	0.00
5.	Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd.	148.41	240.04
6.	Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.	1176.35	3058.48
7.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	153.82	453.12
8.	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)	2785.79	8773.99
9.	Manglore Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	242.73	575.50
10.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	30.24	0.00
11.	Oswal Chemical and Fertilizers Ltd.	136.26	0.00
12.	Paradeep Phosphate Ltd.	1165.48	2621.55
13.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	285.56	701.37

1	2	3	4
14.	Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corp Ltd.	146.21	13.44
15.	ZIL Industries Ltd.	741.27	1718.09
16.	Tata Chemicals Ltd.	726.17	2021.27
17.	SSP	276.13	692.16
Gross Total		10376.18	27160.26

### Security of Airports

393. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken concrete steps with regard to safety and security of airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring a legislation to deal with the security of airports in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To ensure that all the safety measure prescribed by DGCA are implemented by aerodromes, licensing of airports has been initiated by DGCA in 2004. 22 airports used for scheduled flight operations have been licensed so far. All other airports are required to obtain licensed by June 2009.

To ensure security the following additional measures have been deployed:

(i) Nakas put by ASG/APSU at the approach road to airports for random checking of vehicles/persons/articles; (ii) All unattended articles to be reported and checked for IED etc; (iii) Enhanced surveillance/watch on land side and airside areas of airports; (iv) Perimeter

Patrolling and guarding of funnel area during operational hours; (v) Reinforcement of all access control points; (vi) QRTs/Striking Reserve at airports strengthened; (vii) Secondary Security Checks at ladder point of aircrafts being carried out and; (viii) A thorough and complete screening of both the hold baggage and hand baggage being carried out.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Upgradation of Railway Platforms

394. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to upgrade some of the railway stations by elevating and widening the platforms; and

(b) if so, the details of the railway stations selected for such upgradation in each division including Trivandrum division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways have a proposal to extend platforms of identified railway stations to accommodate longer trains. Railways have also a proposal to (i) raise all rail and medium level platforms to high level at 'B' category stations and (ii) existing rail level platforms to medium level and medium level platforms to high level at 'D' category stations. Division-wise details in this regard are as under:—

Sl. No.	Railway	Division	No. of stations identified	
			For extension of platform	For raising of platform
1	2	3	4	5
1.	CR	Mumbai	5	0
2.	CR	Bhusaval	10	1
3.	CR	Nagpur	15	6
4.	CR	Pune	3	4
5.	CR	Solapur	3	6
6.	ECOR	Khurda Road	16	7
7.	ECOR	Sambalpur	22	1
8.	ECOR	Waltair	15	9
9.	ECR	Dhanbad	2	8
10.	ECR	Danapur	21	1
11.	ECR	Mughalsarai	1	3
12.	ECR	Samastipur	30	9
13.	ECR	Sonepur	14	20
14.	ER	Asansol	6	7
15.	ER	Howrah	8	5
16.	ER	Malda	8	3
17.	ER	Sealdah	2	1
18.	NCR	Agra	2	1
19.	NCR	Allahabad	18	13
20.	NCR	Jhansi	10	20
21.	NER	Izzatnagar	0	8
22.	NER	Lucknow	2	10
23.	NER	Varanasi	31	24

1	2	3	4	5
24.	NFR	Alipurduar	8	7
25.	NFR	Katihar	9	12
26.	NFR	Lumding	1	4
27.	NFR	Rangiya	4	3
28.	NFR	Tinsukia	0	3
29.	NR	Delhi	26	4
30.	NR	Ferozepur	13	0
31.	NR	Lucknow	40	25
32.	NR	Moradabad	11	5
33.	NR	Ambala	18	13
34.	NWR	Ajmer	7	0
35.	NWR	Bikaner	10	6
36.	NWR	Jaipur	3	7
37.	NWR	Jodhpur	9	5
38.	SCR	Vijayawada	9	2
39.	SCR	Guntur	4	0
40.	SCR	Guntakkal	9	5
41.	SCR	Hyderabad	5	1
42.	SCR	Nanded	6	1
43.	SCR	Secunderabad	4	0
44.	SECR	Bilaspur	0	3
45.	SECR	Nagpur	7	5
46.	SECR	Raipur	5	1
47.	SER	Adra	5	1
48.	SER	Chakradharpur	5	3
49.	SER	Kharagpur	1	5



1	2	3	4	5
50.	SER	Ranchi	2	1
51.	SR	Madras	10	9
52.	SR	Madurai	1	15
53.	SR	Pallakkad	26	13
54.	SR	Tiruchchirapalli	1	7
55.	SR	Thiruvananthapuram	15	16
56.	SWR	Mysore	14	6
57.	SWR	Bangalore	10	4
58.	SWR	Hubli	11	5
59.	WCR	Bhopal	6	2
60.	WCR	Jabalpur	19	1
61.	WCR	Kota	2	6
62.	WR	Ahmedabad	3	2
63.	WR	Mumbai	6	0
64.	WR	Vadodara	0	1
65.	WR	Bhavnagar	0	4
66.	WR	Rajkot	3	0
67.	WR	Ratlam	3	14
<b>Total</b>			<b>595</b>	<b>394</b>

**Visit India-2009**

395. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
 SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian hospitality industry is now facing recession due to international slowdown;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has announced any scheme in the name of 'Visit India-2009' to boost the hospitality industry;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF

CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There has been a decline in foreign tourist arrivals and foreign

exchange earnings from tourism as detailed below:

	November 2008	December 2008	January 2009
Foreign Tourist Arrivals*	521247	521990	487262
Percentage change over corresponding month of previous year	-2.1%	-12.5%	-17.6%
Foreign Exchange Earnings (in US\$ million)@	1005	1046	941
Percentage change over corresponding month of previous year	-12.5%	-18.7%	-31.9%

\*Provisional Estimates

@ Advance Estimates

(c) to (e) A "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the period April to December 2009.

[Translation]

**Amendments in the SCs and  
STs (POA) Act, 1989**

396. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a final decision to bring about amendments in the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

**Ongoing and New Railway Projects**

397. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing and new railway projects and the surveys in the country especially in backward and rural regions during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the progress regarding the completion of said projects as on date;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the said projects and spent till date project-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 41 new line projects and 20 gauge conversion projects have been included in the Railway Budgets during the last three years and current year which mainly cover backward, rural and under-developed regions of the country. Surveys for 175 new line and 20 gauge conversion projects have been taken up during the same period.

(b) The projects are in various stages of progress

as per the availability of funds. None of the projects has been fully completed out of these projects.

(c) The project-wise details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred is available in Railway Budget documents. State-wise expenditure is not maintained.

(d) The projects are progressing as per the availability of funds. No time frame is feasible to be given.

[English]

### **Strengthening of RPF/RPSF**

398. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures taken or proposed to be taken to strengthen the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in view of the terrorist attack at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal;

(b) whether there are any plans to increase the number of RPF battalions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways propose to set up special academies in the country to train RPF and Railway Protection Special Force on modern security system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Various measures have been taken to strengthen the Railway Protection Force. Important details are as under:—

(i) An Integrated Security System is being installed at all Railway Stations of four Metro cities viz Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and 140 other vulnerable/sensitive stations of Indian Railways. This system will comprise of the following broad areas:—

1. Internet protocol based CCTV System with video analytics.

2. Access control.

3. Personal and baggage screening system.

4. Explosive detection and disposal system.

Guidelines and technical specifications of equipment have been circulated to the General Managers of Indian Railways for implementing the project.

(ii) On the recommendations of the Norms Committee, Rs. 60.76 crore has been sanctioned for procurement of security equipment to strengthen the Railway Protection Force (RPF). The Force is also being provided with modern automatic weapons like AK-47 Rifles, INSAS 5.56 Rifles, Pistol Auto 9 mm A1 etc. Rs. 14.26 crore has been allocated for procurement of vehicles for RPF to improve mobility of the Force.

(iii) Composite Security plan has been submitted by a Committee comprising of officers from Railways, RPF, IB, CISF, Delhi Police and NSG. This plan has been approved in principle. It is being implemented.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Proposal has come up for creation of 3 more battalions of RPSF (Total 2217 posts in various Grades) against new assets without matching surrender. D and G (Direction and General) provision has been introduced in order to create workcharged posts for safe guarding Railway property and thwarting miscreant activities at remote project sites. Senior Administrative Grade level posts have already been created.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Jagjivan Ram Railway Protection Force Academy, Lucknow has been granted Central Training Institute status. Training modules have been standardized and upgraded for Zonal training Centres of Railway Protection Force. Training for trainers programme has been organized in Bomb Detection and Disposal and Disaster Management. Railway Protection Force personnel trained in these programmes will impart training to other Railway Protection Force personnel.

Commando training is being organized at a large scale by getting slots in reputed training centres of other Para Military Forces.

It has been decided to augment infrastructural facilities and equipment in the existing training centres of RPF. In phase-1, following training centres have been selected for upgradation within a time frame of 2 years:

1. Kharagpur (South Eastern Railway)
2. Kimber Garden (Southern Railway)
3. Bandikui (North Western Railway)
4. Rajahi Camp, Gorakhpur (North Eastern Railway)
5. Mokama (East Central Railway)

**Administered Prices of  
Petroleum Products**

399. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) the details of movement of crude oil prices in the international market and corresponding domestic administered prices of petroleum products charged from consumers over the last two years;

(b) the amount of subsidies paid on petroleum products each year during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to de-control the administered prices of petroleum products and encourage private sector to enter the retails business

of these products at market driven prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The details of the movement of price of Indian basket of crude oil since January 2007 and corresponding changes in the retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products (at Delhi) over the last two years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Government is giving subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG from the fiscal budget under the 'PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme 2002'. The Government has given the fiscal subsidy of Rs. 2640.60 crore in 2007-08, Rs. 2523.75 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 2662.00 crore in 2005-06 to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

In addition to the fiscal subsidy, Government has issued Oil Bonds amounting to Rs. 35,290 crore for 2007-08, Rs. 24,121 crore for 2006-07 and Rs. 11,500 crore for 2005-06 to the OMCs to partly compensate the under-recoveries incurred by them on the sale of sensitive petroleum products namely, Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG.

(c) and (d) While abolishing the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) effective 1st April 2002, the Government had decided that pricing of all petroleum products, except PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, would be determined by market factors. In order to provide Kerosene and LPG at affordable prices, the Government formulated subsidy schemes which are in operation since April 2002. Currently, Government is modulating the retail selling prices of the four sensitive petroleum products; namely Petrol, Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene to protect the consumer and the economy from the volatility and uncertainty of the international oil prices.

**Statement**

*Details of movement of the prices of the Indian Basket of Crude Oil and corresponding domestic retail selling prices of the sensitive petroleum products namely, Petrol, PDS Kerosene, Diesel and Domestic LPG over the last two years are given below:*

Month	Retail Selling Price (RSP) at Delhi						Date of revision of RSP
	Indian Basket Crude \$/bbl	Petrol (Rs./litre)	PDS Kerosene (Rs./litre)	Diesel (Rs./litre)	Domestic LPG (Rs./Cylinder)		
Jan '07	60.35	44.85	9.09	31.25	294.75	Jan. '07	
Feb '07	52.53	42.85		30.25		16-02-2007	
Mar '07	60.26						
Apr '07	65.48						
May '07	65.76						
Jun '07	68.10	43.52		30.48		06-06-07	
July '07	72.58						
Aug '07	68.97						
Sept '07	74.78						
Oct '07	79.33						
Nov '07	89.11						
Dec '07	87.92						
Jan '08	89.52						
Feb '08	92.37			30.76		8-02-08 Pollution Cease)	
		45.52		31.76		15-02-08	



**Gauge Conversion from Lumding to  
Silchar in Assam**

400. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the work of gauge conversion from Lumding to Silchar in Assam;

(b) the details of funds allocated for the same in this current year and the expenditure incurred on the project so far; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam and Badarpur-Kumarghat, the work progress is about 40%. On Lumding-Silchar, progress of earthwork is 86%, minor bridges 308 out of 337 number and 4.1 out of 10.498 km tunneling.

(b) On this project, expenditure of Rs. 1180.75 crore was incurred upto 31-03-08 and an outlay of Rs. 378.95 crore has been provided during 2008-09.

(c) The project is likely to be completed by 31-03-2012.

**Inclusion of Castes in SCs and  
ORCs List**

401. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received recommendations from various State Governments for inclusion of more castes in the list of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes (OBCs);

(b) if so, the details of castes recommended for inclusion State-wise and community-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government based on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, in 2008-09 recommendations have been received from the State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa for inclusion of four communities in the list of Scheduled Castes. A Statement showing State-wise and community-wise details is enclosed. These recommendations have been processed in accordance with the approved modalities for deciding such claims.

Requests for inclusion of castes in the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the year 2008-09 have been received from the State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim for five castes. The Annexure shows State-wise and caste-wise details. The request of the State Governments for inclusion of castes in the Central List of OBCs have been forwarded to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) for necessary action.

**Statement**

(A) State-wise and community-wise details of castes recommended by State Governments for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes during the year 2008-09.

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Name of Community
1	2	3
1.	Chhattisgarh	1. Mahra, Mahara
2.	Madhya Pradesh	2. Sakhwar
3.	Orissa	3. Chik, Chik Badaik
		4. Tiar/Tior

(B) State-wise and community-wise details of castes recommended by State Governments for inclusion in the Central List of Other Backward Classes during the year 2008-09.

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Name of Community
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	1. Gikars (Massons) 2. Labhanas
2.	Sikkim	3. Bahun 4. Chetri 5. Newar

### Modernisation of Railway Stations

402. SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO:

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken any steps to modernise the railway stations in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the stations identified so far; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to provide minimum facilities at the said railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In order to bring about perceptible improvement in the "Touch and Feel" items, the following stations have been selected for modernization.

**In Tamil Nadu:**

1. Chengalpattu
2. Katpadi
3. Arakkonam
4. Tambaram
5. Tiruttani
6. Chennai Beach
7. Ambur

8. Jolarpettai
9. Erode
10. Coimbatore
11. Salem
12. Tiruppur
13. Kanniyakumari
14. Nagercoil Jn.
15. Vridhachalam
16. Tiruchchirappalli Jn.
17. Thanjavur
18. Kumbakonam
19. Srirangam
20. Tiruvarur
21. Nagapattinam
22. Mayiladuthurai
23. Dindigul
24. Madurai
25. Tirunelveli
26. Tuticorin
27. Virudhunagar
28. Karaikudi
29. Palani
30. Rameswaram
31. Ramanathapuram
32. Dharmapuri

**Andhra Pradesh:**

1. Hindupur
2. Duvvada



- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 3. Visakhapatnam   | 31. Nellore           |
| 4. Adilabad        | 32. Nizamabad         |
| 5. Anakapali       | 33. Ongole            |
| 6. Eluru           | 34. Rajahmundry       |
| 7. Bhimavaram Town | 35. Secunderabad      |
| 8. Gadwal          | 36. Tirupati          |
| 9. Jadeheria       | 37. Vijayawada        |
| 10. Kamareddi      | 38. Warangal          |
| 11. Ramagundam     | 39. Bobbili           |
| 12. Renigunta      | 40. Chipurupalli      |
| 13. Repalle        | 41. Palasa            |
| 14. Samalkot       | 42. Parvatipuram      |
| 15. Tenali         | 43. Simhachalam       |
| 16. Anantpur       | 44. Srikakulam        |
| 17. Basar          | 45. Vizianagaram      |
| 18. Cuddapah       | 46. Bhadrachalam Road |
| 19. Guntakal       | 47. Giddalur          |
| 20. Hyderabad      | 48. Gooty             |
| 21. Kacheguda      | 49. Miryalaguda       |
| 22. Kakinada Town  | 50. Nalgonda          |
| 23. Guntur         | 51. Pakala            |
| 24. Kazipet        | 52. Vikarabad         |
| 25. Khammam        | 53. Putur             |
| 26. Kurnool Town   | 54. Sullurpeta        |
| 27. Mahabubnagar   | 55. Sattenapalli      |
| 28. Nadikudi       |                       |
| 29. Nandyal        |                       |
| 30. Narasaropet    |                       |

(c) Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) at railway stations have already been provided. Further, augmentation of passenger amenities at station commensurate with increase in passenger traffic/earnings is a continuous process and is undertaken through Annual Works

Programme depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities.

[Translation]

**Production of Steel**

403. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of HR Coil and other steel products by Indian Steel manufacturers and their demand by different manufacturing and infrastructure sectors during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for imposing import duty on steel blocking competition from imports and causing adverse impact on efforts directed at stimulating demand and economy especially of products of auto industry, electrical equipment, furniture etc;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage increased production of steel and make it available alongwith imported steel at reasonable prices to step up investment in building, infrastructure and manufacturing industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) The details of production for sale and overall consumption of HR coil and other finished steel products in the country during the last three years i.e. 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and from April to December, 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement I to III.

(b) In November 2008, government had imposed a 5% import duty on pig iron, semi-finished and finished flat and long products of steel. This was done in order to discourage inflow of steel at un-competitive prices/rates from steel-surplus economies facing recessionary trends and thereby safeguard domestic interests.

(c) and (d) In a de-regulated, liberalized economy, production of steel is influenced primarily by demand conditions (both local and global markets) and also by availability of raw materials to achieve the required level of production. Decisions related to production are taken essentially by the steel producing units. The Government in such a market set-up has the role of a facilitator only—it provides the overall policy environment to promote industry growth. In order to promote the domestic steel industry and to meet the projected demand, the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), under the chairmanship of Secretary (Steel), to monitor and coordinate the issues concerning major steel investments in the country related to infrastructure, raw material supply, environmental clearance and other resource constraints.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Production for Sale of various finished steel products (Non-Alloy and Alloy) for the last 3 years*

(Unit: '000 tonnes)

Finished Non-alloy Steel Items	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
<b>(A) Non-Flat</b>			
Bars and Rods	16636	18811	20188
Structurals	4484	4884	5043

1	2	3	4
Rly. Materials	1013	1038	1086
<b>Total Non-Flat</b>	<b>22133</b>	<b>24733</b>	<b>26317</b>
<b>(B) Flat</b>			
Plates	2974	3342	4057
H.R. Coils/Skelp/Sheets	10124	11884	12431
C.R. Sheets/Coils	3981	4322	4439
GP/GC Sheets	3782	4391	4381
Elec. Sheets	148	143	159
Tinplate (incl. ww)	182	172	183
TMBP	8	9	6
Pipes (Large Dia.)	1058	1198	1335
Tin Free Steel		2	0
<b>Total Flat</b>	<b>22257</b>	<b>25463</b>	<b>26991</b>
Total finished Non alloy steel	44390	50196	53308
Total Alloy Steel	2176	2333	2767
Total Finished Steel	46566	52529	56075

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

**Statement-II**

*Details of Consumption of various finished steel products  
(Non-Alloy and Alloy) for the last 3 years*

(Unit: '000 tonnes)

Finished Non-alloy Steel : Items	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
<b>(A) Non-Flat</b>			
Bars and Rods	16689	18782	20381
Structurals	4482	4905	4990

1	2	3	4
Rly. Materials	998	1045	1083
Total Non Flat	22169	24732	26454
<b>(B) Flat</b>			
Plates	3568	4346	5396
H.R. Coils/Skelp	9523	11232	13246
H.R. Sheets	639	761	787
C.R. Sheets/coils	3989	4519	4730
GP/GC Sheets	2051	2400	2617
Elec. Sheets	336	393	379
Tinplate (incl. ww)	234	286	294
TMBP	2	11	9
Pipes (Large Dia.)	998	1063	1218
Tin free steel	28	34	44
<b>Total Flat</b>	<b>21368</b>	<b>25045</b>	<b>28720</b>
Less: Double Counting	4352	5449	5754
Total Finished Non Alloy Steel	39185	44328	49420
Total Alloy Steel	2248	2455	2705
Total Finished Steel	41433	46783	52125

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

**Statement-III**

*Details of Production for Sale and Consumption of various finished steel products  
(Non-Alloy and Alloy) for the period from April-December 2008-09 (Provisional)*

(Unit: '000 tonnes)

Finished Non-Alloy Steel Items	April-December 2008-09 (provisional)	
	Production for sale	Consumption
1	2	3
<b>(A) Non-Flat</b>		
Bars and Rods	15485	15018

1	2	3
Structurals	3866	3683
Rty. Materials	865	853
<b>Total Non Flat</b>	<b>20216</b>	<b>19554</b>
<b>(B) Flat</b>		
Plates	2876	3362
H.R. Coils/Skelp	8221	9006
H.R. Sheets	456	485
C.R. Sheets/coils	3506	3763
GP/GC Sheets	3319	2341
Elec. Sheets	119	281
Tinplate (incl. ww)	157	197
TMBP	0	2
Pipes (Large Dia.)	1027	909
Tin free steel		27
<b>Total Flat</b>	<b>19681</b>	<b>20373</b>
Total: Finished non Alloy Steel	39897	35427*
Total Alloy Steel	2180	2416
Total Finished Steel	42077	37843

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC); \* = after accounting for double counting of 4.5 mt from Total Flat.

#### **Subsidy on Helicopter Services**

404. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himáchal Pradesh has been requesting the Union Government from time to time to provide subsidy for the helicopter services being run by the State to provide aid to people in times of natural disasters and medical emergencies;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon alongwith the reasons for keeping the said

request pending for a long time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In response to the request of State Government, the Government has approved waiver of Passenger Service Fee (PSF) at Bhunter Airport in respect of local tribal of Himachal Pradesh, who travel by helicopter during heavy snow fall.

[English]

**Electrification Work at  
Mangalore Section**

405. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification work at Mangalore section of Railways in Kerala has not been progressing as per the schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons for slow pace of the work; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed and electric trains are likely to move on this section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Electrification of tracks are considered primarily on traffic volumes, economic viability and operational necessity. At present, the proposal for electrification of Shoranur-Mangalore is under examination in Ministry of Railways.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Increase in Prices of Medicines**

406. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep rise in the prices of albumin, Heparin, Mox 500, Novomix, Novorapid in the market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent of Government control operationalised so far despite the repeated assurance on the matter of price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The NPPA fixes/revises the prices of formulations containing 74 bulk drugs listed in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order,

1995 (DPCO, 95). The price fixation/revision is also a continuous process and the prices are fixed/revised as per the formula given Para 7 under DPCO, 95.

The Novomix and Novorapid are the Scheduled formulations under DPCO, 95 containing Scheduled bulk drug Insulin. The price of Novomix 30 penfill and Novorapid penfill in 3 ml cartridge pack was revised from Rs. 392.85/pack (exclusive of taxes) to Rs. 425.32 pack (exclusive of taxes) on 29-1-2008 vide SO No. 187(E). The reason for the price increase is due to the increase in the imported C.I.F. price based on landed cost as the earlier price was fixed in the year 2004.

Albumin, Heparin and Mox 500 are non-Scheduled medicines which are out of price control under DPCO, 95. However, the prices of those medicines are monitored by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) as per the guidelines on the basis of monthly report of ORG-IMS. On verification of ORG-IMS data for the month of October, 2008, it is found that the price increase of all the above three non-Scheduled medicines are within 10% per annum.

**Super Fast Train**

407. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to introduce super fast daily train from Dwarka Yatraddham to Haridwar Yatraddham via Viramgam-Mehsana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the train is likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Credit Rating of Indian Oil Corporation**

408. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SURI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

**SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:**

**SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:**

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

(a) whether the credit rating of Indian Oil Corporation has been downgraded by the Standard and Poor, an international credit rating organisation;

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

(c) the impact of lowered credit rating on working of IOC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Standard and Poor (S and P), on 31st December, 2008 has downgraded the Indian Oil Corporations' (IOC) Long Term Foreign Currency Issuer Rating from "Investment grade rating of BBB- with Stable out look" to "Speculative grade rating of BB+ with Stable out look".

(b) The said rating agency carries out periodical surveillance of the Companies' fundamentals, including credit worthiness, and after completing the annual surveillance of IOC for 2008, S and P decided to downgrade the rating. The agency has, however, recognized that IOC's financial situation would improve and stabilize in the short-term with the reduction in global oil prices, and final receipt of Oil Bonds from the Government of India.

(c) The downgrading may impact IOC's short term foreign currency loans in terms of restricted availability of funds and/or increase in interest rates by the Banks.

#### **Reservation Quota in Goa Express**

409. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation quota for Miraj Railway Station in Goa Express has been cancelled by the South-Western Railway;

(b) if so, whether soldiers and passengers boarding from Miraj, Sangli, Karad and Satara Railway Stations in Western Maharashtra do not get reservation due to cancellation of Miraj quota; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to ease inconvenience caused to passengers of Western Maharashtra on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The remote location quota provided at Miraj in Goa Express has been shifted to Pune.

(b) The passengers from these stations can access Pooled quota.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Opening of New CNG Stations in the Country**

410. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of CNG filling stations in the country, State-wise including Karnataka as on December, 2008.

(b) the total number of new CNG stations to be installed in each State including Karnataka during the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) whether the number of CNG stations will be sufficient to meet the growing demand of vehicles: and

(d) if not, the steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Accordingly to the information received from Companies, the total number of CNG filling stations in the country, as on December 31, 2008, are as follows:

State	City	Company	No. of CNG Stations
1	2	3	4
Delhi	Delhi	IGL	166
Maharashtra	Mumbai, Thane, Mira Bhayandar and Navi Mumbai	MGL	132
	Pune	MNGL	7
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	CUGL	5
	Bareilly		1
	Lucknow	GGL	4
	Agra		3
	NOIDA	IGL	3
Gujarat	Vadodara	GAIL	3
	Surat, Bharuch and Ankleshwar	GGCL	24
	Ahmedabad	Adani Energy Ltd.	45
	Ahmedabad	HPCL	10
	Rajkot, Murbi, etc.	GSPC	12
	Gandhinagar	Sabarmati	2
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	BGL	6
	Hyderabad		3
	Rajahmundry		1
Tripura	Agartala	TNGCL	1
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	AGL	4
	Ujjain		1
<b>Total</b>			<b>433</b>



There are no CNG stations in Karnataka, as of now.

(b) Total number of new CNG stations installed

during the current financial year, till now, state-wise are as follows:—

State	City	Company	No. of CNG Stations
Delhi	Delhi	IGL	14
Maharashtra	Mumbai, Thane, Mira Bhayandar and Navi Mumbai	MGL	2
	Pune	MNGL	7
Uttar Pradesh	Noida	IGL	3
Andhra Pradesh	Rajahmundry	BGL	1
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	AGL	4
	Ujjain		1
Total			32

(c) and (d) The expansion of CNG infrastructure in different states in the country is being taken up in a phased manner. Providing of CNG facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.'

[Translation]

#### Gauge Conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kala Railway Line

411. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work of gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kala Railway line alongwith new railway line for Kota has been completed; and

(b) if so, the route identified for laying the said new Railway line between Sheopur Kala and Kota

alongwith the names of the towns likely to be connected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The survey has been done for gauge-conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kala and extension of the line upto Digod.

(b) The route identified for the proposed Sheopur Kala-Digod new line is through the towns of Pipal-dakalan, Barod and Sultanpur.

#### Pulgaon Arvi Train Service

412. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to discontinue the Pulgaon-Arvi (Shakuntala) train service running since British times;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing the said train;

(c) whether the Railways have received representations from the State Government and other

organizations in this regard to reintroduce the Pulgaon-Arvi train in view of its importance for the local people; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, 643/644 Pulgaon-Arvi Passenger is temporarily cancelled from 30-7-2008 as a safety measure due to track being unsafe.

(c) and (d) No representation has been received from State Government. However, a representation from Shri Baba Abdul Jamil, State Secretary, Maharashtra Pradesh Samajwadi Party has been received in this regard.

Restoration of 643/644 Pulgaon-Arvi Passenger has not been found feasible at present.

[English]

#### **Dedicated Freight Corridor Project**

413. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have sought financial assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency for the Western Corridor of the Railways' dedicated freight corridor project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said credit will be finalized and its term of repayment;

(d) whether an Indian delegation visited Japan to consider feasibility of introducing bullet train on Indian tracks;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other issues discussed with Japanese authorities during the aforesaid visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Assistance under Special Terms of Economic Partnership (STEP) Scheme of Government of Japan has been sought for the Western Corridor.

(c) The loan is targeted for finalisation in the year 2009-2010.

(d) to (f) A delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of Railways visited Japan from 12-1-2009 to 15-1-2009 and discussed issues regarding funding of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project, train operations, infrastructure creation and undertook industry and site visits of railway facilities. The delegation also travelled on the Shinkansen (Bullet Train) for a first-hand experience of the Shinkansen Train services.

#### **Externally Aided Railway Projects**

414. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing externally aided Railway projects; and

(b) the loans taken from various Foreign Financial agencies for execution of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of ongoing externally aided Railway projects and the loans taken from various foreign financial agencies for execution of these projects are as given below:

- (i) Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) for improvement of suburban rail services in Mumbai area, which has both road and rail components, is being partly funded by World Bank. The rail component of the loan comprises an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan and International Development Association (IDA) credit earmarked for the rail component are US Dollar 304.5 million and Special

Drawing Right (SDR) 42.13 million respectively. The loan agreement was signed in August 2002.

- (ii) Project of Modernisation of Signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur is being partly funded by Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Germany. The estimated cost of the project is DM.212.3 million (Euro 108.5 million). The loan amount is DM 185 million (Euro 94.5 million) and loan agreement was signed in June 1997.
- (iii) The Asian Development Bank has extended a loan to finance the Railway Sector Improvement Project with the objective of enhancing capacity of the rail network and improving operational efficiency/safety. The subprojects to be funded from the loan are principally in the Golden Quadrilateral and its Diagonals and Port Connectivity projects. The loan amount was US\$ 313.6 million. The loan agreement was signed in April 2004. Subsequently in March 2007, an amount of US\$ 101.3 million of the loan was cancelled due to problems in the execution of the projects being financed from this loan. The present loan amount is US\$ 212.3 million.

#### **Review of Price Control Mechanism of Medicines**

415. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to review the price control mechanism of medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted and has held four meetings so far on 10-4-2007, 12-9-2007, 30-1-2008 and 30-4-2008. The salient features of the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 are; Strengthening of Drug Regulatory System, Strengthening of patent office infrastructure, Focus on Research and Development, Human Resource Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rationalisation of Excise duty on pharmaceuticals, Streamlining System of Bulk Procurement of Drugs by Government, Promotion of Generic Drugs, Strengthening of Pharma CPSEs, Schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the poor especially BPL families, Schemes of interest subsidy for implementation of Schedule M (of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945) for Good Manufacturing Practices, Greater thrust on Pharma Exports, Strengthening of NPPA with greater computerization and better monitoring, Modified system of drug price control, regulation of Trade Margins on generic-generic drugs etc. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

#### **ROB along NH-47 By-pass at Alappuzha**

416. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received the General Agreement Drawing for the Road Over Bridge (ROB) along the NH-47 by-pass at Alappuzha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

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

(b) General Arrangement Drawings (GAD) are for

4 Lane ROB at Chainage 410.17 Railway Km 55/3-4 between Alappuzha and Timboli stations and for 4 lane ROB at Chainage 412.83 Railway Km 57/14-15 between Alappuzha and Punarappa Stations on Alappuzha by-pass.

(c) GAD remarks called far from NHA1 on 08-06-07 and corrected GADs for the above ROB's are yet to be received from NHA1 in spite of issue repeatedly having been raised during Meeting with NHA1.

#### **Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project**

417. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

- (a) the status of Indo-Iran gas pipeline project;
- (b) whether there has been any breakthrough in speeding up the project of Indo-Iran gas pipeline deal;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the hurdles being faced to implement this project successfully;
- (e) the total expenditure incurred on this project so far; and
- (f) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, viz., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(d) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's

interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.

(e) GAIL (India) Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., the PSUs involved with the project, have spent approximately Rs. 4.71 crore in connection with pre project activities.

(f) Work on the Project can commence only after satisfactory resolution of issues under discussion amongst the participating countries. As such, completion schedule of the Project can not be laid down at this stage.

*[Translation]*

#### **Survey/Exploration of Oil In the Country**

418. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

- (a) the names of the State and places particularly in backward and rural areas of the country where digging for exploration of oil is taking place as on date alongwith the names of the companies which are working for the purpose;
- (b) the total funds spent by the said companies for survey and exploration work; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely completion of the exploration work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The exploration activity and expenditure state-wise/district wise under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Government monitors the work program and budget through management committees for each block for timely completion of the work program as per the PSC.

**Statement**  
**Status of Onshore Blocks as on 31-09-08**

Sl. No.	Field/Block	Operator/Consortium	District	Area (SKM)	2D	3D	Wells	Discoveries Made	Investment \$ Lakh
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>GUJARAT</b>									
1.	Bacla	Interlink Petroleum Ltd. (100%)	Ahmedabad	4	0	0	0	0	6.88
2.	Asjol	HOEC (50%), GSPC (50%)	Mehsana	15	0	0	0	0	11.78
3.	Bakrol	SELAN (100%)	Ahmedabad	36	150	0	1	0	111.12
4.	Bhandut	Oilex NL Holdings Ltd. 40% GSPC 60%	Surat	6	0	18	0	0	56.63
5.	Cambay	Oilex NL 30% GSPC 55%, Oilex NL Holdings Ltd. 15%	Kheda	161	0	160	0	0	1228.42
6.	Matar (R)	Relinquished	Bharuch	0	0	0	0	0	6.03
7.	Hazira	NIKO 33.33% Gspcl 66.67%	Surat	50	48	30	3	0	2929.09
8.	Sabarmati	Oilex NL Holdings Ltd. 40%, GSPC 60%	Ahmedabad	6	0	0	0	0	7.61
9.	Indrora	SELAN 100%	Ahmedabad	130	8	23	0	0	20.00
10.	Lohar	SELAN 100%	Mehsana	5	8	0	0	0	17.65

11. Aliora	HERAMIC Ltd. 30% GSPCL 70%	Mehsana	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	44.28
12. Modhera	Interlink Petroleum Ltd. 100%	Mehsana	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
13. Morth Balol	HOEC 25%, GSPCL 45% Heramec Ltd. 30%	Mehsana	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	37.34
14. North Kathana	GSPCL 70%, Heramec Ltd. 30%	Mehsana	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.30
15. Sangapur	Hydrocarbon Res. Dev. Co. (P) Ltd., 50%, Prize Petroleum 50%	Mehsana	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.44
16. Unawa	GSPCL 70%, Heramec Ltd. 30%	Mehsana	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0.35
17. Kanwara	GSPCL 70%, Heramec Ltd. 30%	Mehsana	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1984.21
18. Dholasan	GSPCL 70%, Heramec Ltd. 30%	Mehsana	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	14.22
19. Wavel	JTI 100%	Gandhinagar	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.19
20. Dholka	JTI 100%	Ahmedabad	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	128.47
21. CB-ON/2	GSPCL 80%, GGR 20%	Kheda, Anand	1201	0	612	11	1	Oil and 2 Gas Disco- very	11	299.11
22. CB-ON/7	HOEC 50% GSPCL 50%	Vadodara, Broach, Rajpipla	365	0	0	4	1	Oil Disco- very	4	130.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23. GK-ON-90/2 (R)	Okland		Bhuj	4920	0	0	1	0	0.60
24. GK-ON/4	Focus 100%		Bhuj	1550	520	0	0	0	0.00
25. CB-ON/3	EOL 100%		Mehsana	430	0	180	9	3 Oil Disco- very	178.48
26. CB-ON/1	RIL 40%, TIOL 50%, OOLH 10%		Palanpur, Patan, Mehsana, Himmat- nagar	6133	1961	0	3	0	34.19
27. CB-ONN- 2000/1	GSPCL		Surat	1424	0	549	13	1 Oil/ Gas and 1 Oil Disco- very	36.52
28. CB-ONN- 2000/2 (R)	NIKO		Ahmedabad	419	113	333	19	2 Gas Disco- veries	428.61
29. CB-ONN- 2001/1	ONGC 70%, CEIL 15%, CED 15%		Anand, Kheda	215	0	173	5	110.67	110.67
30. CB-ONN- 2002/1	ONGC 70%, CEGB1 30%		Patan-Mehsana	135	0	205	2	1 Oil Disco- very	109.13
31. CB-ONN- 2000/2	JOGPL 30%, GSPC 60%, GGR 10%		Mehsana	125	0	236	4	1 Oil Disco- very	0.00
32. CB-ONN-	GSPCL 55%, JEPL 20%,		Gandhinagar,	285	0	525	12	5 Oil	573.54





1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
44. CB-ONN-2005/6	Onkar Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. 100%		Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad	102	0	0	0	0	0
45. CB-ONN-2005/7	IOCL 100%		Vadodara, Bharuch	200	0	0	0	0	0
46. CB-ONN-2005/8	Vasundhara Resources Ltd. 100%		Vadodara, Bharuch	133	0	0	0	0	0
47. CB-ONN-2005/9	Mercator Petroleum Pvt. Ltd.		Vadodara, Bharuch	170	0	0	0	0	0
48. CB-ONN-2005/10	ONGC 51%, GSPC 49%		Bharuch	270	0	0	0	0	0
49. CB-ONN-2005/11	Quest Petroleum Pvt. Ltd. (QUEST) 20%, Quippo Oil and Gas Infrastructure Ltd. (QQVS) 40%, SREI Infrastructure Finance Ltd. (SREI) 20%, Vectra investments Pvt. Ltd. (VIPL2) 10% and Primera Energy Resources Ltd. (PRIM) 10%		Bharuch	257	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Gujarat</b>				<b>20927</b>	<b>3452</b>	<b>5317</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9416.34</b>
<b>Assam</b>									
1. Arnguri	Canoro (60) and Assam Co. Ltd. (40)		Shivsagar	53	0	0	0	0	390.73
2. CR-ON-90/1 (R)	Ponei (29), EOL (16) and IOC (35) and Oil (20)		Silchar, Hallakandi, Karimgunj	635	233	0	1	0	632.88

3. AAP-PM-94/1	Hoec (40), Oil (16) and IOC (44)	Dibrugarh, Tinsukhiya, Changlang, Khansa	435	185	0	3	1 Gas Disco-very	383.13
4. AA-ON/3 (R)	Okland		2988	0	0	0	0	0.00
5. AA-ON/7	CRL (65) and ACL (35)	Jorhat, Golaghat, Mokukchung	1445	475	0	2	0	87.29
6. AA-ON/J/2	Tullow (60) and ONGC (40)	Cachar, Imphal and Churachandpur, Aizwal	1277	0	0	0	0	0.00
7. AS-ONIN-2000/1	RIL 90%, Hardy 10%	Sonitpur and Darang	6215	0	0	0	0	0.00
8. AA-ONIN-2001/3	ONGC 85% and OIL 15%	Golaghat	110	0	130	0	0	56.71
9. AA-ONIN-2002/3	OIL-30%, ONGC-70%	North Cachar Hills, Karbi Anglong	1460	19	0	0	0	26.88
10. AA-ONIN/2003/1	GOGP 10%, JSPL 35%, GSPC 20% and GAIL 20%	Golaghat	81	0	0	0	0	0.00
11. AA-ONIN/2003/3	OIL-85%, HPCL-15%	Tinsukia	275	0	34	0	0	103.00
12. AA-ONIN/2004/1	OIL-(85%), Shiv-Vani (15%)	Shivesagar	141	0	144	0	0	59.34
13. AA-ONIN/2004/2	OIL-(90%), Sunterra (10%)	Dibrugarh	1252	0	206	0	0	0.00
14. AA-ONIN/2004/3	ESSAR Energy-90%, ESSAR Oil-10%	Lakhimpur and Dhemaji	1252	0	0	0	0	0.00
15. AA-ONIN/2004/4	Adani Enterprises (35%) Adani Port-20% Naftogaz-10%, Jaycee (Mumbai) (35%)	Tinsukia	95	228	0	0	0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16.	AA-ONN/2004/5	ESSAR Energy-90%, ESSAR Oil-10%	Tinsukia	46	0	0	0	0	0
17.	AA-ONN/2005/1	ONGC-60%, OIL-30% ACL-10%	Karbi Anglong, Golaghat	363	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Assam</b>				<b>18123</b>	<b>1140</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1679.86</b>
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>									
1.	Kharsang	GEO-Enpro (10), Enpro Commercials Pvt. Ltd. (25), Geopetrol (25) and Oil (40)	Changlang	11	52	0	0	0	182.37
2.	AA-ONN/2003/2	GPI-30%, NTPC 40%, and CRL-30%	Changlang	295	206	100	0	0	0.80
<b>Total Arunachal Pradesh</b>				<b>306</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>183.17</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>									
1.	KG-ON/1(R)	RIL (40) and TOIL (60)	Guntur, Prakasham, Krishna	4182	715	0	0	0	40.15
2.	PG-ONN-2001/1	ONGC-100%	East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Khammam	5190	66	0	0	0	40.70
3.	KG-ONN-2003/1	CRIL-24%, ONGC-51% and CEUL-25%	Krishna and Guntur	1697	503	0	0	0	109.47
4.	KG-ONN-2004/1	OIL-(90), Geo Global (10%)	East Godavari and Yanam (UT)	549	0	0	0	0	0.00

5. KG-ONN-2004/2	GSPC (40%), GAIL (40%), Petogas (20%)	West Godavari and Krishna	1140	0	453	0	0	0.00
<b>Total Andhra Pradesh Bihar</b>			<b>12756</b>	<b>1284</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>190.32</b>
1. GB-ONN-2002/1	CPIL-50, CESL-50	Madhubani, Sitamari, Darbhanga Samastipur, Munger, Begusaria, Patna, Khagaria, Saharsa, Bhagal- pur, Madhepura, Supaul	15550	500	0	0	0	270.34
2. PA-ONN-2004/1	ONGC 100%	Araria, Kishanganj, and Purnia	2537	1407	0	0	0	19.39
3. PA-ONN-2005/1	ONGC 100%	West Dinajpur	1096	0	0	0	0	
4. PA-ONN-2005/2	ONGC 100%	Dakshin Dinajpur, West Dinajpur, Maldah	2552	0	0	0	0	
5. GB-ONN-2005/3	ONGC 80%, Tata Petrodyne 20%	Paschim Champaran	2227	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total Bihar</b>			<b>23962</b>	<b>1907</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>289.73</b>
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>								
1. HF-ONN-2001/1	ONGC-100%	Solan, Sirmour, Shimla	1514	465	0	0	0	113.88
<b>Total Himachal Pradesh</b>			<b>1514</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>113.88</b>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>									
1.	SR-ONN-2005/1	Deep Energy Lic 10% Deep Industries Ltd. 70% Kanvel Finance Ltd. 10% and Savia Electronics Pvt. Ltd. 10%	Korea	789	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Chhattisgarh</b>				<b>789</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>									
1.	SR-ONN-2004/1	Prize Petroleum (10%) Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (90%)	Shahdol, Sidhi, Umaria, Anuppur and Dindori	13277	0	0	0	0	14.44
<b>Total Madhya Pradesh</b>				<b>13277</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14.44</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>									
1.	DS-ONN-2003/1	GGR 100%	Dhule	3155	0	0	0	0	3.07
2.	DS-ONN-2004/1	Geoglobal Resources (Barbados) (100%)	Dhule, Jalgaon and Nandurbar	2649	0	0	0	0	0.00
<b>Total Maharashtra</b>				<b>5804</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.07</b>
<b>Mizoram</b>									
1.	AA-ONN-2001/2	ONGC-80%, IOC-20%	Aizawl	4005	109	0	0	0	109.27
2.	MJ-ONN-2004/1	OIL-75%, Suntera (10%) Shiv-Vani-15%	Aizawl, Serchhip, Mamit and Lunglei	3213	110	0	0	0	0.00

3. MZ-ONN-2004/2	Naftogaz-10%, RNRL-10% Geopetrol (10%), REL (70%)	Lunglei, Saiha and Lawangtlai	3619	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
<b>Total Mizoram</b>			<b>10837</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>109.27</b>
<b>Nagaland</b>									
1. AA-ONN-2001/4	ONGC 100%	Wokha, Mokokching	645	0	0	0	0	0	18.29
2. AA-ONN-2002/4	ONGC-90, OIL-10	Kohima	1060	0	0	0	0	0	26.26
<b>Total Nagaland</b>			<b>1705</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44.55</b>
<b>Orissa</b>									
1. MN-ONN-2003/1	ONGC-20%, GAIL-20%, IOC 20%, Oil 40%	Cuttack, Jaipur, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara	5903	464	0	0	0	0	63.12
<b>Total Orissa</b>			<b>5903</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63.12</b>
<b>Rajaasthan</b>									
1. RJ-ON/06	FEL (10), ISIL (65) and NOCL (25)	Jaisalmer	4026	760	336	11	3	Gas	67.94
2. RJ-ON-90/5 (R)	ESSAR (75) and POGC (25)	Ganganagar, Hanumangarh	3967	962	0	2	0	0	61.00
3. RJ-ONN-2000/1	CEIL 50% and CEHL 50%	Barmer, Jalor	879	6418	2291	129	12	Oil Gas Disco- very and 2 Gas Disco-	9502.97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	RJ-ONN-2001/1	OIL 100%	Jaisalmer	1862	800	0	1	0	32.00
5.	RJ-ONN-2001/1	ONGC 30% and OIL 70%	Bikaner, Ganganagar, Jaisalmer	3425	500	465	3	0	32.20
6.	RJ-ONN-2002/1	OIL-60, ONGC-40	Bikaner, Ganganagar, Churu	9900	900	0	0	0	3.87
7.	VN-ONN-2003/1	ENI 34%, ONGC 36%, CE2L 30%	Kota and Jhalawar	1335	503	0	0	0	0.00
8.	RJ-ONN-2003/1	CEIL 24% CE6L 25 and ONGC 51%	Jaisalmer, Barmer	1385	0	642	0	0	194.65
9.	RJ-ONN-2003/2	FEL 10%, and BIL 40% and XOH 50%	Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jodhpur	13195	961	335	2	0	188.52
10.	RJ-ONN-2004/1	OIL 75-Geoglobal (25%)	Ganganagar, Hanumangarh	2196	1958	466	0	0	0.00
11.	RJ-ONN-2004/2	Oil (60%)-Geoglobal (25%)- HPCL (15%)	Bikaner, Jaisalmer	1330	0	1309	0	0	0.00
12.	RJ-ONN-2004/3	GSPC (2%)-GAIL (20%), HPCL (20%) Halliworthy (Panama) (10%)-Nitinfire (New Delhi) (10%) Silverwave (Mayanmar) (10%) BPCL (10%)	Jaisalmer, Bikaner	4613	0	0	0	0	0.00
13.	VN-ONN-2004/1	ONGC (100%)	Bundi, Kota, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwara	5801	0	0	0	0	0.00

14. VN-ONN-2004/2	ONGC (100%)	Jhalawara, Kota and Baran	4466	26	0	0	0	0.00
15. RJ-ONN-2005/1	HOEC 25%, BPPL 25%, JSPL 25%, ONGC and IMC 25%	Jaisalmer	1424	0	0	0	0	0.00
16. RJ-ONN-2005/2	OIL 60%, HOEC 20%, HPCL and Mittal Energy Ltd. 20%	Jaisalmer	1517	0	0	0	0	0.00
17. RJ-ONN-2005/3	GSPC 60%, ONGC 40%	Jaisalmer	1217	0	0	0	0	0.00
<b>Total Rajasthan</b>			<b>64738</b>	<b>13788</b>	<b>5844</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10083.15</b>
<b>Tripura</b>								
1. AA-ONN-2001/1	ONGC 100%	Kailasahar, Ambasa	2257	70	0	1	0	11.72
2. AA-ONN-2002/2	JOGPL-20, GAIL-80	South Tripura, West Tripura, Dhalai	1680	412	0	1	0	475.00
<b>Total Tripura</b>			<b>3937</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>516.38</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>								
1. CY-ONN-2002/1	JOGPL-30, GAIL-50, GSPC 20	Guddalore, Pondicherry (UT)	680	0	278	2	0	31.98
2. CY-ONN-2002/2	ONGC-60, BPCL-40	Nagapattinam, Cuddalore	210	0	222	0	0	337.07
3. CY-ONN-2003/1	NR(V)L 100%	Thanjavur	975	0	941	1	0	0.00
4. CY-ONN-2004/1	ONGC (80%), BPCL (20%)	Cuddalore and Nagapattinam	214	0	0	0	0	0.00
5. CY-ONN-2004/2	ONGC (80%), BPCL (20%)	Ariyalur	375	0	0	0	0	0.00



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	PR-ONN-2005/1	ONGC 80%, Tata Petrodyne Ltd. 20%	Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur, Chennai	1807	0	0	0	0	
7.	CY-ONN-2005/1	GAIL (India) Ltd. 40%, GSPC 30%, Bengal Energy International Inc. 30%	Thiruvaur, Thanhavur	946	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total Tamil Nadu</b>				<b>5207</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>									
1.	GV-ONN-97/1	ONGC-40%, IOC-30%, CEIL (15) and CEEPC (15)	Badaun, Bariely, Pilibhit, Shah-jahanpur, Kheri, Sitapur, Hardoi, Bahraich, Barabanki	18375	543	0	2	0	168.10
2.	GV-ONN-2000/1 (R)	ONGC 85%, IOC 15%	Faizabad, Sultanpur, Partapgarh, Allahabad, Gazipur, Bhadoi, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Varanasi, Ballia	23500	452	0	0	0	10.41
3.	GV-ONN-2003/1	CEIL 24%, CEIL 25% and ONGC 51%	Deoria, Gorakhpur	7210	356	1144	0	0	0.00
4.	GV-ONN-2004/1	ONGC. (100%)	Ambedkar Nagar, Sultanpur, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Mau,	8354	0	0	0	0	22.77

	Ballia, Deoria, Sant Kabir Nagar Basti and Gorakhpur		57439	1351	1144	2	0	201.28
<b>Total Uttar Pradesh</b>								
<b>West Bengal</b>								
1. WB-ONN-2000/1 (R)	ONGC 85%, IOC 15%	24-Parganas (Relinquished)	12505	100	0	0	0	5.65
2. WB-ONN-2005/2	ONGC 100%	Nadia, Murshida- bad, Birbhum, Bardhaman	3792	0	0	0	0	
3. WB-ONN-2005/3	ONGC 100%	Hugli, Haora, Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Bardhaman	4001	0	0	0	0	
4. WB-ONN-2005/4	ONGC 75%, OIL 25%	Hugli, Nadia, Bardhaman, North-24 Parganas	3940	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total West Bengal</b>			<b>24238</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5.65</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>271156</b>	<b>24652</b>	<b>14713</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22200.32</b>

[English]

#### **Hostels for SCs in Andhra Pradesh**

419. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 35 hostels for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) have been sanctioned for the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the districts in the State where these hostels are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) 7 SC Girls Hostels have been sanctioned so far in the financial year 2008-09 in Andhra Pradesh in the following districts:—

- (i) Ananthasagaram, Nellore
- (ii) Srikalahasthi, Chittoor
- (iii) Madakasaria, Anantapur
- (iv) Jharasangam, Medak
- (v) Talamadugu, Adilabad
- (vi) Dharmapuri, Karimnagar
- (vii) Thipparthy, Nalgonda

#### **Welfare Schemes by Public Sector Oil Companies**

420. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works undertaken under the Social Welfare Schemes for public by the oil PSUs i.e. ONGC, Oil India, NRL, IOC and BRPL in the current financial year in the State of Assam;

(b) the amount of funds allocated/spent during the said period for such social welfare schemes;

(c) whether these PSUs engaged NGOs for implementing the welfare schemes in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Oil PSUs, namely, ONGC, Oil India Ltd., NRL, IOC and BRPL which have their units in the State of Assam, have been undertaking social welfare schemes under their corporate social responsibility. During the current year, activities undertaken by the Oil PSUs in the State of Assam are as under:—

#### **Agri-allied and Income Generation**

- Distribution of free seeds to the farmers of nearby areas.
- Financial assistance to unemployed youths and self-help groups for income generation schemes.
- Distribution of handlooms and yarn to women folk of nearby villages.

#### **Education**

- Financial assistance to various educational institutions like schools and colleges in nearby areas for construction of libraries, classrooms and laboratories.
- Distribution of computers to various institutions and organizations of the State to generate and enhance computer literacy and awareness.
- Scholarships to meritorious students including girl students.

#### **Infrastructure Development**

- Development of village roads in the neighborhood of the refinery.
- Financial assistance for drinking water facilities in nearby villages.
- Financial assistance for construction of rural markets.

- Financial assistance for construction of low cost sanitary latrines in neighboring villages.
- Financial assistance for construction of public auditoriums.
- Financial assistance for construction of children parks.

#### **Community Health**

- Medical camps in the nearby villages at periodic intervals.
- Financial assistance to Public Health Centers in nearby areas for improved medical facilities.

#### **Promotion of Art, Sports and Culture**

- Financial assistance to premier literary bodies of the State for promotion of language and literature.
- Financial assistance to premier sports tournaments of the State.
- Financial assistance to various socio-cultural organizations for development in the fields of sports, art and culture in the State.

#### **Water Supply and Sanitation**

- Construction of ring-well for drinking water supply/tube wells/deep wells at several places, construction of sanitary latrines/toilets.
- Development of play-grounds, coaching for football, volleyball etc.
- Development of roads/drains for better connectivity/better hygiene.

(b) These Public Sector Oil Undertakings are spending 0.75% to 1.0% of their net profit after tax of the previous Financial Year on Corporate Social responsibility schemes. The funds spent by these PSUs on social welfare schemes in the State of Assam during the current year are as under:

PSU	Amount in lakh (Rs.)
IOCL	136.00
ONGC	347.48
NRL	340.90
Oil India Ltd.	828.11
BRPL	150.40

(c) and (d) Oil India Ltd., BRPL and NRL have reported that they have not engaged any NGO for implementing the social welfare schemes in the State. ONGC and IOC have, however, been utilizing the services of a few NGOs for implementation of social welfare schemes in the State of Assam.

#### **Revival of Closed/Sick Units of HFCL and FCIL**

421. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries in order to increase the indigenous production of fertilizers to meet the future demand and to chalk out financial models for revival of closed/sick units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) along with linkages including gas;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

(d) whether the Government have also taken initiatives to write-off GOI loan and interest liabilities of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and HFCL;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE ): (a) to (e) Pursuant to the Government's decision dated 30-10-2008, an Empowered Committee on Secrearies has been constituted by the Department of Fertilizers on 7th November, 2008. The Committee is yet to submit its report to the Government. Hence the details and action taken/proposed to be taken does not arise at this stage. As regards the write off of Government of India loans and interest liabilities of the Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), the Government has accorded in-principle approval for considering write off of GOI loans and interest liabilities. The final decision on waiver will be taken when fully tied up proposals for revival of each unit are received by the Government.

**New Trains from Delhi to  
Andhra Pradesh**

422. SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce new trains from New Delhi to Andhra Pradesh in view of heavy traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which new trains to Andhra Pradesh from New Delhi will be introduced?

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

(b) and (c) Introduction of Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express (Tri-weekly) via Kacheguda has been proposed in the Railway Budget for 2009-2010.

**Tilting of Historical Minarets**

423. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Qutab Minar has a tilt of 25 inches to the southwest and is in danger of leaning further in that direction;

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

(c) whether the Taj Mahal Minarets are also tilting dangerously and its base sinking to one side;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to restore these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Survey of India has conducted geodetic survey of Qutb Minar at the behest of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and submitted its report to ASI in last year. The report indicates that the Minar has tilted between 9 to 11 seconds from 1983 to 2005 and annual rate of tilt is only 0.5 to 3 seconds.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The study conducted by the Geodetic and Research Branch of the Survey of India during March-April 2005 has concluded that Minarets of Taj Mahal are quite stable both in plan and elevation.

(e) Conservation works are being done at these monuments regularly. Every care is taken to ensure that no damage is caused to them.

**Foreign Tourists**

424. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Foreign Tourists arrival in India at Global Level as compared to other countries;

(b) the manner in which it compares with countries like Singapore, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to attract tourists from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) In 2008, India's share of 0.58% (537 million) in total international tourist arrivals of 924 million world-wide registered an increase from 0.56% in 2007.

(b) The number of international tourist arrivals in Singapore, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines and India

during 2006 and 2007, the latest years for which comparable figures are available, are given below.

Country	International Tourist Arrivals (million)		
	2006	2007	Growth rate 2007/06
Singapore	7.59	7.96	4.9%
Thailand	13.82	14.46	4.6%
Sri Lanka	0.56	0.49	(-)11.7%
Philippines	2.84	3.09	8.7%
India	4.45	5.08	14.3%

The growth rate of tourist arrivals in India in 2007 over 2006 has been higher than all these countries. It may also be noted that the arrival figures of these countries except Sri Lanka include the arrivals of their nationals residing abroad. However, in case of India, the arrival figures do not include non-resident Indians (NRIs) as figures for NRIs visiting India are not available.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to attract more foreign tourists to India include:

- Development of tourism infrastructure at tourist sites with the cooperation of other Ministries/Departments and State/UT Governments;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure, particularly that for budget hotels;
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Direct approach to the consumers through electronic and print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
- Production and distribution of publicity material;

- Direct co-operative marketing with the airlines, tour operators and wholesalers in overseas markets;
- According greater focus to the emerging markets, particularly of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
- Participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions;
- Use of internet and web marketing; and
- Re-inforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tours to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

*[Translation]*

#### **Doubling of Kota-Bina Railway Line**

425. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have cleared the proposal for doubling of Kota-Bina railway line in the preliminary engineering cum traffic survey 2008-09; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said survey work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A survey for Bina-Kota doubling (283 km) was included in the Railway Budget for 2007-08. Survey is likely to be completed by 30-06-2009.

[English]

#### **Fillip to Tourism Sector**

426. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism and hospitality sector's share in the Gross Domestic Product is 5.83 per cent and its share in employment is 8.27 per cent only;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the economic stimulus package sought by the Ministry to improve its performance;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to give infrastructure status to tourism sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the impact of global meltdown and terrorism on the Indian tourism industry; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to bailout the tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As per Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for India, tourism contributed 5.83 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product and 8.27 per cent of total employment in the country during 2002-03.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Tourism suggested the inclusion of following measures in the economic bailout package of the Government to overcome the crisis faced by the tourism sector:—

- (i) Reduction in luxury tax,
- (ii) Revival of Section 80 D HHD of Income Tax Act for tourism sector,

(iii) Reimbursement of Service Tax up to 90% (presently abatement up to 75%),

(iv) Increasing Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of hotels,

(v) De-linking hotel projects from commercial real estate projects.

(e) and (f) Although the number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2008 at 5.37 million is higher than the FTAs of 5.08 million during 2007, the growth rate in FTAs during 2008 over 2007 is only 5.6% as compared to the growth rate of 14.3% in FTAs during 2007 over 2006. The lower growth rate in 2008 may be due to various reasons including the global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

To increase the tourist inflow in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has announced various promotional schemes like Visit India Year 2009, liberalization of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for overseas marketing, introduction of MDA scheme for the promotion of domestic and Meetings Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism.

#### **New Investment Policy for Fertilizer Sector**

427. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the response of the investors to the new investment policy in fertilizer sector announced by the Government in the recent past;

(b) whether the cost of urea has not been revised by the Government since 2002;

(c) if so, the cost of production of urea in year 2008 as compared to the cost in the year 2002:

(d) whether the profit margin of manufacturers of urea has come down since 2002; and

(e) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the manufacturing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The fertilizer industry has responded positively towards the new investment policy. The existing fertilizer companies have initiated revamp of their existing units viz. Chambal Fertilizers, KRIBHCO, Tata Chemicals Limited, NFL, RCF etc. Further, some of these companies have also expressed their interest towards expansion of their existing plants subject to assured availability of gas viz. IFFCO, Kalol, KRIBHCO Hazira, RCF Thal and CFCL Gadepan.

(b) The Government has not increased the MRP of urea since 2002. The MRP of urea is Rs. 4830/MT since 28-2-2002. For a brief period between February 28, 2003 to March 11, 2003 the same was Rs. 5070/MT of urea.

(c) The concession rate of urea for each unit is different based on feedstock/fuel, vintage, conversion cost etc. Irrespective of the concession rate the urea is sold at retail outlets at MRP of Rs. 4830/MT of urea. The weighted average concession rate for all urea producing units during 2002-03 and 2007-08 is given below:—

	2002-03 (Rs./PMT)	2007-08 Rs./PMT
Weighted average Concession rate including Sales Tax on inputs.	8558	11651
Weighted average freight	467	611
<b>Total</b>	<b>9025</b>	<b>12262</b>

(d) No, Sir.

(d) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) No Sir, the country has sufficient manufacturing capacity for supply of main plant equipment required for setting up of power generation plants as per targets set under the 11th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

#### **Machinery for Power Generation Plants**

428. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of machinery required for setting up of power generation plants;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to expand Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to facilitate supply of machinery for power plants;

(c) whether there is any proposal to create any other enterprise on the lines of BHEL for supply of machines to the power plants in future; and

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is a major contributor in the power generation equipment manufacturing and has been successfully meeting the demands of the sector. BHEL has taken various steps to meet the increase demand of power generation which include:

- Enhancement of power generation equipment manufacturing capacity from 6,000 MW to 10,000 MW per annum achieved in December, 2007, further to 15,000 MW per annum by



December, 2009 and to 20,000 MW per annum by December 2011.

- Upgradation/Introduction of new technologies through technology tie-ups for super-critical thermal power sets and Advanced-Class Gas Turbine sets.
- A joint venture NTPC-BHEL Power Projects Private Ltd., (NBPPL) has been formed with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to complement the activities of both the promoter companies, particularly for executing Engineering Procurement and construction (EPC) Projects.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**New Railway Station at  
Vandanam, Alappuzha**

429. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to create a new railway station at Vandanam, Alappuzha in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER: I adjourn the House till 12.00 noon.

11.16 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Twelve of the Clock.*

12.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at  
Twelve of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, 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 Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, 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 10587/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10588/09]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10589/09]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10590/09]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10591/09]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions)

showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10592/09]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2007-2008.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10593/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934:—
- (i) The Aircraft (6th Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 870(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2008, together with an explanatory note.
- (ii) The Aircraft (1st Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 21(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2009, together with an explanatory note.
- (iii) The Aircraft (Second Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 19(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008, together with an explanatory note.
- (iv) The Aircraft (5th Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 812(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2008, together with an explanatory note.

[Shri Praful Patel]

- (v) The Aircraft (4th Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 813(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2008, together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10594/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): 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 Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10595/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Jodhpur, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Jodhpur, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10596/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Brahmaputra Valley

Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10597/09]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10598/09]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Cochin, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Cochin, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10599/09]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10600/09]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Seven statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10601/09]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10602/09]
- (5) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, 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 10603/09]
- (6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2544(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2008 indicating the supplies of urea to be made by domestic manufacturers of urea to States and Union Territories during Rabi Season 2008-2009 under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10604/09]

- (7) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10605/09]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Some business is going on. You are a senior Member. You should know that you cannot speak like this.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, 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:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General 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 10606/09]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Shrimati Meira Kumar]

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Backward Classes, 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 10607/09]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, on behalf of Shri Raghunath Jha, 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) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Karnataka, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Karnataka, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10608/09]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Triveni Structural Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Triveni Structural Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10609/09]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10610/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006:—

- (i) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Determination of Natural Gas Pipeline Tariff) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 807(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2008.

- (ii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 800(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 2008.

- (iii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Determination of Network Tariff for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks and Compression Charge for CNG) Amendment Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 801(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 2008.

- (iv) The Petroleum and Natural Gas



[Secretary-General]

in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from amongst the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

2. 'I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, Shri Amar Singh, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Committee.'

(iii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 23rd December, 2008 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one Member from Rajya Sabha, to associate with the Committee of both the Houses on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Veer Singh who retired from the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 2008 and do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from amongst the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, Shri Ambeth Rajan, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Committee.'

12.01¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC  
DISTRIBUTION

28th Report

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):  
Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food,

Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2008-09) on action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the 24th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2008-09) pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

12.01½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
COAL AND STEEL

39th Report

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on "The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2008".

12.02 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

53rd Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, I beg to present the Fifty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UN-  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 1963 DATED  
11-12-2008 REGARDING NEW RAILWAY  
LINES IN GUJARAT ALONGWITH GIVING  
REASONS FOR DELAY IN CORRECTING  
THE REPLY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, I beg to make the

following statement.

This is with reference to the reply to part (a), (b) and (c) of the Unstarred Question No. 1963 answered on 11-12-2008 asked by S/Shri Mahesh Kanodia, Harin Pathak, Bhupendrasinh Solanki, Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar. In part (a), it has been stated that, "As per available records, no such proposal has been received

from State Government of Gujarat" and in part (b) and (c) "Do not arise." Since Minister of Revenue, Disaster Management, Roads and Building, Capital Project, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat had written a letter to Minister of Railways requesting for 10 new rail lines, the reply has been corrected to give factual position.

**THE REVISED POSITION THEREFORE IS AS UNDER:**

Part	Existing	Revised
(a)	As per available records, no such proposal has been received from State Government of Gujarat	(a) to (c) A statement is attached.
(b) and (c)	Do not arise.	

**REASONS FOR DELAY**

**Statement**

The corrective statement of the Parliament Question could not be made before the Parliament in time as this discrepancy was known only through a letter from Member of Parliament. The Session of the Parliament was adjourned sine-die on 23-12-2008 leaving no time to put up this reply.

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Minister of Revenue, Disaster Management, Roads and Building, Capital Project, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat had sent a letter in February, 2008 requesting for 10 new rail lines in Gujarat. The details and status of the proposed new lines is as under:—

Sl. No.	Proposal	Status
1	2	3
1.	Virangam-Sankheshwar	No survey for these lines have been taken up.
2.	Daman-Nasik	
3.	Nadiad-Tarapur-Khoda-Matar	
4.	Godhra-Dahod-Indore-Devas	There is already a rail line between Indore-Dewas and Dahod-Godhra. Construction of new line from Indore-Dahod has been taken up.
5.	Tarapur-Mahemdavad	No survey has been taken up.
6.	Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma-Ambaji	A meter gauge line already exists from Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur. The gauge conversion of this line has



1	2	3
		been taken up. The survey for gauge conversion of Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma with extension to Abu Road via Ambaji has been taken up.
7.	Mahesana-Harij-Radhanpur	Survey completed. Proposal could not be considered due to un-remunerative nature, heavy throw forward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources.
8.	Vejalpur-Botad	No such survey has been taken up.
9.	Rajkot-Jaipur-Marwar	There is already a railway line connecting Rajkot, Marwar and Jaipur.
10.	Porbandar-Porbandar Port	Survey completed recently. Survey report is under examination.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10614/09]

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day are to be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to release the full share of surplus water of Ravi and Beas rivers to Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Sir, on 31-12-81 there was a unanimity among the then Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in the presence of hon. Prime Minister regarding distribution of surplus water of Ravi-Beas rivers. According to this agreement the share of Rajasthan was fixed at 8.6 M.A.F. There was a provision in the agreement that so long as Rajasthan is not in a position to use its full share of water, Punjab will use the surplus water share of Rajasthan. Only 8 M.A.F. water had been allocated to Rajasthan. Due to speedy development of Indira Gandhi Canal system, Rajasthan State is in a position

to use its full share of water for the last many years. Rajasthan has many times requested the Union Government, Government of Punjab and Bhakra Beas Management Board to release its balance share of 0.60 M.A.F. water but the same is not being released by the Government of Punjab.

So, I urge the Government of India to issue instructions in this regard to the Bhakra Beas Management Board to release 0.60 M.A.F. water to Rajasthan.

- (ii) **Need to declare betel leave as an agricultural crop and extend the benefits of crop-insurance and other schemes meant for agriculture sector to it**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, the Garhi Malhara and Maharajpur areas in Chhattarpur district in Madhya Pradesh are famous from olden times for the production of betel leaves. Due to the very good quality of betel leaves produced here, the same are being sold at a very high price in all betel Mandis of the country. The betel leaves of this area used to be exported to Pakistan in bulk quantity but its production is being affected in the absence of promotional schemes from the Government side. It is an irony that the production

\*Treated as laid on the table.

of betel leaves has neither been included in agriculture nor in the industry list. Due to this the producers are not getting any benefits.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to include betel production and provide the benefits of governmental schemes to its producers and also provide coverage of crop insurance schemes.

**(iii) Need to expedite the conduct of draw of lots for housing units built by D.D.A. and various co-operative housing societies in Delhi**

*[English]*

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): There is an acute shortage of affordable Housing in the country and especially in Metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai. The Delhi Development Authority which was entrusted with the responsibility of building dwelling units for the citizens of Delhi has failed to live upto the expectations. There is a yawning gap between demand and supply of housing in Delhi. The DDA and the cooperative movement in housing sector too has not been able to ameliorate the problems faced by the Delhiites. The Registrar of Cooperative Society, Delhi responsible for cooperative housing societies, invited proposals from 48 eligible cooperative societies in February, 2008 which were not under CBI scanner, for draw of lot. These houses were built way back in 1998 to 2001. However, draw of lot was conducted only for 15 societies during last one year.

Incidentally, Delhi High Court has also directed the Department to conduct draw of lot for the societies which are not under CBI probe and complete the allotment process within a month to avoid any hardships to the genuine members of the Society. It is learnt that meeting of Committee which was to screen proposals for draw of lot did not meet in total disregard to the statute on the subject. As such, there is a bureaucratic hurdle in conducting the meeting of the committee.

I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Urban Development to direct DDA and Cooperative Department of Delhi, to conduct draw of lots expeditiously. At the

same time, the bureaucratic delays should be overcome and meeting of the Committee convened from time to time.

**(iv) Need to provide stoppages of important trains including Rajdhani Express at Pali, Rajasthan**

*[Translation]*

SHRI PUSP JAIN (Pali): Sir, my constituency Pali district is very important from trade, industries and historical point of view. The Pali district is very backward from the railway point of view and even today no direct rail service is available from Pali district headquarters to the national capital Delhi and also the state capital of Jaipur. Apart from it, many important trains also do not have a stoppage in Pali district. Thousands of passengers travel daily to various parts of the country from a number of important railway stations like Jawai Dam, Phalna, Rani, Marwad Junction, Sojat Road but they have to suffer a lot of difficulties due to lack of stoppages of trains. Apart from it, survey for the Bar-Bilada railway line, which is only 54 k.m. in length has also been made a number of times but no positive orders have been received till date. An important train like Rajdhani passes through 6 Assembly Constituencies of my Parliamentary Constituency but due to lack of any stoppage, the people of this area are deprived of this train facility. I request the hon. Railway Minister to take appropriate action by paying attention to it.

**(v) Need to include 'Namosudh Bengali' and 'Mahara' and 'Mahar' castes of Chhattisgarh in the list of Scheduled castes**

SHRI SOHAN POTAI (Kanker): Sir, a resolution has been sent to give Scheduled Castes status to Namosudh Bengalis of Chhattisgarh State. There is a need to give the status of Scheduled Castes to them like other States.

Similarly, the Mehra caste has been given the status of Scheduled Castes. Due to minor spelling differences Mahara and Mahar are deprived of this benefit and the people of these communities face difficulties in getting caste certificates. They should be

[Shri Sohan Potai]

given this benefit by making suitable amendments in this regard.

**(vi) Need to give approval to the Kochi Metro Rail Project in Kerala**

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): The Government of Kerala had decided to implement the Kochi Metro Project on the lines of the Delhi Metro project where 30 per cent of the project cost was to be borne by the State and Central Government on a 50:50 basis and the balance amount was to be raised as debt from lending agencies. The detailed project report was prepared by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC) and the Union Ministry of Urban Development had approved the project. However, the Planning Commission has refused to approve the project. The Planning Commission wants a private party brought into the Metro Project on a Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) model on the lines of the Hyderabad Metro Project. I urge upon the Prime Minister to intervene into the matter and ensure a speedy approval of the Kochi Metro Rail Project on the basis of the funding pattern suggested by the Government of Kerala.

**(vii) Need to initiate a new set of economic measures to tackle the global economic recession affecting Indian economy**

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Joblessness is fast rising in India and according to a survey of the Ministry of labour and employment in which 2,581 units covering 20 centres across 11 states and eight major sectors like the textiles, garment industry, metals and metal products, information technology, business process outsourcing, automobiles, gems and jewellery, transportation, construction and mining industries were included. The total employment in these sectors had come down from 16.2 million in September, 2008 to 15.7 million by December, 2008 due to the global recession affecting the Indian industry.

India's exports, too, have been declining every

month since October, 2008 due to slump in demand in the U.S. and Europe. Many units have downed their shutters and laid off their staff. If this trend continues, it is quite likely that it would render another 5,00,000 workers jobless before March 31 as stated by Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

On the one hand joblessness is fast rising due to liberalization policy like privatization of public sector, opening up insurance sector, FDI in multibrand retail, supply of seeds by the multinational companies, closing down of fertilizer units of public sector and Satyam episode and on the other hand there is a policy of Forward Trading which is not conducive to our economy. There is a need to make available food at affordable price to poor people and to identify the actual number of people who are living below the poverty line. In order to resist the economic slow down, I urge upon the Government to initiate land-reforms and implement Swaminathan Committee report, make provision for fund and investment in infrastructure development, revive the closed public sector units, policy of PF to the unorganized sector workers, strengthen public distribution system, levy taxes on corporate houses, relax excise duty for small investors, uniform tax structure and proper distribution policy of iron ore and other minerals policy and wage cut and retrenchment should not be allowed.

**(viii) Need to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in Hamirpur and Mahoba districts of Hamirpur Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.) Sir, there is an urgent need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Hamirpur-Mahoba districts in my parliamentary constituency. I have been making this demand to the Central Government for the last four years but no steps have been taken in this regard by the Ministry of Human Resource Development so far.

I request the Central Government through this House that instructions be issued with immediate effect to open Kendriya Vidyalaya in both the said districts.

**(ix) Need to enhance the Provident Fund Pension of retired Government employees**

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, Provident Fund Pension of Government Employees was enhanced on 16-11-1995 last time and the poor hardworking employees were benefited by that pension scheme. In last 14-15 years, price rise has reached to its peak, but no step has been taken by the Government to enhance the Provident Fund Pension of the employees. It seems that the employees are being denied their due demand. Now it is being reported that instead of enhancing pension of retired employees, Government is going to repeal section 12 and 13 of provident fund and it will cause a loss of six hundred rupees to small pension beneficiaries. Instead of extending benefits to them, the amount of their pension bound is going to be reduced. It would be a injustice to the retired employees.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Prime Minister to this and request that instead of repealing section 12 and 13 of Provident Fund steps should be taken for enhancement of pension without any delay and to extend benefits to the families of crores of retired employees.

**(x) Need to expedite the process for the inclusion of Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi-Anglong and in North Cachar Hill Autonomous Districts in the S.T. (Hills) list of Assam**

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Union Government of India to the long pending and genuine issue that pertains to the urgent need for the inclusion of the Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi Anglong and in North Cachar Hills Autonomous Districts in the list of Scheduled Tribes (Hills) in Assam as per Clause No. 8 of the new Bodo Accord signed on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2003 on 'Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)' concept under the provision of the Sixth Schedule to the constitution of India between the Union Government

of India and the State Government of Assam on the one side and the leaders of the erstwhile Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) on the other. However, nothing tangible has been done so far in this regard even after the lapse of five years since the signing of the aforesaid Accord. The inaction of the Government in this regard has caused a strong sense of resentment and frustration in the minds and hearts of surrendered cadres of the erstwhile Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) within Karbi Anglong Autonomous Districts.

I would like to urge upon the Union Government of India to take appropriate steps to help speed up the process of inclusion of the Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi Anglong and in North Cachar Hills Autonomous Districts in the list of Scheduled Tribes (Hills) in Assam as per Clause No. 8 of the new Bodo Accord at the earliest.

12.04 hrs.

**RESERVATION OF POSTS FOR  
SCHEDULED CASTES AND  
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item Nos. 13 to 16 to be taken together.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, before the Minister gives reply please permit me to speak for a minute...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice for adjournment. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. As and when, if at all, the Bill comes up for discussion you will get an opportunity to speak. I do

[Mr. Speaker]

not know why you are disturbing the proceedings now. You are taking an amazing attitude on this!

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Sir, we accept that this Bill has been passed by Rajya Sabha, but this Bill which has been brought in...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Minister on this. Let us hear him. The Government wants to respond.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bahujan Samaj Party strongly oppose this Bill. While opposing this Bill, Bahujan Samaj Party stages walk out of the House.

12.04½ hrs.

*(Shri Rajesh Verma and some other hon. Members then left the House)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what you are doing!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, if you behave like this, I will ask you to go out.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would not tolerate this. You will have to leave the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to leave the House.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, some of the provisions which are proposed were discussed yesterday by the Leader of the House with eight to ten important Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Members and also the important leaders of the House. The following amendments have been suggested by the leaders. ...(Interruptions) The amendment is that clause 1(3) will come into effect immediately...(Interruptions) As regards clause 3(1), this will be specified as: Scheduled Castes—15 per cent and Scheduled Tribes—7.5 per cent...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, it has not been supplied to us. How is he making this statement?

MR. SPEAKER: He is just announcing it because there is disturbance in the House. Do not disturb him. You please go ahead

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is intolerant here. Nobody tolerates the views of others.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it.

(Interruptions)\*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Clause 4(1) [i] [ii] [iii] [iv], Clauses 4(2) 4(3) and the Schedule will also be removed. As regards, Clause 9(1), the word 'desirable' will be removed...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Be happy now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Lalu Prasad to give his reply.

...(Interruptions)

---

\*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Let me reply...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is replying to a very important debate on the Railways which you have discussed for so many hours. Please cooperate.

12.06 hrs.

INTERIM RAILWAY BUDGET, 2009-2010;  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT  
(RAILWAYS) 2009-2010;  
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY  
GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 2008-2009  
AND  
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS  
(RAILWAYS) 2006-2007

[*English*]

\*SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I have requested for at least one railway line between Guntur and Tenali for doubling and electrification. It would cost a sum of Rs. 70 to Rs. 80 crores. Unfortunately, the Railway Minister has not provided this amount for the people of Andhra Pradesh. I would request the hon. Minister to provide this amount for the doubling and electrification of Guntur and Tenali railway line. This would pave the way for running the Circular Train connecting three most important stations namely Guntur-Tenali-Vijayawada.

Another important issue is doubling and electrification of Guntur and K.C. Canal. The interesting thing about this line is that the work of doubling and electrification has been completed a year back but Railway Safety Inspection has not been conducted since then. Hence, I would humbly request the hon. Minister to inaugurate the doubling and electrification of Guntur and K.C. Canal line immediately.

I would like to elaborate on this. Guntur-Krishna

\*Speech was laid on the table.

Canal doubling work was sanctioned in the year 2006-07 and executed at a cost of more than Rs. 100 crores. The double line between Guntur and Mangalagiri (20.28 Km) was opened for passenger traffic on 28-12-07. Mangalagiri-Krishna Canal portion of the work was completed and application was sent to CRS for inspection in April 2008. At that time, Shri R.P. Agrawal was CRS and before the inspection was fixed, he was transferred. Then, additional charge was given to CRS, Bangalore. The Construction Organisation has been trying to get the section inspected by CRS and so far the inspection, has not been carried out. The proposal sent by CAO/CN has been returned twice by CRS and last time the railway was asked to give the details in the performa adopted by Southern Railway. Accordingly, the details have been filled and sent to CRS on 14-2-2009.

The Guntur-Vijayawada section is a busy corridor catering to Goods Suburban and long distance traffic. Everyday, about 46 trains ply in the section. In the entire stretch of 33 Kms of track between GNT-BZA, a double line is available for 27 Kms and single line is available for a small stretch of 6 Kms between MAG and KCC which has become a bottleneck for the smooth flow of rail traffic.

The railways which has invested more than Rs. 100 crores in the doubling of the section, has not benefited from investment due to non-opening of the small stretch of double line between MAG-KCC even though the works were completed nearly a year back.

I would request the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Lajuji to kindly consider the above issues raised by me.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Rail Budget has total disenchantment to Madhya Pradesh. I would like to make a submission particularly about the places located between Bina-Katni. People of Sagar Damoh area have been demanding for the years together for a southern states bound train service by way of this track.

\*Speech was laid on the table.

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

Demand for Intercity Express between Sagar and Bhopal is also made repeatedly. Similarly, there was a hope that DMU shuttle service will be started between Bina-Bhopal because there is no train from Sagar, after 12 O'clock in the afternoon and there is no train from Bina to Sagar after 11.30 till evening. Need for these train services have been completely ignored in Rail budget. Refinery work in Bina has been progressing very fast and a power plant is about to be installed there as well. Bhopal-Delhi Shatabdi Express was to be given a halt at Bina Junction due to refinery being located there. But this most important demand was also ignored. I would like to make a special mention about this that during the action for removal of encroachment near Bina Station on 3 October, 2008, the way I was brutally lathi charged, it was a condemnable act in itself. Sir, lathi charge is resorted to on a crowd and not on a single person and that too when he is unarmed. Secondly, in lathi charge light attacks are made on legs but in this case, attack with lathi was made on head and the Railway Armed Force personnel left the place leaving me behind in a serious condition. I was taken to the hospital by GRP. They told me it I did not know about the powers given to Railway Armed Police Force to use lathi charge brutally on people. Sir, even common people should not be lathi charged with such brutality. I was not against the removal of encroachment. I myself had made a submission while speaking on the rail budget last time for removal of encroachment on land measuring approximately 400 acre belonging to Railways near Bina Railway Station which was being used as agricultural land or awarded on contract basis but that encroachment has not been removed till date. During the festive season, Railway administration has become adamant for vacating few sq. meters of land being occupied by 10-20 shopkeepers. I simply made a request to the G.M. and DRM, Bhopal for removal of encroachment upon the land after Dussehra and this led to such a big incident by Railway Protection Force.

Sir, so far, I have not fully recovered from the effects of that incident on my body and health but I have to say with a heavy heart that no action has been

taken against the guilty officials and Railway police force till date and they make a mockery by saying what harm could I do to them. Sir, this is not the question of a Member of Parliament but about the prestige of this Supreme House. If bureaucracy becomes so despotic then how public representative will be able to discharge their duties? Therefore, the entire House should take a serious note of this incident and stern action should be taken against the guilty officials and personnel so that such type of incidents do not recur in future.

I would also like to draw your attention towards the major problems related to railways and requirements of my parliamentary constituency redressal about which should specifically be mentioned in the reply to the rail budget. Earlier, there was stoppage of Utkal Express at Ganesh Ganj station. The stoppage of Utkal Express at Ganeshganj should be restored.

Kshipra Express, Kamayani Express and Godwana Express should be given a stoppage at Jarubakheda Station.

A large number of students travel to Kota for pursuing their studies and traders also go to Kota from Khurai Station. Therefore, the stoppage of Jabalpur-Kota Express at Khurai Station should be rewined.

Bina-Itarasi Express should be given a stoppage at Naraiawali Station.

Jabalpur Kota Express should be provided a stoppage at Makroniya and Jarubakheda station.

A new train from Rewa of West Central Railway to Chennai/Bangalore/Thiruvananthapuram should be started via Rewa, Satna, Katni, Bina, Bhopal route.

Indore-Howrah-Kshipra Express always runs to its full capacity and it should be run on all the seven days of a week.

While converting Damoh Kota shuttle into fast passenger train, the number of bogies should be increased, sleeper coaches be attached and should be extended upto Udaipur via Chittorgarh. By doing so, middle class tourists and traders of Madhya Pradesh

can be provided travel facility to visit Rajasthan. Bina-Kota Express route should be extended upto Jaipur.

A new train should be started from Jaipur to Howrah and Vishakhapatnam via Kota-Guna-Bina-Sagar-Katni-Bilaspur.

9306-9305 Kshipra Express and Chambal Express should be linked to Manikpur station and this train should run upto Howrah. This way daily train can be provided for Howrah via Indore-Bhopal-Sagar-Damoh.

Swarn Jayanti Express from Nizamuddin to Vishakhapatnam should be run on a changed route via Bina-Sagar-Katni-Bilaspur-Raipur to Vishakhapatnam.

A weekly train should be introduced from Jabalpur to Ganganagar (Rajasthan).

A Bundelkhand passenger train should be introduced on Kanpur-Khairar-Banda-Manikpur-Satna-Katni-Damoh-Sagar-Bina route.

The arrival time of Bhopal-Bilaspur at Katni should be coordinated with Chitrakoot Express so that people coming from or going Lucknow can get connectivity for Katni.

Approval for Chhatarpur-Sagar-Kareli-Chhindwara-Nagpur rail line should be given.

The retiring room at Sagar Station should have proper cleanliness and cleanbeds should be provided.

It is quite necessary to have a GRP post at platform no. 2 at Sagar Railway Station as many anti-social elements roam around on this platform. Sagar is an army headquarters, so, there should be a separate reservation window for army personnel.

There is a heavy traffic of goods train from Sagar to Bina-Katni rail line and staff is changed here. Therefore, goods trains generally stop here. So, an additional platform should be constructed alongside the platform no. 2.

A ramp should be built at Sagar station on the lines of Bina station for the convenience of patients using wheelchair.

Sheds on the both sides of Ganesh Ganj, Makronia, Ishukara, Naryawali, Jaruakhera, Dangidahar stations should be built for protection from sun and rain.

Ratauna station should be expanded and new up and down railway lines should be laid.

Hirakund Express should run on all seven days of week instead of three days a week.

The length of shed at platform no. 2 at Khurai station should be extended.

All Express Trains should have a stoppage at Makronia suburban station.

A flyover should immediately be built on Kanpur-Bhopal National Highways near Makronia Station since the level crossing here often remain closed.

A foot overbridge should be built from the Post Office located at Sagar Railway Station to Tilakganj so that common people can cross over to the road.

Station yard should be cemented so as to facilitate sanitation.

Telephone booths should be equipped with Fax and Internet facilities.

An SBI ATM should be installed keeping in view the convenience of the passengers.

Approval should be granted to Chhatarpur-Sagar-Kareli-Chhindwara-Nagpur railway line.

A commercial halt should be provided at Bina and Sagar for Chhattisgarh Sampark Kranti Express and reservation quota should also be fixed for Sagar.

Bina junction caters to a large number of trains and on many occasions trains are stopped at the outer signals due to non-availability of vacant platform. Therefore, additional platforms should be constructed there.

Anandpur is a famous religious place on Bina-Guna railway line. Goa Express and other trains are provided stoppage there twice in a year during the 15 days long fairs each. So, Goa Express, Pushpak



[Shri Virendra Kumar]

Express and Nanded-Sachkhand Express should be provided stoppage at Bina.

Bina Bajaria Shamashan Ghat is located at Jhansi Gate in Bina owing to which it is not being renovated. A railway colony is also there. Therefore, it should be renovated.

Earlier, Pathankot Express had a stoppage at Karaunda station, it should be restored for the convenience of villagers.

Mandi- Bamora Station is the main centre of more than fifty villages of Bina and Kurwai region wherefrom people board the trains for Bhopal and Delhi. Therefore, stoppage of Kshipra Express and Jhelum Express should be provided at Mandi Bamora Station.

Gondwana Express is a very profit earning train from revenue point of view which never runs empty. It should originate from Jabalpur as a fullfledged train.

Wheelchairs in good working condition should be provided at Bina-Khurai-Sagar Stations.

Railway Overbridges should be built immediately at Jhansi level crossing and Sagar level crossing in Bina city.

[English]

\*SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): I congratulate the Hon'ble Railway Minister for having kept up his past record in presenting a people friendly Railway Budget this time too.

Although cash surplus for this time has been projected to be lower, the Hon'ble Minister has kept up his word to the common man by effecting a marginal token reduction in passenger fares.

Having said this, I have also a few suggestions to make for improvement in certain areas, mostly relating to my region in Kerala.

It is heartening to note that the Railways have

---

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

formed a land development and estate management cell to administer and manage surplus railway land by utilizing these for developmental and commercial purposes. I observe from the recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India that this land management cell is still manned by officials not trained in estate management. Moreover these officials are not solely looking after estate management but are also doing other work as well. It is also observed that the incident of public encroachment on railway land is on the increase and the eviction cases are not handled properly by railway officials. I request that the land management cells be strengthened with more trained manpower.

In Kannur—my constituency—more than 40 acres of surplus railway land is there near Kannur Railway station. This was finally admitted that around 52 acres of land, only forty acres are left for development.

This additional vacant land of the railways at Kannur station is presently used for dumping garbage and not kept properly. This land—twenty acres on each side of the station—can be developed and used for parking lot for the public. There was such a proposal to develop this vacant and barren area but due to the tussle between the Railway Zonal and Divisional offices which work on bureaucratic ways, no progress has been made for identifying the exact extent of vacant land around Kannur Railway Station. It is surprising that out of this forty acres of vacant and encroached land, the railway officials have declared only around 8 acres for development. I request that stringent measures for assessment of railway land be taken and strict vigil be kept on zonal/divisional railway officials who are bent upon working against public interest on the pretext of following age-old rules and regulations of the railways which have become anti-people.

There has been a long pending demand from the local people for building a ROB in Kannur between Kannur and Tellicherry at Thazhechoval Nadal and despite the readiness of Kannur Municipality, the railway officials have put technical hurdles in this proposal. Likewise the proposal for doubling of the track between Kannur and Baliapatam—around 5 kms—is still far from

completion. Although the civil and permanent way work has been completed the trial run has not taken place just because the Railway Safety Inspector of the division has no time to conduct safety survey of the track. I request that such officials be given deadline by the railways to conduct and complete safety trial runs within a stipulated time.

There has been a long pending demand from the people of my region to link Kannur with Kottiyur where the Mahadeva Temple is considered as the Kashi of the South. When this important link is developed the areas like Mattanur and hilly tracts of Mananthavady will be linked to the main line. There has been a steady and large flow of pilgrims to Kottiyur Mahadeva Temple throughout the year and this line when commissioned will be proven a commercially viable project.

Like the Thrissur-Guruvayour link which is serving the pilgrims for the last many years, there is also a need to develop this Kannur-Kottiyour railway link thereby providing better communication and movement benefits for the people of hill tract of Mattanur and Manathavady. I strongly demand that a token provision be made in this budget for taking up the preliminary survey on this important project.

I would also request that the frequency of the mail/express trains from Kannur towards Mangalore be improved. For instance, after the departure of Malabar Mail to Mangalore around 9.30 am there are no other fast trains for six hours in a stretch.

There is also a long pending demand from the people of North Malabar for a Shatabdi train from Kozhikode to Madgaon and vice versa, as this will provide easy access to large number of tourists visiting Kerala and Goa on both directions. From my assessment of the volume traffic on this sector—mainly tourists—travelling between Goa and Kerala—it would generate good revenue for the railways if such a Shatabdi train is introduced between Kazhikode and Madgaon. Instead of going for Bullet trains, we should concentrate on projects like this which benefit travellers in large numbers.

I would also request that the frequency of the existing Kannur-Yeshwantpur Express be increased from the present 3 day weekly to daily as there is a regular volume of travellers on this route daily.

The newly announced projects should have even handed to benefit the entire nation but it seems that almost all 45 new projects announced in this budget are cornered by the states to which the ministers belong.

With these suggestions and observations, I commend the budget for approval.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): The hon'ble Minister of Railways has made big announcements this year also as he made every year, to keep people engrossed in dreaming about them. The hon'ble Minister has tried to project Railways as a profit earning institution worth thousands of crore of rupees as he has been doing during all his previous budgets. Sir, through you, I would like to tell this House that this year also Hon'ble Minister of Railways has made several announcements including introduction of Bullet Trains. But like the last Railway Budget, it will take years for these announcements to become a reality.

I would like to give the example of my constituency, Khurja, where announcement regarding laying of several kilometers of rail lines were made but no work has been started. The Minister of Railways seems to be unhappy with western Uttar Pradesh and, perhaps for this reason, he did not announce any big project for this region in his budget speech. For the last several years, I have been attracting the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and his colleagues. Despite this, my constituency is being ignored by them, right from his first rail budget to the last rail budget.

Sir, Bulandshahar district is the oldest district of Uttar Pradesh. This district is known for many important produces in the country, for example, the district is known countrywide for cotton. This is the premier district

---

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ashok Pradhan]

in the country for the production of wheat and even today Bulandshahar is leading in milk production.

Sir, even after 62 years of independence, this district is not connected with the main line or the railways. The local passengers have to go to Ghaziabad, Hapur and Aligarh to reach their destinations.

Sir, I request you that keeping in view the hardships and neglect of the people of district Bulandshahar, it may please be connected with the main line of the railway.

Sir, if the name of Chola Chowki station, which is located in district Bulandshahar, is changed to Bulandshahar junction and stoppage of major trains is ensured there besides fixing reservation quota for it, and modernising Bulandshahar district station then, certainly, the residents of Bulandshahar district and its suburbs will be benefited and all the people of the area as also I myself will always feel grateful to him.

Sir, I not only hope but also believe that a popular Railway Minister like him will certainly fulfil this demand.

Sir, moreover, there is an urgent need to build a railway halt at village Tajpur. Stoppage of trains at this place will facilitate the village residents to reach their destinations. Owing to the proximity of district Bulandshahar to the National Capital Region, the load village residents make to and fro journeys to Delhi and other places and this will facilitate the local farmers and milkmen go to Delhi and adjoining markets to sell their produce and the residents who are employed in government and non-government organizations as also daily commuters and students will have the facility to reach their destinations.

Sir, Khurja is an important railway junction from where about two lakh people travel daily but no discussion has ever been held on its modernization. Besides, due to non-stoppage of North East-Express at Khurja junction, jawans engaged in the security of the country face huge inconvenience. It is important to mention here that majority of jawans in the army hail

from Bulandshahar district and while saluting the soil of the district. I would like to mention in my speech that maximum number of jawans of this district laid down their lives while fighting for the security and honour of the country, I pay homage to those martyrs. I request that all mail-express trains going towards North-Eastern States should be stopped at Khurja junction for the convenience in travel to jawans engaged in the security of the country. Sir, the neglect of Khurja is evident from the fact that in the time table issued by the railways, i.e., 'Train at a Glance', this station does not even find a mention.

Sir, besides, all the railway stations falling in my parliamentary constituency are in a dilapidated condition and no efforts have ever been made for the development thereof. Some of these prominent stations are Dadri, where there is a container depot, which is also in a dilapidated condition. Besides, there are Chola, Dankaur station and Fatehpur Makarandpur (Halt), where important trains do not have any stoppage. There is a need for construction of railway fly-overs at Dankaur station (Shyam Nagar Mandi) and at Chola station.

Sir, just now a reference was made to running fastest train, i.e., bullet train in the country according to which bullet trains are proposed to be run from Mumbai to Ahmedabad and Delhi to Patna. But, since Uttar Pradesh is the biggest State of the country, there is no mention in the speech of the hon. Minister of Railways of connecting its capital, Lucknow with National Capital, Delhi, by a bullet train. Owing to it, there is great resentment among the people of Uttar Pradesh. I would request the Hon. Minister to run a bullet train from Lucknow to Delhi in the first phase.

I would thank the Hon. Minister of Railways for starting the work on Dadri flyover, for which I have been making demand for years. But the pace of work is very slow there.

I and the people of my parliamentary constituency would be grateful to the Hon. Minister of Railways if he fulfils the above demands.

Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Rail-budget.

\*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, trains are very useful in view of the passenger traffic and goods transportation. They have a social obligation too. In view of the extension of network of the railways, its effects on the smooth operation of trains were expected. Several new zones, new divisions have been created due to which there is a lot of work pressure on the Ministry of Railways and the Railway Board. As far as the Railway Board is concerned, it is effectively fulfilling its obligations. Although there is an earmarked division of work in the Railway Board, there is need for creation of more posts besides its restructuring after a re-allocation of division of work to ensure smooth functioning of trains, passenger amenities, systematic transportation of goods, etc. Though, it is being said for the last few years that Railways has earned much profit but if this profit was properly used, then there would have been progress in the work pertaining to new railway lines and doubling and electrification of lines. But all these works are being executed on a very slow speed. The way profit is being earned at present by enhancing the capacity of goods bogies for transportation will ultimately result in reducing the operational capacity of the bogies and soon they will become useless. We always talk about the passenger facilities but there is complete lack of cleanliness, there is no facility for refreshment and there is no sitting arrangement at the stations. Passengers are compelled to wait standing in the open during the rainy season and in summer. All these problems need to be addressed. Passengers facility are not going to be enhanced just by changing the names of trains. Sometime back several general trains or fast trains were converted into Superfast trains, but their speed remained the same. They stop at each station. They are not saving passenger's time but increasing burden of fare on them. The Minister of Railways is calling this a benefit. Burden on passengers pocket has increased.

Similarly, reservation facility provided to general public through Tatkal reservation system was also

curtailed to earn profits by providing the facility to a few people. Due to this the passengers who used to be benefited in the past, are now left deprived and they are compelled to travel without reservation or keep standing. Even platform ticket charges have been increased. I was speaking about refreshment facilities. Either there is lack of such facilities or their standard is deteriorating day by day. This deterioration in services is seen even in Shatabdi trains also.

Railways has set its target for uniform gauge. The work in this regard is going on at snail's pace. There have been talks of conversion of several meter gauge lines, but these could not be converted. I would like to cite an example of meter gauge line on Ratlam-Khandwa-Akola section. Even after sanctioning of gauge conversion work on the said section, the said work should have been completed rapidly but that is not the case and today the passengers going to Ajmer who reach Ratlam from Khandwa are forced to wait for long periods for onward journey. Therefore, gauge conversion work should be done at the earliest. If doubling of lines, where gauge conversion has been completed, is not done then the desired benefits will not come. The line between Ratlam-Ajmer has been converted into broadgauge, if its doubling is done soon, which is extremely necessary, it will be used as an additional line for Mumbai to Delhi or Delhi to South India. There is a need for doubling of Ajmer-Ratlam line. Railways should undertake this work immediately. There is a broadgauge line between Neemuch and Chittor, but another meter gauge line is running parallel to it and that has become redundant. If only tracks are changed there, we can have another broad gauge line. It will smoothen the traffic between Neemuch-Chittor.

There is a need for extension of new accommodation and dispensaries at certain places for railway officials and employees. Ratlam-Neemuch-Ajmer and Indore are prominent among them. It is being claimed by the Railways that the number of accidents has come down, but of late the facts reported indicate that the number of train accidents has increased. There are two main reasons behind such accidents one is old bridges and culverts and another, defects in our tracks at some

---

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

places. It is necessary to renovate and repair bridges and culverts so that accidents could be avoided.

Besides above points, I would like to draw his attention towards certain problems pertaining to my parliamentary constituency.

There is a need to construct an over bridge near Mandsaur station on Ratlam-Ajmer section of Western Railway keeping in view the heavy traffic. Similarly, there is need to construct a foot over bridge at Javra station. Although there are two or three platforms at places like Mandsaur, Javra-Neemuch etc. but only one platform has shed over it, and that too is not sufficient whereas other platform lack such facility and due to this passengers suffer. So, arrangement for and extension of shed should be done there. Earlier also I have demanded that passenger facilities including enhancing the length of platforms, arrangements of sheds, providing potable water and refreshment facilities need to be taken care of. This needs to be done immediately.

Now, I would like to say something about the halt of certain trains and new trains announced:

Railway officials have announced running new passenger trains between Ajmer-Ratlam and Neemuch-Ratlam on Ajmer-Ratlam section. The Minister of Railways has also given similar indications in his last year's budget but they have not started work even today. I would demand that passenger train between Ajmer and Indore via Ratlam, Nagda, Ujjain be run everyday. Similarly, a new passenger train may be introduced between Udaipur-Bhopal or Ajmer-Bhopal. At present, Bandra-Ajmer train is running and on many occasions I have requested that its halt may be provided at Javra and also halt of Ratlam-Ajmer fast passenger may be provided at Javra. There is no halt of general passengers train at other stations like Dhaloda-Dhodhar-Pipliya Mandi etc. A halt needs to be provided there.

The passengers on this section are not getting the facilities which they should have got after the Gauge conversion. In view of the above a need of running some more trains is being felt to mitigate the difficulties

of the passengers. The passengers on this section and Nagda-Kota section are constantly demanding the stoppage of Indore-Nizamuddin Intercity at Garoth Station (West Central Railway). Similarly, providing a stoppage of Jammu Tawi-Mumbai Superfast at Shamgarh (West Central Railway) and a stoppage of Jodhpur-Indore at Suvasara (West Central Railway) is an utmost necessity. As I have already said that there is no proper shed on Platform no. 2 at Mandsor-Jawra stations and there is no foot-over bridge in Jawra, so, there is an urgent need to construct the same and this work should be completed at the earliest.

While the Railways are talking of earning profits, so there is a need to take several steps from the point of view of making passenger amenities better as a measure of fulfilling its social obligation. Under this the extension of facilities available at the stations, the sitting facilities on the platforms, constitution of shed etc., running new trains in view of the increasing number of passengers, gauge conversion, doubling, electrification and modernization of old tracks and culverts are certain things which urgently require attention in view of the public interest.

I have briefly mentioned some points. I would let you know the other things from time to time or forward the same in writing through letters.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all those hon'ble members, who participated in the discussions on the Interim Railway Budget for the next year 2009-2010, the Supplementary Demands for the current year 2008-2009 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2006-2007 by sitting till 10:30 p.m. in the House last night. The Supplementary Demands for Rs. 10,860 crore for the current year are being presented mainly for the implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission, to extend the construction work of the projects under the capital expenditure and for taking the approval or four new works under the new services. The additional Supplementary Demands for Grants have been presented for regulating the additional expenditure

for the year 2006-2007 keeping in view the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee.

Some Hon'ble Members want to know that when the Railways is earning Rs. 20,000 crore to Rs. 25,000 crore annually, why does it require budgetary support. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that whereas the Railway had invested Rs. 13,000 crore in the year 2004, now it is going to make an investment worth Rs. 37,000 crore in the year 2009. The most important thing is that whereas earlier 53 per cent share of investment used to come through budgetary support, now it is reduced to 29 per cent only. Therefore, the investment of the Railways has not only increased three times in comparison to the year 2004, but its dependence on the budgetary support has also come down from 53 per cent to 29 per cent. The Railways, which was earlier unable to make an investment of Rs. 3000 crore annually in DRF for replacement of worn out and dilapidated properties, the same is now going to make an annual provision of Rs. 7000 crore. Earlier, the Railways had to approach the Government even for replacing the dilapidated properties, now the Railways is making an investment of Rs. 20,000 crore through internal resources in the year 2009 under the UPA regime. Now, the Railways is utilizing the budgetary support mainly for construction of new rail lines and schemes of gauge conversion in the backward and remote areas. ...*(Interruption)* Sir, some Hon'ble Members have expressed their apprehensions that Higher Axle Load is causing damage to Railway tracks and loading stock.

I would like to assure the House once again that Railway safety is our top priority. Sir, all the necessary precautionary steps have been taken at the time of taking decision to increase the Axle load. While on the one hand, weight bridges (Dharam Kanta) have been installed at several places to check the overloading in the goods trains, on the other, tracks and bridges have been strengthened. In this regard, the approval of Chief Railway Safety Commissioner has been taken. From the 1970 decade of Indian Railways, the trains having 23 tonne axle load are running on K.K. lines. In order to have discussions on the feedback received in the last

three years, a seminar of Railway track engineers was held last year in which worldwide acclaimed specialists participated. A unanimous opinion was reached at in the Seminar that the decision taken by Railways is contemporary and appropriate.

Sir, Railway safety, productivity and profitability are complementary to each other. Only by improving the safety, the Railway's productivity and profit making capacity can be improved. Sir, we should not forget that one Rail Accident not only disrupts the traffic for several hours but sometimes even for several days. Therefore, sufficient funds are being provided for railway safety works now. Some hon'ble Members have tried to draw the attention of the House towards the efforts made by the NDA Government to strengthen Railway safety. In this connection, I would like to inform the esteemed House that whereas the Railways had to depend on the budgetary support through Special Railway Safety Fund earlier for replacing the worn-out properties, now the railways is making the provision of Rs. 7000 crore in the D.R.F. through its internal resources for replacement of old properties. This is the reason that whereas in the year 2001, the number of consequential Rail Accidents was 473, the same has come down to 194 only last year. This trend of decline continues this year also.

Similarly, in order to ensue the security of passengers and trains, we have filled up the vacant posts of constables, sub-Inspectors and Supportive staff through nationwide recruitment drive. The proposal of creation of 22 thousand additional posts in Railway Protection Force and battalions in Railway Protection Special Force is under consideration. We have sanctioned a unified security system for the security of all the stations in four metros of Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata and 140 other sensitive stations. It includes IP based CCTV system, Access Control, Frisking and luggage security check system, Explosives detection and disposal system. Additional funds have been sanctioned for purchase of security equipments and vehicles. We have approached the Ministry of Home Affairs for making three thousand AK-47 rifles available to Railway Protection Force. In order to strengthen the Legal aspect

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

of the Force in respect of better safety and protection of Railway Property, an amendment in the Railway Property Act has been introduced in the Parliament.

Sir, some hon'ble Members have made allegations that Railway is increasing the passenger fares through the Railway Tatkal Scheme and in the form of Superfast charges. I would like to inform the House again with full responsibility that the passenger fares have neither been increased through front door nor back door in the budget. I would like to clarify in this regard that recently neither there is any change in the charges of Tatkal, Superfast and Development charges nor there is any proposal to do so. In fact, the Superfast charge for IInd class was reduced by 20 per cent during the year 2007-2008.

Sir, the facility of buying tickets under the Tatkal Scheme is not new but prevailing since 1997. This scheme is for the facility of those passengers who are compelled to travel under urgent circumstances. They are forced to go to the middlemen and brokers as they are unable to get the reservation. To avoid such irregularities the 'Tatkal Scheme' was launched. With this scheme Railways and passengers—both have benefited. We have earned cash surplus of 90 thousand crores of rupees by reducing the fare of every category during the last five years. Therefore, such people who only believed to change the face of railways totally only by increasing the fare, find it hard to believe. We have earned profits not by putting the burden on the people but by improving the productivity and only because of this the Railways and the railway employees have earned respect in the country and abroad.

Sir, as I had earlier informed the House that the construction work of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor has been started and the work of West Corridor will also be started in this month. Whatever announcements we made during the last five years, we have tried to implement them in a time bound manner. In view of the ever increasing traffic on Mumbai Suburban service, we had announced to start 150 new services while presenting the budget for the year 2007-08 and they

have been started. Besides, during the presentation of the budget for the previous year, I had announced to start 300 new EMU services. Out of this 165 services have been started and remaining will be started by the end of April, 2009. Mumbai City Transport Project Phase I is likely to be completed during the year 2009-10. We had announced to start phase II with an estimated cost of Rs. 5300 crore in the budget of the previous year. Mumbai Rail Development Corporation has framed a scheme for the implementation of the project.

I would like to inform the House that the survey work for new lines of Prantik-Siwari and Anandpur Sahib-Garhshankar has been completed and further action is being taken for their approval. Many Members have requested for construction of new rail line, gauge conversion and so on in their respective constituencies. Survey for the new lines of Ghogardiha-Ghogepur, Koshikalan-Nandgaon-Barsaana-Govardhan, Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Leh, Idapalli-Guruvayur, Kanjanganth-Panathur gauge conversion of Pathankot-Jogindemagar line and doubling of Tiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari line are being carried out and after that appropriate action will be taken. Survey of Aara-Chhapra, Nanded-Deglur-Bidar Churu-Nauhar via Taranagar Betia-Turkolia, Betia-Thane via Gopalganj and Manihaari-Saahibganj new lines is proposed.

Sir, the doubling work of Emakulam-Kayankulam via Kottayam in Kerala will be completed on priority basis. In addition to this, gauge conversion work of Kollam-Punnalur will be completed at the earliest and work of Punnulu-Senkottai will be done speedily. Action will be taken for the extension of Muzzafarpur-Janakpur new line passing through Jaale to Urai and Singhwara. Gauge conversion work of Larding-Silchar Kukkarghat-Ziribaam is in progress. Due to non-availability of paramilitary forces the work of Larding-Silchar has been affected by the terrorist activities frequently. We are continuously urging the Government to provide us paramilitary forces so that the work could be completed speedily. There is delay in completing the work. Ministry of Home Affairs and Assam Government have taken action to provide security to this project. This national project will be completed at the earliest by increasing

the pace of work. In view of the efforts to connect Nepal and India through rail network detailed project report of Jainagar-Bardiwas and Jobni-Biratnagar is being prepared.

Sir, while presenting the interim budget, I had told the Hon'ble Members that I would consider the shortcomings regarding their areas in the Railway Budget. The leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Shri Lal Krishan Advani has desired to run Garib Rath between Gandhi Nagar and Delhi. It has been a pleasure for me to tell you that after gauge conversion, Train No. 9105/9106 Ahmedabad-Haridwar Mail has already been started via Gandhi Nagar. In my Interim Budget proposal also, I have decided to extend Garib Rath Train No. 2993/2994, Mumbai-Jaipur Garib Rath Express that passes through Gandhi Nagar up to Delhi. Hon'ble MP from Kerala and Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Vyalar Ravi has given a memorandum demanding some new trains for Kerala and to increase the frequency of some of the trains. I am very happy to tell you that it has been decided to run two long distance trains for Kerala, one will connect Mumbai to Thiruvananthapuram and the other will connect Bilaspur to Thiruvananthapuram. Besides, in the last budget an announcement was made to run a Garib Rath between Kocchiveli and Bangalore and it will start running during this month. Moreover to connect Kerala with Delhi, Amritsar-Delhi-Kocchiveli Express has been started and another train Kocchiveli-Delhi-Dehradun will also be started during this month itself. Both of these trains will run on the same route as that of Kerala Sampark Kranti. With this, the demands of the people of Kerala will be fulfilled to some extent. Alongwith this, appropriate action will be taken on the demands of the Hon'ble Members from Kerala. Sir, further action is being taken to get the approval for construction of a new rail coach factory at Palaghat in Kerala. Similarly, an MoU has been signed to form a joint venture with the Steel Industries Kerala United, Alleppy, a public sector undertaking of Kerala Government and further necessary action will be taken in this regard.

Hon'ble MP, Shri Kesari Deoji has demanded increase in the frequency of Samta Express running

between Vishakhapatnam and Nizamuddin, Delhi. Hon'ble MP, Shri Vinod Khanna has demanded increase in the frequency of Dhauladhar Express. Hon'ble Minister of State for Rural Development, Shrimati Suryakanta Patil has demanded to run a new train from Akola in Marathwada to Mumbai and we will do that. Demands have been made to run DEMU train between Vellore and Chennai and MEMU train between Tirutani and Chennai. I would like to inform the August House that to fulfil the announcements made in the last budget to run new and other train services, we are getting coaches gradually. As and when we get the resources, I will try to fulfil your demands also.

Sir, with a view to improve the transport facilities in north-east Bihar affected by changing of the course by river Koshi, certain train services viz. Garib Rath from Jogbani to Delhi, Express train from Saharsa and Jogbani to Patna and fast passenger trains from Saharsa to Samastipur via Fosada will be provided. The work for gauge conversion between Saharsa and Madhepura is likely to be completed soon. Thereafter these trains starting from Saharsa will be extended up to Madhepura. Hon'ble Member Basu Deb Acharia has putforth the demand for starting a weekly Janshatabadi train from Sialdah to Siliguri via Navjotpuri, it will also be started.

Cognizance of all the issues, raised by hon'ble Members, has been taken. I thank all the Members for their invaluable suggestions and the support extended to rail budget. Now I request the House to pass vote on account for the year 2009-10, Supplementary Demands for Grants for the current year 2008-09 and additional demands for the year 2006-07 and the Appropriation Bills related thereto.

*[English]*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. We are walking out in protest.

12.23 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other hon. Members left the House.)*



[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You gave to Vyalar Raviji, to Advaniji but did not give anything to Speaker, so your budget will not be passed.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have not announced my project.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I read out in the beginning.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have read in the beginning? Otherwise, your budget will get stuck.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I have read in the beginning itself. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given from Prantik to Shivdi.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Then everything will be all right.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2009-2010 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, 2010, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

*Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2009-10 voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account voted by the House (Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Railway Board	75,99,49,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	233,25,49,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	1962,60,37,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	2983,97,92,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	1317,55,54,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	3044,48,49,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	1741,93,40,000
8.	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock and Equipment	2243,41,67,000

1	2	3
9.	Operating Expenses—Traffic	5861,11,11,000
10.	Operating Expenses—Fuel	4977,06,17,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	1265,96,65,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	1297,88,19,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	6555,09,80,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	8757,42,00,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	8,56,23,000
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	20,00,00,000
	<b>Other Expenditure</b>	
	Capital	14758,98,40,000
	Railway Funds	6668,04,46,000
	Railway Safety Fund	566,59,67,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>64339,95,05,000</b>

*The Motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2008-09 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective 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, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1, 3 to 13, 15 and 16."

*Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2008-09 voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Supplementary Demand for Grants voted by the House (Rs.)
1	2	3
1	Railway Board	15,00,00,000

1	2	3
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	427,25,77,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	432,51,11,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	258,62,14,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	845,19,03,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	371,08,19,000
8.	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock and Equipment	540,27,88,000
9.	Operating Expenses—Traffic	1205,17,90,000
10.	Operating Expenses—Fuel	567,36,50,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	281,01,04,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	353,57,32,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	3065,35,87,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	75,08,00,000
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	<b>Other Expenditure</b>	
	Capital	2280,00,00,000
	Railway Funds	10,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10717,50,85,000</b>

*The Motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2006-07 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"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 on the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1, 10, 15 and 16."

*Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2006-07 voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Excess Grants voted by the House (Rs.)
1.	Railway Board	1,34,075
10.	Operating Expenses—Fuel	23,47,96,342
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	4,54,77,535
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Railway Funds	121,32,89,008
	<b>Total</b>	<b>149,36,96,960</b>

*The Motion was adopted.*

12.27 hrs.

**APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) VOTE ON  
ACCOUNT BILL, 2009\***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): I beg to move for leave 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 2009-10 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 2009-10 for the purposes of Railways."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI R. VELU: I introduce\* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Mr. Minister may please move the Motion for consideration of the Bill.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"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 2009-10 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

*[English]*

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

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 19-2-2009.

\*Introduced and moved with the Recommendation of the President.

[Mr. Speaker]

2009-10 for the purposes of Railways, 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 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, 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.*

12.28 hrs.

**APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)  
BILL, 2009\***

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 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 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways."

[English]

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 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I introduce\* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Mr. Minister may please move the Motion for consideration of the Bill.

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 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

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 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways, 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 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 19-2-2009.

\*Introduced and moved with the Recommendation of the President.

*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.*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill is passed.

12.29 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)  
No. 2 BILL, 2009\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): I beg to move for leave 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, 2007 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

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, 2007 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I introduce\* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Mr. Minister may please move the Motion for consideration of the Bill.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: 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, 2007 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

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, 2007 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 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.*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 19-2-2009.

\*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

\*\*Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill is passed.

12.34 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL  
OF PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT  
IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF  
JHARKHAND

JHARKHAND INTERIM BUDGET—2009-2010

\*DEMAND FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT  
(JHARKHAND) 2009-2010

AND

\*DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY  
GRANTS (JHARKHAND)—2008-2009

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Items 23 to 26 are being taken together.

...(Interruptions)

*Demands for Grants on account (Jharkhand) for 2009-10 voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House	
		Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Agriculture Department	1287717333	8333333
2.	Animal Husbandary and Fisheries Department	676503200	16666667
3.	Building Construction Department	291956167	335666667

\*Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to move:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 19th January, 2009 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Jharkhand."

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 19th January, 2009 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Jharkhand."

"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 of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jharkhand, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2010, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 4, 6 to 12, 15 to 27, 29 to 33, 35 to 44 and 46 to 52."

1	2	3	4
4.	Cabinet Secretariat and Coordination Department	118933000	—
6.	Election	880783000	—
7.	Vigilance	29864667	—
8.	Civil Aviation Department	384347667	—
9.	Co-operative Department	307174333	25333333
10.	Energy Department	1583810000	1053333333
11.	Excise and Prohibition Department	56044333	—
12.	Finance Department	204163333	53333333
15.	Pension	4583350000	—
16.	National Savings	7830000	—
17.	Finance (Commercial Tax) Department	107792667	—
18.	Food, Supply and Commerce Department	1041951333	—
19.	Forest and Environment Department	891057667	500000
20.	Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Department	3408481268	541029065
21.	Higher Education Department	1536863667	—
22.	Home Department	6028670000	467469333
23.	Industries Department	506974000	4000000
24.	Information and Public Relation Department	139022333	—
25.	Institutional Finance and Programme Implementation	11972000	—
26.	Labour, Employment and Training Department	2292452000	—
27.	Law Department	497053667	—
29.	Mines and Geology Department	83857333	1500000
30.	Minorities Welfare Department	4433833	34133333
31.	Parliamentary Affairs Department	604667	—
32.	Legislature	136190333	—
33.	Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department	49945333	—



1	2	3	4
35.	Planning and Development Department	410816667	—
36.	Drinking Water and Sanitation Department	583695667	1416966667
37.	Rajbhasa Department	30591333	—
38.	Registration Department	42727000	—
39.	Disaster Management Department	780358667	—
40.	Revenue and Land Reforms Department	870053667	333
41.	Road Construction Department	597302333	2114833333
42.	Rural Development Department	3216631000	1936350333
43.	Science and Technology Department	356383833	206833333
44.	Secondary, Primary and Public Education Department	10295546000	73333333
46.	Tourism Department	41552000	83833333
47.	Transport Department	45237000	182666667
48.	Urban Development and Housing Department	646740333	2040316667
49.	Water Resources Department	889954333	1660666667
50.	Minor Irrigation Department	209024000	280666667
51.	Welfare Department	3449785167	384600000
52.	Youth, Art and Culture Department	203403000	226290667
Total Revenue/Capital		49819601134	13148656397

*Supplementary Demands for Grants on Account (Jharkhand) for  
2008-09 voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Supplementary Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House	
		Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Agriculture Department	114505966	

1	2	3	4
2.	Animal Husbandary and Fisheries Department	132432962	
3.	Building Construction Department	42977230	
4.	Cabinet Secretariat and Coordination Department	20456022	—
6.	Election	6852639	—
7.	Vigilance	12599343	
8.	Civil Aviation Department	630429323	—
9.	Co-operative Department	41792356	
10.	Energy Department	7907907	
11.	Excise and Prohibition Department	24599612	—
12.	Finance Department	46475809	
15.	Pension	412000000	—
16.	National Savings	2821833	—
17.	Finance (Commercial Tax) Department	44762223	—
18.	Food, Supply and Commerce Department	487157101	
19.	Forest and Environment Department	197044254	
20.	Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Department	583504215	
21.	Higher Education Department	1342546	
22.	Home Department	2224127032	85857045
23.	Industries Department	39203258	
24.	Information and Public Relation Department	11847282	—
25.	Institutional Finance and Programme Implementation	1560227	—
26.	Labour, Employment and Training Department	103999488	—
27.	Law Department	205654909	—
29.	Mines and Geology Department	27919512	
30.	Minorities Welfare Department	1002827	
31.	Parliamentary Affairs Department	37190	—

1	2	3	4
32.	Legislature	42492979	—
33.	Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department	16094348	—
35.	Planning and Development Department	113504394	—
36.	Drinking Water and Sanitation Department	164951315	—
37.	Rajbhasa Department	13727567	—
38.	Registration Department	11352436	—
39.	Disaster Management Department	2167304	—
40.	Revenue and Land Reforms Department	698969028	
41.	Road Construction Department	131786503	500000000
42.	Rural Development Department	479852242	
43.	Science and Technology Department	37638945	
44.	Secondary, Primary and Public Education Department	2790020310	
46.	Tourism Department	43256437	100000000
47.	Transport Department	10731613	
48.	Urban Development and Housing Department	8659946	
49.	Water Resources Department	382945328	
50.	Minor Irrigation Department	77186123	
51.	Welfare Department	103767875	
52.	Youth, Art and Culture Department	12609239	
Total Revenue/Capital		14274725998	685857045

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 Jharkhand to defray the charges that will come in course of payment 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 4, 6 to 12, 15 to 27, 29 to 33, 35 to 44 and 46 to 52."

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time to do it. We are taking up the Jharkhand Budget.

Shri Uday Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak on Jharkhand Appropriation Bill 2008. When division of Bihar took place, a peculiar situation cropped up ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, you told me that you would allow me after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramadass, you did not cooperate with me. I had given my word. You did not honour me. You did not accept my suggestion that after the Question Hour I will allow you to speak. You never did that. You held up the House and I was forced to adjourn.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, we would like Madam Soniaji to listen to what we are going to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, it is not like that. The House is not for personal talk.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, I am in suspended animation, should I speak or not.

12.36 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Shri Uday Singh's speech will go on record. Those who speak without my permission will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\* ...*

\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am in a situation like Jharkhand, I am hanging in balance....*(Interruptions)* Injustice is being meted out not only to Jharkhand but also to persons who rise to speak for Jharkhand. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.37 hrs.

*(At this stage, Prof. M. Ramadass and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will permit you to speak. Please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you five minutes to make your submission.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me. After the speech of Shri Uday Singh, I will allow you to speak for five minutes only.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Five minutes are sufficient. Please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will permit you to speak. Please go to your seat first.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.37½ hrs.

*(At this stage, Prof. M. Ramadass and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)*

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why there is so much of ill-treatment with Jharkhand? Jharkhand is hanging in balance and so am I. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Uday Singhji please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me speak about Madhya Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam please sit down. We shall take it during zero hour in the evening ...*(Interruptions)*. I am giving you time so that you allow this House to function.

[English]

There will be no *hulla-gulla* after you speak, you are morally bound.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Yes, Sir. There will be no *hulla-gulla*. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, please take your seat now. I am allowing you to speak on one condition that after your speech you will not disturb the House.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Yes, Sir. We will not disturb. We have no intention of disturbing the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Special Mentions will be taken up after 6.00 p.m.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, as you are aware the Pattali Makkal Kachi has been a

decent partner in the UPA Alliance headed by respected Madam Soniaji. We have been extending very cordial cooperation to the Government of India on all policy matters. We have provided stability to the Government and we have done everything. But on one important issue concerning the sentiments of seven crore Tamilians of Tamil Nadu, we were expecting a favourable reply from the Government of India.

Hon. President of India, in her Presidential Address, has made a mention, which was fully satisfactory to us. She said, in the Address, that the Sri Lankan Government must stop the military operations there and safeguard the interests of the innocent Tamilians. That President Address has been approved by the Cabinet. It means the people of India have approved the Address of the President and it was satisfying because she is asking for restoration of peace in Sri Lanka. We were satisfied.

But then the hon. Foreign Minister, after we raised the issue, made a *suo motu* statement in the House yesterday which was completely a distortion of facts, which was contrary to what the President of India has said. While the President of India says that the Sri Lankan government must stop the military action in Sri Lanka, the hon. External Affairs Ministers says that the LTTE must stop all its activities and this is contrary to the fact.

Many of the averments made in the *suo motu* statement are contrary to the situation. We would like to know from the Government of India whether the *suo motu* statement was an individual statement of hon. External Affairs Minister; was the Cabinet of the country taken into confidence; whether the Government has permitted him to issue the statement; and what are the evidences before him to make a large number of value loaded points in the statement. We think that it is an irresponsible statement. It is a partial statement, one sided statement against the LTTE.

Sir, if our foreign policy has been a Non-aligned foreign policy, then you should be neutral to the two warring groups. But he is making a statement in favour of one who is indulging in State sponsored terrorism in

the country. We feel that that statement was not the statement of the people of India, was not the statement of the Parliament of India, it was the statement of Mr. Pranab Mukherjee as the External Affairs Minister.

We only urge upon the Government either to withdraw the statement or come and explain to the House we will be able to tell him the erroneous points that have been made in the statement. Sir, we are all partners in the UPA; the DMK is the partner, PMK is the partner and there are two other Members from Tamil Nadu. This is a matter concerning Tamil Nadu. Why does not the Government consult the partners, take a decision and then give a *suo motu* statement. Therefore, we feel that it is a...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Let him suffer the connections with the UPA. They are continuing in the UPA and they cannot contradict him ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: He was also a part of the UPA...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan, Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the submission of Prof. Ramadass.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan, nothing is going in the record. Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am with them, but they cannot make a statement like this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, please conclude now.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, please allow Shri Thangkabalu to speak after him. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Let him also speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, please conclude now.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, no cross-talking please. We are appealing to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, please listen to me one thing. I have received a notice only from Prof. Ramadass. I have not received notice from any other Member. Therefore, I will allow only Prof. Ramadass, and after that I will take another item.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, please conclude now.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Prof. Ramadass, I support you but we also have a right to speak on this important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, are you going to conclude or not?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now. I will give you time in 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Madam Soniaji, who is the Chairperson of the UPA, is here. Our leader Dr. S. Ramadoss Maruthuvaraiyah met her day before yesterday, explained to her the enveloping situation in Tamil Nadu, and requested her intervention. Reportedly Madam is sympathetic and she is very humane to this issue in Sri Lanka.

Yesterday, the DMK Party led a delegation, met her and urged upon her intervention in this matter. Now, when this kind of a dialogue process is going on, the Statement made by the hon. External Affairs Minister has only fuelled the fire, and it is now agitating the minds of the people more and more. When normalcy was coming, this kind of a Statement which is not based on facts has now infuriated the people of Tamil Nadu. That is why, Sir, we are requesting the Government either to explain on the Statement again or kindly withdraw the Statement because we think that it is a constitutional impropriety and it has not been done in the interest of any of these people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I support your cause, but not in this way...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: We do not want your support. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnanji, please sit down.

Prof. Ramadass, your point has come on record. Please conclude now.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I have not been allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point has already come on record. Please conclude now.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, please allow me to speak for two to three minutes more.

Sir, we wish to make it very clear to this House and also to Madam that we are not supporting any group in Sri Lanka. Any group in Sri Lanka is not our party. We are only worried about the innocent Tamils who are being bombed by the Shrilankan Army. Hospitalized people and innocent people are being killed. It is a question of humanity. We want this Gandhian land to show that it has got a heart; it has got a rationale for safeguarding the human people there. That is our appeal, Sir, to the Government.

We would request the Government to withdraw the statement of the Minister of External Affairs and make an amended statement or explain the situation of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Now, I request Shri Uday Singh to speak on the Jharkhand Budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Now, our only request is that this Government should talk to the Sri Lankan Government to issue their ceasefire...*(Interruptions)* We want the statement of the hon. Minister of External Affairs to be withdrawn...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when you will take up zero hour?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, When discussion will start under zero hour.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will have 'Zero Hour' after 6 o' clock today.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Prof. Ramadass, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Uday Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir...  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, nothing is going on record. Please sit down. I have given you more than sufficient time. I would not permit you any more on this point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Uday Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Hindu Tamilians are being killed in Sri Lanka. They should be protected. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would not permit you anymore Prof. Ramadass. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you will make a noise like this and not allow this House to function, then I will start the process to pass the budget of Jharkhand and supplementary demands.

...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. When you are not cooperating, we will pass it without discussion.

The question is:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 19th January, 2009 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Jharkhand."

*The motion was adopted.*

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Jharkhand) for 2009-2010 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 of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jharkhand, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2010, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 4, 6 to 12, 15 to 27, 29 to 33, 35 to 44 and 46 to 52."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, do not pass the budget of Jharkhand like this. There should be a discussion on it. You have called the name of Shri Uday Singh to speak on this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Jharkhand) for 2008-2009 to the vote of the House.



[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

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 Jharkhand to defray the charges that will come in course of payment 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 4, 6 to 12, 15 to 27, 29 to 33, 35 to 44 and 46 to 52."

*The motion was adopted.*

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget of the State of Jharkhand for 2008-09 are passed.

...(Interruptions)

12.55 hrs.

**JHARKHAND APPROPRIATION (VOTE  
ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2009\***

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 27.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jharkhand for the services of a part of the financial year 2009-10.

MR. DEPUTY 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 the State of Jharkhand for the services of a part of the financial year 2009-10."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I introduce\* the Bill. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Mr. Minister may please move the Motion for consideration of the Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I beg to move\*:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jharkhand for the services of a part of the financial year 2009-10, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jharkhand for the services of a part of the financial year 2009-10, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY 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.*

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 19-2-2009.

\*Introduced and moved with the Recommendation of the President.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: 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.*

...(Interruptions)

12.57 hrs.

**JHARKHAND APPROPRIATION  
BILL, 2009\***

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 29.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jharkhand for the services of the financial year 2008-09.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY 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 the State of Jharkhand for the services of the financial year 2008-09."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I introduce\* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Mr. Minister may please move the Motion for consideration of the Bill

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I beg to move\*:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jharkhand for the services of the financial year 2008-09, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jharkhand for the services of the financial year 2008-09, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY 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.*

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 19-2-2009.

\*Introduced and moved with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.59 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.03 hrs.

*(The Lok Sabha reassembled at Three Minutes  
past Fourteen of the Clock)*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last time a great injustice was done to us, when discussion was not held. We request that the entire opposition today want to co-operate with the Government so that no Bill is passed without discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I assure you if there is order in the House then maximum people will be accommodated within the allocated time.

[English]

I will try my best to accommodate you.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: We are ready to co-operate fully.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also do not want to do such things which may hurt feelings in the House. When your feelings get hurt, my feelings are also hurt. I hope all of you will co-operative with the Chair.

[English]

I assure you again that I will try my best to accommodate you to the maximum possible extent.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 31.

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy—not present.

Shri Ajay Maken—not present.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, Hon. Minister is on his way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Should we take the next item?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Yes, we may take the next item.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is so important matter for Delhi. It has never happened that the leader of Delhi Shri Ajay Makenji, who is a minister, is not present to move a Bill, when the people of Delhi are facing so much hardships due to ceiling and when Bhartiya Janata Party is ready to fully co-operate. But it is regrettable that when we have come here with so much preparation, the hon'ble Minister is not present to move the Bill.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: They have every right to say. ...(Interruptions) We admit it, and I am sorry that the hon. Minister is late. ...(Interruptions) He is on the way, but he got delayed as something has happened.  
...(Interruptions)

14.06 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:  
DISAPPROVAL OF HIGH COURT AND  
SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES  
AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)  
AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 2009

AND

HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES  
(SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)  
AMENDMENT BILL, 2008

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item Nos. 32 and 33 together. Item No. 32 relates to the Statutory Resolution, Shri Rasa Singh Rawat—also not present.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava—not present.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER (Delhi Sadar): Sir, most respectfully I would like to submit that since our Minister is on the way, I hope that you will be able to take up Item No. 31 after finishing Item No. 32.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will have to take up this Bill. Thereafter, I will take up that Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I beg to move\*:

"That this House disapproves of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 2009 (No. 1 of 2009) promulgated by the President on 9 January, 2009."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister to move for the consideration of the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to move\*:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions for Service) Act,

1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 2009 (No. 1 of 2009) promulgated by the President on 9 January, 2009."

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions for Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan, now you are at liberty to speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I moved the Resolution for disapproval under Article 123 of the Constitution. Shall I continue?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, now you can continue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is a Bill ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when that Bill will be taken up?...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, we will now have to conclude this Bill first, and we will think over it after this Bill.

Yes, please continue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, I shall speak. But how can I speak when there is noise in the House? It is a very important issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

Now, the hon. Minister has moved a Bill for

\*Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

salaries of the High Court Judges and Supreme Court Judges. I am very much annoyed when this Bill is moved because we in India are now under a very mysterious situation so far as the judiciary is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): What is that mysterious situation? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I will tell. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, the Executive is accountable to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: How is it accountable? Tell us about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: No, I cannot tell it to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon. Member while he is speaking. Please maintain silence in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I will address the Chair. Now, the Executive is accountable to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: He was disturbing me today when I was speaking in the House. How did he intervene while I was speaking? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Mr. Radhakrishnan.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am sorry, but I do not have to answer you. I did not make any disturbance. I was simply following the Parliamentary practice available not only here, but in the world. ...*(Interruptions)*

---

\*Not recorded.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: You talk about India, and not about the world. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am talking about India only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When you are in a coalition, you cannot ask the Minister to withdraw his statement. You come out of the coalition and then say that. ...*(Interruptions)* I fully support his demand. Continuing in the UPA Government and asking the Minister to withdraw his statement is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the speech of Shri Radhakrishnan.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is not parliamentary practice. I did not disturb anybody.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: You disturbed me.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: My dear, Sir, I did not disturb you. I am your supporter. But you are taking an opportunistic role, contrary to parliamentary principles.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please address the Chair.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: India knows which Party is an opportunistic Party.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologize, first Bill was related to Delhi. I was due to speak on that Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

---

\*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you to speak after them.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are suffering due to the mistake on the part of the Minister Saheb. ...(Interruptions) He came a bit late due to which we have to suffer. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I'll call your name after Varkalaji.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall take Items 32 and 33 together.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the judiciary in India is not accountable to anybody. The only provision in this regard in the Constitution is article 133 subclause (iv) which provides for impeachment. And we have our bitter experience in the impeachment proceedings in the case of Justice Ramaswamy. Impeachment proceedings is not workable. It is a procedure which has never fructified. So, whenever a judge is appointed, he becomes permanent. There is no law in the land to control him. A judge is not accountable to anybody.

The Chief Justice of India says that there is corruption in the judiciary. Corruption is prevalent in the judiciary and there is no procedure to control their actions. Suppose a few judges are corrupt, the Chief Justice is unable to take any action. He can only report the matter to the President. Suppose a judge is accepting gratification publicly, no action can be taken against that particular person who is corrupt. That is the procedure in our country. And you are going on like this. Now the judges' salaries Bill has come before us.

Our judiciary has given a very peculiar interpretation to a word in English language. The framers of the Constitution never thought that the judiciary will give an interpretation to the word 'consult' to mean 'consent'. In

the appointment of judges, the procedure is that the Chief Justice of India in the case of Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of High Court in the case of a judge of High Court should be consulted. 'Consult' is the only word that is used. They have interpreted it as 'consent'. When we refer to the Chambers Dictionary of English language, we do not find any meaning as consent to the word consult.

Justice Nariman came before the Committee in which I am a member. When he was asked about this he said that there is no such meaning for that word in the English language. Wherever English language is used in any part of the world, there is no meaning of consent to the word consult. But unfortunately our judiciary has given a new meaning to the word consult as consent. So, now whenever the Executive wants to appoint any judge, they must get the consent of the respective Chief Justice. Without their consent the President becomes helpless.

So, the Judges appoint themselves. They decide their own service conditions; they decide their own salaries; they decide when they should retire. The age of superannuation is decided by them. Appointment is decided by them. Conditions of service are also decided by the Judges of the country. This is the position in our country. Nowhere in the world, there is such a procedure.

In the parliamentary democracy, you cannot find a parallel that the Judges appoint themselves in India. This is the position. They decide their own things. Now, the hon. Minister has come with a Bill. We should decide their salaries. Only for fixing salary, they have come. But about their conditions of service, they themselves decide—who should be appointed as the Chief Justice? Who should be appointed as the Justice? That is the law of the land. They have given the interpretation—for consult, they have interpreted as consent. This is the position in our country.

My honourable friend, who is a lawyer, and who is very much accustomed with this, has come before, this House with this Bill for fixing salary as if we are having no other duties but to fix their salaries. They

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

themselves will decide their conditions of service. That is the law of the land because of the interpretation of the word 'consult' as 'consent'. We cannot presume that the Judiciary will be independent only if the appointment of Judges is made by Judges themselves. That is the condition for a precedent. We want independent Judiciary. There is no doubt. It is nothing but two sides of the same coin. We want an independent Judiciary; we want an accountable Judiciary. There is no accountable Judiciary in our land. We have made many attempts in this regard but we failed.

In 1962, this Parliament passed a Bill for taking some action. Only action provided then is impeachment—removal from service—which is not possible. So, in 1968, we had the Judges Inquiry Act, which was also not properly taken up. The hon. friend and gentleman, who is before me, has brought the Judges Inquiry Bill of 2006 putting certain restriction and suspension, some control over the appointment of Judges. We examined all the persons concerned. I was Member of that Committee. We examined Justice Nariman; we examined Justice Sabarwal; we examined the Chief Justices of different High Courts and we had examined Jurists from all over the country. Then, we recommended and submitted a Report to him. What has happened? It is kept in the cold storage.

The 2006 Judges Inquiry Act which has been referred to our Committee, for which we have taken evidence and submitted a Report. What happened to that Report? Where is it? He has keeping it in the cold storage. He is bringing another Bill for fixing their salaries. The 2000 Bill is kept in the cold storage. He is not prepared to proceed with the Bill. Why? It is because he is afraid of the Judges. He is afraid of the Supreme Court Judge. We cannot proceed with that. We have recommended certain things. That Bill is not a very big thing but we have unanimously recommended certain matters because the Bill as it is moved, will take away the powers of impeachment by Parliament. In the ultimate analysis, we find that a complaint procedure was adopted in the 2006 Bill—when somebody is

complaining, that will go to them. Only the judges will do that; they would not allow anybody else to do it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is a very important matter; let me complete.

The question is, he did not act on that basis; he did not bring that Bill before the House. A Bill was prepared on the recommendation of the Law Commission. The Government appointed the Law Commission; and it has, in consultation with the Supreme Court, drafted certain recommendations, and the Bill was moved by this gentleman in this House. He has not done anything; it is kept in the cold storage.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are repeating the same point, over and over again.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Chief Justice of India recently declared that he would not proceed with the judge who is under a cloud or under suspicion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If some Judges are involved in some corruption cases, as in the case of the PF issue, where some Judges were involved, the Chief Justice of India had given a direction to the CBI to question the Judge. That was also done in India.

They have evolved in-house proceedings. Now, the Judges, in 1999, evolved a formula to review the 1968 Bill, so that they themselves would decide the course of action. They will decide what should be done in a matter of complaint. That is called the in-house proceedings. As per the in-house proceedings, the Chief Justice will ask the concerned Judge either to retire or to resign. But when the present Chief Justice of India asked the concerned Judge to take leave, he refused. So, that procedure also failed.

In another case involving the PF, a Supreme Court Judge and a Judge of the Allahabad High Court were

asked to resign, but they refused because they do not have a statutory power or a statutory authority to take action against a particular Judge. The Chief Justice is helpless in taking action against his colleagues. The Chief Justice cannot take any action because there is no role; there can be no suspension and there can be no warning. So, suspension or warning to a Judge is not possible in India. There is only impeachment. Why is it so? Are we living in a fool's paradise?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is the situation prevailing in our country and this gentleman, the learned friend, the Law Minister is coming here and asking us to pass this Bill. What about their appointments? Why should he not bring in a Bill to appoint a Commission to decide their conditions of services, etc.? A National Judicial Commission will have to be appointed. There were Bills previously also. The National Judicial Commission is necessary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay; thank you. Now, I would request you to sit down.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This gentleman has forgotten about the 2006 Bill. It is ridiculous—he is coming and asking us to decide their salary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, sit down now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We do not have any voice in their appointments; nobody is having a voice in their appointments. They appoint themselves and why should we fix their salaries? The Judges themselves appoint other Judges. It is the collegium of Judges who decide who should be the Chief Justice and who should be appointed as other Judges, and the result is that the father will be a Judge, the son will be a Judge and the son-in-law will be a Judge and this will become a hereditary family system of judiciary in India.

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS  
AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI  
VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, let the Minister reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister will reply.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: They must be independent and at the same time accountable. There is no accountability in India. There is only independence and that too to the extreme. I do not understand the significance or the logic behind this. When I do not have a voice in their appointment, when nobody is having a voice in their appointment why should we criticize their salaries? At the same time we must realise ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard your point of view three or four times. Please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What was the purpose behind issuing the Ordinance?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now. I have heard you. This has already come on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Why can they not decide their salaries also? Why should they ask us for it?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have very high regards for my learned friend and I have no dispute with what he said during his speech. He has raised three points. One is about 1993 judgement of the Supreme Court in Advocate on record case that the judges have interpreted the Constitution wrongly by saying that the advice of the Cabinet rendered to the President is circumscribed by the consent of the judiciary.

Sir, I have spoken publicly on this issue saying that we do not accept that and that this is not the correct way in which the Supreme Court has interpreted it. It is the President of India who can appoint judges on the advice of the Cabinet. I do not think any Member of this House will go against this because the President of India...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to speak. Let me reply. ...*(Interruptions)*



MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Let me reply now. You are such a senior Member. I do not think it is proper.

So, Sir, this judgement was in interpretation of the Constitution and those judges who interpreted it have themselves said that in their view this judgement was wrong. What is the method to correct it? It was to amend the Constitution. After 1993, there have been several Governments and time has not reached where we are able to amend this Constitution. I am very happy if this matter is taken up in Parliament and once for all this interpretation is annulled by an amendment of the Constitution. Without that, Sir, we are aware that the Supreme Court is the final court in the country and there is no appeal after that. Therefore, there is no dispute between what the hon. Member has said and what I am setting before the House, that the power to appoint judges of High Court and Supreme Court vests in the President of India on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers right from Shamsher Singh's case. This is an issue which is not relevant at this stage. We will take it after a consensus is reached. This is with regard to the appointment.

With regard to their removal, I would again say that according to the Constitution of India the power to remove vests in this House by a process of impeachment by a two-third majority in both the Houses. The founding fathers kept judiciary at a very high pedestal. Independence of judiciary was discussed by the founding fathers in great detail. It is not I that am responsible for making this institution so high. It is the founding fathers who kept the judiciary at a very high pedestal. I would like to quote Pandit Nehru when he said in the Constituent Assembly in 1939 when the debate on Supreme Court was going on. He intervened to say:

"We should frame such rules so that the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court are

appointed one man of integrity and independent even to go against the Government."

This is the commitment of our founding fathers Dr. Ambedkar, Nehru and others. Unanimously, independence of judiciary is acceptable in all civilized societies. Governments after Government have never criticized it and whatever facilities have to be provided to the judges they are granted unanimously. This is the precedent in this as well as the other House.

Now I come to the procedure of their removal. I agree that some cases of corruption have come to light and it is of great concern. There is a public disquiet on it and there is a public criticism going on particularly in Media. We are cognizant of it. I am not a Minister who will shirk his work. I had immediately, without any reservation of the House, dug into the case law provisions in the United States, England, Canada, all democratic societies to find out as to what provisions we can supplement for the impeachment proceedings. I have also studied a Commission's Report in the USA during Bill Clinton's time with regard to augmenting the impeachment proceeding by another system. I have immediately consulted all the stakeholders including judiciary, lawyers and others and drafted the Bill. It is I who drafted that Bill and introduced it in this very House in 2006. This is not a matter you can rush in. This is a matter which we have to tread very cautiously. Tinkering with judiciary is very difficult. Independence of Judiciary is a matter which the House is always supporting. So, I had introduced that Bill to seek the opinion of the Standing Committee. I am very happy that the Standing Committee of my Ministry made a detailed study and made several recommendations almost changing the whole complexion of the drafted law. I have already taken it to the Cabinet. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: It is not fair.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What has happened to that Bill?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: You are a senior Member. I am explaining that but you are not allowing me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever Shri Radhakrishnan says will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, nothing is going on record. You are a senior Member. You should at least address the Chair.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, first of all, you are requested to go to your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: So, Sir, the Standing Committee cleared that Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wait for a minute. Shri Radhakrishnan, you are requested to go to your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is the Parliament. We have to seriously conduct the Business. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to first go to your seat.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: There is a procedure in the Parliament. When a Bill goes to the Standing Committee, we are bound by the recommendations of the Standing Committee. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramjilal Suman, let him go to his seat. Shri Radhakrishnan, please go to your seat.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: When the Standing Committee made the recommendation, we went in-depth into those recommendations. When the amendments to the original Bill were received, I got them approved from the Cabinet. The recommendations are so large that the whole complexion of the Bill has changed. I am now making another Bill by improving upon the earlier

Bill. So, I will come to the House as and when the House gives me time. It is not in my hand to rush to the House. He is not allowing a small measure for raising their salaries. But that Bill is a very complex Bill. That will have to be debated at least for a day or two. The House has got this privilege. So, it is not that we are sleeping over that. I have requested the Chief Justice of India that your in-house procedure has weakened and that now we will have to give you the backing of statutory provisions as is happening in other countries because corruption in judiciary is a very serious matter. The country would like that the judiciary should have zero tolerance in matters relating to corruption. So, I would like to give an assurance to this House that very soon at an appropriate time this House will discuss this issue and provide measures in addition to impeachment.

Now the third point is with regard to impeachment. I need not dwell upon it as all the hon. Members are aware that except for the constitutional provision, there is no other law which can deal with the corruption in judiciary because it was never thought of in our country as the judiciary was so clean. During British days, the judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court were appointed at the pleasure of the Her Majesty's Government. Later on, by an Act of 1935, the Britishers changed it and they used to appoint the judges until their behaviour is good. They could be removed only when there was misbehaviour. So, it was done through an Act of 1935 during British days and our founding fathers bodily lifted that provision and put that into the Constitution...*(Interruptions)*. So, unless we amend the Constitution, there is no other provision by which you can deal with corruption in judiciary. These three points are there.

Now coming to the present, the Executive has been given the new pay scales as recommended by the Pay Commission. But the judges have not got it. So, I immediately provided it through this Ordinance so that they do not have grievance against the Parliament that we have not given due consideration. It is because who will argue the case of judges. This House is the master. That is why, I rushed with it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Please do not speak like a *(Interruptions)\**...

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Please do not use *(Interruptions)\**...

Now you please keep quiet. This is hardly the way to speak in Parliament. Sir, this gentleman should be taught a lesson...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I would only request you to consider it. The whole world is watching us. What are we discussing? All the officers of the Executive have been given the hike after the recommendations of the Pay Commission. So consistent with those recommendations, we have brought in line the pay and perks of the High Court and Supreme Court judges. It is always the privilege of this House to give it because their salaries are decided here. What is wrong? Now it is 2009. The salaries of all others have been revised. So, how can I neglect my work by not giving whatever is due to the judiciary? This will be a disservice to the country. Never such a debate has taken place in Parliament. I have been a Minister for 20 years. Never such a debate has taken place when you say that the judges should not be paid the salary for their work. Therefore, there is nothing unusual and any objection at this time will be seen in poor light. So, I would request the whole House to agree to this noble cause. Winston Churchill had said about the salaries of judges that we cannot measure the service rendered by the judiciary in pounds sterling. We should straightaway give whatever is desired and whatever we can afford. We are not giving anything unusual to judges. They are all Secretary and Cabinet Secretary level people. Therefore, the same has been provided for the judiciary. We are not giving any unusual hike at all. Therefore, I would request all the hon. Members with folded hands that we have other matters of controversy. Judiciary has done very well in this country therefore we should not make it a matter of controversy.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as this Bill is concerned, we are completely agreed to it. Our party and we all support the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2008 and as the honourable Minister just said tradition which we have been following should now be followed definitely. So far as the ordinance is concerned it should not be promulgated and so far as the way of bringing in or a Bill is concerned I think, this was no such thing at the time of commencement of the House. We support this Bill indeed.

Sir, I would like to make submission about one-two points through you. It is a great honour to India that judiciary is considerably been free from political pressure here and people still repose their faith in unbiased stand of judiciary. I request the Government that this honour of judiciary should be made intact. Our country is the largest democratic country in the world and the three strong pillars of this democracy are—Judiciary, Legislature and Executive. All these three which have Rubicon should not be crossed by any pillar and each pillar should continue boosting up the nation honour by adhering to its own limitation.

I would like to make submission about a thing that we fully support the thing pertaining to salary. Recently, Sixth Pay Commission has been implemented and its benefits should be given to them definitely. It is our duty and the tradition which we have should be followed. We fully support this Bill whether whatsoever has been given therein regarding pension, family pension, allowances or salaries of the Judges of High Court and Supreme Court. I would like to make submission that justice delayed, justice denied. Delay in justice means justice denied. It is very unfortunate for the country that there are 38,82,074 cases in total are pending in the Court, out of which there are 31 lakh 26 thousand and 828 civil cases and 7,55,249 are criminal cases as per reply to an Unstarred Question No. 69 which was raised on 17th October, 2008 in Lok Sabha. 29,273 cases were pending in the Supreme Court. The number of cases which were taken up for delivering justice and under

---

\*Not recorded.

regular hearing was 19,565 that is of 48,838 cases were pending. This is the portion about High Court and Supreme Court. Last time you brought in a Bill regarding the Judges and you also increased the number of Judges of Supreme Court from 25 to 30. But I would like to know as to how many posts are lying vacant in the High Court and the Supreme Court as on date. Whether all the posts which have been fixed for each High Court and for the honourable Supreme Court, have been filled up.

Our colleagues just talked about selection. In this regard I want to say just that there should be transparency in selection. Judiciary should remain independent and accountable. But there should be transparency in the appointment of Judges and there should be no manipulation in the name of secrecy. Moreover, a collegium is there and this system has been working since 1993. I think that system should be duly followed and if any such measure is brought about at a later stage which will also augment transparency therein.

I would like to submit one more thing that when efforts were made to bring judiciary under the purview of RTI, it was criticized a lot. Hon'ble Minister should throw light on the attitude of executive regarding our High Court and Supreme Court under RTI when he replies in this regard. Three crore cases are lying pending in sub-ordinate, small Court. We want that justice should be dispensed to the people in an easy way but when there are still lying pending six crore of cases more there, then the number of judges should be increased.

Executive should provide funds for the appointment of judges, their facilities their residences and it should also provide fund for mobile Court fast track Court or any other types of Court because they all look up to the state government. As a result, number of Court and judges should be increased and judges should be appointed. People are not getting justice on time as judges are not being appointed. I request the Government through you that this matter should be looked into.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today voice is being

raised in different parts of the country that there should be a temporary bench of Court in the state. Norms should be fixed in this regard as to where such benches of High Court should be setup and as to where they should not be set up so that unnecessary dispute could be averted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude by putting forth my last point. Today the population of country is increasing rapidly and crimes have also increased along with it. Awareness has grown even among the people towards law. When a legislature law is enacted the number of Court can be increased on the basis thereon and accordingly the number of judges can be increased so that justice could be dispensed to the people in an easy economic and rational way without any delay.

With these words I support this Bill.

*[English]*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the High Court and Supreme Court Judges Salaries and Conditions of Service (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

As per our Constitution, Supreme Court of India is the highest Court in the land and it is the final authority for appeal in Indian Judiciary. Next to it is the various High Courts.

Now, the present Bill is aimed to increase salary and other benefits to High Court and Supreme Court Judges. Pursuant to the Sixth Pay Commission submitting its Report to the Government, the Chief Justice of India constituted a Committee of three judges to recommend appropriate and revised salaries, allowances and other service conditions for Chief Justice of India, Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. Based on the Committee's recommendations, our Government revised the salaries of judges.

I want to mention certain facts about the salary of High Court and Supreme Court Judges. Now the salary of the Chief Justice of India is Rs. 33,000. Our Government has decided to increase the salary of the

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

Chief Justice of India from Rs. 33,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. Sir, the pathetic situation in the country is that the Secretaries working under the Supreme Court are drawing more salary than the judges. I feel it is not sufficient in keeping with the current inflation trend. It is lesser than the Governor's salary. Hence, Chief Justice's salary should also be at par with Governor's salary. The Committee of Judges have proposed to raise the salary from Rs. 33,000 to Rs. 1.10 lakh but the Ministry of Finance restricted it to Rs. 1 lakh. It is not correct. It should be raised to Rs. 1.10 lakh and simultaneously for other judges.

It is pathetic to note that the Subordinate Judicial Officers are getting only Rs. 9000 per month. This is lesser than the salary drawn by the Class IV employees in the Union of India. Hence their salary has also to be increased to not less than Rs. 25,000 per month.

During 1956, the strength of judges in the Supreme Court was 11 including the Chief Justice. In 1960, it was raised to 14 and in 1977, it was 18 and later in 1986, it was increased to 26. Now our Government raised it to 30. In our judicial system throughout the country, actual strength of High Court Judges are 886 but we are having only 620 judges and 266 posts are lying vacant. Due to non-filling of vacancies, nearly 37.1 lakh cases are pending in 21 High Courts in the country. Now, we had increased the strength but so far we have failed to fill up the sanctioned strength.

Filling up of the vacancies in various High Courts is a continuous process as vacancies keep arising due to retirements., resignations, etc. In pursuant to the Supreme Court judgement dated 6-10-1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates Record and Anr Vs. Union of India, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a judge in High Court is vested with the Chief Justice of the respective High Court.

Even though the Government of India is continuously reminding the various High Courts, they are not taking any concrete steps to fill up the vacancies. Throughout the country, we are having the entire list of judges' retirement dates. At least three

months before their retirement, the respective High Court has to start the process of new appointments. It is alarming in the case of subordinate judiciary. The sanctioned strength in subordinate judiciary is 15,399, out of which only 12,368 judges are working and 3,031 posts are vacant. The total number of cases pending in subordinate courts are 3.45 crore. The total number of cases pending in the Supreme Court alone is 41,708.

At this juncture, I want to emphasise the Union Government to persuade the Chief Justice of India to constitute a Supreme Court for southern region of the country, at Chennai. It will help the poor litigants coming all the way from far southern States to New Delhi to file cases in the Supreme Court.

On considering all the above aspects, I am welcoming, supporting this Bill and concluding my speech with congratulating the hon. Minister.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no dispute over this Bill which has been brought forth to increase the salaries of hon. Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts. I am supporting this Bill. But my only contention is that why the hon. Law Minister was in such a hurry to promulgate an Ordinance. When the Bill had already been introduced during the last Session in this House, what was the hurry to come up with an Ordinance? I could not follow this. When the hon. Speaker from the Chair remarked something, the hon. Law Minister, in his reply said, "We do not want to be little the judiciary." Nobody in this country wants to belittle the judiciary. Everybody highly respects the judiciary and the judges. But when the Bill was already introduced and moreover when the increase would be given retrospective effect, when all their dues will be cleared by the Government, there was no necessity of coming up with an Ordinance. That is my contention.

If the hon. Minister had come out with a proposal for more increase in their salaries, nobody would have objected to this. Everybody wants that the judges should be highly placed, well respected and well paid. All their necessities should be fulfilled because they are occupying the highest position in this land. But only by

increasing the salaries and allowances of the judges, we are not going to solve the problem.

As mentioned by many hon. Members, huge number of cases are pending in the Supreme Court and in High Courts for various reasons. In the last Session we have passed a Bill to increase the number of judges of the Supreme Court from 26, including the Chief Justice of India, to 31. But that is not enough. A number of posts of judges are pending in the subordinate courts. All of us are aware of that. Many times the hon. Chief Justice of India had urged upon the Central Government and the State Governments to come forward with steps to fill up the vacancies in the subordinate courts. But no step has been taken. I am not going to further comment on the system of appointing judges. Now, judges have the power to appoint judges. As far as I know, nowhere in the world this system of judges appointing judges prevails. Likewise, in India, the legislatures decide their own salaries. Both the systems are bad. Let not the legislatures decide their own salaries and let not the judges appoint judges. It is a very bad system. I do not know when the Government will come out with a Bill to amend the Constitution to correct this mistake. I am not going into its details.

But my proposition is how many holidays the judges are enjoying in a year. The Supreme Court and High Courts are not the High Schools or the Secondary Elementary Schools. I fear they are enjoying as much holidays as the school children are enjoying. On the one hand, there is a backlog and crores and lakhs of cases are pending, and on the other hand, the judges are enjoying a number of holidays. So, this is quite contradictory. The Government has to think over this, the hon. Chief Justice has to think over this.

Now, there is one good thing is that in some States evening courts have been introduced. So, why not it is done in all the States? My dear colleague, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat has mentioned earlier that in a number of States now there is an agitation going on regarding setting of either Circuit Courts or Benches of the High Court. So, why not the Government, in consultation with the hon. Supreme Court, come out with the concrete formula where to set up High Court Benches and where

not to set up? If we go on setting more number of High Court Benches in different States, the number of cases will reduce which are pending in different High Courts. There are instances where not only decades even generation after generation in a family people are running to High Courts and Supreme Courts and still the cases are pending.

There is one more thing. I do not know what is the guideline of the Supreme Court towards the High Court. Sir, you will be astonished to know and it is seen that in different High Courts, even long after completion of hearing of an appeal either in the criminal case or in the civil appellate case, the judgments are not delivered. The hearing is over, but the High Courts are not delivering judgments and it is kept reserved not for one or two years, but for several years. So, let the hon. Supreme Court come out with a specific guideline to the High Courts that in such cases where hearing is over, why they are keeping it reserved for years together and putting the litigants into trouble. Why not they come out with their judgements? I am not accusing the High Court and the Supreme Court, but it is the onerous responsibility of the High Court and Supreme Court. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan was reiterating earlier that only by increasing the salary it is not going to solve the problem.

The hon. Law Minister said that they have listened to the court. Yes, and after the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission it is obvious that the judges' salaries have to be increased. But corruption is mounting and allegations of corruption against judges are mounting everyday. I remember a few days back the hon. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister recommending to bring an impeachment motion against an hon. High Court judge of the West Bengal. So, why is the Government sitting over it? Is not the Government by ignoring the recommendation of the Supreme Court Chief Justice trying to belittle the hon. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and patronising the corruption? When the hon. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court expressed his higher concern over the alleged corruption against the judges and recommending...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honest judges are also there.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Yes, no doubt. Most of the judges are honest. We are indeed proud of our judiciary. But when the head of the family, when the head of the judges, the hon. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court categorically and specifically getting all the past records and writing to the hon. Prime Minister suggesting to bring the impeachment motion against one of its own judges, why is the Government sitting over it? Who is encouraging corruption in the judiciary? We cannot go on accusing the judges only. Does not the Government have a responsibility in this regard? So, why the Government is sitting over this? So, by this we are belittling the judiciary. I hope when the hon. Minister will be giving his final reply, he will enlighten the House on this matter.

Sir, it is alleged that there is no transparency in the appointment of judges. It is all right that a few days back it was a different system. The bureaucracy and the political class have an upper hand in the appointment of judges. The hon. Law Minister has very clearly explained about it. He has clearly said that without a constitutional amendment, we cannot surpass the Supreme Court orders.

15.00 hrs.

But I think the Government has to take a serious note of it. There is indeed no transparency. What is the reason for vacancies of judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court? What are the High Court Collegium and the Supreme Court Collegium doing about it? I think the Government should have a dialogue with the Supreme Court in this regard also. Unless we fill up the vacancies, the number of cases pending in different courts will be piling up.

With these words, I support this Bill. I wish that within a short period of time, maybe after the forthcoming election, the Government comes out with another amendment to further increase the salaries of the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court. We should keep them in a very comfortable position because they are the hon. Judges of this country. But

regarding the other points mentioned here, the Government should have a serious look into them.

*[Translation]*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill but I fail to understand one thing. I recollect that in this very House Hon'ble Speaker Sahib had put a question to the worthy Minister of Law and Justice and asked whether there was any country in the world where the judges appointed themselves, I remember that the Minister had replied that such procedure did not exist in any country of the world. It is only in India that judges are appointed by judges themselves. I am unable to understand why there is no control of law whether it be the Parliament, Minister of Law, Central Government or the President of India over the Judiciary of our country despite the provision in the Constitution that nothing is above the Constitution. There should indeed be no curbs on the Judiciary and I agree that the Judiciary should be independent. Our President and the Prime Minister of India have to declare their assets to inform the public in this regard. I don't want to cite any names. They refuse to declare their assets. Why would not they do so?

*[English]*

Why? Are they not accountable to the people of India? Are they not accountable to the Parliament?

*[Translation]*

Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, they say that the R.T.I. Act does not apply to them. Why? The R.T.I. Act has been enacted by the Parliament and it applies equally to all whether it be the common man, the judge or anybody else. It has just happened in the P.F. Scam in Ghaziabad. It was a scam of such a large proportion that the C.B.I. investigation is being held against judges of the Supreme Court and the High courts and judges of all the Subordinate Courts who were pinpointed. I would like to say that we do not have any reservation about increasing their salaries as some of our hon'ble Members have asked.

[English]

They should be accountable.

[Translation]

Shri Rasa Singh Rawatji has stated that the cases are piling up but who is accountable for this? Whether there is any limit for courts to hear the cases. You can go on appointing judges and increasing their number and the pendency of cases also goes on to rise.

[English]

What is the accountability?

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to you that as our worthy Minister of Law has just promised to bring a comprehensive Bill but right now that Bill cannot be introduced in the House and such a Bill should be introduced in the next House to ensure that the judiciary remains above the board. I hold and want that the judiciary should be free of corruption charges. Sir, I remember that once our President did not give assent to the appointment of a Chief Justice. Despite this that person was appointed as Chief Justice of a High Court. I do not want to cite any body's name but this system will not be able to function if the President's consent and query is overlooked. We need to think over it and make the system fool proof.

Sir, I agree to what Shri Radhakrishanji had stated that impeachment is not possible as we have seen in the case of Ramaswami in which the Government could not get through with the impeachment despite its best efforts. Just now one of our leaders from Orissa was speaking that the Chief Justice had written about impeachment of a judge that impeachment was not possible at all. As per the provision in this regard impeachment is impossible even if the Minister of Law and whole of the Government desires it. No judge can ever be impeached.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government as well as all Members that we all respect judges but the judges must win public trust and they

must evoke a sense of respect among public. That public trust and respect for judges is eroding and an accusing finger is now being raised against them. We shall have to see to it that we bring such a Bill so that all these issues can be addressed and in future such lacuna can be plugged. With this I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Thank you hon. Deputy Speaker Sir. First of all, in principal I raise the objection to the promulgation of the Ordinance. Why the Government was in so hurry to increase the salaries of High Courts and Supreme Court judges? They are already taking luxurious salaries and other facilities.

Sir, one Bill, namely, The Judges Enquiry Bill, was submitted by the hon. Law Minister before this House. Ultimately, it was sent to the Standing Committee and long back the Standing Committee has made a recommendation to the concerned Ministry and to the Government also, but it was kept in the cold storage. Why is the Government so silent in bringing this Bill before this House? The tenure of this House is about to be over. We have no objection in raising the salaries of the judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court. But I am sorry to say that there are so many cases of corruption and malpractices among the judges of the High Courts, the highest tribunals of States, and Supreme Court, the highest tribunal of the country.

It appeared in the newspapers, print media and electronic media, that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was very much aggrieved and has stated that the cases of corruption among the judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court is known to everybody in the country. People have lost their faith in the judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court because their dealing, their behaviour and their activities are very much suspicious. I am not saying that all the judges are involved but some are involved in the cases of corruption. Some judges are very honest. But some judges are involved in cases of malpractices and their behaviour, their code of conduct, etc. is not at all



[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

satisfactory. The same is case with some of the lawyers of the High Courts and Supreme Court Bars.

I would say that the High Courts and Supreme Court are the highest judicature of the country. We are not raising any objection, but the cases are long pending in High Courts and Supreme Court, people are coming and going but cases are still pending. Suppose, I file a case or an appeal before the High Court or the Supreme Court, nobody knows when it will be disposed of. I will ultimately expire, my son will come, he will also expire and his son will come, but there will be no disposal of the cases in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. This is in the original side of the Kolkata, Mumbai and Madras High Courts.

If somebody preferred an appeal in some other High Courts also, there is no disposal. There are long-pending cases. There is no question of disposal. The Government should take care of this sort of practice. There should be a mechanism so that there is disposal of cases as early as possible, within a stipulated period; otherwise delay defeats the law.

Not only that, another problems is that the number of High Court Benches should be increased. It is because it is not possible for the village people to come to the capital cities. They can file their suit, they can prefer their appeal in the different Benches in the remote corners of the country. Otherwise, poor people cannot get relief. So I would request the Government to set up more Benches in the different districts headquarters. If it is not possible to set up High Court Benches in all the district headquarters, at least in some district headquarters the Benches should be set up. Justice delayed is justice denied. Delay defeats the law. He knows it better than me because he is not only the Law Minister; he is a prudent lawyer also. I would like to humbly submit before the Law Minister to look into the matter. Kindly bring faith among the people of the country so that they have prestige and faith on the Judiciary of the country. Judiciary already lost the faith of the people. It is the highest tribunal. It is a funny thing that they are appointing their own Judges. Is it

possible as per the Constitution of India? I am not an expert of the Constitution, but so far as my knowledge is concerned, it is beyond the capacity of the Constitutional provisions that they themselves are appointing their Judges. The President of India is answerable to the people of the country but Judges are holy cow; they are not answerable to the people of the country. They deny to declare their assets. I personally know that some Judges have so much affluence; they are increasing their property and other wealth after being appointed as Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court also.

Lastly, I would say that to bring the faith in the Judiciary system, the Government should consider. Cutting across the party lines, from this side or that side, all the Members say in the same voice regarding the position of the Judiciary. That is why, the Government should take it seriously; consider seriously on this matter.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly support this Bill. The issues raised here are related to corruption which is indeed a matter of concern. An increase of three times in existing salaries of the judges is proposed through this Bill but in view of the increased prices and recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission salaries of the executive were increased and now in this House a Bill seeking revision of salaries of the judges of the Judiciary is being passed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be followed by yours.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Ours is the third organ of democracy. There are three organs of governance in our country—(i) Executive, (ii) Judiciary and (iii) Legislature. Whenever there is a proposal for hike in the salaries of the legislature it is severely criticized because at that time we ourselves consider revision of our own salaries. That move is highly criticized by the Media as well as our leftist friends and it is however another thing that all draw the same revised salary while drawing salaries and allowances.

All the three organs are equally affected if there is a rise in prices or the Consumer price index, or a situation of inflation prevails in the country.

I, however, agree that the matter does not pertain to the hon'ble Minister of Law but since the pay revision proposals of the Judiciary are being discussed here, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here, the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament have recommended that the Bill related to salary revision proposals in respect of Members should be passed in this very session of Parliament and it should be effective w.e.f. 2006 onwards and it should be on the lines of other salary revision proposals. In addition to this, once there was a suggestion from the Hon'ble Speaker to constitute a Commission. The Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament should setup a permanent mechanism, so that we do not have to come again to the House for amendment in the Bill and it should be automatically fixed like the pay revision and increments in accordance with the circumstances prevailing in the country. This message must be conveyed as all senior Ministers are sitting here. If it is passed in this very Session, it would definitely be a bonus and a gift to the hon'ble members at time of their departure and the 15th Lok Sabha would inherit this excellent system. It is not that all Members of Parliament do their personal work for example I am a practitioner of law but cannot continue it due to parliamentary engagements. That profession of ours is discontinued. We are dependent only on this. For such Members of Parliament, the proposals for salary hike in respect of the legislature must be considered. I understand that it is supported by all of us. If salaries are being hiked in every organization of the Government, the demand of salary hike for Members must be considered.

Sir, in addition to this, a concern was expressed on corruption and there was a proposal for setting up a bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai to deal with the problem of pendency of cases. I am of the opinion that in view of the huge geographical size of our country not only a Bench in Chennai but small Division Benches

in Kolkata and Mumbai—two distant areas, should also be set up so that some cases could be heard there. The hon'ble Minister should consider it also.

*[English]*

SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA (Tehri Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a strong and vibrant judiciary is the essence of our Constitution and democracy, and we should be proud of our judicial system, which, all these years, has protected our rights. Sir, landmark judgments have been given in the field of equality, freedom of speech and personal liberty.

I strongly support this Bill. I would like to make two suggestions to the hon. Law Minister.

We should not always blame the judiciary for arrears of cases. It is time that the Government of India, all Corporations and the State Governments take a review of the cases which they have filed. Every judgment whether it is from the Tribunal or from the courts is appealed to the High Court or to the Supreme Court. If there is an in-house strong mechanism in the Government of India, in the Corporations and in the State Governments—it is not necessary that you go and appeal against all the judgments—then certainly, to some extent the load on the courts would decrease.

Sir, it is necessary to set up some more Benches in order to facilitate dispensation of justice. I would request the hon. Law Minister to consider setting up a Bench or a Circuit Bench in Dehradun, Uttarakhand because of the geographical area it has become very difficult for the litigants to go to the court.

Sir, by increasing the salary of judges, we would attract talents. If you do not have talented lawyers on the Bench, then certainly there will be a fall in the standard of dispensation of justice. With this increase in salary of judges, I am sure the collegiums will consider inviting more lawyers on the Bench so that we have a better judicial system functioning.

Sir, it is high time that we have a re-look at the Constitution with regard to the aspects raised by the hon. Members, with regard to the appointments and

[Shri Vijay Bahuguna]

impeachments of the Judges. For that, the opinion of the entire House and all major political parties will be necessary. But we must respect this institution. If we want to be respected then we must learn how to respect the judicial system. For the democracy to survive, it is necessary that strong and independent Judiciary exists. We must be considered to the legitimate demands, which they expect from this Parliament.

With these words, I support the Bill.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill with a reservation against issuing an Ordinance just one month ahead of the commencement of the Session. There was no need for the Ordinance, there was no urgency for it. The enhanced salaries could have been paid with backdated arrears.

But anyway, Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome this proposal. Let our Judges be satisfied, let them be paid well so that the judicial system in the country may move on in a healthy tradition and a healthy track. But at the same time, Judges should be made more accountable. Everyday, we are hearing from the newspapers about more and more cases of corruption and irregularities. Even the Chief Justice of India is acknowledging the fact that corrupt elements are crept in to the Indian Judiciary. That is not a welcome situation. We have to take some urgent measures to make Judges more accountable.

At the same time, the Judges should work more. With their enhanced salaries, the Judges should be made to work more because they are enjoying long holidays. The courts will be closed for days together every year for various reasons while lakhs and lakhs of cases are pending in the courts. Therefore, some urgent measures should be taken to clear the pendency. Let the Judges work more. It is the colonial hangover of declaring court holidays for longer periods. Let us stop this practice because the courts can function round the year like any other institution or any other office.

I have to point out one more thing. Many hon.

Members have already expressed their opinion regarding the process of appointment of the Judges. As far as my understanding of the Indian Constitution goes, the Executive has to play a very important role in their selection process. But India has become the only country in the world where the Judges themselves make their successors. A new judicial class has emerged in the country. In the selection process, there is no transparency. The process is opaque and it is done in secret. It is not a healthy practice. We should go back to the earlier procedure, in the true spirit of the Indian Constitution because the Constitution is interpreted by the Judiciary and usurp the powers of the Executive in that matter. Therefore, the selection process of the Judges should be made more transparent with the participation of the Executive also. That is the mandate of the Constitution.

Sir, I welcome this move to pay more for the Judges but let them work more. We have the right to expect more output from the Judiciary so that arrears can be cleared, pendency of cases can be reduced. Let our Judiciary be more accountable, and let them work in a transparent and democratic manner.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaried and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill introduced here seeks to revise the salaries of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges and doubling the existing rate of sumptuous allowance and scale of free furnishing admissible to Judges.

Then, it seeks to revise the pension, additional pension, maximum pension of judges, additional quantum of pension and family pension as applicable in the case of Central Government employees and pensioners.

The salary hikes listed in the draft Bill have already been effected through an Ordinance by the Government. As pointed out by other Members, I also do not understand why there is hurry in bringing such an Ordinance. My submission is that any increase in the salaries, pension and other facilities of judges of higher courts should only be effected simultaneously with other pending Bills concerning the judiciary like the Judges

Inquiry Bill which is now kept in cold storage without touching.

The other aspects, including the reforms in judicial system like the constitution of a National Judicial Service Commission for appointment and probe up complaints of judges should also be taken simultaneously with this High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill. In view of the recent controversy in the declaration of wealth and assets of judges, provision should be made for making wealth and assets of judges and their family members public, rather provision for declaring gifts received by them and revealing personal expenses made above Rs. 20,000 should also be made. There should be a permanent body to address these issues of judiciary.

Our Constitution mandates the separation of Judiciary from Executive. For strengthening the judicial system of our country, as pointed out earlier, a National Judicial Inquiry Bill has to be passed and a proper National Judicial Service Commission has to be introduced. There are some other important issues relating to the judiciary which have to be looked into simultaneously with the hike in salary and allowances of judges.

Huge accumulation of cases, as pointed out by other Members, lack of infrastructure in the court for proper functioning, vacancies of judges in all parts of our country and similar other issues have to be addressed. So, we should concentrate on all these issues simultaneously as part of judicial reforms. The constitution of a National Judicial Service Commission with the provision of powers to revise the salaries according to the service conditions with accountability has to be addressed. The issue of performance of judges, accountability, the issue of corruption and other related issues have to be addressed.

I do agree that the salary of each and every section of our society has to be increased. It is also true that young talented students from our National Law School should also enter the Bar. Unfortunately, several talented students are not entering the Bar. They are searching for some other employment. So, for that

purpose, increased salary and other facilities should be there to attract those intelligent categories of students to the Bench and to the Bar. Then, good lawyers, able and efficient legal luminaries should be attracted to the Bench from the Bar. So, for that purpose, increase in salary and other emoluments is necessary.

But, as pointed out by the other Members, now the Executive is not having any role in the appointment of judges. Then, why are we interfering in the increase in the salary and other issues? So, the National Judicial Commission and passing of the Judges Inquiry Bill are required immediately. Simultaneously, the salaries and other emoluments have to be introduced.

With these words, I conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Hansraj Bhardwajji who is a secular Minister, a militant Minister and on law. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The B.J.P. has also supported it. These benches have also supported it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I rise to support the Bill brought to revise salary of judges. I think salaries of judges need to be revised as proposed in the Bill which has been brought to revise their salaries and it is essential in order to contain rising corruption in the judiciary. The judges will be able to deliver their judgment in a better way if their salaries are hiked and they are happy and satisfied. Cases in courts remain pending for inordinately long time. Therefore, it is my suggestion that the number of judges needs to be increased. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes should also be appointed as judges. You have appointed the judges belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes but still their number is very less and in the next five years more judges are needed to be appointed. At present the Chief Justice of our Supreme Court belongsto the Scheduled Caste. As far as merit is concerned, these people are not inferior to

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

any one. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you also belong to our community. Earlier some people thought that Shri Charanjeet Singh Atwalji would not be able to handle the office of the Deputy Speaker but you are conducting the House in an excellent manner. So the SC/ST candidates are quite meritorious. It is my suggestion that a Bench of Supreme Court be set up in Mumbai. Mumbai is the economic capital of our country and it is in the vicinity of the South India, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Similarly more benches of the High Courts in various states are needed to be set up. For example, there are the Benches of the Uttar Pradesh High Court at Allahabad and Luknow and one more Bench of it should be set up at Gorakhpur too. The State of Uttar Pradesh needs to be trifurcated, one state for \*, one state for \* one state for our party and one state should be formed for the Congress party. This is a very large state. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That should not be recorded. If the names of persons, who are not present in the House, are mentioned, they should be expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: More provisions are required to be made to wipe out corruption in the Judiciary. So, Hansraj Bharadwaji, this responsibility is still on your shoulders and even after elections we are going to entrust the responsibility of judiciary to you. You shall get the responsibility but I should also be considered for some responsibility. Therefore, I whole heartedly support this Bill but I would like to add that a provision should be made to ensure that a decision is delivered in a time span of two or three years. I support this Bill. You can make more increase in the payments of the judges so that they are happier and discharge their duties in a much better way. You can further increase their salaries. It is my suggestion.

---

\*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA (Kanakapura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill which was brought up by the Law Ministry. I appreciate and congratulate the Law Minister for bringing more people-oriented Bills during the five-year term of the UPA Government.

The Bills seeks to increase the salaries of the judges and to revise the family pension of the judges. It also seeks that the majority of the expenditure should be borne by the State Governments. This is the need of the hour also. The judges have been working throughout the day and have a very hectic life. They are attending to lakhs of cases to provide justice to the nation. At the same time, I urge that more women judges should be given opportunity. This is the need of the hour.

I also urge upon the community from the judiciary side to maintain their dignity and honour because everybody is making jokes and everybody is making accusations. Even Judiciary is not left out of the corruption charges. In this House, with concern, we are taking care of their needs and they definitely deserve this kind of support from Parliament. Across the party lines, everybody is supporting them because so many pending cases are there in this country where poor people are suffering. That is why, with the intention to help the people, we are bringing these changes.

Sir, at last, through you, I urge upon the Parliament to set up one Supreme Court Bench in Bangalore city of Karnataka, which place is very convenient weather-wise, people-wise and culture-wise, to deliver justice from South India.

With these words, I support the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for this House to discuss this important legislation because we do not know the sensitivity of this matter. I am saying this because the Judges do not speak for themselves, and the Judges do not ask

for anything. It is this House, which has the responsibility to hold the purse of the nation, and has to give it. Therefore, this has been the tradition right from the days when the Constitution was enacted that whatever facilities and perks are permissible under the conditions of the country are given by all successive Governments without any controversy, and there has never been any acrimony or debate on this issue.

I am very happy about all that the hon. Members have spoken. They have only emphasized very relevant points except a brief intervention from my old friend. Otherwise, it has been a good and constructive debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is your fast friend.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I only wanted to educate you about the judicial system. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I do not mind it. He can educate me outside Parliament, and I will welcome it. But he is a veteran Parliamentarian. Therefore, everybody looks at what he states here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I was only explaining about the judicial system. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: For the first time in the last five years I have seen you agitated while he was speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: It is because if one friend pricks another friend, then the prick is very severe. Let me tell you frankly that I am a Leftist, but when you hold a position of responsibility, then you have to discharge it.

I am so happy. An hon. Member from the BJP side, namely, Shri Rasa Singh Rawat is a mature speaker that it is like music to my ears when he says thanks. I love such speeches from hon. Members. The speech of the hon. Member from Orissa was very constructive as also the speeches made by other Members. This is the way by which we can be educated

and guided, and your message is carried to the Judiciary. I am really very happy. I would like to very briefly touch all the points, and if any point remains, then I will be very happy to answer it.

You all know that the Founding Fathers of this Nation were all very high-level Graduates of Law, and Barristers. The Founding Fathers gave this Constitution to us, and they never envisaged that there will be either corruption in Parliament or in Judiciary. Therefore, they kept very negligible provision for punishing these institutions of democracy.

We are happy that for the last 50 years or so our public life or our judicial life has been very clean. I have experience of around 45 years as a lawyer, and I have never heard that a Judge could ever be corrupt. But these are the vagaries which are of recent origin. In public life also the hon. Speaker had to take some harsh steps, which was astonishing. Now, when we hear in the newspapers the cases of corruption in the High Court, these are matters of concern. Therefore, what is the answer? Today, I am here and tomorrow you may be here. Anybody can be here. Therefore, this is a matter, which calls for unity of the whole Parliament. No one Government can really amend the Constitution so radically that puts the present position on the back burner, and bring a new one. This attempt has been made from Shri Dinesh Goswami's time, but it has not succeeded because we are not united in Parliament. It is the unity of Parliament that answers when national issues are addressed. The answer was coming when we stood united on the issue of terrorism. If we had been fragmented, then there would have been no answer for it.

Let me tell you frankly that the Judiciary also watches us. As you say that Judiciary should work more, the Judiciary also says that the Parliament should work more. They are openly saying this when they see us fighting here. They say that: "What is happening in the Parliament?" Some people said it, and I said that: "Do not talk about Parliament. The Parliament represents the will of the people." They said that: "We are given this responsibility of power of Judicial Review by the Parliament."...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That judicial review is reversed by...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan, do not disturb the House. Please sit down.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I wish to reply to some hon. Members who have given very constructive suggestions.

I am very happy that a view is emerging that the nation will give all facilities to judges. There is no controversy on that. On the Ordinance, it is parliamentary practice to oppose the Ordinance. I am not unaware of this. But let me tell you that judges phone me and ask me, "What is happening to our salaries? Secretaries to the Government are drawing more salaries. Our Registrar-General is getting more. Therefore, the urgency was to give it as early as possible because the judges were making a grievance of it. Therefore, for a noble cause the Ordinance was brought. I knew there will be severe opposition to it. I do not want to discourage parliamentary practices. You have done your duty. I would request you to condone it. I made a statement. I do not bring the Chair or the President of India into the discussion because in tradition these two are not debated. Therefore, I submitted at the very outset as to what the urgency was. You may find it adequate or inadequate that is your view. But showing large-heartedness, you have already condoned it by supporting this law.

The real issue is two-fold. One aspect of it is the pendency of cases. Nobody can deny that the lawyers or the judges are meant to serve the people of India. Otherwise, what is the importance of this institution? I am proud to say that judiciary has served this country very well. Because you wanted the per-judge disposal, I have been monitoring this continuously. Except in one or two High Courts, all the High Courts of the country have given disposal rates that is expected of a judge of a High Court, i.e., about 1020 on average. We monitor this disposal continuously. I deal with the Supreme Court and High Courts. I do not deal with the judiciary in the States. They are performing in the same way. But what to do? The institution is increasing.

Is it not a case where there should be a national endeavour by the Central and State Governments to see that more judges are employed? That is a case where national effort will be required because it is a national problem. The NDA Government gave money for fast track courts and that made a difference in the session trials. I have continued with this. In addition, this House was very kind to give me its nod for the Gram Nyayalayas. That is where we are giving Central support to States to appoint around three thousand to four thousand grassroots level judges to go to the poor people for summary disposal of cases. We have provided reservation to women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes there so that the problems are resolved there. That is a new step which this Parliament has sanctioned very recently.

There is always a review of the strength of the judges every third year. This year we reviewed and we have increased around 180 judges in the High Courts. But the proposals have to come from the High Courts for their appointment. They have not come for two reasons. Sometimes the CJ of that High Court does not forward it. In Uttar Pradesh, 60 posts are still vacant in Allahabad High Court. I wish they could make a recommendation. What is the reply? They do not have enough courtrooms. We have to make provision for the courtrooms, infrastructure, and that requires a lot of money. We will devise national effort. The Centre has already come up to help the States in this matter. The NDA Government gave it from the Finance Commission. We have also requested the Central Government to help the States. But it is a very gigantic task before us. Unless we unite together, the States and the Centre, this will not be possible. One Law Minister from the Centre cannot resolve all the cases.

One Minister from the Central Government, the Law Minister, cannot resolve all the cases. The Chief Justice has asked, all the vacancies should be filled up. There are 3,000 vacancies in the States. I have no control. But I write very occasionally to the States to fill up the vacancies. The Joint Conference of the Ministers and Chief Ministers are held every year, and things have improved.

About infrastructure, we have made provision for computerising the entire country's courts, right up to the taluka level. We have provided money to the States, 100 per cent grants have been given by my Ministry. We are monitoring and I believe that in the next two years, the country will have e-governance courts. Changes are taking place. But they are at a very slow speed and people are restless on this. I hope, after elections, this issue after this debate will get priority, whoever would be the Law Minister. We will have to develop a national consensus because this is also a national problem—one State or two States—and a very cooperative attitude has to be adopted in this matter.

You may criticise the Judiciary but the public perception is that Judiciary is doing better than other organs of the State. Corruption has to be dealt but we have no provision. You are all very learned Members, many of you are Advocates, who know that there is no provision except in the Constitution or the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968. There is a requirement that this whole area is restudied and we should see how we can include other supplementary provisions in dealing with the complaints. So, I thought that I will succeed in getting the Judiciary Council Bill passed by this Parliament. If it does not happen, Parliament is a continuous institution. It will come immediately after the elections. I hope all of you will come back and review this debate in a much more constructive way, and whatever you will resolve and that would be the way to deal with corruption in Judiciary. There is no independence away from Parliament. Parliament can make corrections in any instrument and in any system of the governance. This is the supreme institution. I do not subscribe to the limitations and powers of Parliament, however strong it may come from the elitist groups that there is a limitation. But still I am not reconciled to the limitations put in Keshvanand Bharati's case. Parliament is the supreme institution. It represents the whole nation. Up to Nehru's time, the Parliament was accepted as the supreme institution.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You should tell the Judiciary also that Parliament is supreme.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am making the statement

with full responsibility that Parliament is the supreme institution.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You should say that Parliament's recommendations will be implemented.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am also making the statement with full responsibility that we are second to none in reducing the corruption in the Judiciary. It is my initiative, hon. Member, that I started this study and completed it and gave it to the Standing Committee. If we all return, we will pick up this thread and complete the job. I have not only talked to one or two or three Chief Justices of the States, however reluctant they may be, they are also accountable to the Constitution of India. I do not subscribe to the view that Judiciary is accountable to the Executive. No. It is accountable to the Constitution because they take the oath in the name of the Constitution and Constitution is supreme for everything. Therefore, Parliament can amend the Constitution. Parliament has plenary powers to amend the Constitution despite limitations. This is not only in India, right from 1883, in America, Parliament, President and Judiciary fought this battle—supremacy of Parliament—because Parliament can amend the Constitution. We can make another method of appointment. We will discuss it when the opportunity comes. We cannot discuss in an *ad-hoc* manner. It is simply not possible to convince you about the Constitution of India. Presently, there are inadequate provisions to deal with the provision of Judiciary.

My answer is that in the vision which our founding fathers had, they had never envisaged corruption in judiciary. Judges were total image of integrity and honesty. I expect, as the Member of Parliament, that that should continue to be so and by and large, they have been like that.

I do not want to discuss—if you forgive me—individual cases. Hon. Member referred to one Judge case of Kolkata. Firstly, let me tell you that this is a wrong impression that the Chief Justice of India will recommend from the Supreme Court that you may impeach so and so and I will do that. This is not



[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

possible. It is your privilege; you give me 100 signatures and I will start the motion. You have to give 100 Lok Sabha MPs and 50 in the Rajya Sabha and that has to be done.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): That is the technical side of it. There has to be a recommendation from the Chief Justice of India—that is a suggestion.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: There are certain issues which have to be seen; it is a delicate question of interpreting the Constitution. I have to convince first myself; I am, in age and experience, senior to the Chief Justice; I have to study whether a case has been made out for impeachment. Can I come to any conclusion without studying the whole matter? You will not advise me to do that; I know that; one after another, there are brilliant MPs here. I will have to face the music here otherwise. So, it is not that way; I am making a proper study of the case and leaving it for the future to decide on the case.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): 'Not taking a decision' itself is a decision!

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: No. There is time for that. I have to persuade 100 MPs to frame the charge. The Chief Justice's recommendation is of no use. The Chair here will decide; the peers Committee will have to be again appointed. The 1968 Bill is very clear—the Judges Inquiry Bill. There is no other method in the system known to us where you can investigate a judge.

I believe that in order to uphold the independence of judiciary, you will have to give a statutory backing to all penal provisions, with the nod of the Parliament. So, I am not going into that. I will not disappoint anybody also because I have nothing personal in this and there is nothing personal in this. So, these two matters are of urgent importance.

We should serve our people well; we should give speedier justice; we should increase judicial manpower; and we should increase the infrastructure. I am very happy that the States are now coming around; earlier

the States ignored this. Chief Justice after Chief Justice now says that they are happy with the attitude of the State Governments. This is a joint responsibility.

If the vacancies are recommended well in time, I have a memorandum of procedure with the Chief Justice of India, that they will recommend six months in advance. But they do not recommend even six months after. I cannot appoint a judge unless the name comes to me from the Chief Minister and the Chief Justice. You know that nowadays there is a delay in receiving the recommendation. But I want to inform the august House that during the last four years, I have appointed more than 400 judges in the country in the High Courts. On an average, it is around 100 judges in a year, whereas during the earlier years, the maximum that could be done by any Law Minister was 60. So, there is an increase of 40. So, if the procedure is made simpler with the Judicial Commission, etc. I think speed can be achieved.

But again, it is a matter of time; but the issue is very complex; the delicacy of the institution is such that if it is disturbed or tinkered with by any unusual matter, the country will not accept. You may say so. So, we always take that the judiciary is serving the country and we should agree with that.

I also tell you that there is an impression that something more is being given to them. The salary of the High Court Judge is equivalent to the Secretary to the Government. Would you not like that the High Court Judge should be equivalent to the Secretary to the Government?

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: We are not saying no to that.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: There is no dispute on that issue.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am just saying to inform this—somebody said that there is three-fold increase; there is no three-fold increase in that.

I am very happy that on basics, we all agree and that is where this institution has been serving very well.

India is a proud democracy. I would like to submit before this House that wherever we go, we are admired as a great democracy and as a country where the institution of judiciary is independent. We should be proud of it. It does not matter whether this side or that side rules. The nation comes first. Jawaharlal Nehru said, "Who lives if India dies and who dies if India lives". Dr. Ambedkar was the philosopher behind the constitutional philosophy. He has studied very carefully the delicacies involved. He himself did not want that there should be an absolute power in the President in appointment of judges. I remember his prophetic words. He said that both the President and the Chief Justice are high offices. We should trust them. But, who argued the 1993 case? They were all the brilliant lawyers of this country. They argued saying do not trust the politicians. You may read the 1993 Advocate on record case. I was dismayed to see how these brilliant lawyers were arguing against the parliamentary powers or the President's power. Right from Shamsher Singh's case, Krishna Aiyarji said that the President is bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers. There is no independent power except the Cabinet advice. That is the philosophy today. I wish the judiciary should appreciate it and correct its own version either in a review or with your cooperation we will do it by a constitutional amendment.

So, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me this indulgence. If any point is left, I would be too happy to answer it. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, with your permission I would like to set the record straight. After my taking over as the Minister, I have ensured that there are women judges in the High Court. In Delhi High Court there used to be one woman judge and now there are six women judges. In each High Court at least four women judges have been accommodated and so is the case for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities. I am giving reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Women in Gram Nyayalayas. You know that I have gone from State to State to find suitable talent in Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and women.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, do you want to withdraw the Resolution?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is no question of withdrawal. I am very-very firm that the present condition is not good. Whatever he may say, the present condition is not good as far as the judiciary is concerned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to withdraw it or not?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is no question of withdrawal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 2009 (No. 1 of 2009) promulgated by the President on 9 January, 2009."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions for Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 13 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 13 were added to the Bill.*

16.00 hrs.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 3 to the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 3 to the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

*The motion was adopted.*

**New Clause 14** Arrears

*Amendment made:*

Page 4, after line 29, insert –

**"CHAPTER IV**

**TRANSITIONAL PROVISION**

Arrears

14. The difference of salary, pension and family pension payable to a Judge of High Court or to his family, as the case may be, under the High Court Judges Act or a Judge of the Supreme Court or his family as the case may be, under the Supreme Court Judges Act as amended by this Act and the salary, pension or family pension payable to such Judge or his family, as the case may be, but for this Act shall be paid in two installments, the first installment of forty per cent, to be paid during the current financial year

2008-09 and the remaining sixty per cent, to be paid in the financial year 2009-10."

(3)

(Shri H.R. Bhardwaj)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 14 be added to the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*New clause 14 was added to the Bill.*

**Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)**

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 4 to the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 4 to the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

*The motion was adopted.*

**New Clause 15** Repeal and  
Saving

*Amendment made:*

Page 4, after line 29, insert –

15. (1) The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 2009 is hereby repealed.

"Ord.  
1 of  
2009.

for "Fifty-ninth", substitute "Sixtieth". (1)  
  
(Shri H.R. Bhardwaj)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 as amended by the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, as amended by this Act." (4)

28 of  
1954.  
41 of  
1958.

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*The Long Title was added to the Bill.*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 15 be added to the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*New clause 15 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 1**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 5,—  
for "2008", substitute "2009" (2)  
(Shri H.R. Bhardwaj)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Enacting Formula**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1, —

16.04 hrs.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI LAWS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 2009**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 31. Mr. Jaipal Reddy, the House was adjourned till 2.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. means 2.00 p.m. But you were late. It should not happen again.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, at the outset, I offer unqualified apology for my unintended absence. It was partly because of confusion. Sir, may I now proceed?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital of Delhi for a further period up to the 31st day of December, 2009 and for matters

[SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY]

connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, I would not take much time of the House. Delhi has witnessed an extraordinary phase of series of storms during the last three years in the forms of court orders, ceilings and demolitions. We, in the UPA Government and Urban Development Ministry, have risen to the occasion time and again and I must thank the Parliament for its unstinted and undivided support to every legislative initiative I placed before Parliament.

16.06 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

While rising to the occasion we did not fall a prey to populism. On the contrary, we seized it as a constructive opportunity to see that Delhi is allowed and enabled to develop on proper lines. The results are the initiatives on this issue by UPA Government and are all there for everyone to see. Our Congress Government in Delhi has won for the third time in a row. I look upon the results not only with great gratification but also with joy and pride. We have in the meantime not only provided protection to all the affected people, but also adopted the Master Plan Delhi 2021 which enable proper planned development of Delhi. Even so, certain processes need to be cleared and the present Bill would like to provide protection to six categories of development: First category is slum dwellers and *Jhuggi Jhopri* clusters; second category is existing farm houses involving construction beyond permissible building limits; third category is schools, dispensaries, religious institutions and cultural institutions; fourth category is storages, warehouses, godowns used for agricultural inputs or produces including dairy and poultry in rural areas built on agricultural land; fifth category relates to unauthorized colonies including village *Abadi* and its extension; and the sixth category is urban villages in addition to village *Abadi* and its extension.

Sir, with these few words I commend this Bill for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital of Delhi for a further period up to the 31st day of December, 2009 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur):

Sir, Shri Jaipal Reddyji is our friend and we have had a very long association with him. His coming late to the House is not due to his compulsion but the Government's. Sir, the problem is that the Congress party has taken the people of Delhi for granted. The absence of Government at the time of introduction of the Bill shows how serious the Government is in this regard but well, it is always better late than never. I begin from the statement of Shri Jaipal Reddyji that I belong to Bihar but I have received my education here in Delhi and Tytler Sahib is right in saying that I have been married in Delhi.

I have got an opportunity to stay in Delhi for many years. If there is any place where the Members have to stay for a longer period than in their respective parliamentary constituencies, it is Delhi. Whenever we read a newspaper, we see that Delhi is in the grip of crisis. In Delhi, the people build their houses with the money they save in their entire life. But they are always afraid of the likelihood of demolition their shelters. Building a house is not an easy task. A house is a lifetime hope and achievement for the service class and the poor. After their children, their house is the most valuable asset for them. People in Delhi are afraid of demolition of their houses and the situation is prevailing here for the last three years. They always live in fear as no one knows when an order will be issued and the bulldozers will roll in to demolish their houses. Efforts should be made to find solution to this problem as the Congress party is in power in Delhi and fortunately they are in power at the Centre also for a little more time. I would like to refresh your memory that elections are round the corner. You are under a spell of feel good factor. It is the popular mandate which will determine

who is going to form the Government...*(Interruptions)*

Today, I am not going to be provoked. You are in power in Delhi and I congratulate you for returning to power again. In democracy the elected one's should be respected. In democracy we appreciate it. When elections to the Municipal Corporation were held, the people of Delhi had defeated you by a two third majority. You have your Government at the Centre as well as in the State of Delhi but you do not remember that you were trounced in the Municipal elections. Earlier the Lok Sabha elections were held which you had won and it was followed by the elections to the Delhi Municipal Corporation which remained in our favour. After this, elections to the Delhi Legislative Assembly were held in which your party emerged victorious, now it is the turn of our B.J.P. and the N.D.A. to win in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in Delhi. This time around we shall win. We became over confident after the Delhi Municipal Corporation elections that we would definitely form the Government in Delhi but you worked hard and you won. So there should be a sportsmanship spirit in politics. You performed well so you won. You should look into the reasons for your defeat in the M.C.D. elections. We are your friends. So being in opposition, it is our right to give you good advice. We have all rights to constantly caution you in this democratic set up. When we were in your place, you used to give advice and we used to listen to that and we never lost our temper. Who else will give advice as you are democratically elected. You must have made introspection after your defeat in the M.C.D. elections. I did not want to make a political point but I had to remind you of your ignominious defeat in the M.C.D. elections because of the way Shri Jaipal Reddyji celebrated your victory in the Delhi elections in his speech.

Sir, there are villages also in Delhi. People living in these villages are also called Delhites. Most of the people in Delhi are either outsiders or Biharis. There is a sizeable presence of outsider Biharis here. I know that a mere mention of Bihar will prompt my friends in the Congress to make some comment as you still won elections despite a number of statements regarding Bihar from your side...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): You have forgotten those bulldozers which were demolishing ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I do not want to reply to your comment as you are on the panel of Chairmen. The people from all over the country reside in Delhi because it is the national capital.

Delhi and Mumbai are economic capitals of the country. Our friend Geete Sahib is sitting here, we also visit Mumbai...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): You are welcome.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Delhi is the political capital of the country and when it was made the capital, the whole of our country was kept in view. It is thronged by people in large numbers. We know that even if you make a planning for two years in advance that planning proves a total failure as so many people migrate to it. The Civic facilities like the Sewage system, electricity and housing are in short supply in Delhi. A large number of the poor particularly from our Bihar have migrated to it over the last 15-20 years. People in large numbers have migrated here in search of employment. The people lived in the slums and the Government allotted to them plots of 20-25 Sq. yards. Earlier, the Government had announced that more than one lakh houses would be constructed but as per the information available with me, it may be corrected by the Minister later on, you are not going to construct more than five thousand houses for the people. You are not solving the problems being faced by Delhi. You had announced relief for the 1632 unauthorised colonies in Delhi before elections but no relief is perceptible.

Sir, no attention is being paid to the 120 urbanised villages in Delhi where trading was banned during the sealing. You pass only a resolution that unauthorised colonies have been authorized. Certificates to this effect are issued by you. You tell the people by handing over a piece of paper that a great task has been done for them but even today no development has taken place in the villages of Delhi. There is no development in

[Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain]

unauthorized colonies in Delhi. Even today, the poor in Delhi are devoid of accommodation in slums.

Sir, through you, it is my request to the Minister as to why he is becoming so miserly despite showing so much generosity. Why do you provide them a temporary relief for some days during election time? Now you have come with a preparation to provide them a relief for ten months. If you have a soft corner for the residents of Delhi, why do you not announce a general amnesty in the matter of unauthorized constructions by bringing in a legislation in the Parliament and the BJP assures you on behalf of the entire NDA that we are prepared to support it. You are not giving an amnesty. Shri Jaipal Reddy Sahib has stated that they sought the intervention of Parliament and the Parliament helped them. I would like to ask when are you going to remove the sword of Damocles in the form of sealing and bulldozers, hanging over their heads.

Sir, through you, I would also like to ask whether they are going to review the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee which had recommended that no floor can be extended beyond the first floor, ground floor and second floor and subsequent to that report you had announced to extend one more floor but perhaps legal complications came in the way? Under the prevalent circumstances all sort of places whether it be the school or religious places in unauthorized colonies are coming under sealing. People are worried at all places.

Sir, through you, I am not scoring any political points. I rise to express sufferings and woes of the people of Delhi. We have a Member of Parliament from Delhi who now is the leader of opposition. A large number of people belonging to Bihar live in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit something about Delhi. Shri Ajay Makhan is my old friend and our friendship is 15-20 years old. He is present here so I don't want to use harsh language but I would like to raise the problems of Delhi here. I am raising here the problems faced by the people of Delhi. I would like to request you to remove the fear of sealing and bulldozer from the minds of people of Delhi. Don't shirk your responsibility.

Sir, today Congress leaders of Delhi have adopted a new trend. Whatever happens here they pass the buck on MCD and say that this is being done by Municipal Corporation. I would like to request you to take immediate steps to provide relief from sealing and demolition by bringing amendment in this Bill and giving one time amnesty for unauthorized construction in Delhi and make announcement in this regard. DDA has purchased land from farmers of villages of Delhi at the rate of Rs. 5 per square yard and now you are selling it at Rs. 5 lakhs per square yard. You can see this in Dwarka, South Delhi and Sarita Vihar. You have purchased the land at throw away prices and today through DDA, by advertising in newspapers, you are selling the same land at very high prices. D.D.A is doing this through advertisement in various newspapers wherein plot no. is mentioned and that plot is being sold at the rate of Rs. 5 lakh per square yard. The land which you have purchased from the farmer at the rate of Rs. 100 per square yard is now being sold at the rate of Rs. 5 lakh per square yard. You are Government not corporate body which is doing business. If the Government is earning some profit from this land then it should be shared with the poor farmers whose land has been acquired. The Government should make such arrangements.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit that people from all over the country come to Delhi in search of job. Nobody should raise objection to it. So long as the Government does not provide equal opportunities of livelihood in all states and employment to all and continues to set up factories and industries in a particular state, people will continue to migrate. Democratic set up of this country is strong and on the strength of this democratic set up people will migrate to Delhi and no permit system can be introduced in this regard. We want that people live in their own state. Our party is ruling party in Bihar. New roads are being constructed there. Several companies from south and Maharashtra are engaged in construction work there. They are constructing roads there. People of Bihar are welcoming them whole heartedly. If the Government provides equal opportunities of employment throughout the country and infrastructure facilities in all cities, people

wills stop migrating. If you provide metro connectivity in one city and if there is not even bus facility in neighbouring city, then people will definitely migrate to green pastures. Therefore, the Government should provide all those facilities in all big cities of the country which are being provided in Delhi.

Sir, the Government has made an announcement that it will provide one room sets to the poor people in 24 storey buildings. In this regard I would like to submit whether the Government is going to take away the right of the persons who have been allotted plots of 25 square yard. If these people construct one room on the first floor of the said 25 square yard house, the Government raises objection to it. With the enhancement of family if they construct one room on the first floor and live there, then the Government should not take away this right from them. There is no objection in constructing multi storey buildings but some more facilities and space should be provided in them as are being provided in 25 square yard plot. The Government should not have objection to the construction of one room in the upper storey of these plots. If the Government allots them houses in multi storey buildings, then they should have option to get same facilities as is being provided to them in 25 square yard plot. Why only a plot of 25 square yard is allotted? Why bigger plots cannot be allotted to them. If land is available, allot them bigger plots so that they may live comfortably. The Government should work in this direction. Once again I would like to request the Government not to give temporary relief from sealing for one year only. Give them general amnesty and remove the fear of sealing from their minds.

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR (Outer Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the National capital of Delhi Laws (special provisions) Bill 2009, brought by hon'ble Shri Jaipal Reddy.

I am happy that keeping in view the problems being faced by the people of Delhi, the Central Government has taken initiative to provide relief to lakhs of people. Even today it terrified us when we remember the scene of sealing and demolition in Delhi two years ago. I would like to thank the Union Government for

bringing New Master plan 2021 which has provided relief to the people of Delhi.

My friend Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain was mentioning that better late than never. But had he given these suggestions to the NDA Government when he was a Minister, this would not have been the fate of BJP in Delhi. The new master Plan 2021 should have been brought ten years ago. They had been in power for 7 years but they had not taken any steps to bring new master plan. This is the reason due to which Delhi had to face a tragic story in the absence of the New Master Plan-2021. So many court orders were passed due to not presenting New Master Plan and the houses of thousands of people were demolished and sealed. Keeping in view the sufferings of the people, hon'ble Jaipal Reddy, Ajay Mankanji and officers prepared the New Master Plan-2021 quickly on the direction of Dr. Manmohan Singhji and presented it and major relief was given to the people of Delhi.

Shahnawaz Sahab was talking about farmers. It would have been better if he would have felt the pain of farmers and would have done something for farmers during his Government to give appropriate rate of their land but unfortunately, he could not do anything. Our Government has raised compensation from 13 lac rupees to 75 lac rupees per acre and not only that, arrangement have also been made to develop new private colonies by private builders on partnership basis. Due to this the land which used to be sold at the rate of 13 lac, 15 lac and 12 lac rupees per acre, today, for that land, we are giving compensation at the rate of rupees 75 lac per acre.

Today farmer's land is sold at the rate of two to three crore rupees per acre. I think the pace of settlement of this city is very fast and the development is also taking place very rapidly. Only the UPA Government and the Congress Government have expressed concern and done something for the farmers. That is why the voters of rural people of Delhi, farmers, labourers, downtrodden people and people of every sections have elected Congress party for the third term. Someone has mentioned about slums and about allotment of 25 square yard plots.



[Shri Sajjan Kumar]

Shahnawaz Sahab is my friend and he belongs to old Delhi. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister of the country, we had inhabited eight lac people by giving 25-yard plots to each family. Thereafter your party came to power and people have not forgotten what your Government have done. Thousands of Jhuggi Jhompadies were demolished and not a single person got a plot of twenty-five yard. You are a leader from Bihar and we welcome you in Delhi also. You talk about Bihar. Just recall when your party was in power in Delhi and in Centre also, thousands of factories were closed. We have always welcome lacs of labourers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh who used to come to Delhi to work. Whatever facilities we can give to them, we have given to them. Thousands of labourers became unemployed at that time in the name of closing factories and they returned back to Bihar by train and it is what all know. That is why due to this the people of Bihar residing in Delhi are with us. They supported us and due to their support we have got an opportunity to make Government in Delhi third time. So you do not have any right to raise the issue of people of Bihar and discuss about them in Delhi. You were minister at that time. You were supposed to talk about the people of Bihar at that time when they were being evicted from Delhi. Jhuggies were being demolished when people of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other states were residing therein. Shahnawaz Sahab, if you would have raised this issue in Parliament, I would also have supported you from outside. But you did not dare to speak at that time. You are talking about municipality elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: It is not in record. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: It is a matter of record whatever I am saying and you can go through the history. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: It is present, where have you gone in history? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: We worked for people of Delhi and that is why people of Delhi accepted us. We lost the election of Municipal Corporation in Delhi. To

win or loose the election in democracy is a common phenomenon. But due to what reasons we lost the election. There were court orders, continuous demolition and constant sealing and people of your party were publicising in such a manner as if it was being done by Congress party. The people oberrated and we lost the election. After election, when people realized the actual position as to what Ajay Makenji and Jaipal Reddyji both have given to the people of Delhi in New Master Plan-2021 and thereby the people of Delhi got relief. We have won election and one of the major reasons was the New Master Plan-2021.

You mentioned the name of hon'ble Vijay Kumar Malhotra and he was member of this House and that is why I am quoting his name. He was my friend and he was with me in parliament. What happened, he had gone to contest Delhi election and Shahnawazji might have heard Chaubeji and Chhabbeji saying. He had gone there to become from Chhabbeji from Chaubeji but became Dubeyji. Now he is not a Member of Parliament and sitting in Legislative Assembly. The people of Delhi did not accept him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Every house is important. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: All houses have respect and dignity. Chaubeji has also respect and Dubeji has also respect and whoever becomes Chhabbeji, has also respect. I am saying it with respect and dignity but what will happen to Dubeji in forthcoming Lok Sabha election, it will become clear later.

You have mentioned about unauthorized colonies that we have given provisional certificate to unauthorized colonies. When Your Government was in power, every day they used to come and remind you about their problems. Your party workers also used to say to your Government for passing these unauthorized colonies and constructing road and drainage system but your Government could not do that. I would like to thank Smt. Sonia Gandhiji, chairperson of UPA that on her discation it was decided to pass more than 1600 colonies. 612 colonies were passed during the tenure of Shrimati Indira Gandhiji. I was also a Member of

House in 1980 and I had got an opportunity to work for unauthorized under her guidance. But after that it has happened again in these years and you say that nothing has happened there. Shahnawaz Sahib, you have not visited Uttam Nagar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: You do not invite me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: I can invite you but you will not come. You are afraid that the BJP might take this matter as attending a party given by Sajjan Kumar. It might land you in trouble. Just have a look at unauthorized colonies. The main road from Uttam Nagar to Najafgarh is in bad condition. But if you visit the unauthorized colony of Uttam Nagar, you will find R and C roads and roads constructed by mixing cement and concrete. An amount of Rs. 2800 crore has been allocated for its development. Beautiful roads and drains have been constructed so quickly that one will be pleased to see it. Not only the roads and drains have been made but also drinking water pipelines have been laid in the second phase and the work of sewerage facility for the people of Janakpuri and Dwarka has also been taken up in the third phase. Water, electricity, roads, drains and sewer facilities are being provided to them. Do you know the price of a house there? Mr. Chairman, Sir, the house that cost Rs. 1.00 lakh earlier now costs Rs. 20 lakh. We have turned all unauthorized colony residents, whichever state they belong to, into millionaires, and next time, Shahnawaz Sahib, if our Government comes to power we will turn them into billionaires. This is the Bill by which we are extending relief to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: You have raised the cost. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: The cost has not been raised for sale purposes. But we are telling you how we have raised the reputation of these colonies ...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to talk about rural area. Village land is being sold continuously and cities are being developed. According to the New Master Plan-2021, no village will exist after 2021, all the villages will take shape of urban agglomeration.

Villages will go through development process and get facilities. Villages as well as urbanized villages will be developed. I would like to thank respected Jaipal Reddyji, and also Ajay Makanji for bringing such a Bill on the guidance of Dr. Manmohan Singhji. Last time, the urbanized villages were not covered. They were not included. What was the impact? The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been taking stern action against urbanized villages. The houses were demolished and sealed and when we told them that this belonged to the village, we were told that it was not so. Moreover, it was mentioned as village, not as urbanized village. This time we have made a provision for that and urbanized villages have been included in it. The people of the rural areas have been provided with amenities. What is the Municipal Corporation of Delhi doing as regards the vendors who sit on the roadside? In the New Master Plan 2021, we had mentioned that all roadside vendors would be given stalls on tehbazari. This work was assigned to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi under which lakhs of people had to be relocated. In about 2 years time, as many as 500 people have been relocated by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. However, if we do not bring this Bill today, who will take care of the roadside vendors? This Bill will serve the purpose. Therefore, I welcome this Bill. As far as giving houses to jhuggi dwellers is concerned, you are talking of giving one lakh houses to them. Shahnawaz Saheb, this is not the question of providing one lakh houses, it is the instructions of our Prime Minister that even if four lakh houses are constructed in Delhi, we will give houses to Jhuggi dwellers. We have started this work and it has been undertaken in such land where the cost of the land is Rs. one lakh per yard. We are constructing flats there. We are not constructing the flats on the border of Haryana. Ajay Makanji is visiting those Jhuggi-Jhonpari camps located in Kalkaji which the late V.P. Singh Saheb had already visited. He went there at a time when bulldozer work was being undertaken there. From this Sunday, we are going to build houses for the people living in Jhuggis and that too, within the posh colonies of Delhi. We have started building houses wherever Jhuggi-Jhonpari camps are located in Delhi. That is why today people of Delhi are supporting us.

[Shri Sajjan Kumar]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill and I would especially like to thank Shri Jaipal Reddy who is aware of the hardships being faced by the farmers. He does not belong to Delhi but despite that he has burnt the mid night oil for alleviating the hardships faced by the people of Delhi. I would like to thank Ajay Makenji who is an MP from Delhi and is fully aware of problems faced by the people of Delhi and has made efforts to remove the same.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: You have not stated the number of houses constructed for the common citizens in the last 60 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to speak in favour of National Capital Territory Bill introduced by Shri Jaipal Reddy. Delhi is the capital of the country and here the political, social, economic and all other needs of each and every person of the country are fulfilled. Contributions of the people of the nation towards Delhi also find way in some way or the other. We do not want to focus on Delhi only. Of course, Shri Sajjan Kumarji is a very enterprising colleague. I know Jagdish Tytlerji since my college days. Our colleague Shahnawazji has mentioned many things about the Bill introduced with special focus on Delhi. Our colleague Shri Sajjan Kumar has given reply to all points raised in this regard. But I want to say that the issue which has certainly cropped up and regarding which Shahnawazji said that such a hue and cry has been raised, is not due to the present government. Many Government were formed during the past twenty years. NDA's government was in power for seven years. We were also with you. Today, there is UPA Government under the leadership of Soniaji which had 90 per cent such people who understand the hardships of the poor and those residing in villages. The UPA is an alliance of these people. This is not an alliance of some two or ten per cent capitalists. Alliance of NDA may be an alliance of capitalists but the UPA alliance was formed for the people residing in Jhuggi-Jhonpri and villages.

The task of bringing them into the mainstream was definitely done by the UPA. The BJP has one publicity wing—RSS which falsifies the facts in such a way that the truth vanquishes. On one occasion, they fed milk to idols in such a way that milk was oozing out of their hands and even then they termed it as Lord Ganeshji drinking the milk. What happened in Delhi? Large unauthorized colonies were built. Have they been built only in five or ten years? Certainly there were discrepancies. Who were responsible for this? Was any leader involved in it? Has any representative of people made his own house out of it? Who was responsible for this? Who is to be made the focus point? Those who have ruined the whole infrastructure of Delhi to such an extent, may be bureaucrats. The culprit is not the one who has sold out everything to make way for his house. The culprit is not the one who has put all his income, his assets into building a two or three room house for keeping his family. Under which law will someone who is not guilty be punished? They were getting food to eat in whichever way they were getting it, whether easily or with difficulty. They were provided with an opportunity to build house. This is not their fault. When they were offered, they grabbed the opportunity. They did not steal anything nor did they commit dacoity. Shahnawazji, you were here for seven years. Had you done something for law and elemency, then you would not have faced this situation. I can definitely say that Sonia Gandhiji has felt the pain and grief of the poor not to speak of her contribution to this country. She is a sensitive lady and had Soniaji not felt the pain and grief of the people living in Jhuggi clusters in Delhi, then their condition would not have changed. She deserves appreciation for this. The UPA Government as a whole deserves appreciation for this. Today Ajay Makenji is sitting here. He is sitting here because of Soniaji. The decision taken in this regard would have been a part of her sensitivity. I know Jaipal Reddy Saheb since the time when he was in Janata Dal and when I used to come here alongwith Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji. I would like to say that people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh live in Delhi. Just now our colleague was telling us how the factory was destroyed, who destroyed them and who tried to render them unemployed. Who compelled them

to commit suicide? I don't want to go deep into political matters, but I can say that whatever be the developments, the poor are the victims, Jhuggi dwellers are hardpressed for survival and distressed persons are victimized.

Just now, our colleague from Bihar was speaking. I appreciate all the Members of Parliament from Congress that they zealously participate in programmes organized for improvement in the Condition of the poor people belonging to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, they deserve to be congratulated. If the people of Bihar have got some respect here it is definitely due to their participation in various activities. This includes their political and social involvement. Also, there is involvement of leadership from their respective areas. I have already stated that various leaders of different political parties of the UPA have all made their way from the rural areas. Therefore, they fully understand the problems being faced by the poor.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel aggrieved to note that people have various types of conceptions about Bihar. They say that these people have besmirched Delhi. The word slum has been used for the locality of the poor. The poor are not so much economically and educationally well-off or sound but it is improper to term the place where they live as filthy place or slum. These terms are derogatory. This means we are making a mockery of their poverty. I urge upon you to kindly use the term hutments of the poor for the same.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN):** This matter does not come under our Ministry.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:** This is a matter related to your Ministry and it is mentioned in this Bill also. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to few points. When the houses, particularly of those belonging to middle class, were demolished during sealing in Delhi, they felt as if they were dead. They had been saying that they wanted to commit suicide. At that time, had the UPA Government and Sonia Gandhiji not come forward to handle the situation, nobody knows how many people

would have committed suicide. The Member of Parliament from Delhi and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Development Shri Ajay Makenji deserves to be congratulated and also the other colleagues who have prevented hundreds of such people holding central figure in their families, committing suicide. Therefore, the houses which have already been constructed, should not be demolished.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please conclude your speech.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:** I want to say that the action which should be taken by politicians and Lok Sabha, is being taken by the Courts what is the reason behind it? You can't understand the problems of poor people by sitting in AC rooms. Therefore, the Government should bring such a Bill, which enable the poor people and middle class people living in Delhi, Mumbai etc, to face problems and they should not be harassed from such type of rules and laws, they should not be compelled to commit suicide. Laws formulated in this country are framed for common people. Laws are for people, people are not for laws. Before enacting any law, our Government should keep in mind the needs of the masses, should keep in mind their sentiments and happiness.

In the end, I would just like to tell the Minister that the people settled in Delhi should not be harassed. Today goods manufactured in Ludhiana, Mumbai and other places transit in Delhi. It means wherever goods are manufactured, it comes to Delhi.

If the intention is to destroy Delhi, then the whole country would be destroyed. Therefore, I request hon'ble Ajay Maken Saheb to enact such, rules, regulations so that no unauthorized slums, villages come into existence and if such colonies or villages take place, punitive action should be taken against the errant officials. But structure of Delhi which is already established should not be destroyed. In that Delhi you and UPA Government has initiated 80 per cent commendable job. You are paying attention to the people coming from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, but it looks odd when people say Bihari, downtrodden, slum etc. Do away with all these rubbish things. So that people of Bihar and Uttar

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav]

Pradesh can also live with respect. I request you to pay attention towards them so that they get more respect. This is what I want to say. Once again, while supporting the Bill, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, while I am accepting the Bill introduced by hon. Minister Shri Jaipal Reddy to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a further period up to the 31st Day of December, 2009, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, Shri Ajay Maken to one thing. It is true that for any State, for any Capital, there should be some perspective plan and accordingly, for Delhi also, you have proposed to have one prospective plan which will be valid up to 2021.

While making it, you have given some proposals within this Bill where you have categorically mentioned that for taking decision on regularization of unauthorized buildings, you need to have some time. Secondly, you have correctly mentioned that the problem of hawkers should be looked into and there should be one positive decision for it. You wanted some time for that also.

As far as hawkers are concerned, you must be knowing that in this august House, we have very recently taken a decision and passed a Bill relating to unorganized sector workers. While 93 per cent of the people of our country are coming under unorganized sector, the Government had taken the correct step to give recognition to these unorganized sector people. I believe, hawkers are coming under the unorganized sector. So, social security should be given to them and whatever commitments we have made in that particular Bill, those facilities should be provided to hawkers also.

Here, I would like to cite the example of Kolkata. You know that hawkers are compelled to sit on the footpath because they do not have any other way to earn their livelihood. So, in Kolkata, we have decided that hawkers should not be allowed in the carriageways and within 50 metres from the crossings, while wherever

footpaths are encroached by them, one-third should be used by them and two-third should be kept free for pedestrians.

Moreover, there are certain areas where we have decided that some kiosks should be made and they should be presentable also. I got the opportunity to visit some other countries, where also I found that similar type of arrangements had been made. Some Hawkers' Corners have been made there. We have made the same arrangement in Kolkata. For Delhi also, it is very much required. My point is that they should not be evicted and they should be given the opportunity to earn their livelihood.

On this issue, I have got full confidence in the hon. Minister because being a Member of the Standing Committee on Urban Development, I have seen that it was decided during NDA regime to close down the Kolkata unit of the All India Stationery and Printing Office. I am thankful to hon. Minister of State, Shri Ajay Maken and I must congratulate him and our senior Minister, Shri Jaipal Reddy who have taken the bold decision to keep this unit viable and assured that no retrenchment would be made.

I must congratulate you for it. All the workers throughout the nation—wherever your units are there—are very happy.

17.00 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

You have already taken the decision to absorb them as you are going for modernisation of these units, and you have also taken the very good decision that they should be trained and absorbed in their respective jobs.

Clause 2 (1) (g) of this Bill states that:

“punitive action” means action taken by a local authority under the relevant law against unauthorised development and shall include demolition, sealing of premises and displacement of persons or their business established from their existing location, whether in pursuance of court orders or otherwise.”

My point is this. I got the opportunity to visit a number of places where the Urban Development Ministry is working. You have talked about *jhopri basti* wherever EWS flats have been constructed by your Department. It was our observation that allotment had been made through lottery for all these EWS flats, and LIG and MIG flats made for middle income groups, and as soon as allotment is given, it is being sold at a higher price to some other party. I mean to say that the *jhopri-dwellers*—who have been allotted flats—are selling all these flats to others, and they are going back to the *jhopris*. Therefore, when the *jhopri-dwellers* are being given EWS flats, then there should be certain condition that for at least 20 years they will not be in a position to sell it. They will have to use it, and their family members will have to use it and it should not be saleable. Further, there should be some vigilance procedure where the Department will find whether it is being sold to some other party or not.

As far as demolition of unauthorized structures is concerned, it is our experience in Delhi that there are many houses that are constructed without caring about the law, that is, the existing building rules. My point is this. What the local administration is doing when these buildings are being constructed? There should be some direction to the local authorities that any unauthorized construction should be stopped in the beginning itself instead of waiting for it to get completed. But I definitely welcome your decision that there should be some law.

The perspective plan for 2021 is definitely welcomed by me. The Central Government is spending a lot of money for the overall development in Delhi compared to any other place. Of course, we are getting funds under JNNURM, but it is our observation at least in West Bengal that the beneficiary contribution of 12 per cent for housing scheme for slum dwellers is very much painful to them. It is my earnest request that you should introduce some mechanism so that they can obtain this 12 per cent contribution from bank on long-term basis. A long-term loan should be given so that they can have accommodation in *pukka* buildings.

With these few words, I support the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy. I would be able to give you only five minutes to speak on this issue.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Respected Speaker, Sir, we are discussing The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2009. This enactment intends to regularize the unauthorized constructions, commercial use of residential premises, encroachment on public land by slum-dwellers and *Jhuggi-Jhopri* clusters, problems relating to urban street vendors, which were affecting the lives of millions of people. By the provisions of this Bill, the Government requires a time period of another one year to take all possible steps to finalise norms, policy, guidelines and feasible strategies to deal with the problems of unauthorized development with regard to mixed land use not conforming to the Master Plan, construction beyond sanctioned plans, and encroachment by slum and *Jhuggi-Jhopri* dwellers, hawkers and urban street vendors.

The Government has come forward with this legislation just to regularize the irregularities committed. This Ministry has contributed the maximum to the electoral success of Congress Party in the recent Delhi Assembly elections, as fear psychosis was created in the minds of the people on this account by lingering the process of regularization on. The hon. Minister has succeeded in his efforts.

Sir, we are discussing Ordinances and Bills in this regard for the fourth time in the last two years. The Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 which was passed in a hasty manner placed a one-year moratorium on demolition of unauthorized constructions and ceiling of commercial establishments in the residential areas in the capital. It was anticipated to be rejected by the Supreme Court. Personally I had expressed my apprehensions at that time that this Act would be rejected by the court.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the present Bill states that Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 was enacted to address the several orders and directions passed by the Supreme Court and the

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

High Court of Delhi in cases pending before them. So, in effect it is just to negate the effect of the orders of Supreme Court and High Court that the Government has come forward with this Bill. The Government is trying to take this House for granted by bringing this Bill to regularize all the irregularities practised by the Government and to bail out the Government.

The apex court had termed the Act of 2006 as fully void and illegal. The Bench had observed that it was a pure and simple legislation aimed at overruling the orders of the court. Now we are witnessing the same thing happening again here. The Minister expressed confidence last time about the legality of the 2006 Act. He assured the House then that that Act would not be rejected by the court. However, unfortunately this Act was rejected by the court immediately thereafter. Now, the manner in which the Centre has tried to subvert the ceiling drive reflects very poorly on itself.

There is no doubt in the fact that the Parliament is the supreme law-making institution of the country. But the tendency of the Executive of circumventing the court orders by introducing legislations is an unholy feature of our democracy. The Government should not deal with things in this way. They should make legislation well in advance and must act with foresight. When the Government comes forward with a legislation, it should be ensured that the legislation would stand the test of law and it would not be rejected in the court.

During the tenure of this Government we have witnessed many such instances where different Acts had been either rejected or dealt with very indifferently by the Supreme Court or the High Court.

MR. SPEAKER: Now conclude please. You agreed to one hour for this Bill. You are a party to this.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I will take just one more minute.

Everybody wants Delhi to be a modern and model city. For this purpose a new Master Plan was notified.

On 7th of February, 2007, Master Plan has been prepared. We are now in 2009.

MR. SPEAKER: Your Party was allowed one minute but I have given you six to seven minutes.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: What is the Government doing in the last two years? Master Plan was prepared for 2021. They lack vision. They should have formulated the Plan much earlier. Anyway, they have come out with the Master Plan. Why are they sitting on it for the last two years? Again, why have they taken one year for this enactment?

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Krishna Tirath.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore, you have always been cooperative.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I will take just two minutes, not more time.

This has created an alarming situation in Delhi and in other places. A lot of unemployed youth are rushing to these cities for employment. The Government is not providing sufficient employment opportunities in the rural areas and that is the reason why...

MR. SPEAKER: It applies to all Governments.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Both the Central and the State Governments should plan taking future into consideration. Unemployment youths are coming to cities for employment. City is flushed with unemployed people. The Government have to provide for their dwellings, food, health and education. Naturally, the Government should take appropriate decision at the appropriate time.

MR. SPEAKER: This Bill has limited scope of extending by one year and the Bill has already been passed.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Initially, in 2006, they have come out with the Bill. We have discussed this Bill four times. It is most unfortunate. I can say that this is the only Bill where we have discussed four times. This Government have no vision. The

Government could not anticipate as to what would happen in future. Mr. Minister, you do not have any planning. The Government is doing on these things which create fear psychosis in the people. If the Government intends to do something, let it do properly. Do not take further time.

MR. SPEAKER: No more. You have made a lot of strong points.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, last point.

MR. SPEAKER: This is your fourth last point!

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: At Delhi, how many houses have the Government constructed? They are assuring so many times, they would do it. But how many houses have the Government constructed? How many roads have the Government constructed? How many slum dwellers have you settled in Delhi? Tell us that you have settled so many slum dwellers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No more recording except the speech of Shrimati Tirath.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, thank you very much for your cooperation.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I rise to support National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provision) Bill 2009. The Bill which has been brought up by Shri S. Jaipal Reddy and Shri Ajay Maken for providing relief to Delhi people is formulated on the directions given by our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and by UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. When the discussion on this Bill started, Shri Shah Nawazji was speaking. I think he forgot the things when he was in the Government at that time, one of his minister used to be called 'Buldozer', whole of Delhi was bulldozed under him and these people were only

giving slogan of Delhi shinning and were selling Government properties. Be it fort of Udaipur, hotels or other buildings, they were being sold by them. They forget about the Bill which we have brought today for people of Delhi to provide relief. I remember the days when Late Smt. Indira Gandhi encouraged small and cottage industries and for solving the problem of unemployment, she said that every woman, child, man, who is unemployed but is a craftsman, should be given job.

Indiraji encouraged small and cottage industries after considering all these aspects. But when NDA Government came to power at center, all the hopes and dreams vanished and when our Government has brought forward this Bill, they are frightened. Delhi has spread, its attraction has increased Delhi is the capital of India. It is a mini India, where people of different states have settled. They will get house to live in, employment and they can even earn livelihood on footpath, can open small shop or can establish a small industry from where they can earn their livelihood. These are one things which have attraction these people. Therefore, DDA used to give them small stalls. But when opposition Government came, they thought if we form Government third time in Delhi, we may form the Government at the center also. So they have started talking differently and are not in favour of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, slum dwellers are living in a very miserable condition. They are living in hutments, there is no provision of sewerage in their colonies. They don't have roads, electricity, water facilities, no school for children, they don't have hospital or parks. To provide all these facilities our Government has brought this Bill. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister the developments which had taken place in Delhi. It was also for farmers, for labourers working in unorganized sector and for people living in huts. If anyone has house and one person is employed, he would have pucca house. This Bill seeks to provide relief to those persons. People of Delhi are very happy because that was not thought of by anyone till today Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has as, Chairperson of UPA Government expressed concern over every category of people. Keeping in view all these, the people of Delhi are happy today.



[Shrimati Krishna Tirath]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of those days should have brought Master Plan in 2001 but they did not do that. Due to some reasons we lost Corporation elections. Master plan was not prepared at appropriate time. If they, would have thought 5 years earlier regarding formulating maste plan, the people of Delhi would not have faced these problems. But I am confident that from this Bill every person, every section of the society will be benefitted. Compensation for farmers has been enhanced and this has solved their problem. For solving other problems of the farmers our Government is ready to help them.

With these words I support this Bill.

[English]

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

Now, Shri P. C. Thomas—only for four minutes.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I am sure that after the Bill is passed, policies will be framed so that further encroachments can be avoided, and properly it will be given to those in difficulties. I am sure that lakhs of poor people will be helped by stern steps taken in the Ministry.

I would like to suggest only one or two things. First is that some cheaper accommodation must be made available to people from all over India who are living in Delhi, especially the job-seekers and others who are coming in large numbers. I would submit that because of the huge cost, this has to be taken up very urgently. Secondly, I would like to suggest that there are very big farm houses which are better than very high five star hotels; I do not know whether we are going to save them also because many of them have encroached and they have taken up the properties of farmers. So, a different look will have to be given to this aspect and I hope that it will be looked into. Lastly, Delhi is the national capital. I am sure big leaders of the society must be honoured by giving proper place for setting up their memorials.

For example, Shri Narayan Guru. I think you know him personally. Millions of people have been requesting for it. Even in the Parliament such a request has been made. I think the people concerned have come forward to make all arrangements for the statue to be built in a very befitting way. The only thing is that the land has to be given. The land has to be given urgently. I think that should not be delayed. I am sure that some steps were taken in this regard and some assurances were also given but they are not being fulfilled yet. Shri Narayan Guru is a person whose message is very relevant on the day. I am sure his messages will enthuse the coming generations not only in India but also abroad.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER (Delhi Sadar): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support the Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Sir, I have been hearing a number of Members speaking on this subject. I would like to put it on record and especially I would like my friends from Bihar to listen me. Paswan Sahib, I would like my friends from Bihar to listen. Many-many years ago people from Bihar, Rajasthan and UP came to Delhi and they lived in very poor colonies. S/Shri Sajjan Kumar, H.K.L. Bhagat and the youth leader late Shri Sanjay Gandhi went to Shrimati Indira Gandhi and said that these poor people must be given a proper place to live. I remember the Jan Sangh or the Janata Party at that time said that these people are outsiders but then Shrimati Indira Gandhi said that Delhi belongs to whole of India and everybody has a right to come and stay wherever he wants. In the first 20 Point-Programme 7 lakh people, who had come from Bihar, Utart Pradesh and Rajasthan, were given 25 yards of land in Delhi. That was a beginning made by the leader of Congress Party, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and today that 7 lakh people have become 72 lakh.

MR. SPEAKER: In how many years this has happened?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: By this I just wanted to tell you that we have such a big heart.

[*Translation*]

Delhi is quite accomodating.

[*English*]

We planned for them and that is how this Master Plan came. The first priority in the Master Plan was, of course, improving Delhi, improving sanitation, improving water availability and also giving houses to the poor people. That is how it was planned. Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain is not here. It was that Master Plan on which you sat for six years. It was Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad who came, took action and initiated the Master Plan. Later on Shri Jaipal Reddy and our young Minister Shri Ajay Maken brought this into reality. When this Master Plan was brought into reality, we lost the Municipal Corporation. Nobody knows as to why we lost the Corporation. It is a part of the record. In the last section of my speech I said that there were documents given in the Court by Shri Jagmohan that this should be demolished. It was said that demolition should be carried out and reported every day to the Ministry. It is a part of the record and I think the young Minister will verify this decision. It had created a commotion in Delhi. It made a mess of the Master Plan as the demolition started taking place. When we started improving one thing, the other thing came and we lost. It was only because of Shri Jaipal Reddy and Shri Ajay Maken, who came and really looked at Delhi the way it should have been looked, we started giving concessions, improving things and brought Delhi to a proper sphere. Because of all these the Congress Party has won Delhi elections third time. People started realising that these are the people who are giving us a beautiful Delhi. These are the people who are looking after the poor people and also the urban villages.

That is why, suddenly, it all came out that Delhi needs improvements. I am glad that this Bill has been brought. It is not that the Bill has been brought in 2009. The Bill has already been brought. It has been approved and all these concessions have been given. But it just needed technical feasibility. It has been cleared from the Centre and it has to go to the State. If they take pre-caution, I think by the end of 2009 all this would be

finished and Delhi would have a proper Master Plan. Delhi would have a proper planning done. It is not that something more has to be done, like one of my friends has said. Delhi has got a beautiful Master Plan. This Master Plan will be implemented and future generations will remember this Master Plan because on the basis of this, we will have beautiful and clean Delhi. Delhi will be a modern city in the world. The Commonwealth Games are coming up and I hope one day we may have Olympics in Delhi. This is what we have given as a vision today. Universities have come up and ITs have come up. What more does this Master Plan can give us? I want to congratulate Shri Ajay Maken and Shri Jaipal Reddy for giving us this thing.

I just want to say one thing more. Of course, we must not forget the sufferings which were caused because of Mr. Jagmohan's orders. People lost their homes and businesses. It is not because of Congress Party or not because a Minister from the Congress ordered this. This is what was there in the Supreme Court affidavit which was given by the previous Government. Nobody has gone through this. You must go through this. Who is responsible for that? People have lost their hard earning. People who had come from Pakistan as refugees suffered. People had come from Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, etc. They all wanted to make Delhi as their home. They enhanced Delhi's prestige. They brought wealth also to Delhi. It is not that they were a burden on us. They were not a burden on us. Delhi became a very vibrant city. But we must give them a proper place to live. That is why, with the help of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and the with the help of Members of Parliament from Delhi, we have given you this Master Plan. I want to congratulate and thank the young Minister and Shri Jaipal Reddy for making Delhi a beautiful city.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to thank the hon. Members who participated in this discussion and made positive suggestion.

[Shri Ajay Maken]

Delhi is such a city, which can be broadly divided in two parts i.e. service users and service providers. If we want to make Delhi a world-class city then we have to take care of the growth of service users and their standard of living and also that of service providers and poor people. It has been the style of functioning of the UPA Government. That is why, we brought the Master Plan and brought Bills in the House from time to time. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform you that one of hon. Members of Parliament has now the leader of Opposition in Delhi Legislative Assembly. I remember whenever discussion on sealing and demolition took place in this House he repeatedly said in the Parliament that entire Delhi will ruin. Five lakh, ten lakh houses would be sealed. I would like to inform you that according to the census of 2001, there are 33.80 lakh census houses in Delhi. According to the census figure, out of 33.80 lakh census houses non-residential activities are carried out in 10.64 lakh census houses. Had we implemented the Supreme Court order dated 16 February, 2006 in letter and spirit, 10,74,000 houses would have been sealed in Delhi. Such a situation had arisen in Delhi. Today, I would like to inform the House on the basis of record that only 5596 out of 10,64,000 shops are sealed and none of them is small shop. All are big showrooms who had violated the Laws to the extent that they could not be provided any relief any way. If we see these figures in total percentage, we find that there are only 0.5 per cent who have committed major violations and only those people have been punished. We have provided permanent relief to 99.5 per cent people of Delhi. It was our style of functioning and purpose. Besides providing relief to people we kept in mind the other aspect also i.e. revenue earning. When we provided permanent relief to them, we realized conversion charges and parking charges from them. We ask for conversion charges and parking charges so that we could regularize shops and provide multi level parking to them from their money.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I am very happy to inform the House that in the last two years the Municipal Corporation has earned Rs. 528 crores, out of which

Rs. 184 crores were realized from these people for construction of multi-level parking in the markets and the construction work is about to start. It is the outcome of our planning. Municipal Corporation will get Rs. 342 crores every year, which shall be the resource to be spent by the municipal corporation on development of these commercial centres and streets. We prepared such a formula with the help of which we not only regularize these but found a way to further develop these business centres and provide parking and other facilities there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell one thing more. Just how many hon'ble Members said. Hon. Shahnawaz Sahib is not present in the House at the moment. Hon. Tripathiji said as to why you bring Bills frequently and how long you will keep on bringing Bills. Why do not you provide permanent relief and why are you providing relief for one year and then extending it for another year. I would like to inform you that by going through the statement of object and reasons you would come to know that we have provided permanent relief.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 5.5 lakh Jhuggis and slums clusters in Delhi. They cannot be resettled in a single day. Therefore, we will have to provide some relief till they are rehabilitated there. We have made provisions for rehabilitation of slums in the Master Plan. The job of rehabilitation has already started. I would inform you as to what we have done, how much money has been spent and how many houses have been constructed. Unless and until we do not make provision for their settlement at those places itself, it is our duty to protect their shelters. The other category is the hawkers. As per our National Vendors Policy, there should be hawking zones of 2 to 3 per cent of total population by creating Squatting zones for their squatters so that they may not disturb traffic and pedestrians movement. Three to four lakh hawking passages, squatting passages are to be constructed in Delhi and this work is to be done by MCD. It is our duty to protect hawkers till said work is done by MCD. We have asked MCD to provide two to three per cent. Unless and until MCD provide it, we will have to protect the hawkers. It would be gross injustice if we do not pay attention towards

the poor hawkers who ear their livelihood on pavements who are harrassed by police and MCD personnel. The Government has made provision in this regard in the Bill. Similar is the case of warehouses and godowns. In the zonal plan which we are going to bring, wse are trying to make spot zoning to regularise them there itself. But will take one year time. Therefore, we have sought a period of one year to bring it. Besides the Master Plan would not be applicable to the unauthorized colonies, which are in the process of regularization. Their regularization would take place in this year. This one year period is sought for those people. We have provided permanent relief to each and every category. The only thing is that we have made provision for a period of one year so that statutory requirements could be fulfilled within one year. When it takes place everyone would get relief. Then, all these people will get permanent relief. Most of these poor people are service providers to which we intend to provide relief.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would definitely like to say something about our general amnesty scheme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our B.J.P. colleague said about general amnesty scheme. I would hke to say that what we have allowed is that in basement anybody anywhere can start professional activities where space is available. We have allowed to open four small shops in 200 square feet plot in any part of Delhi in which one can sell the goods of daily needs. In this way anyone can start four shops in a slot. We have identified about 3000 roads where anyone can open any type of shop. If general amnesty scheme come into existence, just imagine what will be the situation. We have allowed to open four shops in a plot and if amnesty scheme in implemented, then where there is one small shop other shops will not come into existence. Other shop will not come up. If general amnesty scheme is implemented, then only those professionals will be benefitted who are working in basement. If our children tomorrow become Chartered Accountant, Lawyer etc. and needs space for practice then they would not get space easily because they are law-abiding people. So they will be the loser and those who are law broker will be benefitted. We think there could be no worst scheme than general

amnesty scheme. We are not saying this but members of their party are also saying it.

Sir, I would like to say that the Malhotra Committee's general amnesty scheme, which these people are talking about, was submitted directly to the Government of India on 7th June, 1999. The person whose name Shri Tytler was mentioning and whom I defeated in Lok Sabha elections, has rejected the general amnesty scheme on 23-11-1999. Not only he rejected it but on 4th December, 1999, just after 15 days, he called the meeting of all officers of D.D.A. and said that how VC, DDA, who was member of Malhotra Committee, agreed to it without consulting him and he was asked to submit explanation. General amnesty, which you are talking about, is not in favour of people of Delhi. Not only the minister rejected it but also when Mayor of M.C.D. wrote to Hon'ble Member, Lok Sabha who belongs to Kamataka and who was minister at that time, rejected this scheme on 6th February, 2002. In this way, when their own party members, their minister, minister of coalition government have rejected general amnesty scheme, BJP or its MPs have no moral right to ask us to agree with amnesty scheme and have no moral right to start agitation in Delhi for the implementation of this scheme. So people of Delhi know all these things and they have shown them their right place in last elections.

Sir, today some hon'ble members asked how many houses we are constructing and what other steps we are taking in this regard. I wish Shri Syed Shahnawazji would have been here because he has asked this question, but probably he might have come to know that I am ready with reply, therefore, he is not present here. He asked about the assurance given by Shri Jaipal Reddy to build 1 lakh houses. Under the direction of Shri Jaipal Reddy, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and under the direction of Shri Manmohan Singh initiatives have been taken to construct not only 1 lakh houses but 1 lakh and 13 thousand houses for the poor people. I would like to tell you that about 15 thousand houses have already been constructed. Last Sunday I have inaugurated construction of 6 thousand houses in Kathputali Colony and in Wazirpur and Vasant Vihar we are going to do the same on coming Sunday. There

[Shri Ajay Maken]

also we are constructing 10 thousand houses. In this way, I would like to tell you that we have started building 1 lakhs and 13 thousand houses in which most of the works have been done. Only their allotment is left. Good thing is that we are constructing houses only there where these poor people are living presently. Earlier provision was that we used to ask them to shift to a particular place of Delhi which was 50-60 kilometer away from their existing dwelling place.

We said we will build houses near their place of work because those who have come from thousands of kilometer away leaving behind their parental houses and villages to work in Delhi definitely need houses, flats near their work place. I am glad to tell you that we are making provision to provide about 40 square yard super built up area flat to each slum dwellers. In history of Delhi such thing has never happened. You people were also in power for 6-7 years but could not do anything. One hon'ble member also said about giving houses to the poor people. I would like to tell him that we are rehabilitating 52 thousand slum dwellers *in situ*. Besides we have made a provision in Master Plan that 15 per cent of the FAR or 35 per cent of the number of dwelling units, whichever is higher, any construction in Delhi will be reserved for economically weaker sections (EWS) housing. Shortage of houses for economically weaker sections is highest in Delhi and in whole India out of total housing requirement, 99 per cent is required for economically weaker sections. But with regard to Delhi, we have committed to reserve at least one-third houses for poor people, whenever houses will be constructed for rich people. This has also happened for the first time, this provision was not there in master plan till now. I would like to thank the hon'ble Member who has raised the matter of 'Malin Basti' and 'Gandhi Basti'. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that Hindi division of Law department translates it. We would convey your feelings to them duly in writing and take care not to use these kind of words in future. I agree with your feelings in this regard personally. Atleast this term should not be used for these slums.

Tripathiji has repeatedly said one thing that our

Acts were rejected. I would like to inform Tripathiji that the bills pertaining to sealing and demolition which we have passed here and the Acts which we have passed in Parliament have never been rejected, of course, every Act has been challenged in the court. What to say of rejection, Supreme Court has not even issued any stay order with regard to any Act. I would request you to get this information correct. It is not so.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You have given in your object and reasons.

[English]

I have quoted from the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Rejection may be about something else, it may be about something else. What I am saying is something on record.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It is there in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Let me just read it out. It says:

"The Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 was enacted to address the several orders and directions passed by the Supreme Court... "

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Where has it been rejected? You used the word "rejected." Again and again you said that the Acts of Parliament were rejected. ...*(Interruptions)* If your intention was not what you are saying now, then I stand corrected. Otherwise, I want to tell you that no Bill passed by the Parliament on these matters were ever rejected. Leave aside being rejected, no stay was even being granted by the Supreme Court. So, it is a matter of record. I just want to clarify.

[Translation]

I would like to mention one more thing, One Hon'ble Member asked as to how many houses are being constructed and how many have been constructed. I would like to mention that, as I have told, Shri Jaipal Reddyji had a scheme of constructing 1.13 lakhs houses, so we are going to construct 1.13 lakhs houses for the poor in Delhi. Besides, I would also like to tell. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT: How many have been constructed?

MR. SPEAKER: Don't make the running commentary.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Besides, work is also going on to build 15660 dwelling units which is in addition to 1.13 lakh houses. As I have said out of these 1.13 lakh houses, approximately 15 thousand houses have been constructed under Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission and foundation of some of approximately 6000 houses has been laid last week and this week we are again going to lay foundation stone of 5.7 thousand houses. All the scheme have been formulated. Some houses are complete, some are under construction and people have begun to occupy them. We have done this work. You also got the opportunity for 6-7 years but you could not do anything for them. Besides, I would also like to mention here that under this scheme, the work is under progress on 15660 dwelling units till now and by the year 2009-2010 we are going to spend Rs 1094 crores through DDA alone for construction of houses. I would also like to tell this thing to the Hon'ble Member.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the hon. Members who have given conceptive suggestions and would like to request the House to pass this Bill so that we may further help the poor people of Delhi.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a further period up to the 31st day of December, 2009 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

17.47 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES ORDINANCE,  
2009  
AND  
CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES BILL, 2009

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item Nos. 34 and 35 together.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, I beg to move the resolution:

"That this House disapproves of the Central Universities Ordinance, 2009 (No. 3 of 2009) promulgated by the President on 15 January, 2009."

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate

---

\*Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shrimati D. Purandeswari]

universities for teaching and research in the various States and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration. ”

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

“That this House disapproves of the Central Universities Ordinance, 2009 (No. 3 of 2009) promulgated by the President on 15 January, 2009.”

“That the Bill to establish and incorporate universities for teaching and research in the various States and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

The time allotted for both of these items is one hour.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

You speak very well, so please finish your speech briefly in exactly five minutes.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, I welcome the form in which Central Universities Bill 2009 has been introduced but with your permission I would like to condemn the way in which it has been tried to enforce it through the Ordinance. I would like to condemn it because this tendency is not good. India is known as the largest democracy in the world. It was introduced in the last session and the recommendations of the Standing Committee were included in it. This session was about to start and there was a gap of just 10-15 days but you brought the ordinance and enforced it. It appears as if the Government was in a dilemma as to whether the session would take place or not and they wanted to take the advantage in election, so they did it quickly. They did not remember all these things for the last four and a half years, and now at the end of the term of the Government they are bringing all the good bills one after the other, which should have been brought earlier, which should have been elaborately discussed

and debated and which would have invited good suggestions.

The Speaker, Sir, has held that there is only one hour time. In such a situation I would like to say that haste makes waste. The way, in which an effort has been made to enforce it through ordinance, I would like to say that Mahatma Gandhi had also said that for achieving a good cause, the means should also be proper. The Ordinance is brought, when there is a situation of emergency, some unavoidable situation has arisen, come crisis is likely to happen or no session is going to take place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Had this ordinance brought under such situation, it would have been right way but now there was no such situation. You have done this on 15th January between the two sessions, so I would like to condemn this tendency to bring ordinance.

I would like to support this bill because in comparison to other countries, we have less higher education in our country. Today, India is going to become an economic super power in the world and it is an utmost necessity that the quality higher education becomes accessible to our youth to become an economic power in these times of economic progress. Till now, wherever the Central Universities used to be established a separate bill used to be introduced for each of them, but it is a unique feature in itself that 12 universities in 12 states have been proposed to be set up by a single Bill and four other universities apart from it. The upgradation of the state level old universities to central level universities in those states and the establishment of 16 Central Universities in this manner is really an excellent revolutionary step in the field of higher education in my opinion. I would like to welcome it and congratulate for it. Fortunately, Rajasthan is the biggest state in terms of area and there was no central university here so far. We have been raising the demand for it for long times. Though it is late but at last Rajasthan has been included in this category of States and announcements have been made for the establish-

ment of a central university there also. There are 24 central universities functioning in the country at this time. There are many universities in the states, but I would like to say that it is good to establish central universities. It is necessary for us to give importance to quality in education, especially quality in higher education. I am saying this because recently in the past a convention of Science Congress was held. In it, an educationist named Macancy concluded in his survey that 90% graduates coming out of India are not eligible for jobs in multinational companies. This is a satire on our higher education. If I say this:

"Ki nikale hain kahan jane ke liya  
Pahunchege kahan yeh Malum nahin:  
In rah mein bhatakne walon ko,  
Manjil ke nishan malum nahin."

17.53 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

After all what type of youth and new generation we want to build from the higher education we want to provide. Our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in his speech on the occasion of completing one hundred and fifty years by Mumbai University conceded that two third universities and 90% colleges of India are functioning below average. Cheap quality and unskilled education is a breach with young generation. I understand that no comment can be made on our higher education. The Prime Minister himself has said this...(Interruptions) Hon. Minister, please listen it a bit carefully. While I fully welcome the bill and even congratulate for establishing so many central universities, funds will be mobilized for the purpose, at the same time I would like to add that the net working under UGC, which evaluates, should be strengthened and made effective so that it may inspect periodically all the central universities, state level universities and colleges effectively, may tender proper suggestions and may get implementation of its recommendation done. For this, our Government needs to give proper attention.

One more thing UGC had said, Sukhdev jee Thorat has said that quality assessment cell should be

established whether it is central university or state university. When the Hon. Minister gives her reply, I would like to know from her whether for its extension, for the promotion of educational activities by professors and lecturers, for research project and for other educational activities, quality assessment cell has been established? If established, whether any assessment has been made? What is its status?

Hon. Speaker, Sir, National Knowledge Commission was setup here. Even it, on ordinance to be brought on the bill by the Government, has expressed their concern and opposed it. It said that by ordinance this central university bill should not be moved. It said that keeping in view of the provisions contained in it, the Government would take it in its control and these universities would turn into government agencies. No attentions has been drawn towards its autonomy and excellence. Therefore, Sam Pitroda. ...(Interruptions) Sir, whatever I am saying is very important. ...(Interruptions) Hon. Chairman, Sir, I want your protection. ...(Interruptions) I would like to draw your attention towards what Sam Pitroda has said. He himself has demanded reconsideration. The Chairman of the National Knowledge Commission has himself said so about this central universities Bill. He also said that the form in which this central universities Bill is brought will put the autonomy and excellence of higher education in jeopardy. Therefore, he said that to keep them free from government control and to maintain autonomy and excellence, an independent regulatory authority should be established. Whether it is private universities, or central universities or state universities, it will maintain their institutional autonomy and educational independence. Please keep it in your mind...(Interruptions)

Sir, within two minutes I am going to conclude. Unfortunately, today in our universities the research facilities are not available. Only theoretical knowledge is being provided. We are preparing five thousand research scholars in a year while in China the number of these is thirty five thousand. In America, the number of the research scholars is 25 thousand in a year. Therefore, in our ancient central universities like Nalanda, Takshshila, people from foreign land used to



[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

come for education. Our universities should also have such excellence so that foreign nationals come here for education.

Sir, on the one hand the Government bears all the expenses of these universities, but after getting education students prefer to go to foreign countries in search of job. Thus our talented people prefer to do job in foreign countries. This should be stopped here so that students studying in their universities do research work here and contribute in development of the country. This should be considered.

At the end, I would like to say that many fake universities are functioning. This issue has been raised number of times. But many people get misled. Student get education there, but their degrees are not recognized. What action has been taken against these fake universities? How many People have been punished in this matter? Hon. Minister should reply about these things. And the number of deemed universities is also increasing. Earlier when the status of a deemed universities was conferred to the college or institute, it was understood that it is really doing unique work in the field of education and serving the country. But today the number of deemed universities has increased up to 100 to 150. This also should be looked into.

With these words, I oppose that ordinance brought by the Government but I support this central university Bill because it is in the interest of the country.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion. On behalf of my Congress Party and on behalf of my leader Shrimati Soniaji I am congratulating hon. Minister for the introduction of this landmark Bill.

Through this Bill, our Government aims to establish 12 national level universities in 12 States and to upgrade the existing universities to the national level. Out of 12 universities, one university is given to Tamil Nadu. On behalf of six crore Tamil people, I would like to thank

the UPA Chairperson Madam Sonia Ji and Dr. Manmohan Singh for establishing one university in my State.

When this proposal was announced by our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, he had said that each university should become a symbol of excellence, a model of efficiency and an example in terms of academic standards.

The National Knowledge Commission constituted by the Government of India recommended to establish not less 1,500 universities throughout the country and 50 national universities.

18.00 hrs.

At present, throughout the country we are having 450 Universities. Andhra Pradesh takes the lead and has one University in each district. Tamil Nadu also is having more number of Universities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now it is six o'clock. There are 15 more speakers on this Bill alone. One more Bill has to be passed today. Therefore, if the House agrees, we may extend the time of the House. I must take the sense of the House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Madhepura): Mr Chairman, Sir, the proceedings of the House were going on till 10 PM yesterday also and one more Bill is still there to be taken up. I, therefore, urge upon to refer it for tomorrow or the Bill which is being taken up should be concluded and the next Bill should be taken up tomorrow.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the House is extended up to seven o'clock. Shri Kharventhan.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: It further recommended that at least 10 national-level Universities be formed within a period of three years. In the 350 districts the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) was below the national average.

Hence the National Knowledge Commission recommended to establish 1500 Universities to attain a Gross Enrolment Ratio of at least 15 per cent by 2015. The General Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education in India is approximately 11 per cent, compared to 36 per cent in the developed countries. It is 22 per cent in China. The Eleventh Plan proposes to raise India's GER to 15 per cent and 21 per cent by the end of Twelfth Plan. To meet these daunting targets, the Government needs to dramatically expand the number of new Universities. Considering this situation, our Government came forward to establish 12 national-level Universities in 12 States. For this, the UPA Government decided to spend Rs. 45,000 crore.

Sir, I would like to mention certain points about the Bill. Section 6 of the Bill explains about the powers of the proposed University. Section 6(2) deals with admission of students. As per this clause, students are selected and admitted in these Universities on all-India basis by conducting common entrance test. I am having some reservation to this proposal. There is no specific reservation for the respective State students. Here, I want to mention about the Goa University. Our Government decided to upgrade the Goa University. We are upgrading that also to a Central University. What will be the fate of the native students?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is very limited. Kindly conclude.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Instead of upgrading the existing University, we have to establish a new University in Goa; otherwise we have to reserve certain percentage of seats for local students. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this for all the Universities and reserve certain seats for the native students.

As per Section 27 of the Bill, the statutes of the University are framed. As per Section 8 (1) of this Bill, the President of India is the Visitor. As per the statute, the Visitor is empowered to appoint the Chancellor as well as the Vice-Chancellor for the Central Universities. At this juncture, I want to bring to your kind notice the pathetic situation of one Central University in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, one Gandhi Gram Central University is located in Chinnalapatti, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu. It is one of the oldest Universities in India. The Vice-President of India is the Chancellor of the University.

Dr. Karunakaran, Professor served as Vice-Chancellor of the University till his retirement in June, 2007. A three-member Search Committee was constituted to choose a new Vice-Chancellor. One-and-a-half years ago, this Committee has recommended a three-member Panel to appoint a suitable person as Vice-Chancellor to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. But, till date, the Vice-Chancellor has not been appointed.

In Universities, Convocation can be conducted only by the Vice-Chancellors under their presidentship.

Since Vice-Chancellor was not there, Convocation was not held for the past two years. So, the degrees of Ph.D., M. Phil, PG, Graduate and other Diploma students numbering about 1,500 were not able to get their degrees for the past two years. It causes unnecessary hardship to them, and they are not able to pursue their higher studies and employment.

Keeping in view of the above facts, I would request the hon. Minister to appoint a Vice-Chancellor for the Gandhi Gram Rural University at the earliest.

Sir, I now come to Section 33 (1), which is dealing with conditions and service of employees. It says:

"Every employee of the University shall be appointed under a written contract,..."

Sir, I would like to know whether the University is going to appoint all the employees on contract basis, and whether the University is not going to give permanent status for these employees. This point has to be clarified by the hon. Minister. Otherwise, it will not protect the rights of the employees, who are going to serve in all these Universities. This is my humble submission.

With these words, I am once again congratulating and appreciating the hon. Minister for having brought forward this Bill, and I welcome this Bill.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall make certain suggestions.

There are certain anomalies in the provisions of this Bill. For example, kindly see Section 2 (d), which says: "College' means a college maintained by the University." But in Section 4 (f), there is a mention of affiliated college. Therefore, I would suggest that the language in Section 2 (d) may be changed as "College" means a college maintained by the University or affiliated to. The words "or affiliated to" may be added here.

Secondly, kindly see Section 3 (4)—page 3—which talks about territorial jurisdiction of the Universities. In page 17, it is mentioned as "Whole of the State" but it should be "Whole of India" because in the next page, we are contemplating admissions on all India basis and recruitment of the faculty on all India basis. Also, in some other provisions, there is a mention of all India basis, and, therefore, there will be a controversy if the territorial jurisdiction is of the concerned State only. When we shall be admitting students from all over India, I would suggest that the Government may consider for reserving 50 per cent or 75 per cent of the students from the State concerned and the rest 50 per cent or 25 per cent may be from the other States, and in that way the all India character may be maintained. So, this may be taken into account.

Now, I come to page 6, Section 6 (2) (vii). It says: "Accreditation shall be obtained from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council or any other accrediting agency at the national level;..." It is very good but you kindly add the words 'as recognized by the Government of India' at the end.

Now, I come to Section 7. The proviso says: "Provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed..." It talks about the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The words—"in conformity with the relevant existing rules of the Government of India"—may be added at the end of this proviso.

There are many other things but due to paucity of time, I shall not go into them.

Now, I come to page 18—The Second Schedule—The Statutes of the University. If we compare the provisions of Statute 1 and Statute 2, we shall see that the Chancellor shall be appointed by the Visitor from a panel of not less than three persons but in the case of appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, it is written in Statute 2 (1) that the Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Visitor from out of a panel. Here, the number has not been specified. I would suggest that the words—"a panel of not less three persons"—should be inserted here.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Statute 25, which is on removal of employees of University. It may prove to be very dangerous for a person, who is in the field of education throughout his life, in case of any allegation against him/her. It says:

"Where there is an allegation of misconduct against a teacher, a member of the academic staff or other employee of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, in the case of the teacher or a member of the academic staff, and the authority competent to appoint (hereinafter referred to as the appointing authority) in the case of other employee, may, by order in writing, place such teacher, member of the academic staff or other employee, as the case may be, under suspension..."

It says that if there is an allegation of misconduct against a teacher or a member of the academic staff or employee, etc., he/she will be placed under suspension. This is no good. So, there should be some provision. Supposing, I allege something against somebody and the Vice-Chancellor or the executive council, all of a sudden suspends him/her, this is no good. This should be thought over. This should be amended.

I would like to point out one or two things more. In July, 2008, about Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, the Cabinet decided its conversion into an Indian Institute of Technology and integrate it with the IIT system in the country. In this regard, there was a Press release also on 17th July, 2008. Among other

things, which are given, it stated: "The Cabinet also cleared, in principle, approval for taking over the Institute of Technology, Banaras University, a constituent in the Banaras Hindu University, a Central University; and its conversion into an Indian Institute of Technology and integrate it with the IIT system in the country."

Based on this, many students have been admitted there. But they are now clamouring. Do not know why this has not been taken into consideration by the Government. The Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University—I know from my personal knowledge—is a very good institute; and all steps should be taken to convert this Institute of Technology into an IIT without any delay.

Sir, very recently some provisions of the Visvabharti University Act, 1951 have been disregarded through an Executive order, and there have been gradation of teachers. I think, the Government may initiate such steps after amending the principal Act and not before that. Therefore, I would request the Government to revoke that Executive order and bring in the necessary amendments.

Now, in reply to Starred Question No. 243, dated 16th December, 2008, it was said: "The Government proposes to establish 14 national universities aiming towards world class standards..."

I would be very happy to know more about this proposal, as to what steps have since been taken by the Government to establish these 14 national universities.

Then, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that expanded facilities should be provided for primary and secondary education so that they would prepare for the entry of a larger number of boys and girls into higher education sector in the coming years. That calls for proportionately higher allocation for the education sector as a whole.

Sir, I would recall the suggestion put forward by our first Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. In his first budget speech on education, he said: "The Budget provision for education should be, at least, equal

to that of Defence." But what we see today? In the Common Minimum Programme, it was provided that at least six per cent of the GDP should be allocated for education sector. We know about different Commissions, viz., Radhakrishnan Commission, Kothari Commission etc. All these Commissions recommended for at least 10 per cent of the GDP for education sector. But the Common Minimum Programme—based on the National Education Policy Recommendations, 1986 which were reviewed in 1992 and which asked for a minimum of six per cent of the GDP into the education sector—recommended for just six per cent of the GDP into the education sector.

That National Education Policy recommended that at least six per cent of GDP should be allotted for the education sector. The Common Minimum Programme also recommended at least six per cent of GDP for education sector. But what we see today is that it is not more than 3.6 per cent, and we have been told a number of times that this will be done by the end of the Eleventh Plan. Though on the last day during the presentation of the General Budget, the hon. Finance Minister stated that nine times more has been allotted for education but I think, as per my information, knowledge and as per my calculation, this is not more than four per cent of the GDP this time also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: I am concluding in two minutes. The availability of funds to the Central and State universities appears to be very much unequal. I would like to say that such differences should be minimal. Central or State, urban or rural, educational institution should be treated on the same basis, and in my opinion there should be no need to have model schools, model colleges or model universities because such model institutions only enhance discrimination in regard to infrastructure and facilities so far as imparting of quality education is concerned. So, the Government may be taking care of this.

At present, as we all know, about 10 to 11 per cent of our young men and women in the age group of 18-23 years go for higher education.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Time allotted is one hour.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Yes, I know that. You have declared that. Let me have some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can place the rest of the speech on the Table of the House. The written speech can be given here.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with due respect I am trying to tell you that I am following your line, what you do when you speak.

At present, as we all know, about 10 to 11 per cent of our young men and women in the age group of 18-23 go for higher education, including technical, medical, law and management.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can place it on the Table.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: In some developing countries, the figure is 20 per cent. In some developed countries, it is more than that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 17 speakers. Time allotted is one hour.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: So, our nation must also strive to do this.

Now, I would like to state about funding of the universities. I am not saying out of myself. I am just quoting Justice Dr. Punniyah Committee appointed by the UGC. It submitted its report in 1992-93 entitled "UGC funding of the Institutes for Higher Education."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I call the next speaker.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Please give me one minute.

The Report states that the Government cannot give up its responsibility to higher education. It states:

"State must continue to accept the major responsibility for funding the essential maintenance and developmental requirements of the universities. Although primary education is fundamental to the nation, higher education determines the entire

development, including academic and technological progress. While it is mandatory that the nation achieves universal elementary education and total literacy, at the same time we cannot afford to neglect and relegate to a neglected position our quest to achieve global standard of higher education."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please conclude. Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: The UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education 1998 finalised the document entitled, "World Declaration on Higher Education for the 21st Century—Vision and Action."

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 17 speakers. You do not understand the position. You are reading.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: I have two more lines.

I quote:

"The funding of higher education requires both public and private sector resources. The role of the State remains essential in this regard. Public funding of higher education reflects the support that society provides to higher education and must be further strengthened to ensure the development of higher education, increase its efficiency and maintain its quality and relevance. However, public support for higher education and research remains essential to ensure a balanced achievement of educational and social mission."

And I do not support the Bill in this present form.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Central Universities Bill, 2009. The Government have brought a Bill in the House to replace an Ordinance through which Central Universities will be set up in 12 such states where no Central University exists and in three states State Universities will be accorded the status of the Central Universities I think this definitely is a good step.

Government want to set up Central Universities with an intention and a faith to provide better education to the students of deprived section and to upgrade the standard of higher education but I think there is a need for a time bound programme to achieve that goal. The way they have brought the Ordinance gave the impression that you are going to do this in the current session. But I do not think so, since the experiences so far have not been good. There are some apprehensions like how the number of students will increase and how the infrastructure will come up. I want to raise some questions in this regard. I expect from the Government to look into it because it is not enough to get the Bill passed in this House, there are lots of efforts to be made. It requires time bound programme, only then desired results can be achieved.

I said that there are some apprehensions, and there are many reasons for that. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University was started in Lucknow in the year 1991. Today 500 students are studying there. It does not have the desired quality of education. This university is not being run the way it should be run even after 15 years. Therefore, setting up of a university is not sufficient. We should also ensure that the objectives with which the university was set up are being fulfilled or not. I want to draw your attention that Mahatma Gandhi University, Vardha is in bad shape. It lacks infrastructure, and teaching. If Central University of such kind is to be set up then it is simply meaningless. You cannot achieve your objective unless a visible change in standard is not seen. You cannot achieve your desired goal.

Sir, you appoint Vice-Chancellor, while appointing him you should not go by his academic acclaim. The more important thing is his administrative skills. The Vice-Chancellors of all the Universities, which are not faring well, should possess administrative qualification and information. We expect that while appointing Vice-Chancellor you will include persons belonging to minority and Dalit communities. They do not lack caliber. They should also be accommodated. I have been mentioning this only because out of 24 Universities of the country only one university has a Vice-Chancellor belonging to

Scheduled Caste community and two Universities have Vice-Chancellors belonging to Minority community. When the University Grant Commission Act, 1956 came into effect, the entire country had only 20 Universities, 500 colleges and 2,25,000 students. Today there are 450 Universities, 21,000 colleges and One Crore Fifty Lakh students. I am pained by an important thing that your operational structure is still on old lines. You have brought about two minor changes in University Grant Commission Act, 1956 in the year 1972 and 1984. These changes have no operational bearing; therefore, this Act requires a comprehensive amendment.

Sir, today what is the condition of education? For more than last 25 years 22 fake universities are running in our country. I have their list with me. What can be more unfortunate than University Grant Commission issuing only list and taking no further actions. As per the University Grant Commission Act there is a fine of Rs. 1000 only against a fake university and that too has not been imposed so far. As on date 22 fake universities are running.

Madam Minister, six fake universities are running in your Delhi and you are not in a position to stop these fake universities. You want to improve the quality of higher education and you are setting up new universities whereas fake universities are functioning across the country. Such news do make headlines when some youth commit suicide after discovering his degree has been obtained from a fake university.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know one such case. A woman was selected by the UPSC for the post of principal on the basis of her degree. But when her papers were verified, her degree was found to be of a fake university. You can imagine how much she must have felt harassed. It is not that such cases are surfacing now a days but newspapers always carry news items of fake certificates, fake degrees on the basis of which youth try to get a job but they fail in doing so.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Enough! You have covered all the points.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, in our country, fake universities are running not only from this country but also from other countries like Australia, Canada, the U.K and the U.S.A. in illegal way but the Government of India have no law to check them. Its direct proof may be seen in Nehru Place in Delhi where offices of many foreign universities are being run. As I said earlier that you are establishing new central universities. I welcome these steps and express my thanks to you. But the way our higher education system functioning is very poor. The University Grants Commission Act is very Old. You do not want to make any effective law to deal with those fake universities running in the country. My allegation is that an amendment that was to be brought in U.G.C. Act is pending for the last ten years. The Government does not care in this regard. Therefore, on one hand I welcome these central universities and on the other I hope that broad amendments are required to be brought in the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 enacted for higher education so that fake universities might be stopped from spoiling the future of youths of the country.

[*English*]

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The next speaker is Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. I am sure that you are aware that the time available with us is very limited. Therefore, you must adjust within that time limit.

**SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna):** Thank you, Sir.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I am saying it because he has no control over time.

**SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:** Sir, I would seek your permission to speak from this place.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** All right.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Central Universities Act, 2009 brought for discussion. First of all, I would like to express my

thanks to the Minister of Human Resource Development and special thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister who decided to set up a central university in a backward State like Bihar. We have been demanding for many years that a central university should be established in Bihar. They acceded to the demand and have decided to establish there a central university honouring the feelings of nine crore people of Bihar which is a welcome step. Today, the people of Bihar are expressing their gratitude to them. Here, we all, also, express our thanks to the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Human Resource Development for the gift they have given to the people of a backward state like Bihar. Bihar is a backward state where education is required to be imparted on a large scale. Literacy rate in Bihar is the lowest. I think there are many reasons for backwardness of Bihar but the main reason is illiteracy on a large scale, which is hindering the progress of Bihar. It is more than sixty years since India got independence. But no one paid attention to it. Every party that has been in power in Bihar has done injustice to Bihar. I express my heartfelt thanks to the U.P.A. Government that it has established a central university.

Chairman, Sir, central universities are proposed to be established in various states but locations have not been decided. We may see that many universities running in Madhya Pradesh and other states have been conferred the status of a central university. The demand to establish a central university in Bihar has been acceded to but we are surprised to know and at the same time we feel sad that Patna University being a prestigious university of Bihar and having a historical background of 100-150 years and established in the British period and has been a distinguished centre of learning in entire Bihar has not been conferred the status of a central university. This university has produced many distinguished scholars who have served the country with their talent after getting education from there. This university has produced many professors, engineers and scientists. Not only the students of Bihar but also the students of West Bengal have been getting education in Patna University. Not only the people of the country but foreign nationals also have received

education here. As an honourable Member was saying that quality education is imparted there. There are some fields, which have their own identity. Likewise, Patna University has its own identity. I am sorry to see that the long standing demand of according the status of a central university to the Patna University has not been fulfilled even when agitations have also been staged in this regard. I have raised this matter in the House many times and drawn the attention of Hon'ble Minister. I am sorry to know that a decision has not been taken to confer the status of central university to Patna University. Why has this not been done? Patna University is fulfilling all criteria for it. A request was made to confer the status of a central university to Patna University during the period of former governments of our party under the Chief Ministership of Shri Lalu Prasad and thereafter Smt. Rabri Devi. I do not know why it was not accepted. I have information that the universities in 5 to 7 states, have been conferred the status of a central university. This has been done in Madhya Pradesh. Patna University has also all types of infrastructures, the colleges are situated in one campus; there are learned teachers, well equipped laboratories, good faculties, learned lecturers but you have not considered the demand. I would like to make a request to the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development that even today it is not late if Patna University is conferred the status of central university honouring the feelings of the people of Bihar. The people of Patna would remain thankful to you.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, this is an era of competition. Mere possessing a degree is not a ticket to success. I think an M.A. degree would serve no purpose unless you impart quality education. Today, we have new economic policy. Competition has increased at global level. Today, employment opportunities have decreased. Surely, nothing can be done until quality education is imparted. I have figures in this regard. Today the pass-outs of 80 per cent of the degree colleges are jobless. They have no employment. We should think about the future of such students. There is no solution to the problem until we remove basic difficulties. It is fine that you have established a central university. But, today,

there are many colleges with no buildings. Today the condition of colleges is as bad as was of the schools in the beginning. They have their own financial constraints. The funds for constructing colleges and degree colleges are not being given. I would like that the decision in this regard should be taken at your own level. It's all right, you have established central university and funds are released by the Centre but there are colleges where education is being imparted particularly the condition of colleges located in the rural areas is such that classes are being held under thatched roof. Unless basic infrastructure is put in place, the environment will not be conducive for education. You have decided under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and a number of school buildings have been built throughout the country and in Bihar. Earlier, children used to study under the open sky, under the tree, under the open roof. The decision you have taken is bringing about positive results and at least children are getting proper education. You are saying that you have created Central University and gifted it to the people. I think, this is your intention that quality of education should be good, but it cannot be done only by creating Central Universities. The condition of colleges in the states is very poor. You should provide them facilities, more allocation, good lecturers, good laboratories, I think only then it will have some impact. What is the condition of colleges in the country? An assessment about different colleges of the country suggests that 35 to 60 per cent posts of teachers are lying vacant. Unless there are lecturers, how can quality education be given to children? A National Assessment Council survey suggests that quality of education is mediocre and poor in 90 per cent colleges and 68 per cent universities. There are only 10 per cent colleges where quality of education being provided is good. How will the future of this country be built?

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do? Allotted time is limited. We have to conclude within that time.

Shri Kripal Yadav, you have to conclude your speech now.



[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, only five thousand people do Ph.D. in India every year. I am giving an example that we compare ourselves with the world, if we observe we can see that there is no dearth of talent in India. We have the highest level of talent, the need is to encourage them properly. Where five thousand students do Ph.D. in India every year, in America thirty five thousand students do Ph.D. and thirty thousand students do Ph.D. in China every year. There is a need to ponder how this gap can be bridged?

Sir, we presume that the UPA Government is spending huge amount on education, but the total amount being spent on higher education is still very low. Only six per cent of GDP is being spent on higher education. You are spending on primary education and secondary education but you are not spending enough on higher education. Unless you spend on higher education, how can you encourage talented students? I agree and it is proper that there should be basic education, but at the same time attention should be paid towards higher education also. You should certainly increase the amount of allocation so that more and more people can pursue higher education.

Sir, I do not want to go into details. I am trying to conclude soon. What is the situation of poverty in our country? More than half of the population of the country is living below poverty line. Parents can't afford higher education for their children. The fee being charged is certainly very high. Today, students aspire for Engineering, Medical and Technical education but they get discouraged by exorbitant fee. You have made provision for education loan from banks, but it is not sufficient. The ceiling of loan for higher education is Rs. 7.5 lakh, which is very low. You can look at the data for the year 2005-06, only Rs. 10,000 crore have been given. It should be increased and it should be made simple so that every one could get higher education. You should lower the fee.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I was saying that certainly all the things should be taken care of. We have very large number of colleges and universities, but it is now not sufficient. Central Government has the funds. There are a number of such states. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am going to conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a topic which will take days to discuss. But we will have to confine to the time allotted. University education is a very exhaustive subject and it will take 2-3 days for discussion. But they have allotted only one hour. What can I do?

University education is a matter which is very serious and it will require elaborate discussion, but the time allotted is only one hour. What can I do? I told you this at the very outset.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I will conclude in two minutes.

Sir, I would like to say that more and more allocation should be made and infrastructure should be increased in the colleges to encourage students for getting higher education.

Finally, I would like to say it that the entire Bihar wants that Patna University should be accorded the status of Central University. When a Union Minister visited Bihar he had given assurance that Patna University would be accorded the status of Central University, but it has not been done yet. You should consider it and Patna University should be accorded the status of a Central University...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have told many times that you are concluding, but you did not.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: All the residents of Bihar, Members of Parliament belonging to all the parties agree to it. So, Patna University should be accorded the status of a Central University.

18.43 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I stand here to participate in the discussion relating to the Central University Bill, 2009.

I am aware that during the last Session of Parliament, the hon. Minister of State for Human Resource Development had come up with certain amendments relating to specific central universities and I had participated and put forth my points of view relating to Central Universities, and the purpose or the idea of constructing Central Universities in specific areas.

It is not multiplying Jawaharlal Nehru University throughout the country. The idea was to encourage and develop the intrinsic cultural and civilizational ethos of our country. That is why, Nagaland University, Manipur University and Language University in Hyderabad, etc. were initially started.

But very rightly, the National Knowledge Commission, under the leadership of Dr. Sam Pitroda had come out with the requirement of our nation. Why do we need expansion of higher education and how we have to excel at the world level? His idea was to have at least 1500 universities in this country. I do not know whether we will be able to achieve that at the end of the 12th Five Year Plan or not, but some progress has been made.

Frankly speaking, I never expected that at the end of UPA Government's tenure, higher education will get that much of the budgetary support as it has been given. I had never expected that. I think the whole country and the educated mass of this country will appreciate the amount of funding that has been done

for HRD. But, at the same time the Hindi word that has been used is the quality education, '*gunvatta*' which is to be looked into.

While coming to the issue of this Bill, I would say that during last Session when within 17 minutes, eight Bills were passed, this Bill though was listed and also the Business Advisory Committee had allotted certain time...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One hour was allotted to it.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: It was not one hour last time. This time we have allotted one hour to it. Thankfully this Bill was not rushed through within those eight Bills within 17 minutes. And, I would thank you for not obliging the Establishment in that respect. I would say that 11 States, mostly backward States, which did not have Central Universities—for different historical reasons they were not provided Central Universities—have been provided Central Universities by this Government. I appreciate that. Orissa has been fighting for a Central University. Repeatedly, Orissa Government and the people of Orissa have been saying that at least one Central University and higher educational institutes of repute should be established in that State because many people go out of Orissa to get higher education. Very rightly, as the National Knowledge Commission has mentioned, our general enrolment ratio in higher education level is 11 per cent as compared to 56 per cent in developed countries, and average of 36 per cent in countries of transition who are moving upwards and even 22 per cent in China. We have to at least match that. But to match that the time period which has been put forth before us is another six to ten years time. I think it will take much more than that. With the opening of these 16 universities, I am sure the Government aims to add over 30,000 seats within five years. This is the target within next five years.

The 11th Plan proposes to raise India's GER to 15 per cent and 21 per cent by the end of the 12th Plan. You will not reach China's 22 per cent which is prevalent today. This is the progress which you are making and this is the vision which we have for higher

[Shri B. Mahtab]

education. To meet these daunting targets the Government needs to dramatically expand the number of new institutions and also augment the capacity of the existing ones.

Having learned from the past, Sir, it was expected that the new Bill would restructure the governance and decision making process of the new universities to improve the quality of education and harmonise the twin objectives of significantly expanding access as well as improving quality. The National Knowledge Commission had also made important recommendations on expansion, excellence and inclusion. Unfortunately, this Bill comes as a great disappointment. I am aware, Sir, that this Bill will allow every State now to have a Central University. Already, Rs. 10 crore each has been sanctioned and has already been issued. I am also aware that in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, six-fold increase from Rs. 8000 crore to a budget of Rs. 45,000 crore for higher education has been ensured. The State Governments have earmarked land free of cost. But the problem today is whether these Central Universities will be able to exercise greater autonomy. Dr. Giridhar Gamang is present here. Our Chief Minister has identified his Constituency for locating the Central University. This decision has been taken irrespective of political considerations, keeping the under-developed and Scheduled Area in view.

The National Knowledge Commission has been emphasising that India needs many more universities but I am also reminded of Prof. Yashpal who is critical about this rush to open new universities. He said:

"Universities are not brick and mortar. They must nurture talent and be connected across disciplines in order to develop talent."

The same National Knowledge Commission on January 19, 2009, came out with a statement that the Central Government should reconsider the Central Universities Bill which vests overwhelming control with the Government, re-does earlier mistakes, compounds persistent problem of higher education in India and negates the letter and spirit of the recommendation it

has made. No doubt, certain corrections have been made in this Bill. But I would come to certain suggestions.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You have taken more than ten minutes.

**SHRI B. MAHTAB:** I would need a few minutes to give certain suggestions for the Government to consider.

The Bill stipulates that during transition, the first Executive Council and the Academic Council would be nominated by the Central Government which means the Minister of Human Resource Development. But neither the Bill nor the statutes specify the eligibility and qualification criteria. This is also true for appointment of Deans of Department by a Selection Committee. The Bill confers sweeping powers on the Visitor to remove Vice Chancellor for any misconduct or violation. But should it not be exercised only in exceptional cases and reasons for doing so need to be explained? The Bill provides for sweeping powers to the Central Government to give binding directions to the Universities on any question of policy but what constitutes a policy issue? Who will interpret it? Is it not the domain of the Centre? Does this not negate the concept of university autonomy that is essentially needed to foster centre of excellence?

The role of the Central Government should be confined to nominating the representatives to the Executive and Academic Councils. Curiously such wide ranging powers do not exist even in the Universities Act which governs the existing Central Universities.

The Bill empowers the Central Government to appoint the first Chancellor, the first Vice-Chancellor, the first Registrar and the first Finance Officer without reference to any Search Committee and stipulations about their qualifications. Does this not re-enforce suspicions on the politicization of such appointments even in the formative years of the universities? The Bill empowers the Government to constitute the first Court, the first Executive Council and the first Academic Council without any reference to the eligibility conditions and qualifications. Moreover, for the appointment of the subsequent Vice Chancellor, the composition of the

Search Committee would be dominated by the Visitor's nominee, read as the Minister of Human Resource Development.

Sir, I would like to say that the Central University Bill does not enhance the citizen's aspirations; it does not reflect the modern management in Government practices. Perhaps, because of this reason, the Goa Government has declined the Central University status. I would like to get a reply from the hon. Minister in this regard. It falls to signal any reform in our higher education system and more importantly of investing them with the academic system and autonomy for encouraging research, fostering innovation and kindling the urge for excellence. I am for minimal interference by the Central Government. I would urge the Government to provide model empowered governance within the university structure. It should be free in its day to day functioning. It is said that human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe. Let us educate. It is never late to begin.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I announce the name of the next speaker, I would like to request that there are more than 13 Members to speak on this Bill. It is possible only if the rest of the Members speak for 3-4 minutes each. The other parties should also follow the path of the Congress party. They have given the names of seven Members to speak on this discussion, but now only one Member will participate in the discussion. Other Members who would speak should also be very brief in their submission. They should only give the reasons and suggestions and not make lengthy speeches.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. This is a very important Bill. I hope, I will get enough time to put forward my views on the Bill. I am not going to make a long speech. I welcome and appreciate the bringing forward of the Central University Bill. With this Bill being passed, 12 States that did not have a Central University will have one and four universities will get the status of a Central University. The recurring and non-recurring expenditure

involved in the process is also a staggering Rs. 3300 crore.

Sir, before I dwell upon the various provisions of the Bill I would like to say that the UPA Government in its Common Minimum Programme announced that six per cent of the GDP will be earmarked for education. But unfortunately it is only 3.8 per cent now. It is still a long way to achieve that target of six per cent. In the absence of adequate facilities and adequate funding of the universities, many universities are lacking the minimum facilities. Most of the universities are now going for self-financing courses. This is a very sad state of affairs.

Sir, India is a big country with a large population. The present rate of admissions is now around 11 per cent and every year it is increasing in a big way. Education is a Fundamental Right. If we fail to provide the necessary funds for the universities, then it would be a useless exercise to have more and more universities.

**19.00 hrs.**

One more important promise made by the UPA Government was the Right to Education Bill. It is pending and it seems that the Bill is not going to come up before the end of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. This is a very important promise made to the nation. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has to say as to why such an important Bill is kept postponing.

About these universities, there is a controversy as to whether there is a need of so many universities. We do need them. In spite of the limitations, we need the institutions of higher learning in a big way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House was extended up to 7 p.m. If the hon. Members agree, we may extend it for an hour more.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended by another hour. Shri Reddy, you may continue now.

**SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:** Many of my colleagues raised some doubts. I share their doubts. The question of quality, talent, etc. have to be taken care of while new universities are being established. We do have a lot of talents. But I feel sorry that the 12 new universities which are now being established are having their jurisdiction only to the respective States. There is no meaning of saying that these are Central Universities. You are trying to give money and say that a Central University is established there but in fact, you are establishing a State University. The university, as my colleague, Shri Mahtab was telling earlier, is an institute where you have to inculcate the best of the culture and civilisation. But you are limiting it within the State. The students from other States will not be allowed there. This was not the practice earlier for the Central Universities. They are open for all India students. By learning the culture, by reading in such universities with students from different States, they will get broad-mindedness. Otherwise, the parochial understanding and narrow-mindedness will continue and that is going to be a very negative trend for the Indian culture in future. You can reserve more than 50 per cent of the State's seats in each university for the local students. But their jurisdiction should not be limited only for that particular State. I think the very purpose of establishing a Central University will be defeated if the jurisdiction is going to be limited for a particular State.

About the democratisation of university administration, I think, more care should be taken. Abnormal powers are being taken by the Government. Why is there a need for a Chancellor in each university? Please remove the Chancellorship. You are trying to give these powers to the State Governments. The Governors who cannot act independently will be appointed or it will be the Chief Ministers there. It is impossible for a visitor, Rashtrapati, to look after the university. This is only a formality. It will be again controlled by the Central Education Ministry or the State Governors.

The second point is about the Student Council. It is a good thing that the Ministry has accepted seven recommendations of the Standing Committee. I do not know why they did not accept the other eight

recommendations of the Committee. It is good that at least they have accepted half of the recommendations. Otherwise, most of the recommendations of the Standing Committee are not being cared by various Ministries. It has become a useless exercise to have the meetings of Standing Committee. For two to three months, the hon. Members will make a study of the subject and make very good recommendations but most of them are being rejected. This practice should not be accepted. I would like to know why the other recommendations are rejected. There should be some accountability. Otherwise, get rid of these Standing Committees. Let the Ministries do as they like.

The Students' Unions should be re-established. Here, there is a provision for Students' Council. According to this provision, 20 students are to be nominated and 20 students are to be elected. Nomination part is good. If you want to give the bright students the honour of being in the Students' Council it is good. But the majority in the Students' Council should be from among the elected students. So, make it 50. Let 30 students be elected and 20 students be nominated. In the absence of a University Students' Union, this should at least serve as an organisation that would represent the desires of the students and the problems of the students, which are to be solved and it can make good recommendations. Before concluding I have only two or three points to make.

While I am welcoming this Central Universities Bill, 2009, I would like to warn about the capitation fees that is being collected by various colleges, particularly at the higher level. Professional education, like the engineering and medical education, is being commercialised. Several times, here in this House, the hon. Minister has assured that no capitation fee will be allowed. But I challenge that there is not a single private educational institution in this country which is being run without capitation fee. You cannot prove it. It is taken in the name of development fees. Higher learning is going to be limited only for the rich people. This is going to set a very bad example in the future. Collection of capitation fee should be stopped. It can be stopped only if the privatisation and commercialisation of higher education is stopped.

Now, there are moves to bring foreign universities in our country. There are proposals to give several private educational institutions the deemed university status. Most of the commercial institutions at the higher level have already applied for this. Of course, at the higher education level we do need the participation of the private sector. But unfortunately in our country, it is not the philanthropists who are establishing the educational institutions. But others, instead of having an industry or business, are entering the educational sector. It is a shameful thing. Most of the poor students and middle class students do not have the capacity to step into these private educational institutions. This thing should be taken into consideration. Privatisation and commercialisation of education should be stopped.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the case of Cultural University at Utkal. During the tenure of Shri Gamang the idea of this University was conceived. But for the last two weeks the University is closed. Even this morning the students rang up to ask me what is going to be the fate of this University. This is the only University meant for culture in the whole of the country. The Central Government should intervene to see to it that the affairs of this University are properly maintained.

I believe that democratisation of our education will be taken care of and also that the other recommendations of the Standing Committee will be taken into consideration in the further amendments. I support the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as there is constraint of time, those hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House can do so. That would form part of the proceedings.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am the first Member from this side to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please start.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Rasa

Singhji has spoken on statutory resolution ...*(Interruptions)* Please give me four-five minutes extra ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please start. Please conclude as early as possible.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I will conclude as early as possible. Only two members from our side will speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill has facilitated the setting up of a Central University in Uttarakhand. While speaking on 23rd October, I had welcomed it and thanked the Government also. Most of the regions of Uttarakhand are hilly areas. Uttarakhand consists of two divisions—one is Kumaon Division and the other Garhwal Division. Both the divisions have geographical dissimilarity and they are 600 kms apart. The background behind according the status of a central university to the Garhwal University is that in Uttar Pradesh this University was approved for this region in the year 1971 but in view of its distance, people gave several representations and a movement started. Then the Government of Uttar Pradesh decided on 23rd November, 1973 that there would be a Kumaon University and a Garhwal University in Srinagar which has been accorded the status of a Central University today. This Kumaon University caters to the needs of entire Kumaon region and it is still functioning there. This also fulfills the criteria and the present Legislative Assembly of Uttaranchal has passed and sent an unanimous resolution to the Ministry to accord the status of a Central University to Kumaon University keeping in view the distance, dissimilarity and lack of connecting roads. Besides this, there are Kumaon University and SSJ Campus, Almora. Our hon'ble Chief Minister has called on the Prime Minister and the Minister of HRD twice stating that this is a regional imbalance. On one hand we are talking of providing quality education whereas on the other, one part i.e. half of the state will have quality education and the other half that is Kumaon region from Nainital to Udham Singh Nagar will be

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

deprived of quality education. Therefore, it is my earnest demand that when Kumaon University fulfills the criteria and there is a demand letter in this regard. When this issue was discussed, then the Chief Minister Shri B.C. Khanduri had written his first letter on 26th May 2008. I am quoting just one sentence out of it. He had written that—

[English]

"I would like to suggest that you should consider setting up not one but three Central Universities, one each in the Kumaon and Garhwal divisions of our State (at Nainital/Almora for Kumaon University, at Srinagar for Garhwal University) and at Dehradun for Doon University."

[Translation]

And it has many other things alongwith grounds thereof. When nothing came of it, then he again wrote a letter on 6 October 2008, but it was not considered which has led to an agitation by teachers and students of entire Kumaon region. I feel, to avoid regional geographical imbalances, you will have to give approval sooner or later. I was hoping that after all these, an amendment will be brought. That amendment is still elusive but on my behalf I have circulated a motion of amendment. When amendments are considered then I will come on that issue.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one more reason adding to the regional imbalance due to which the people are agitated in that the approval has been given for setting up an IIT, All India Institute of Medical Science in Garhwal division. Now it is being heard that there is an Engineering College in Garhwal which is in the process of getting the status of NIT, even though the Engineering College in Kumaon already fulfills this criteria. If such acts of creating imbalances continue then we will have to pay attention to it otherwise the state of Uttarakhand which has already been facing many disparities will face new inequity. I want to say that NIT should be given a fresh thought. Kumaon University

should be given the status of a Central University and a suitable site is available at Kashipur for setting up an IIM in Udham Singh Nagar. The step will make the local people feel that the interests of the Kumaon Region are also being taken care of the Union Government. Besides, the region is also home to Govind Ballabh Pant Agriculture and Technology University in Pant Nagar. This Agriculture University should also be made a Central University or it should be accorded the status of a Central Research Institute. This has been the demand of local people and the University staff. A proposal has also been sent in this regard. This is the only renowned University in Asia. There has been a demand to make this state University a Central University. The people have added this thing in their demand that the provision of 85 per cent reservation for students of Uttarakhand should remain intact since the local people and staff rely upon that and this should be made a Central Agriculture University or Institute and I have supported it as well. I am demanding it on my behalf. Garhwal University which is being accorded the status of a Central University is very far from our region and it is a problem for us. It would have been better if you had to create a Central University then instead of making that a Central University you should have set it up at a central location, then indeed, it would have been convenient for everybody. Though you have accorded its jurisdiction to this state but it is not possible for a student of Kumaon to take admission and study at Shrinagar, Garhwal. Earlier, when we were part of Uttar Pradesh at that time also two Universities had to be created in place of one. Today, this is my earnest request to accord status of a Central University to Kumaon University keeping in view the larger interest of the state and an Indian Institute of Management should be set up at Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar.

Besides, I would like to state that you have accorded status to the Garhwal University but at least 600 teachers are working there on contract or short term or on daily wage basis. Today, their future has become uncertain as to what would be their fate after this University becomes a Central University, will they be retrenched? This should not be done while keeping their interest because they have been teaching there for the

last several years. I conclude my speech with these submissions.

*[English]*

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): I rise to support Central Universities Bill 2009. I am really thankful for giving a university to Tamil Nadu also. In Madras University, lot of many scholars like Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan former President of India. Dr. Abdul Kalam, R. Venkataraman and many other distinguished scholars the university have produced in Dindugai, Gandhinagar University. There are many faculties vacant, even the University is working without a Vice-Chancellor.

Sir, the whole Indian education system is really good. Our UPA Government under guidance of our Government is spending thousands of crores of money to encourage students. The Government of India is giving through students educational loans.

Speaker Sir, the private colleges in this country are running in commercial way without proper teaching staff with no proper facilities and good professors. Today they are working in one college and tomorrow in another college. Government have to control them. If a professor wanted to join from one college to another, he has to get no objection certificate from where he was working earlier. There is no control over the professors. The students are the real sufferers.

Sir, there is no good library, laboratory and proper governing staff. Sir, in information technology and particularly in the software, our Indian students are doing marvellously. Well, to train them, we need good universities. Really the Central University will do well in the coming years in higher education particularly in engineering technology etc. and in new areas like Maritime, Aviation, software skills. In these area of higher education the Government have to explore. The students belong to SC/ST, minorities and skill students should be given importance. Sir in higher education, like MBA, MCA etc. no minority student is given a chance.

This sort of neglect of a particular community should be stopped.

With these words, I conclude by supporting this important Bill. The private colleges are very costly. These so-called deemed universities are charging enormously. Sir, you have to control them. Those deemed universities affiliation have to be cancelled. They are demanding high fees for MD, MTech and other higher education. It is not affordable for poor and middle class family students. I hope the Central University will stop all these sort of misdoings.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. In view of paucity of time I would like to put my points in very short time.

I appreciate UPA Government and Chairperson of UPA, Madam Soniaji for the announcement made by the hon'ble Prime Minister on 15th August that expansion of education should be made, there should be universities, there should be IIMs and IITs. The Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh also made efforts in this regard and has brought this Bill today. I simply want to say that you have introduced this Bill, IITs are being established, Centers of Excellence are being set up. IIMs are being set up; but my suggestion is that they should also move towards villages instead of being centred in big cities because it creates an environment for education in villages. The population of the village where I live was 3000, now it is 10,000 but 60,000 students are studying there, for instance Manipal in Karnataka. An environment is created in villages as a result of setting up of such institutions there. The boys and girls of the villages can get benefit from it. Secondly, the universities being set up should not impart conventional education. Employment oriented education should be imparted therein so that after completing higher education the students could take to self employment, and earn their bread and butter. He should be given job after providing expertise to them. I am in favour of expansion of education. Quality does not mean compromising with

---

\*Speech was laid on the table.



[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

the expansion of education. With a view to provide employable skill to the students, the university should be given opportunity so that it can arrange for public-private partnership within the university itself. I submit before the Government of India that a Bill regarding private universities was introduced in the House earlier. This Bill has come back to you after consideration by the Standing Committee. Some private universities should be set up in the country through the Union Government and public-private partnership should be there. Education will expand if it is regulated less. In regard to the University Bill, I would request that a statutory committee including Vice-Chancellor be set up because we cannot keep pace with changes taking place in education in the world only through the Academic Council. The members of the Academic councils are the teachers of the same college; most of the disputes among them are of administrative and political nature. To remove this problem an expert group be formed so that academic development may take place in universities and its responsibility may be given to the Board of Studies. My third suggestion is that there are many universities like MIT, Harvard University in foreign countries, which provide for education from primary level to higher education. Why should we not endeavour for that, why should we not make a model of it, in which there is provision for education from primary to higher level. We are a part of British legacy wherein more emphasis is on advanced education. We also need to change the mindset of producing graduates only. You see that so many graduates are wandering here and there and after being compelled by the situation they commit dacoities and move towards naxalism. We shall have to consider how we should change this scenario.

There is a need to change the name of University Grants Commission. It is a fact that they have done a good work. They have selected a boy belonging to the Scheduled Caste in the Board. I applaud the hon'ble Minister for the same. He has endeavoured a lot to bring changes in education system. We have experienced the same in the Advisory Committee also. Therefore,

the name Grants Commission should not be there, because it expands the educational development and provides quality. You should set up more universities.

You are objecting to the idea of a Deemed university. I would like to request you that Deemed Universities may be set up because large scale expansion of higher education takes place through them and education system also evolves. I am also a part of Deemed University. I am making many new experiments due to which poor students are getting higher education. I have started education based on Earn and Learn pattern. You also have made provision for it in 11th Five Year Plan. I would request you that the corporation being set up by the Government should come in force and Earn and Learn scheme should be implemented in all universities. Its cost may be borne by the State Government, the University and by the Government in 50:50 ratio. This will immensely help the poor students and the students living below poverty line.

[English]

They are the assets of the country.

[Translation]

1500 students are getting education in my area under Earn and Learn Scheme. Many of them are earning money and taking care of their parents alongwith continuing their education. Therefore, it is up to you to see how this scheme can be implemented. You have to take 20% students for higher education and we have no objection if you make their merit list. But I would like to say that education should be employment oriented. You have said a very good thing that you have started senior scholarship in PHED.

'NET shade' is being discussed, it is here again. There is a need to provide this facility. Training should be imparted to the newly selected lecturer because methods of teaching keep on changing from time to time and they do not get sufficient training. Therefore, once the 'NET shade' is in place, then arrangement should be made for training and it should be modified from time to time. I would like to mention about multiple degree. Our education is only vertical integrated. I want that our

education system be integrated both horizontally and vertically. If a student of class 12th wants to study commerce, he should be allowed to do so. Similarly, if a first year student of commerce wants to switch over to science, he should also be allowed. There is such arrangement in foreign countries. It is happening in Britain also whereas our education is based on British education system. I myself have seen that in America, a student of MBA is taking medical education.

*[English]*

Why are we so tight unnecessarily?

*[Translation]*

If a student is capable of getting two degrees simultaneously, he should be allowed. I have made such provisions in my area. This has been recognized by Pune University, it has recognized even its diploma and even IIT has recognized it. In the beginning, they said by seeing audit how it can happen, but when the student passed and they got the feel of the system looking at his result, they agreed it to be introduced. Therefore, this arrangement should be introduced. How long a student shall study. Therefore, provision for multi-degree should be made. There should not be any objection to it if a student opts for M.A. or B.Ed course alongwith his course of Home Science. Therefore, there is a need to pay attention towards it.

As Rajeevi had said, it is not degree that counts; instead it is experience and knowledge that is taken into account. It is all right that Knowledge Commission is there in our country, but I have nothing to say about that. The commission has openly talked about the expansion of education. Therefore, it is wrong to withhold our efforts from spreading education on the pretext of quality. As our friend said that in hills nobody finds education, higher education is not available even in far flung areas. Therefore, I find the expansion of education necessary, the rest of things like quality etc do matter.

You did not provide Central University in Maharashtra because of Vidarbha. Maharashtra is a big state. At least a central rural university should have been

provided. There is a Mahatma Gandhi International University; it is having neither infrastructure nor education. The university exists only for namesake. There are three or four parts of Maharashtra which require university. I would not like to go in details, you should think over them.

You gave me time for which I thank you and conclude my speech.

*[English]*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the Bill, which expects a financial liability to the extent of Rs. 3,300 crore, is a welcome one. I am sure this will give opportunity to thousands of students to go for excellent higher education.

I think that maximum number of youths must be given best education in professional, scientific, commercial studies and also in social science oriented higher study. I would make a suggestion that along with the Central Universities, provision should be made for more scholarships for students, and also to ensure that loan facilities are given for students in a better and in a more lenient way. I am sure that the interest rate also should come down. Though the Central Universities do not have directly to do anything with it, yet the Government should ensure that this is being looked into.

I think that more autonomy should be given to the Central Universities without much of interference. The best faculty should be ensured in the colleges and institutions which come under these Central Universities.

India being an agricultural country, a lot of future is there in agriculture. I am sure that impetus should be given to this field in a very big way. I would also suggest that research—this is being given a better hand here—should be given more and more importance. In all the institutions connected thereto, there should be all facilities for research and other facilities for the best education

Lastly, I think, that in Kerala a Central University which is being established should be named in the name of a person who has contributed a lot in the field of

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

education, Shri Mannathu Padbhanabhan, who has formed the Nair Service Society (NSS). He has had a very big vision in this field. He is a pioneer who has given birth to a lot of institutions both in the school level, college level and in the professional, higher educational level. I am sure that hundreds of institutions which have come under the NSS under his vision should definitely be given a very great importance. I am sure that this is the best opportunity for that. The Government of India should think of naming this University which is being given to Kerala in the name of Shri Mannathu Padbhanabhan. I am sure that an amendment which I am moving in this regard, which has been published, should be considered. I hope that amendment will be passed or the Government will agree that on those terms the naming of the University which is going to be established in Kerala can be taken up.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, everybody in the country will welcome to have more importance for education. I would like to put a few points, through you, before the hon. Minister.

We should provide more resource for education. As our veteran, Basudeb Barmanji pointed out, we are only providing 3.5 per cent funds for education; whereas everybody accepts that 6 per cent is the bare minimum. As enshrined in the CMP, I do urge upon the Government to provide more funds to the tune of 6 per cent of our GDP.

The hon. Minister yesterday, while answering a question here in this august House, explained that the evaluation and improvement of higher education is a continuous process. I shall plead before the august House to insist on the Government to have a permanent mechanism for evaluation and improvement of higher education which is the need of the hour. That may cover all the Universities—Central or State, deemed or otherwise.

Everybody knows that Kerala is the most forward State in general education. As far as literacy is concerned, it is cent per cent there. But we are lagging behind in higher education. Now the State Government

is trying to come forward in higher education also. I would request the hon. Minister that we would like to have an IIT in Kerala. Please allow an IIT in Kerala along with this proposed Central University.

\*SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG (Koraput): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, on behalf of the people of undivided Koraput Scheduled Area District and people of Orissa and on my own behalf express thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Minister HRD and Sonia Gandhi for providing Central University at Koraput, Orissa by providing funds to open the University to start from this academic session.

The Culture university which was started by me when I was the Chief Minister in the year 1999 has been closed due to lack of interest taken by the Government of Orissa. This University may be funded by the Central Government so that it is to be maintained and managed immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Central Universities Bill, 2009 has been introduced in the House, I welcome it. My parliamentary constituency is Sagar. The people from Sagar have been demanding for a long time that Sagar University be accorded the status of a Central University. Many movements have taken place in this regard since my student days. This Bill really deserves to be welcomed. I would also like to mention that though the name of Dr. Hari Singh Gaur has been quoted near about twenty times in this bill but it has been spelt correctly only at one place and that too in the second half of para-20 on page 13. Only at one place the name has been written correctly. At the rest of the places, Dr. Hari Singh Gaud has been written. Gaud is not correct term, it is grammatically incorrect. The correct term is Dr. Hari Singh Gaur. I hope this word would be correctly spelt. By doing so you will respect the sentiments of the people of Sagar.

Dr. Hari Singh Gaur was of the view that Sagar, Bundelkhand is a very backward region and the students

---

\*Speech was laid on the table.

of this place should get the opportunity of getting higher education. That is why he had established this University with his lifelong earnings. I would like to say that after making this university a central university, students of our region would get the opportunity of higher education. Earlier to me what hon. Member Vikhe Patil has said, I would like to associate myself with the suggestions that the education which is imparted through this university should be employment oriented so that students coming out of this university may not remain unemployed. Today, the biggest problem before the youth of the country is unemployment. A number of posts of teachers are lying vacant in various departments of Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University. Through you, I would like to say that those working in this university, whether they are local teachers or contract teachers, should be regularized and should be given permanent opportunity there. There are many daily-wage earners who are agitating for regularization for long time. On the basis of experience and priority they should be regularized. Many staff members belong to SCs and STs who should have been permanently appointed as per rule, but this did not take place. I hope that they would be permanently appointed. This Central University is going to be established in backward area. Therefore, through you, I would like to request you that special financial assistance should be provided for constructing building and procuring equipments for this purpose.

One more thing that has come to light is that many fake educational institutes are running. I would like to give an example in this regard. The daughter of one of our friends went to Pune to study in a medical college, which was a foreign owned institution. After completing her first year study she came to know that the institute was not recognized by the Medical Council of India. The college management asked the students to come to their country so that they could complete the course in the country. Boys can go to other countries for education but so far girls are concerned, our culture is such that we generally do not send our girls to foreign countries for education. Such institutes after investigation must be provided recognition from one or the other recognized universities and those operating from abroad should be kept under observation.

At the end, I would conclude with this demand that Indian Institute of Management should be opened at Sagar. Welcoming this bill, I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri K.C. Singh Baba. You can take only two to three minutes. Please be brief.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Sir, I would like to thank our Government for bringing forward the Central Universities Bill. I would like to congratulate the hon. Chairperson, UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi; the hon. Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh; and the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh for including Garhwal University and giving the status of the Central University to Garhwal University.

But as previously said by my colleague, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, asking for the same status to the Kumaun University, we all are together regardless of party politics to support this demand. He has said it in a very balanced way as to why Kumaun University should also get the status of a Central University. We all agree to this.

*[Translation]*

Bachi Singh Rawatji has, in brief, told the Government why Kumaon University should be made a Central University. I support him that Govind Ballabh Pant Agriculture University should be given the status of a central university.

*[English]*

Sir, I would like to make a few points, before I conclude my speech, stating why Kumaun University should also be given the status of a Central University. Previously also, it was said. To make the regions equally important in the field of education, in 1973, the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Hemwati Nandan Bahugunaji, keeping in view, the complex, social and

[Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba']

geographical needs of both Kumaun and Garhwal regions, said about establishing both Kumaun and Garwal Universities, more or less simultaneously, for the benefits of students in both the areas.

Sir, I would like to inform that the Kumaun University has produced more than 10,000 students who have done PhD degree in different faculties. Out of the population of about 30 lakh, around one lakh students appear for examination in these Universities every academic year there. We have got a Four-Star status by the NAAC. While establishing the various educational institutions in both these regions from time to time, former politicians as well as bureaucrats have always kept in mind the need to maintain the proper regional balance between Kumaun and Garhwal.

For example, when the Medical College was established at Haldwani in Kumaun, simultaneously another Medical College was established at Srinagar in Garhwal. Similarly, an Environment Institute was established in Almorah, Kumaun and in Srinagar, Garhwal as well. The Agriculture Research Centres in Almorah and Pauri were also established simultaneously in both Kumaun and Garhwal regions, which have always been essential from the future, cultural, developmental and political viewpoint.

But presently, I hear that Dehradun, in Garhwal itself has more than two dozens institutes of higher learning. IIM and AIIMS have also been proposed to be established in Garhwal. It has been slightly disproportionate to the two regions of Kumaun and Garhwal.

With these points, Sir, I strongly urge that our Kumaun University should also be provided with the status of a Central University.

With these few words, I strongly support the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. K. Francis George. Please be very brief.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Yes, Sir. There is nothing more to add now. I would be very brief.

In fact, I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development. In that Committee, we have discussed threadbare the various provisions of this Bill. The Committee had made several recommendations out of which seven recommendations have very graciously been accepted by the Government.

The hon. Prime Minister had announced for having, at least, one Central University in each State and also one Degree College in every District. These institutions are supposed to become symbol of excellence, a model of efficiency, an example in terms of academic standards, a role model in governance for State Universities to emulate.

Sir, as has been said earlier, the present enrolment ratio is only 11 per cent. We plan to further increase it.

That is why, these new universities are being set up. Also, the hon. Minister had said in this very same House, back in 2007, that the Government had planned to set up 14 world-class universities. The National Knowledge Commission has also recommended this. They have said we should at least have 1,500 universities. So, the National Knowledge Commission has made certain suggestions as far as higher education in this country is concerned. It has recommended that we should create more universities, change the system of regulation for higher education, increase public spending, reform the existing universities, restructure undergraduate colleges, promote, enhance quality, and so on.

So, what I would like to request is that when we take a step in this direction, while setting up these institutes, we should take more care as has been suggested by our own distinguished Rajya Sabha Member, Shri N.K. Singh that the Government should ensure that these are institutes with academic freedom and autonomy for encouraging research, fostering innovation and kindling the urge for excellence.

I am concluding. I have a suggestion. When we are going to have 16 universities, 12 plus 4 universities, which are going to be converted into Central Universities, why do you not develop these as centres

of excellence in one branch of knowledge while imparting training in other branches also? Then, we can have 16 centres specialising in one particular branch of knowledge to which students aspiring to specialise or study in that particular branch can look forward.

So, I would request the Government to consider these points. Of course, these colleges, these universities are supposed to be some what autonomous and everybody, every single Member has suggested that there should be less of Government control and more of autonomy should be granted to these institutes. But at the same time, I would request the Central Government to give some kind of guidance so that each university can opt for a particular branch according to the location and according to the specific needs of that area so that we can slowly bring up institutes of world standard. That is all.

**PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra):** Sir, I stand to speak on the Central Universities Bill, 2009.

We, the people of Himachal Pradesh, are very grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri Arjun Singh, the Minister of Human Resource Development and Shrimati Purandeswari, the Minister of State for Human Resource Development that in the small State of Himachal Pradesh they have given a Central University. It is because when we were in the joint Punjab, we were having only one university at Chandigarh, and all the people, right from Lahaul Spiti and other corners of North-East, used to have their education at Chandigarh. Later on, the different States started to have their different universities. We have universities like Agriculture University, Horticulture University and other universities in the State of Himachal Pradesh. But this institution of excellence, which has been opened in 12 States, shows that we have the knowledge based society and we can impart the best type of education in these institutions.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker,** Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government that when our Government was there in the State of Himachal Pradesh, a policy decision was taken to open this university at

Dharamshala where all facilities and infrastructure are available. Later on, the proposal was shifted to some other areas, that is, in the sub-divisions of Dhera, that is a part of Kangra district. But the land, which is proposed to be given to that university, is a forest land. I want that when we are opening these universities in the hill States, then some of the norms should be relaxed because in hilly areas, the land is not so easily available. It is because the whole of the area is deeply interspersed with forests. So, there should be relaxation in some of the hilly areas for that. It is because they are demanding about 400 to 500 hectares of land for the establishment of these universities.

The whole of the area which has been proposed is the forest land and it affects the provisions of the Forest Act, 1980. That forest land cannot be transferred for non-forestry use. So, I would urge upon that Government that the proposal which has already been given to open a university at Dharmshala, it should be considered. At Dharmshala, land is also available and there is an old institution where the government college is running. It is better also. In the first hand, if they want to open this university, then the DC can work with that particular institution so that they can deliver the goods nicely. When this university is opened in that particular State, it will also have the benefit of the Departments of Basic Sciences and Allied Sciences which are already there. So, in the future expansion, all the live Departments in the vicinity of that university will be their research centres. Some of the CSIR institutions which are opened at Palampur, they can also facilitate them in their research work.

If we can impart knowledge to the students who will take their education over there, then we can also make use of their knowledge for application in agriculture sector, for humanities' development and for other type of different disciplines. This institution should be an institution of excellence because this Act, which has been introduced in this august House, is same as that under which we have a university over there. It is the same Act.

When we are opening these institutions of excellence, there should be some school of thoughts in

[Prof. Chander Kumar]

different disciplines so that there should be the facility of Master's Degree, that is, specialisation so that whatever education we are imparting to the students in the university, the application of that knowledge should be there in the field also. Whatever research work we are doing, there should be a proper linkage thereof with the industry, with the agriculture sector and with the socio-economic conditions running in those States so that whatever knowledge we are imparting to those students, that should be applicable to that State.

When I was a student of Punjab University, dissertation was compulsory for post-graduate students. We used to go there. We had the land-use planning of those areas and we had land-fertility surveys of those areas. It was part and parcel of the discipline. On the basis of the recommendations we had given during our university time, the entire scenario in the adjoining areas of Chandigarh has been changed and the whole of land use pattern has been changed. People are going in for a different type of occupational structure, horticulture structure. They have set up farms for producing vegetables and they have produced the millet and all these things. Whatever education we are imparting in the university, it should be knowledge based so that we can transfer that knowledge in the rest of the fields, so that whatever we are learning, we can have application of that knowledge in the vicinity of that particular State. So, with these institutions of excellence, we will be able to bear the best products in those States. Along with producing the best products, we will also produce a knowledgeable society. Thereby, we will be in a position where we can change the economy and the whole of the scenario in the adjoining areas.

With these words, once again I request the hon. Minister of State for Human Resource Development to look into this.

19.48 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

If they want to establish the university, then Dharmshala is the most suitable place as infrastructural

facilities are also available there. ...(*Interruptions*) I would request that they should look into this again.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Central Universities Bill, 2009. It has already been moved through an ordinance but it is necessary to have a discussion on some points towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Government. The aim of the Bill is to make the education system world class. Its sole objective is to increase the number of Universities which have world-wide recognition. Their various aspects require attention. The points raised by National Knowledge Commission should necessarily be considered but simultaneously statutory provisions which are necessary for setting up, recognising and running an institute, should also necessarily be kept in mind. It affects the quality of education. Economic conditions of a large population of the country is not good even then we find bright students there. So proper attention should be paid towards the children of the poor.

Central Universities are provided adequate aid but it should not be used to increase salaries only. I mean to say it is absolutely necessary to spend that money for providing adequate facilities to the students. There are various subjects which are of much practical use in the present world but the existing Central Universities either do not have such subjects in their curriculum or the manner in which they are taught leaves much to be desired. Various disciplines have been included. Present Private Universities and private colleges are more advanced than Government institutions. It is not necessary to count the subjects being taught there. I would like to say here that disciplines like microbiology or new management techniques must be included in the curriculum.

Sir, figures show that 90 per cent students of Indian Universities are not able to get jobs in multinational companies, I do not agree with these figures. Today, I find that there are vocational institutes of good repute in the country and their students are holding good jobs in multinational companies. The

pattern is not the same everywhere, though some institutes do not have any rockoning in the job market, so much so that there is no campus interview there. So, the students of these institutes take up jobs available locally. There should be uniformity in their courses so that they could get recognition at international level. Their recognition process should pave way for induction of good teachers, facilities should be developed in order to make these institutes world-class. This is the point I wanted to make. Sir, I would like to make one more point that when economically weak students get selected for technical institutes, they are provided loans only if they have land, property and resources, otherwise banks do not grant them loans. They have to face a lot of problems. Therefore, I want to say that it is necessary to lay emphasis on these aspects related with education simultaneously.

Sir, through you, I would like to thank the hon. Minister that he proposes to set up a Central University in a backward State, like Bihar. Hon. Member, Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav has just said that Patna University should be given status of a Central University, as it is fully eligible. It will not be a problem if there are more than one Central University at a place. Bihar has a sizeable population and 9 per cent population of the country lives there. Students from Bihar are doing well in big institutes all over the world.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mehta, this point has already been covered by you. Please conclude your speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, I would like to request that Patna University in Bihar should be given the status of a Central University. With these words, I strongly support this Amendment Bill on behalf of my party and myself.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is Shrimati Tejasvini Gowda.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA (Kankapura): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief and precise while making your speech.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: Yes, Sir.

The UPA Government was formed five years back, and nobody was sure whether this Government will complete its full term. Today, it is a moment for me to feel proud of our Prime Minister, the world-renowned economist, who has dreamt of building a vibrant India. Today, one can see the fruits of the vibrant India when we are taking the example of 'Mission to Moon'.

Sir, in my view, only quality education, meaningful and useful education, can emancipate the people from ignorance and knowledge poverty which are the root causes of many social evils. When compared to the total population of India, a Gross Enrolled Ratio of just 11 per cent in higher education is very alarming. That is why the UPA Government has committed itself to address this problem in a time-bound manner.

Sir, I take this opportunity to remember the former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi's dream of building a vibrant India through education. I am very happy to see today that our young leader Rahul Gandhi is following the same path and pursuing the same dream as his father, that is, to build a resurgent India through education. We have to bridge the gap between the two Indias—the rural and urban Indias—in education sector. Only education can emancipate people from the evils afflicting them. Through education only they can realise that they have problems and that they can solve them. Through education they will be able to realise that they have a national role to play. I am very hopeful that Shri Rahul Gandhi will provide his leadership in greater measure in the coming days.

While complimenting the UPA Government for bringing this historic Bill, I would like to make a few demands for my State. Through the Central Universities Bill, 2009 the UPA Government has granted Central Universities to many States including my State. Mysore University in the old heritage Mysore State has got this



[Shrimati Tejasvini Gowda,

status. I come from the State of Karnataka whose capital is Bangalore. Bangalore has about four hundred colleges providing education to lakhs of students. It is suffering from lack of infrastructure. Let us not deliver speeches for the sake of rural India. Let us provide infrastructure and facilities to the rural colleges. Simply by talking about them we cannot help them. I very much fear that in Karnataka a new trend of North-South divide is gaining ground. The primary reason for this is the imbalance between the rural and urban areas. I urge the Government to grant Central University status to the reputed Dharwad University also. If both Dharwad University and Bangalore University become Central Universities, it will be of great help.

I would like to compliment the Government for bringing this Bill. I appreciate the Government's effort in incorporating seven recommendations of the Departmentally-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee. These measures will provide sufficient opportunities to the youth of the country by inculcating leadership qualities in them and by weaning them away from radical ideologies like Naxalism.

I would urge upon the Government to put the politics aside while making appointments to various posts in these Universities. Merit and expertise should be the only criterion for these appointments. While giving funds to these Central Universities, specific provisions should be made as to how they should be spent and what should be the priorities.

Sir, I come from the Constituency Kanakapura. A great Gandhian and politician the late Kariappaji had set up a rural college called Kariappa Rural College in Kanakapura years ago. About 9,000 students are studying in that college now. I demand that deemed university status be granted to that College. I expect to get the support of the Government in granting deemed university status to Kariappa Rural College in Kanakapura.

**SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY** (Kokrajhar): Hon. Chairman, I am quite thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Central

Universities Bill, 2009 which has been taken up in the House today for discussion and passage.

Sir, I rise, albeit reluctantly, to support and welcome this Bill with a heavy heart for the following reasons. I would have been delighted if a Central University for the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD) in Lower Assam had been set up on the lines of the proposed 12 new Central Universities that are included in the First Schedule of this Bill.

**20.00 hrs.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Wait for a second. Now, it is 8 o' clock. I think, within half an hour, we can conclude the debate on this Bill. So, if the House agrees, we can extend the time of the House by half an hour.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Yes, Sir.

...(Interruptions)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** All right. The time of the House is extended by half-an-hour.

...(Interruptions)

**SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY:** This should be included in the First Schedule of this particular Bill in question taking into account the degree of backwardness of the Bodoland—a Scheduled area under the 6th Schedule to the Constitution of the country in the sphere of education.

This Bill has indeed made an attempt to discriminate against the backward Sixth Scheduled areas of the country with special mention to our Bodoland territory by way of not conceding our overall due and long felt need of a Central University for the young generation of the Bodoland territory. I wish to urge upon the Government to take appropriate steps to help sanction a Central University at Kokrajhar too, the headquarters of Bodoland Territorial Council Administration with immediate effect keeping in view the most deplorable situation mounting within the Bodoland area due to lack of Central University and other premier educational institutions.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the Union Government

of India to accept my amendment which has been brought in relation to the First Schedule of this particular Bill.

I would like to urge upon the Government of India to sanction the following educational institutions for the Bodoland area. At least, one Central University by the name and style of Bodoland Central University should be sanctioned for Bodoland Territory Area district. One Bodoland Central Agricultural University also should be set up for Bodoland Territory; at least one each of IIM, IIT and AIIMS-model Institute; one Textile Institute, one Nursing cum Para Medical Training College, one Pharmaceutical Institute, one Medical College, one National Law College of repute, one Central University for Physical Health, Education, Games and Sports.

There are various programmes which are mounting in my area. The Bodo language is considered as a medium of instruction from 1963. More than 1,000 primary schools of Bodo medium are languishing like anything. Due to lack of funds, the Government of Assam could not take up all these schools. Apart from the primary schools, there are another 500 upper primary schools of Bodo medium. These schools also could not be taken up by the Government of Assam due to lack of funds. Furthermore, another 500 schools of Bodo medium could not be taken up by the Government of Assam due to lack of funds. Hence, I would like to appeal, through you, Sir, to the Government of India to provide at least Rs. 200 crore Central Fund to the Government of Assam so that these venture schools could be operationalised without any further delay.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now. You have already taken five minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I have a few more points. One Central University for Indigenous Tribal students should be set up in Bodoland.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to lay the balance portion of your speech, you can do so.

...(Interruptions)

\*SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY:

All right, Sir.

Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Central Universities Bill, 2009 that has been taken up in the House today for discussion and passage thereof.

Sir, I albeit reluctantly to support and welcome this Bill with a heavy heart for the following reasons. I would have been quite delighted if a central university for Bodoland Territorial Areas district (BTAD) in lower Assam also could have been set up in line with the proposed 12 new central universities that are included in the First Schedule of this particular concerned Bill in question taking into account the degree of backwardness of the Bodoland territory—a scheduled area under the 6th schedule to the constitution of the country in the sphere of education. This Bill has indeed made an attempt to discriminate against the backward Sixth Schedule areas in the country with special mention to our Bodoland Territory by way of not conceding our long due and long felt need for a central university, for the young generation of the Bodoland Territory. I wish to urge upon the Government to take appropriate steps to help sanction a central university at Kokrajhar too, the Head Quarters of Bodoland Territorial Council Administration keeping in view the most deplorable situation mounting within the Bodoland Area due to lack of Central University and like other primer educational institutions.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the government to accept my amendment in relation to the first schedule of the Bill.

- Demands—
- (1) Bodoland Central University for Bodoland being in Sixth Schedule Area.
  - (2) Bodoland Central Agriculture University.
  - (3) Central Institute of Technology should be upgraded to a full fledged Central Technical University.

\*...\* This part of the speech was laid on the table.

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

- (4) One IIM
- (5) One IIT
- (6) One AIIMS Model Institute
- (7) Bodoland Institute of Information Technology
- (8) One National Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology
- (9) 10 Nos. of polytechnic Institutes
- (10) 10 Nos of IT IS
- (11) 7 Nos of JNUS
- (12) 100 Nos of Model Schools
- (13) 10 Nos of quality Education College
- (14) 10 Nos of Textile Institutes
- (15) One Nursing cum para medical training college
- (16) One pharmaceutical Institute
- (17) One medical college
- (18) One National Law College of Repute
- (19) One Central University for physical health education, Games and sports
- (20) The Languishing 1000 Nos of venture primary schools, 500 Nos of upper primary schools and 500 Nos. of High schools of Bodo medium should be brought under the provincialistion system in Assam by way of giving minimum of Rs. 2000 crore from the centre per annum.
- (21) One central university for indigenous tribal students of North Eastern States.
- (22) Provision for reservation quota for

SCs and STs in employment in central universities should be made.

- (23) All posts of teachers lying vacant meant for SCs and STs in central universities should be filled up by way of special recruitment drive.
- (24) Minimum of Rs. 5000 crore central fund should be given to Bodoland territorial council government annually for development of education in Bodoland.
- (25) One central university should be set up at Mahakalguni in Jalpaiguri district for north Bengal\*.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): While expressing the disapproval of the Ordinance proposed, I welcome the Bill. The way in which it was moved was not correct. The Ordinance was issued at the expense of the legislative powers of this House. It was an encroachment on the powers of the House because the Standing Committee had submitted its Report and the normal course ought to have been adopted. But instead of adopting the normal course, ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, 15 recommendations were made by the Standing Committee, out of which seven have been accepted. I hope those recommendations have been incorporated in the new Bill. This is a belated legislation. The demand for the Central Universities in the States has been going on for a number of years. It did not come all of a sudden. So, it ought to have been done.

When the Central University was to be started in Kerala, I have to mention a very important factor in this House. In Kerala, we have the greatest social reformer, Shri Narayana Guru. There are dozens of Shri Narayana Colleges, Centres of Higher Education, Centres of Excellence which are spread all over the State. Dozens of colleges, higher educational institutions had been declared as Centres of Excellence; they are spread all over the State. He is the person who is an apostle of religious harmony and religious tolerance. He preached 'one man, one caste and one religion.'

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): He preached 'one God, one religion and one caste for human beings.'

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When the Central University was to be started in Kerala, that University was started in his name only. He is the only person who is eligible to be honoured. He is the only person in South India, not only in Kerala; he has disciples all over the world. Shri Narayana Missions are functioning in New York, in Kuala Lumpur, in Singapore, in France, in London and everywhere. He is such a great man; in his name, hundreds of institutions are functioning. So, I would request the Central Government to name the university as Shri Narayana Guru. He is the only person who is eligible to be honoured in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, you can conclude. It is a matter pertaining to the State Government.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I hope that the Central Government will consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, Mr. Minister now.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Before the hon. Minister replies, I would like to say that we are all expecting his statue in the Parliament complex, in fact. It is not there. At least, I support the hon. Member's suggestion to have a Central University in his name.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, I also support him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The hon. Minister is supporting my cause.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, everybody is supporting. Now, you may sit down.

Mr. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): I would like to thank my hon. Colleagues, 20 in number who have participated in the debate today. It would take a lot of time to list the

names; so, I would like to thank them all by name, for having participated in this debate today and for having given their views on the Bill.

Let me, at the outset, let the House know that it was not the intention of the Government to subvert the legislative competence of the Parliament, which the Government holds very high in regard and respect.

There were some unavoidable reasons because of which we had to come forward with an Ordinance, the main reason being that some of the State Universities being upgraded to the Central Universities and the academic session is around the corner. The land needed to be acquired for the newly-to-be-established Central Universities and the Vice-Chancellors had to be appointed. So, it was a time-taking process. So, that was the reason why we had to bring forward an Ordinance. But definitely it was not to undermine the legislative competence of the Parliament in any way.

But however, let me start by saying that since we had attained Independence, our higher education sector has grown exponentially, in terms of institutions, teaching-learning infrastructure and also faculty. But this would however not mean that we could get complacent over this exponential growth and we still have challenges and issues that need to be addressed and need to be overcome.

Reform in the education sector, as has rightly been emphasised by many of my colleagues, is an on-going process. It is very important that we make our education very responsive and also, sensitive to the needs and requirements of our own country. So, it is very important that we look into what is required by our country, both for the economic growth as well as the social growth. So, reforms are an on-going process. Access, equity, quality and relevance have always been the cornerstones of education system in country. The first challenge in our country that would ever come to our mind, which has both geographical and demographical challenges, would be the challenge of access. We take pride in the fact that we have increased our Gross Enrolment Ratio from what was one per cent when we

[Shrimati D. Purandeswari]

attained Independence to 11 per cent today. We had one million students in our higher education in 1950 and today we have around 11 million children in the higher education sector. However, we must accept the fact that the Gross Enrolment Ratio of 11 per cent, as has been rightly pointed out, is much lesser than the international average of around 23 per cent. Developed countries would have somewhere between 60 and 80 per cent and countries in transition have a little over 40 per cent. India today has GER of 11 per cent.

It is very difficult for us to achieve GER of 20 per cent at one go which has been recognised as very essential for a country to be economically sustainable. But realising that it is very difficult for us, for a country as large as India with challenges pertaining to both geography and demography to attain a GER of 20 per cent overnight, pegging it at 15 per cent, which is to be achieved by the end of the 11th Plan period, that is by the end of 2012, I think is a very reasonable target which we have to, at any cost, try to achieve.

To reach this target, various programmes have been formulated and I must emphasise here that the very important programme is to identify the educational backward blocks. Sir, 374 such educationally backward blocks have been identified where the Government of India would intend to establish an institute in each of these educationally backward blocks so that the literacy rate which is lower than the national average in these educationally backward blocks could be raised.

Similarly, there have been various other initiatives also in terms of establishing polytechniques in every district and upgrading of institutions. These are various initiatives that the Government of India and HRD are undertaking to ensure that access could be made available. Regional imbalances need to be addressed. Even as we speak of regional imbalance, we need to understand and realise that some regions, some areas in our country have actually grown very well in the higher education sector whereas some areas still have been lagging behind in terms of access, in terms of the number of institutions. It was against this background

that our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh had made the announcement of the exponential expansion in higher education wherein the IITs, IIMs, NITs, and ISCRs were all increased in number.

Even as we talk of increasing the number of our Central institutions, the very important factor that is to be kept in mind is to iron out the regional imbalances. That was why it was decided that from the Central Universities, every State, which did not have a Central University, would at first receive a Central University. Sir, 16 such States have been identified and based on that, various States were actually allocated the Central Universities. As the Bill rightly says, today 3 State Universities have been upgraded and the other 12 States will be getting Central Universities.

With your permission, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity, to humbly bring to the knowledge of this august House that seven new Indian Institutes of Management were proposed under the 11th Five Year Plan, out of which the Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management in Shillong has already been established. But as regards the location of the other IIMs, it was felt that keeping in mind the limited resources and the need to have regional balanced growth, one State should not be awarded both a new IIT and an IIM together in the 11th Plan. While one of the two institutions, that is either an IIT or an IIM could be given to a State which already has one of them before in the beginning of the 11th Five year Plan. An IIT is already functioning at Rajasthan during the 11th Five Year Plan, through its temporary campus and it is being mentored by IIT, Kanpur. But due to an inadvertent typographical error which had crept in the inputs provided by our Ministry for the Budget Speech of the hon. Finance Minister while listing the names of the States where the new IIMs are to start from the academic year, 2009-10, the State of Rajasthan has been mentioned instead of Chhattisgarh. So, I humbly submit to the House that this may kindly be taken on record. We sincerely apologise for this typographical error from the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Numerous concerns have been raised here particularly starting from allocation to the education

sector. Time on, we have emphasised that six per cent of the GDP is not simply the allocation from the Government of India but it is the allocation provided by both the Government of India and the State Governments. The Government of India has never shied away from its responsibilities. The Government of India's share for education has been growing. Where the Government of India to State Governments share was somewhere around 20 to 80 per cent, today the Government of India share has increased to around 23 to 24 per cent. We earnestly appeal to all the State Governments to live up to their responsibilities and not reduce their share to the education sector which is a very important sector.

**SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore):** What is the allocation in terms of GDP?

**SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:** In terms of GDP, the gross budgetary support in the Tenth Plan period was close to nine per cent or a little over nine per cent but today it is around 19 per cent of the gross budgetary support which is allocated in the 11th Plan to the education sector.

Sir, there was also a reference made to disparity between State and the Central Universities. The Central Universities are completely started by the Central Government as they are established under the Act of Parliament. The State Universities are established under the Act passed by the respective State Legislatures. Therefore, the State Governments support the State Universities and through UGC, the Central Government also provides some developmental funds depending on how the recommendations come from the Universities and the State Governments. Therefore, again it is here that the States will have to live up to their responsibilities by not reducing allocations to their own State Universities which is very important. We have to ensure that quality education is being imparted to our children.

Commercialization of education has been touched upon here. Our national policy on education as well as various Supreme Court judgments strongly speak against commercialization of education. Therefore, we

can never think of commercialization of education in Government institutions but there are instances of capitation fee being charged. That could be brought to our notice and we could think of action that could be taken. There was also a reference made to high fee which is being charged. But I must say here that UGC has increased the number of scholarships including Junior Research Fellowship, the Senior Research Fellowship and not only the quantity but also the amount which is given to the students have been increased. The CABE Committee itself has said that the fee collected from the students should be able to cover only about 20 per cent of the recurring expenses of the institutes and universities. This is only to emphasize that it has been our consistent effort that education must be accessible not only in terms of number of institutions but also in terms of affordability. So, it is very important that the fee is low. We strongly stand by it. There have been references made to the scholarships that need to be increased. As I have pointed out, they have been increased. As regards loans, IITs provide loans through banks and we are also working on a scheme of providing loans for the children.

As regards quality education, a reference was made to accreditation. We have two Boards—one is NBA with the AICTE and the other one is NAAC which is with the UGC which actually accredits. The NBA accredits the programmes and the NAAC accredits the infrastructure. Unless there is infrastructure in place not only in terms of buildings, libraries, laboratories but also good faculty in place, we know that we cannot impart quality education to our children. Therefore, these are two organisations which actually look into the accreditation of both infrastructure and programmes.

Sir, turning to the employability of children, you know very well that we need to keep up with the requirement of the markets and market demands so that our children, the moment they step out of their universities should be able to find employment with the industry. Keeping this in mind we have, under the AICTE 10 Boards which periodically upgrade the curriculum. They work on it. I think, that was the point that was pointed out by you. The AICTE has 10 Boards which

[Shrimati D. Purandeswari]

do the upgradation of curriculum and the UGC also looks into the curriculum.

Sir, there have been demands from various sides as to why there are no Central Universities in their respective States. As I said, this was done basically to iron out the disparities between regions. I must make a reference to the demand made by Shri Bacchi Singh Rawat about the conversion of the Kumaon University. Very rightly, there have been three recommendations that had come from the State Governments. But we could give only one Central University initially to every State because we needed to give every State a Central University which did not have one. Therefore, keeping that in mind when we had compared Kumaon University and the Garhwal University, in terms of the number of students, the Departments, the affiliated colleges and also the courses, we found that the Garhwal University was definitely larger than the Kumaon University. That was the reason why the Garhwal University was actually selected to be upgraded to the status of a Central University...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the Tezpur University and the Assam University are already functioning in Assam. So, it would not be possible right now for the Government of India to give a Central University since there are two Central Universities already in Assam.

Sir, now turning to the references made by Shri P.C. Thomas and Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan about naming of the universities in their State. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan suggested that the university in the State should be named after Narayanaguru and Shri P.C. Thomas suggested that the university should be named after Mannata Padmanabhan. I must say here that in the past Central Universities have been established through an Act of Parliament. However, considering that as many as 15 Central Universities with similar features are being proposed under one single umbrella, including conversion of three State Universities into Central Universities and creation of 12 new Central Universities, there has been a decision taken that they would be named after the States itself. I think, this would answer

their questions. Of course, a reference was made by Shri Ram Kripalji about the Patna University. We had written to the State Government to actually allocate land for us and if the States came forward saying that 'convert our State Universities as the three others had been done', then we would have definitely considered that. But land was given and that was the reason why setting up of a new Central University has been decided in Patna.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Bihar Government has already submitted a proposal to grant the status of Central University to Patna University itself.

SHRI D. PURANDESWARI: At that time this issue was not disputed. We wrote to the state government to allocate us land after the formulation of this bill. The State government gave us the land. That is why

*[English]*

we decided to set up a new University.

Sir, turning to the reference made by Shri Kharventhan about the Gandhigram Rural University ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The hon. Minister said just now that the government had written to the state government. She also said that the Government would have no objection if the state government gives this proposal to grant the status of Central University to Patna University. Has the state government informed the Government that in Patna. ...*(Interruptions)* Peoples' sentiments attached with it.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think she is having those details right now.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I cannot give the details right now.

About the Gandhigram Rural University I would like

to say that it is a deemed to be university. The process is on and I am sure very quickly we would be appointing a Vice-Chancellor there.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Gandhigram University is a very important University...(*Interruptions*) I request the Government to agree with the proposal. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an administrative matter. She cannot give all the details of the policies.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: There was a reference made to the territorial jurisdiction. This, I must say, does not preclude the recruitment of faculty and admission of students on an all-India basis. On the contrary, these universities are expected to have a pan India outlook and territorial jurisdiction only means that teaching will be carried out only within the State in which the university is located.

I think, to a large extent and as far as I can, I have tried to answer all the apprehensions and concerns that have been raised by many of my colleagues who have participated in the discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can Central Universities be located in rural areas?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: It is up to the State Governments to give us the land. Wherever they give us the land, the Central Committee would go, inspect and it will be done.

With these words, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rawat, are you withdrawing your Resolution?

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister has not replied to any of my questions. I talked about Sam Pitroda and how it was criticised. ...(*Interruptions*) I talked about Quality Cell ...(*Interruptions*) Is IIM going to be set up in Rajasthan or not. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please tell me whether you are withdrawing your resolution or not. There is no time for speech now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, I would like to withdraw the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat be withdrawn?

*The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate universities for teaching and research in the various States and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 3**      Establishment  
of Universities

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, are you moving your amendments?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg to move—

Page 2, lines 33 and 34,—



[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

after "Garhwal University."

insert "and Kumaun University." (1)

Page 2, line 37,—

for "and "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

substitute, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University" and "Kumaun University". (2)

Page 2, line 39,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

substitute, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (3)

Page 2, line 40,—

for "and Srinagar".

substitute "Srinagar and Nainital". (4)

Page 2, line 42,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

substitute "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (5)

Page 2, line 45,—

for "and Uttarkashi districts"

substitute, "Uttarkashi districts and Nainital, Ahnora, Pithoragarh, Champawat, Bageshwar, and Udham Singh Nagar districts". (6)

I want to add a few words. I would like to request only this that I want to give two reasons about regional imbalance. Kumaun University should be kept in mind in future and status of Central University should be given to it. With this, I move my amendment.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment Nos.

1 to 6 moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat to the vote of the House.

All the amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is;

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 4** Effect of establishment of Universities

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, are you moving your amendments?

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move—

Page 3, lines 14,—

for "or Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

substitute, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (7)

Page 3, lines 16 and 17,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

substitute, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (8)

Page 3, lines 19 and 20,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

substitute, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (9)

Page 3, line 21,—

for "or Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute*, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University or Kumaun University". (10)

Page 3, line 24,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute* "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (11)

Page 3, lines 26 and 27,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute*, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun university" (12)

Page 3, line 29,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute*, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University" (13)

Page 3, lines 31 and 32,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute*, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (14)

Page 3, line 50,—

for "or Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute*, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University or Kumaun University". (15)

Page 4, lines 2 and 3,—

for "or Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute*, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University or Kumaun University". (16)

Page 4, lines 6 and 7,—

for "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute*, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (17)

Page 4, lines 14 and 15,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute*, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (18)

Page 4, lines 16 and 17,—

for "and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University"

*substitute*, "Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Kumaun University". (19)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, I am moving this motion so that it goes on record.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment Nos. 7 to 19 moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat to the vote of the House.

*All the amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 5 to 27 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 28** Power to make ordinances

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, you may move your amendment?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I beg to move—

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

Page 11, line 40,—

after "Garhwal University"

insert "and Kumaun University". (20)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 28 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 28 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 29 to 45 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 46** Transitional  
Provisions

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, you may move your amendment?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I beg to move—

Page 15, for lines 23 to 25,—

Substitute "(a) sub-section (1) of section 4 shall be omitted;" (21)

Page 15, for lines 26 and 27,—

Substitute '(b) in clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 20,—

(i) for the words "University of Kumaun and Bundelkhand", the words "University of Bundelkhand" shall be substituted; and

(ii) the words "the Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University" shall be omitted.' (22)

Page 15, for lines 28 and 29,—

substitute '(c) in sub-section (2) of section 52, for the words "the University of Kumaun and Garhwal and of any other", the word "any" shall be substituted.' (23)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendments moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' to the vote of the House.

*All the amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 46 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 46 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 47 was added to the Bill.*

#### FIRST SCHEDULE

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY:  
I beg to move:

Page 17 for lines 3 to 5, *Substitute,—*

* Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the University	Territorial Jurisdiction
1.	Assam	Central University of Bodoland	Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD) in lower Assam.
1A.	Bihar	Central University of Bihar	Whole of the State of Bihar."

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I beg to move:

Page 17, line 14,

for "Central University of Kerala",

Substitute "Mannathu Padmanabhan Central University of Kerala". (25)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendments moved by Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' and Shri P.C. Thomas to the vote of the House.

*All the amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the First Schedule stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The First Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*The Second Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shivanna.

[Translation]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Sir, today I would like to raise a very important issue pertaining to the Hogenakkal drinking water project taken up by the Government of Tamil Nadu. In the Interim-Budget the UPA Government has cleared all hurdles to enable Tamil Nadu to borrow funds from the Japan Bank for

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

International Co-operation for the drinking water project. It is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a matter of urgent public importance under 'Zero Hour'. As you have a right to say, he is also having a right to say his point of view. As far as 'Zero Hour' matters are concerned, there is no dispute.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Since it is a disputed site joint survey to demarcate the border between the two states is yet to be conducted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am going to call Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. You have made your point. Under Special Mention every Member has a right to put forth his point of view and it cannot be opposed.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: As the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal had been challenged in the Supreme Court, this project should not be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His matter has already gone in the record. I do not have any right to withdraw. If a Member has put forth his submission and it is parliamentary, I cannot do anything more.

Shri Shivanna, please sit down. You have already made your point.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, people all over Karnataka, particularly in Chamarajanagar and Mysore districts are resorting to road roko demonstrations. I had raised the issue in this august House. In spite of the dissension expressed by Karnataka over the controversial irrigation project it is being taken up. Therefore I urge upon the Union Government to give necessary directions to Tamil Nadu Government not to go ahead with the controversial project at the disputed Hogenakkal site.

\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give in writing if you have any objection and it will be recorded. So, do not worry about it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the debating point. Hon. Member, please excuse me. You are fully aware and you are experienced that this is not the time for debating. This is 'Zero Hour'. So, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only what Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan says will be recorded and nothing else will go in the record.

(Interruptions)\*...

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): There are traditional agricultural products being produced in Kerala like cashew, rubber and coconut. Now, these products are facing a crisis because they involved import. So, I would request the Central Government to declare some package for these products otherwise the Kerala farmers will be in starvation. The coir industry is facing a crisis. It is a traditional industry so also is the case of cashew. In the manner of import, the economic situation is much worse. There are no exports. In the case of rubber also, it is the monopoly State of India where 90 per cent of the rubber is being produced. That is not being exported outside India due to economic depression. So, this is a very grave situation. The Central Government should come to the rescue of these people in Kerala like cashew producers, coconut growers etc. I think the Government will consider to bring out a package for salvaging these industries.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, I rise to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Government for accepting the recommendations of the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Commission because it was convinced that the situation in the Idukki district (Kerala) was serious and critical for cardamom planters.

20.38 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

\*Not recorded.

The Commission had stated that the most important cause contributing to the farmers' distress in Idukki District is their high indebtedness, which had accumulated beyond their repaying capacity. The Commission has disclosed that 473 farmers had committed suicide since 1998. In this context, the Commission has recommended loan waiver up to four hectare and complete waiver of loan and interest up to March, 2008. So, how much amount has been released for their debt relief?

To better serve the purpose of the appointment of the Commission, there must be a separate scheme of Debt Relief Measures for Idukki farmers, broader, effective and locality specific on the lines of the Commission report.

At this juncture, it is necessary to raise the limit of eligibility of planters from two hectare to four hectare as the plantations are in the hilly areas in Tamil Nadu and adjoining Kerala and to abolish the ceiling fixed as one lakh in plantation sector whereas there is no limit in other crops.

I would like to stress on the Government that the real intent and purpose of loan waiver in cardamom plantation sector would be served by increasing the area of cultivation from two hectare to four hectare in all the cardamom cultivation plants.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Gandhiji emphasized on Khadi and other village industries for economic support to the poorer sections of the society, particularly the rural unemployed. To continue Khadi as a part of the process of our economic growth and, in particular, to provide scope for self-employment in the post-Independent India, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission was constituted in the year 1957 with the sole goal of providing self-employment to landless poor in the backward, hilly, Adivasi-populated rural areas.

But that target does not seem to have been achieved in poorer States like Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Because of the neglecting attitude of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission towards the Khadi Boards of poor States like Orissa, the annual Khadi production

in Orissa has gone down to below Rs. one crore and as per the information available with the Khadi Commission itself, the total sale of Khadi and village industries products in Orissa was Rs. 3.5 crore which is very discouraging. In the last 50 years, the total direct investment in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is to the tune of around Rs. 13,000 crore whereas the total direct capital investment in Orissa is a meagre Rs. 6.5 crore.

Khadi production in Orissa has drastically reduced, particularly after 1999 super cyclone. Most of the Khadi societies are in moribund condition due to shortage of working capital. The Khadi Commission is dilly-dallying to provide working capital. Contrary to the directive of the Union Government, the Nationalised Banks are also reluctant to provide working capital to the Khadi agencies resulting in serious financial problem for the Khadi producing units.

Sir, Orissa being a State with 47 per cent of the population living below the poverty line, which is the highest in the country, a State having the largest SC and ST population, I would appeal to the Government of India to give special emphasis to Orissa to promote khadi and village industries which would serve as a powerful means for the economic upliftment of the rural poor who are still reeling under poverty.

**SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, the price of natural rubber had fallen from Rs. 143 per kg. to Rs. 60 per kg. of late causing severe hardships to the small and marginal farmers who form about 92 per cent owning less than 0.5 hectares. There are about one million farmers of this kind and about three million workers in this sector in Kerala State. The loss to the State is to the tune of Rs. 6,777 crore.

Due to global economic crisis and low cost of crude oil, the price of natural rubber had come down. Also the large scale import of truck and bus tyres into the country has aggravated the problem. The import of truck and bus tyres into the country increased from 80,000 in 2002-03 to about 13.28 lakh in 2007-08. Passenger car tyre imports also increased from 1,94,000

to 16.27 lakh during the same period. China accounts for 80 per cent of truck tyres imported and more than 60 per cent car tyre import are from China and South Korea.

The import duty on tyres was reduced from 45 per cent to 10 per cent in 2007-08. Though Most Favoured Nation duty for tyres is 10 per cent, China and South Korea being signatories to the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement enjoy a preferential rate of import duty at 8.6 per cent. The preferential rate of import duty on tyres under South Asian Free Trade Agreement and India-Singapore Agreement is 5 per cent. The import tariff on tyres in major Asia Pacific countries is relatively high. For instance, it is 40 per cent in Malaysia and Vietnam and 15 per cent in Thailand and Indonesia.

The alarming increase in the import of tyres would adversely affect the domestic tyre industry, which consumes around 58 per cent of domestic production of natural rubber. The estimated natural rubber content in imported tyres increased from 2,140 tonnes in 2002-03 to 32,727 tonnes in 2007-08.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** This is a lengthy statement. Please place it on the Table of the House.

**SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:** So, I would request the Government to take the following steps urgently:

1. Impose Anti-dumping Duty and Safeguard Duty on bias tyre imports from China and Thailand;
2. Include and continue radial truck and bus tyres in the Restricted List;
3. Increase customs duty on tyres and tyre shall be included in India's Negative List for tariff concessions under bilateral/regional agreements;
4. Procure and create a buffer stock of 50,000 tonnes of natural rubber at the rate of Rs. 100 per kg; and
5. Declare rubber as an agricultural product instead of an industrial raw material.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those hon. Members who have written statements may mention it and place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, today is already the seventh day and one hour, one may say, that the grievous accident which had taken place near Jajpur Road of Coromondal Express where nine lives were lost and more than 100 people were injured.

The Minister of State for Railways, Shri Velu, had gone there and had given seven days' time within which the inquiry report will be out. Already seven days have passed and I expect this Government, at least, to come out with the reasons why this accident occurred because two contradictory statements have come. One is a human error, communication gap. Another is a technical error, because of the ultra modern signaling system which has been put in place but was not actually utilized.

I would just like to draw the attention of this House and of the Government that an information was communicated from Khurda Road Junction/Division to the Jajpur Road Station Master that communicate it to the engine driver to limit the speed because the traction is now under repair and certain new technology is in force. So, unless they reduce the speed of the train from 109 kilometers to the specified limit you do not give green light. But this information was not communicated to the engine driver and the train sped and met with an accident. That is one version.

This version is that of a human error, I would say, which is being vouchsafe by responsible Railway officers. It is in the media. The second is the signaling system which is now in force. It was not fully completed, a part of it was manual and a part of it was technical.

So, I would urge upon the Government to come up before the House concludes on 26th, at least. Please come up with the information that why this accident has occurred; how this has occurred; who is responsible for it. Explanations have been sought for from the driver and the station master. This is on record. So, I would expect that the Government should come up with a statement relating to the reason why this

accident has happened and who is responsible for this accident.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jat Arakshan Sangharsh Samiti has been carrying on agitation in the entire country, particularly in Haryana for the last several years. Thousands of people staged dhama near Parliament House only two-three days back. Socially, economically and educationally, Jat Community is lagging far behind at present. After we gained Independence, socially and economically backward Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were provided reservation. It was decided that during the next ten years, other poor sections of society will also be given reservation.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody is making a speech as if mentioning the issue is not enough. Please conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Sir, I have just started my speech, how can I conclude so fast.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: A period of ten years was fixed to conduct a survey of Other Backward Castes of society so that they could be provided with what is rightfully theirs. Kelkar Commission was constituted in 1953 for this, but it did not submit its report. After that, Mandal Commission was constituted. It also conducted a survey of all the castes in the country. In this survey, some socially, economically and educationally backward castes were identified but the 'Jat' Community was not included in the survey. All the farmers, Sainis, Aheer, Yadavs etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. It is very late. You are making a speech.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Why is it applicable in my case only? I will take two minutes time. Why did he take so much time?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mention the issue.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: I am speaking about the issue only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Need to implement Gurnam Singh Commission Report, that is the only issue. You are making a speech.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Jat farmers are very self-respecting, patriotic and hard-working but time and again various Commissions have not let the benefit of reservation go to them. In Haryana, Gurnam Singh Commission recommended reservation for ten castes, including the Jat Community in its report. But, that report was also ignored. My submission is that Jat Community is a farming Community. 90 per cent people are engaged in farming activities. In Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Uttaranchal 'Jat' community has been given the benefit of reservation at State level. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a matter for Budget speech. You can speak this in the Budget discussion, not by Special Mention.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: This is not a

Budget speech, it is a special issue. It is regarding reservation policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a matter to be mentioned in the Budget discussion. It is not a Special Mention.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: This issue concerns the entire society. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You complete; I will remain here in this Chair till 4 o'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: They have been deprived of their rights. I urge the Union Government through you that Jat community may be provided reservation in job(s) and admissions in educational institutions at Union and State level.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): A package was announced to attract talented youth towards teaching profession in Universities by the Government in the House on the basis of report submitted by the special committee constituted by University Grants Commission on the recommendation of National Knowledge Commission. According to package new recruits were to be given 80 per cent salary hike. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr dear friend, we have discussed this matter just now. Your point is need to attract talented youth towards teaching profession in Universities. This is the matter to be discussed.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, I am talking about that only. This is concerned with Universities only. I have given this subject and I am explaining it now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today, in the House, there was



[Mr. Chairman]

discussion on Central Universities Bill. He himself was participating in it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mehta, this is a matter concerning Central Universities. You yourself were participating in the discussion. At that time, you could have raised it.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: This is not concerned with that. This is a different thing.

[Translation]

I would like to submit that a package was announced to attract talented youth towards teaching profession in Universities wherein an assurance was given that there would be 80 per cent hike in salaries. But salary was increased only by 40 per cent. Senior professors receive three times benefit but new recruits would not get any such benefit. I urge the Government that in order to appoint young professors and to attract best talent and improve the standard of educational institutions, package should be implemented as per the announcement made by the Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will go home now but I will have to remain here.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that officers of Western unit of Coal India, whose headquarters is in Nagpur are refusing to give jobs to the displaced farmers after acquiring their land. 47 families are on hunger strike there and one of the displaced family even tried to commit suicide by taking poison due to not being offered job.

I request the Government specially Ministry of Coal through you that there is a provision to those whose land is acquired. The children of these families were minor when their land was acquired. Now, since their

children have come of age, they are asking for employment and the officials are saying they cannot provide jobs as they were not posted here when the land was acquired. These people are being meted out injustice in this way. I am raising this matter before the House because 47 families are on hunger strike and their life is at stake. One of them has even tried to commit suicide. They are all displaced people of Yavatmal. I think Coal India should pay attention towards this matter and Ministry of Coal should issue instructions to provide them employment. This is my humble request to the Government.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue regarding allocation of Indus Basin Water to Gujarat.

India signed a water agreement with Pakistan in 1960 with the mediation of the World Bank for distribution of Indus water. This agreement is called "Indus Water Treaty". According to the international water agreement, waters of the Eastern Rivers of Indus basin, i.e. Sutlej, Ravi and Beas are allocated to India and waters of Western Rivers of Indus basin—Chinab, Jhelum and Sindhu are allocated to Pakistan. The water of Eastern Rivers is estimated at 17.17 MAF. This quantity has been allocated in 1981 by the Central Government to various states, except Gujarat though it falls in the Indus basin and hence is entitled to Indus basin water.

From the above facts, it is clear that injustice has been done to Gujarat by not considering the State for the allocation of water from eastern rivers, i.e. Ravi, Beas and Sutlej even though Kutch is a part of the Indus basin. The allocation of Eastern River waters to various states has been reviewed from time to time based on reassessment of the availability of water and geographical situation of the party states.

The Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to do needful in the matter. Due weightage has been given to Rajasthan considering its peculiar geographical situation and hydrological condition. As the Kutch region of Gujarat State has

conditions similar to Rajasthan, the Indus waters should be reallocated including proportionate allocation to Gujarat. The hon. Minister of Water Resources, Government of Gujarat has written to the hon. Union Minister for Water Resources in this regard on 7th February, 2008.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take immediate necessary action for allocating water from Indus basin to Gujarat proportionately.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmers are offered much less support price for their crops. It was the opinion of the Swaminathan Commission constituted for the purpose that support price should be arrived at by adding 40 per cent of the amount to the total expenditure incurred on production. Support price of mustard, which we called as "Raida" is very less and there are no buyers in the market.

Therefore, it is my request that total cost of production of a quintal of mustard is Rs. 2000 and support price should be fixed at Rs. 2800 by including 40 per cent amount to the cost of production and it should be procured immediately.

\*If support price of all items is fixed in this manner, then farmers will neither fall in the web of debts nor will they face starvation.

Farmers are suffering losses for not getting adequate price for their rabi crop of mustard and such losses result in their being heavily indebted over the years.

I would like to inform the Government through you about (Raida) mustard. After harvest this crop has come in the markets for procurement. The cost of mustard was Rs 2700-2800 per quintal when it was being sowed whereas now it is selling at Rs. 1600-2000 per quintal. While support price is Rs. 1850 per quintal which is not profitable at all. Production cost of mustard is Rs. 2000

per quintal. According to Dr. Swaminathan Commission support price of mustard crop should be Rs. 2800, Rs. 2000+(40 per cent = 800). Only then it would be profitable to the farmers.

Apart from this, the Government do not make arrangements for procurement of crops at their support prices. At present, crops are not being procured at their support price in Mandies. If procurement of crops is done at their support prices, then traders will also start purchasing the crops at slightly higher rates than the support prices.

I would like to request the Government through you that the support price should be fixed at Rs. 2800 and arrangements should be made for procurement at support price in Mandis.

If such measures are adopted the farmers will neither be burdened with debts nor will they commit suicide.\*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Government that Rajasthani language which is spoken by millions of people should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. In addition to Rajasthan, Rajasthani language is also spoken in Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and other parts of the country and abroad by more than 50 million people. There are several dialects of Rajasthani like Haroti, Bagdi, Dhudhari, Mewati, Marwari, Newari, Malawi and Shekhawati. Hon'ble Minister had also assured the House a few days back that Rajasthani will be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs had given this assurance with regard to Bhojpuri and Rajasthani. But, I have to say this with regret that Rajasthani language which has got its own grammar, literature, history and culture has not been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution so for Rajasthan Legislative Assembly has already submitted a unanimous resolution to the Government of India in this regard, but the matter is being put off.

Hence, through you, I would like to request the Government of India that Rajasthani language, which is

\*...\* This part of the speech was laid on the table.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

spoken by millions of people, may be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

\*Rajasthani language, which is widely spoken in Rajasthan is one of the most ancient and rich languages spoken in the country. This language has several dialects which are spoken in different parts of Rajasthan. But, all these dialects are part of Rajasthani language. It was earlier known as dingal language also. This language has given several prominent poets, litterateurs and scholars. Several popular films have been made in Rajasthani language. This language is taught in many schools and colleges but, unfortunately this language could not get the recognition it deserved. Since this language has not been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, students cannot opt this language to take Union Public Service Commission's and other examinations. In addition, the State Government is also not very serious to promote this language. Territory-wise, Rajasthan is the largest and important border State of the country. Hence, it is the desire of millions of Rajasthani speaking people that this rich language may be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Rajasthan Bhasha Manyata Sangharsh Samiti has staged several Satyagraha, Dharnas, demonstrations and other movements but Government of India has turned a deaf ear to this issue due to which there is widespread anguish and resentment among the Rajasthani speaking people.

Hence, I request the Government of India to urgently introduce and pass the Bill required for this purpose in the House to include Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution so that honour and dignity of millions of Rajasthani people and Rajasthani language could be upheld.\*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to strongly urge upon the hon. Union Railway Minister, Shri Lalu

Prasad to take appropriate steps to ensure the stoppage of the following trains at Kokrajhar Station hereunder:

- Trivandrum Express
- Emakulam (Cochin Express)
- Bangalore Express
- Dadar Express
- Charaighat Express
- Lahit Express
- Parbattar Sampark Kranti Express
- Chennai-Gawahati Express
- Secunderabad Express
- Jodhpur-Bikaner Express
- Okha Express
- Amritsar Express
- Jha Jha Express
- Puri Express
- Capital Express
- Amamath Express

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please place your paper on the Table of the House.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: All right, Sir. I am placing my written submission on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

\*SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Kokrajhar happens to be both the Headquarters of the Bodoland Territorial Council Administration and also of the last bordering district of the state of Assam i.e. Kokrajhar, which is having border attachment with West Bengal state in the west.

---

\*...\* This part of the speech was laid on the table.

---

\*...\* This part of the speech was laid on the table.

The issue regarding the necessity of making provisions for the stoppage of some important trains such as (i) 5959/5610 Kamrup Express (ii) 5609/ 5610 Avadh Assam Express (iii) 6519/6520 Bangalore Express (iv) 6321/6322 Trivandrum Express and (v) 6313/6314 Ernakulam (Cochin) Express at Gossaigaon Hut Railway Station also has been a long overdue, which should be taken care of with positivity by the Ministry of Railways.

The Trains like Capital Express; North-East Express; Okha Express and Trivandrum Express don't have provision for their stoppage at Fakiragram Junction Railway Stations too.

The long pending demand raised by the people living surrounding Barpeta Road township in the district of Barpeta for getting stoppage of the trains such as North-East Express and Gauhati-Chennai Egmore Express at Barpeta Road Railway stations also has not been addressed as yet.

In view of the above, I would like to strongly urge upon you to take appropriate steps to help ensure the stoppage of the aforementioned trains at the respective Railways stations as stated here in above with immediate effect. In addition to the aforementioned issues, I have felt the necessity of mentioning herewith the following long-pending genuine issues also for favour of your active consideration.

Over-bridges should be constructed over the NF Railway lines at Srirampur, Gossaigaon, Tulsibil, Fakiragram, Kokrajhar, Salakati, Basugaon, Dangtol, Chaprakata, Bijni, Patiladoha, Sarbhog, Barpeta Road, Goreswar, Tongla, Udalguri, Rowta, and some more other places.

New railway lines should be constructed on the following alignments (i) between Salakati (Kokrajhar) and Galeghu (Bhutan) (ii) between Rongiya Railway Junction and Sandrupjungkha/ Darrange Mela (Bhutan); (iii) between Fakiragram Railway station and Bhutan via Kachugaon in Gossaigaon Civil Sub-division in the district of Kokrajhar;

One Rail Coaches Manufacturing industry should be set up at North Bongaigaon;

100% job under Grade III and Grade IV Category should be given to the local youths of the North-Eastern region; and

One separate Railway Protection Battalion Force with the name and style of 'N.F. Railway Protection Force' should be raised with immediate effect.\*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter of urgent public importance.

About 12,000 IIT non-teaching employees are staging a mass agitation programme at all the IIT centres of our country. This mass agitation programme started since 5th February, 2009. The Union of all the IITs are united launching this movement. They have submitted the memorandums to the respective Directors of the IITs. They have even given their memorandums to the Union Government.

They are asking for fulfilling of mainly two demands. Number one, constitution of the Pay Committee to recommend pay-scales, allowances, etc., in respect of the IITs. The Sixth Pay Commission has submitted its recommendations to the Government about the pay, conditions and services of the Central Government employees. But nothing has been done in respect of the IIT employees.

The University Grants Commission has already appointed a Committee on 6th September, 2008 to review the scales of pay of teachers in the universities and colleges. There is a Standing Committee of the IIT Councils, which has proposed to set up two Committees. After deliberations, the Standing Committee recommended setting up of two Pay Committees, one for the Faculty and Scientific/Design Staff of IITs and the second for the non-Faculty staff of IITs.

I would urge upon the Union Government to approve and sanction all these things.

I have to make another point, which is also a very important point. The 10th Year Plan of MSEB modified the career progression, which was approved at the 38th meeting of IIT Council. It is the highest decision making

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

body in the IIT system. IIT is an autonomous body. I think, they should be given the opportunity to implement the decision.

The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here, and I hope, he would convey this to the concerned Minister because an immediate intervention is required in this matter. If this movement continues, the normal function of the IITs would be paralyzed. I would once again urge upon the Government to kindly intervene and take necessary steps in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important matter. Our country, India was ruled by several kings. King, Prithvi Raj Chauhan, who had got the skill of hitting the target on the basis of sound was the last Hindu ruler of our country. He is a symbol of pride for all our countrymen and for Kshatriya community he is like a crown. Our young generation gets the inspiration of valour, courage, self-respect and patriotism from his life. Sir, Mahmood Ghaznavi attacked our country, made him hostage and took with him and thereafter, gouged his eyes. He was so brave and courageous that even after being blinded, he killed Ghaznavi.

Sir, I would like to submit that it has been stated

in the 'Praithvi Raj Raaso' that 'Aath baans, battis gaj, angul asht praman to oopar sultan hai ab na chook chauhan. Prithvi Raj Chauhan could hit the target on the basis of sound. His 'Samadhi' is in Afghanistan. I would like to appeal to the Government that if Indian youth, young generation or Hindu community want to visit Afghanistan to pay obisance at his 'Samaadhi', they should be provided the same facilities as are being provided to our Muslim broghers to perform Haz so that our youth could get an inspiration from his life and inculcate the sense of patriotism in their life. Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, there is one matter but it cannot be called because it would involve some allegations. That is the note here. Shri Manik Singh, you cannot raise it. So, you cannot be called.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow the 20th February, 2009 at 11 a.m.

21.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 20, 2009/ Phalguna 1, 1930 (Saka).*

**Annexure-I****Member-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri Acharia, Basu Deb	80
2.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	62
3.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	67
4.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	73
5.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	63
6.	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	70
7.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	61
8.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	68
9.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	78
10.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	65
11.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	69
12.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	66
13.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	68
14.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	76
15.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	66
16.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	74
17.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	75
18.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	78
19.	Shri Rao, K.S.	79
20.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	71
21.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	61
22.	Shri Sai, Nand Kumar	69
23.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	62

1	2	3
24.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	77
25.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	74
26.	Shri Singh, Uday	70
27.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	72
28.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	64
29.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	76

**Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions**

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri "Baba", K.C. Singh	292
2.	Shri Abdullakutty	413
3.	Shri Acharia, Basu Deb	342, 356, 401, 421
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	359, 390, 413, 426
5.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	345, 386, 412, 428
6.	Shri Ajaya Kumar, S.	308, 364
7.	Shri Ananth Kumar	329
8.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	302, 355
9.	Shri Appadurai, M.	300, 352
10.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	357, 380, 397, 418
11.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	343, 391, 414, 418
12.	Shri Barman, Hiten	287

1	2	3
13.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	316
14.	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	339
15.	Shri Bose, Subrata	324
16.	Shri Bwiswmuthoiary, Sansuma Khunggur	296
17.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	319, 371
18.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	358
19.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	290
20.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	309, 358
21.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	368
22.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	358
23.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	289
24.	Shri Deora, Milind	423
25.	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	326
26.	Shri Dubey, Chandra Shekhar	335
27.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	311
28.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	314, 382, 395
29.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	401
30.	Shri Gehlot, Thawar Chand	315, 358
31.	Shri Hussain, Anwar	318, 361, 370, 400, 420
32.	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	288
33.	Smt. Jayaprada	303
34.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	338
35.	Shri Kaswan, Ram Singh	310, 366, 396

1	2	3
36.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	291, 344, 392, 393
37.	Shri Khan, Sunil	313
38.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	348, 359, 367, 388
39.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	295, 349, 389, 411, 425
40.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	358, 362, 406, 424
41.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	353, 359, 368, 399
42.	Shri Kuppusami, C.	373, 402
43.	Sr. Libra, Sukhdev Singh	336, 381
44.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	332, 379, 407
45.	Shri Maharia, Subhash	297, 307, 350
46.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	294
47.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	322, 374, 403
48.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	304, 354
49.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	314, 382, 395
50.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	307, 363, 394, 416, 429
51.	Dr. Meinya, Thokchom	312, 369
52.	Shri Mondal, Abu Ayes	320, 378
53.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	372
54.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	283

1	2	3	1	2	3
55.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	286	74.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	328, 385, 410
56.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	367	75.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	417
57.	Shri Patil, Pratik P.	293, 320	76.	Shri Singh, Mohan	317
58.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	340, 384, 409	77.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	299, 351
59.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	285, 325, 341, 376	78.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	367, 408
60.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	347, 383, 398, 419	79.	Shri Singh, Suraj	309, 358
61.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	305	80.	Shri Singh, Uday	346, 387, 399, 423
62.	Shri Ramesh Dube	330	81.	Shri Solanki, Bharatsinh Madhavsinh	331
63.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	333	82.	Shri Subba, M.K.	298
64.	Shri Rao, E. Dayakar	321, 373, 402, 422	83.	Shri Thakur, Anurag Singh	327, 377, 404
65.	Shri Rao, K.S.	337, 399, 403	84.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	306, 360
66.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	365, 395, 417	85.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	290
67.	Shri Reddy, N. Janardhana	413	86.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	361, 392, 415, 427
68.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpat Rao	325, 376	87.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	307, 323, 375
69.	Shri Rijju, Kiren	283	88.	Shri Veerendra Kumar, M.P.	334, 405
70.	Shri Sai, Nand Kumar	367, 408	89.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	359, 383, 390, 408, 413
71.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	301	90.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	361
72.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	284, 399	91.	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	314, 382, 395, 408
73.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	359, 383, 390, 408	92.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	368



**Annexure-II****Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Prime Minister

Atomic Energy

Coal 123, 139

Development of North-Eastern Region

Environment and Forests 128

External Affairs

Finance 122, 127, 132

Health and Family Welfare 121, 124, 126, 131, 137, 138

Information and Broadcasting 140

Overseas Indian Affairs

Panchayati Raj

Parliamentary Affairs

Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

Planning 133, 134

Shipping, Road Transport and Highways 125, 135

Space

Statistics and Programme Implementation

Youth Affairs and Sports 129, 130, 136.

**Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions**

Prime Minister

Atomic Energy 632, 726, 800

Coal 621, 626, 662, 681, 723, 754, 759, 770, 790

Development of North-Eastern Region 764

Environment and Forests 628, 668, 669, 682, 686, 687, 693, 704, 730, 731, 735, 749, 752, 760, 767, 780, 791, 792

External Affairs 673, 695, 698, 705, 712, 717, 732, 783, 784, 789

Finance	620, 622, 641, 649, 650, 651, 653, 654, 660, 665, 670, 672, 674, 676, 690, 696, 697, 699, 701, 702, 703, 706, 708, 710, 711, 714, 720, 721, 724, 728, 733, 734, 737, 740, 741, 742, 743, 746, 748, 750, 753, 756, 757, 761, 765, 771, 775, 778, 781, 787, 783, 795, 797
Health and Family Welfare	623, 627, 630, 634, 635, 638, 643, 644, 647, 652, 657, 666, 675, 677, 678, 680, 684, 689, 691, 692, 694, 700, 709, 716, 718, 722, 727, 729, 738, 744, 747, 755, 762, 766, 769, 773, 776, 777, 779, 785, 788, 798, 803, 804
Information and Broadcasting	629, 633, 636, 655, 725, 739, 745
Overseas Indian Affairs	667, 715, 768, 786, 794, 799
Panchayati Raj	624, 649, 679, 688
Parliamentary Affairs	
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	637, 685
Planning	642, 646, 656, 758, 774
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	625, 631, 645, 658, 659, 663, 664, 671, 751, 772, 796, 802
Space	661, 707, 713
Statistics and Programme Implementation	763
Youth Affairs and Sports	639, 648, 683, 719, 736, 782, 801.

---

**INTERNET**

The Original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

**LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA**

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

**LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE**

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of Original version, English version, Hindi version and indices thereto, DRSCs reports and other Parliamentary Publications and Souvenir items with logo of Parliament are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House, (Tel. Nos. 23034726, 23034495, 23034496) New Delhi-110001. The information about all these publications and items is also available on the website mentioned above.

---

---

© 2009 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Twelfth Edition)  
and Printed by Chaudhary Mudran Kendra, 12/3, Sri Ram Marg, South Mauj Pur, Delhi-110 053

---

---